

A-1125. Fish & Fur Club, Nelsonville,

PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM'S

*Upper Main St.
& Nelsonville
History Crawl*

PUTNAMHISTORYMUSEUM.ORG

This program is made possible with a Greater Hudson Heritage Network
Creativity Incubator Grant.

**WELCOME TO THE
PUTNAM HISTORY MUSEUM'S
UPPER MAIN STREET &
NELSONVILLE
HISTORY CRAWL**

*THIS PROGRAM IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH
A GREATER HUDSON HERITAGE NETWORK
CREATIVITY INCUBATOR GRANT.*

Welcome to the Putnam History Museum's History Crawl through Cold Spring's Upper Main Street and the Village of Nelsonville. This tour will begin at the Putnam History Museum and wind its way throughout the villages to many historic sites and views. The Crawl has 10 stops.

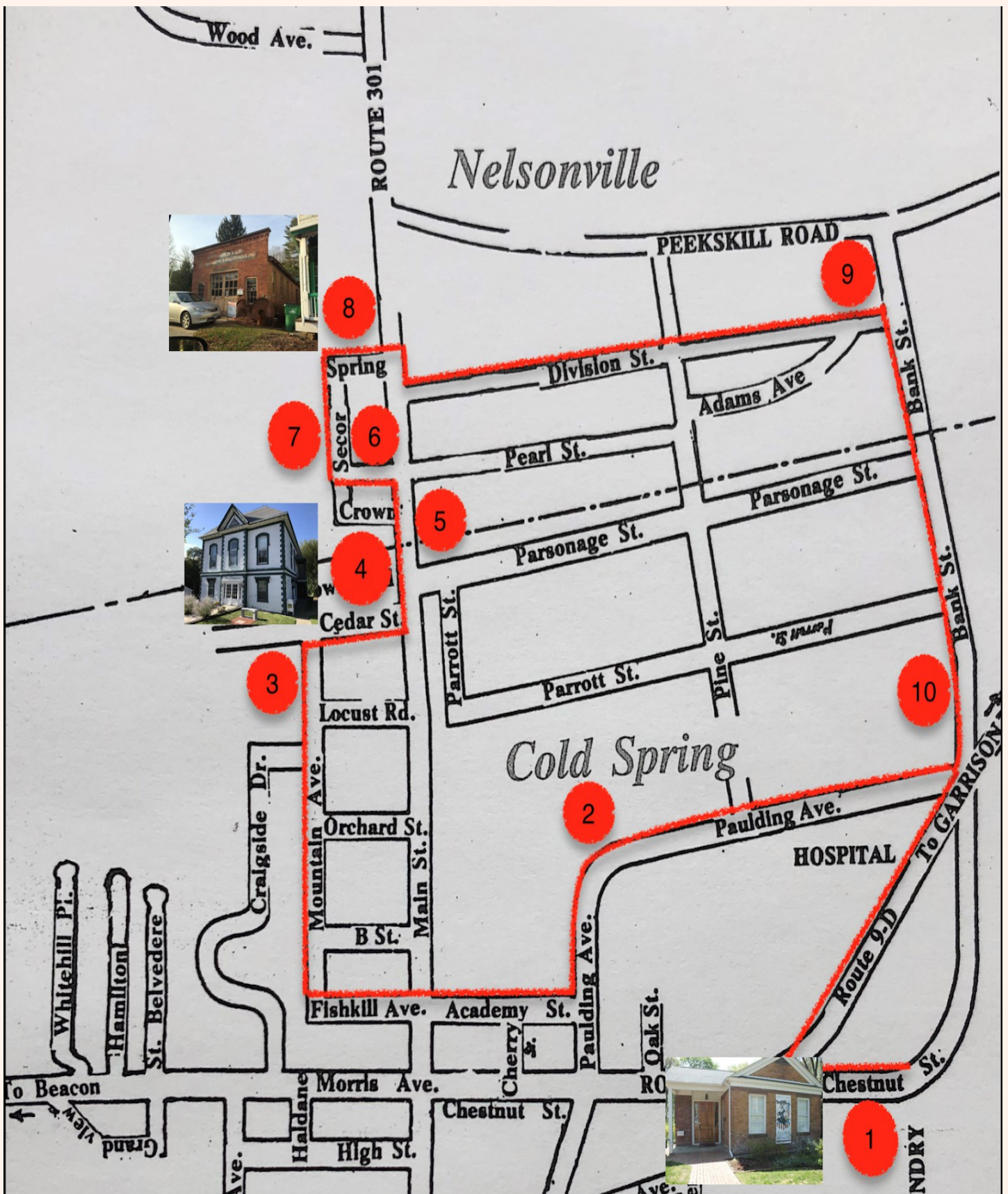
For each stop in the booklet, you will find a brief history of the location, an image of the location or an image of a related artifact from the Putnam History Museum Collection, and several questions and prompts to encourage you to think creatively about the history and artifacts. Have fun with your answers.

Good luck and enjoy the Upper Main Street & Nelsonville History Crawl!

You will find several questions/prompts at each stop in the booklet.

Each set contains:

- Questions related to the artifact for that stop
- Questions that may be answered directly from the reading
- One analysis question based on your thoughts or other knowledge of local history, or a creative prompt encouraging you to have fun with history!
- There are select answers on the back page.
- Participation (not accuracy) is key here! Complete the booklet as you walk the Crawl and most importantly have fun!



HISTORY CRAWL MAP

Specific directions will be provided at each stop to help lead you to the next location on the Crawl.

**Please note: Some Crawl Stops are located on private property. Please proceed quietly and courteously. Y.*

MAP KEY

-  CRAWL STOPS
-  MAIN ROUTE

WEST POINT FOUNDRY SCHOOL

STOP 1

The first stop on the Crawl is the Putnam History Museum. This site was originally built in 1828 as the West Point Foundry (WPF) School. The school was created as a place to train apprentices working at the local foundry. It was later adapted into a school for the children of foundry workers. From 1867 to 1892, the building was a part of the local public school system.

The remaining buildings and ruins of the WPF are located just down the hill from the museum in Scenic Hudson's West Point Foundry Preserve. The WPF was established in 1817 by an association led by local entrepreneur, Gouverneur Kemble. The WPF is noted as one of the most significant 19th century industrial sites in the United States. At its incorporation, the main output from the foundry was cannons; however, over time the range of products produced in the WPF varied from trains to lighthouses.

Arguably the most significant creation at the WPF was the Parrott Cannon, which was designed by a worker and later Superintendent of the foundry, Robert Parker Parrott. The Parrott Cannon's revolutionary design, with innovative spiraled barrels, helped bring the Union to victory during the Civil War.

Questions:

When was the WPF established and by whom?

What innovation about the Parrott Cannon made it so successful?

How far do you think the Parrott Cannon can fire?

John Ferguson Weir was a Hudson River School Painter. His paintings are unique in that they feature industrial scenes. How does the painting make you feel?



Parrott Cannon

Pictured above is a Parrott Cannon currently in the Putnam History Museum Collection. During the height of the Civil War the WPF produced 25 cannons and up to 7,000 projectiles a week.



Outdoor portrait, West Point Foundry School (now the Putnam History Museum).



"The Gun Foundry," oil on canvas, by John Ferguson Weir, 1866. It depicts the extreme working conditions in the WPF. "The Gun Foundry" is one of the most prominent paintings of industry in 19th century America and is on display at the Putnam History Museum.

Fun Fact

John Ferguson Weir created a companion piece to "The Gun Foundry" in 1868, it is called "Forging the Shaft." The original painting was destroyed by fire a year after its creation; however, an exact copy of the painting, created by Weir himself, can be seen on display in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

Leave the Putnam History Museum, and take a left on Chestnut Street and continue until you reach Route 9D. Using the crosswalk, carefully cross Route 9D and turn right. Follow the sidewalk until you reach Paulding Avenue (you will pass the Butterfield Development on your left). Turn left and follow Paulding Avenue until you reach house number 30 on the right-hand side of the street. Congratulations! You have made it to Stop 2: The Haldane House.

STOP 2: THE HALDANE HOUSE

STOP 2 IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. PLEASE STAY ON THE STREET AND PROCEED COURTEOUSLY.

Welcome to the Haldane House! This house was built in 1862 by architect George Edward Harney. Harney was a well known 19th century architect who also designed Plumbush (Robert Parker Parrott's farm estate, now the Manitou School), St. Mary's-in-the-Highlands Church, and the Brooks Brothers Building on Broadway in Manhattan.

The house was designed for James H. Haldane, an iron importer based out of New York City. In 1845, James Haldane and his brother John joined together to create Haldane and Company. This company served as a representative for iron mills in Pennsylvania, England, and Scotland.

James H. Haldane passed away on April 12, 1887, and bequeathed the funds to build Cold Spring's original Haldane School, which stood on the current site of Tots Park (Haldane & Morris Avenue). Haldane Central School is currently located on Craigside Drive, just up the hill from the original site. James H. Haldane is buried in the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Several prominent people occupied the house after Haldane. The house was occupied by a rector of the local St. Mary's-in-the-Highlands Church until 1946. Following his residence, the Bailey Family moved into the home, including New York Supreme Court Judge James W. Bailey. The Bailey family lived in the home until 1971, when Joseph Pell Lombardi and his family moved into the home. Following the Lombardi's, Major General Edmund C. R. Lasher of the United States Army moved into the home. Major General Lasher served in both WWII and the Korean War. Both of his sons followed in his footsteps and graduated from West Point. Since then, many other families have occupied and cared for this home into the 21st century.

Fun Fact

Joseph Pell Lombardi, a New York City-based architect who was one of the many residents of the house, has given many lectures at the Putnam History Museum. Lombardi purchased and restored the Armour-Stiner House, a unique octagon-shaped and domed Victorian-style house in Irvington, NY.

Questions:

What other famous buildings did the architect for the Haldane House design?

What do you think J.H. Haldane stored in this stoneware jug?

Get Creative! Design your own stoneware jug — which decorative elements would you incorporate to exhibit your style?



J. H. Haldane stoneware jug, PHM Collection.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

Continue along Paulding Avenue, walk until you reach Academy Street. Turn right onto Academy Street and follow it until you reach a crosswalk leading across Main Street. On your walk down Academy Street note the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown on your right. It was built in 1868. The land on which the church stands was once the West Point Foundry Stables.

Making sure to look both ways, head across Main Street and continue along Fishkill Avenue. While walking on this street you will pass the Butterfield Library on your left. You can learn more about the library in the Cold Spring History Crawl (also available at PHM). Once you reach the end of Fishkill Avenue make a right and begin walking up Mountain Avenue. While walking up the street, look on the left side of the road behind the houses. In the distance you will see the current site of the Haldane Central School. Continue walking up Mountain Avenue until you reach the cemetery on your left. Welcome to Stop 3!

VILLAGE CEMETERIES

STOP 3

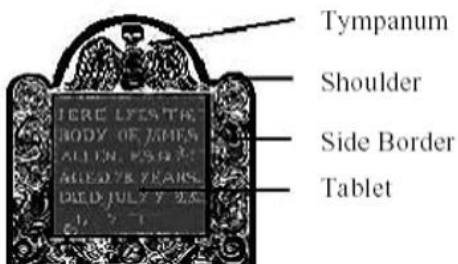
On the left side of Mountain Avenue stands a large cemetery which has had many names over its 250+ year existence. It has been called God's Acre, the Old Cold Spring Cemetery, Mountain Avenue Cemetery, and the Davenport Cemetery. It was originally known as the as the Davenport Cemetery, named after Thomas Davenport, the first European settler of Cold Spring. The oldest headstones in this cemetery are those of Thomas and Martha Davenport, with death dates of 1790 and 1789, respectively.

Another notable resident of the cemetery is Elisha Nelson, the namesake for the Village of Nelsonville. This cemetery was also a common burial site for workers of the West Point Foundry.

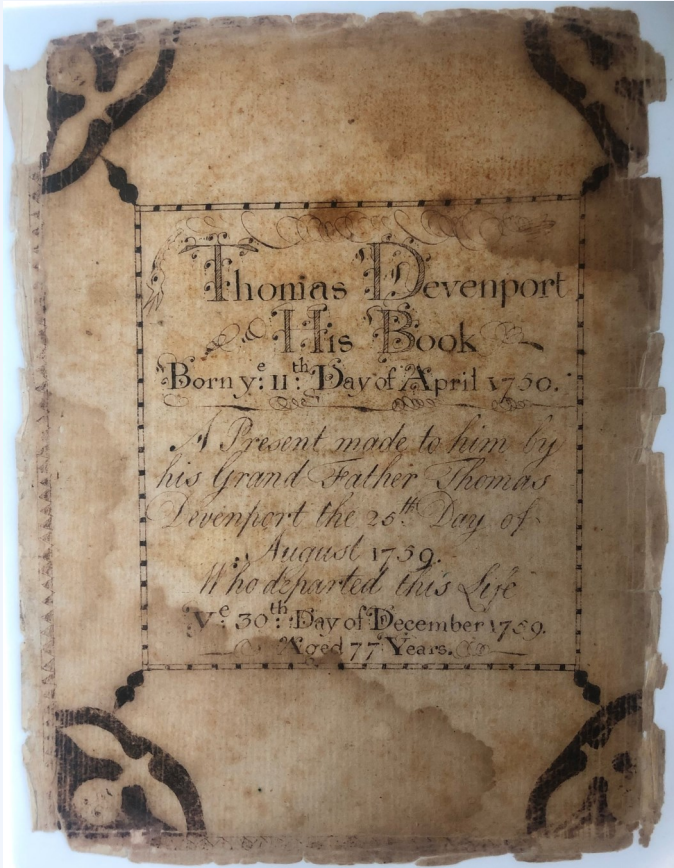
Continuing up Mountain Avenue, you will find a second cemetery. This is the Nelsonville Cemetery, also known as the Cedar Street Cemetery. There are 304 gravestones in this cemetery dating back to the 1800s, with the earliest belonging to John S. Lipsy, buried in 1811.



The Davenport family headstones are all similar in material and design. Made of a dark brown metallic material with grooved cuts along the top edges of the stones, they most closely resemble the headboard of a colonial-style bed, especially due to their matching initialed footstones. The tripartite or "three-lobed shape" of these headstones was the most popular New England design in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The Davenport headstones are good examples of a late 18th century rendition of this style, as they are taller than the standard thirty inches and include a steeper and more dramatic tympanum with matching shoulders, and have none of the stylistic tablet embellishments more common five decades earlier.



There are thirteen headstones in the Old Cold Spring Cemetery constructed in this same material or style, not all of which belong to the Davenport family, but most falling within the same approximate twenty-year period (1790-1820). They represent a growing settlement that, while post-Revolutionary War remained relatively small, was still very much in touch with the headstone trends and fashions of the era.



Inscribed fly-leaf from the Bible presented by Thomas Davenport to his grandson (the first European settler of Cold Spring). This Davenport Family Bible is in the PHM Collection.

Fun Fact

It is rumored that when deciding on a name for the current Village of Nelsonville, the decision was based on a coin flip between the Nelson and Warren families, two of the most prominent families in the area at the time.

Questions:

Name two of the Davenports in the Old Cold Spring Cemetery:

How many tombstones do you think there are in the Old Cold Spring Cemetery? Can you identify the grouping of Davenport Family headstones?

Try to find John Lipsy's tombstone in the Nelsonville Cemetery.

Closely examine the Davenport Family fly-leaf. Now write your name in the same artistic style as "Thomas Devenport His Book."

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

From the Nelsonville Cemetery head toward Cedar Street. Follow Cedar Street away from the cemeteries and toward Main Street. At the intersection of Cedar Street and Main Street you have reached Stop 4: the Philipstown Town Hall.

PHILIPSTOWN TOWN HALL

STOP 4

The Philipstown Town Hall, built in 1867, remains prominent on Main Street at the border of Cold Spring and Nelsonville. It was built to house a jail, a court, and town elections. Decorative wooden cornerstones imitate stone on this clapboard structure and define the central bay, which is topped by a gable and pediment.

The land for the Town Hall was purchased in 1866 from Frederick Philipse and Samuel Gouverneur, two wealthy 19th century landowners. The Town Hall was completed and opened under budget for \$7,000. Philipstown recently performed an extensive 2-year historic preservation restoration project of this historically significant building.

Philipstown derives its name from early Dutch settlers of the area. The Highlands, or Philipse Patent, was a British royal patent for a large tract of land on the east bank of the Hudson River about 50 miles north of New York City. It was purchased in 1697 by Adolphus Philipse, a wealthy landholder of Dutch descent. In time, this tract became today's Putnam County.



Glass-Plate Negative of Philipstown Town Hall, taken by John Riggs in the 1880's. From the PHM Collection.



Philipstown Town Hall, Vintage Colorized Postcard. From the Mark Forlow Postcard Collection.

Questions:

Examine the historic photo and postcard. Now look at the building before you. Identify the similarities and differences between the historic documents and the present building and grounds.

How much do you think it would cost to build this structure today?

Who is Philipstown named for? Who were the two residents who sold land for the site of the building?

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

Turn left up Main Street, and continue walking until you spot a towering white church on the right side of the street. After a short walk, you will be standing in front of Stop 5: The First Baptist Church.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

STOP 5

Built in 1831, the First Baptist Church stands on a hill rising above Main Street, on the border of Nelsonville and Cold Spring.

The First Baptist Society of Philipstown was established on January 28, 1830. In April of 1831, local resident William Davenport convinced Samuel Gouverneur and his wife Mary to donate the property to build the church for \$1.00. The church was built by William Browne for approximately \$825.00.

Similar to the Philipstown Town Hall, this is also a frame clapboard building. The round stained glass windows and other elements are in a neoclassical style, noted for being large in scale and having simplistic geometric forms.

The First Baptist Church, now known as the Church on the Hill and Faith Church Cold Spring, is the longest continuously operated institution in Nelsonville.



First Baptist Church, late 19th Century, Putnam History Museum Glass-Plate Negative Collection.



Interior of the First Baptist Church from 1902. From the PHM Collection.



Special commemorative military service in the First Baptist Church. From the Putnam History Museum Glass-Plate Negative Collection.

Questions:

What similarities and differences do you notice from the historic photos to the current structure?

Why do you think Davenport selected this site for the church?

Can you identify three prominent architectural features and symbols?

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

From your current position facing the “Church on the Hill” continue walking up Main Street until you reach the intersection of Main Street and Pearl Street. You have reached Stop 6 A & B.

THE VILLAGE GREEN

STOP 6: PARTS A & B

Part A: Walk until you reach Pearl Street. On the corner closest to you, you will see the Hudson Rogue Company. This store, which currently sells antique books and prints, was originally the Dykman Feed and Grocery Store, owned by James Y. Dykman in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Years later his store was turned into the James E. Bushell's Antique Store. If you look carefully, Dykmans name can still be seen on the exterior of the store.



Isaac Riggs Goods & Groceries, 19th Century.

Crossing Pearl Street, enter into the Village Green; this is the second part of Stop 6 A. The Village Green was once the site of the Isaac Riggs Goods & Groceries Store. The Italianate building that once occupied this site was constructed in 1870; it had a low pitched or flat roof, symmetrical rectangle shape and tall appearance. Isaac Riggs was the postmaster for Nelsonville and ran the Post Office out of his store for many years.

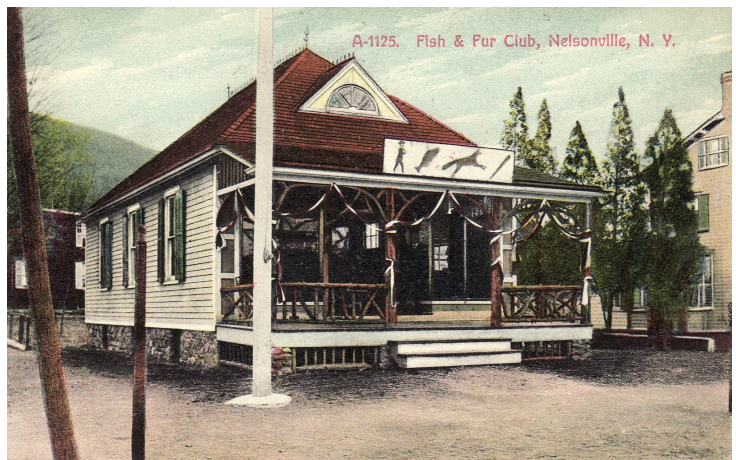
In 1924, Riggs sold the store to Osborn and Catherine Mekeel. The Meekels continued to operate the post office and a general store here. In 1996, the building was lost to fire

and the location was transformed into the Village Green.

Part B: Carefully cross Main Street to the corner across from the Village Green. You will now be standing in front of Stop 6 B. The Nelsonville Village Hall was the original site for the Fish and Fur Club, which had been founded in 1895 by a group of local sportsmen.

The building was constructed in 1905 and used a pictograph sign of a man, fish, fur, and bat to identify the club.

On opening day, the Club members celebrated by eating a raccoon dinner. The Nelsonville Fire Company also held meetings in the Fish and Fur Club, as the fire station was located next door. The club moved to the building next door in 1955, and Nelsonville began using the original clubhouse as its village hall.



*Postcard of the Fish and Fur Club showing the pictograph sign.
From the Mark Forlow Postcard Collection.*



Osborn "Ossie" and Catherine Mekeel stand in front of the Osborn Mekeel General Store and Nelsonville Post Office, formerly Rigg's, located at the corner of Main and Pearl Streets. From the PHM Collection.

About 1920, local sportsmen show off equipment used by members of the Fish and Fur Club. Two men hold 12 gauge, doubled barred shotguns, a third grasps a fishing pole, and a fourth sits with oars leaning against his raised knee. A restful but alert shorthaired pointer lies in the foreground. From the PHM Collection.



Questions:

What type of animal did members of the Fish and Fur Club eat to celebrate the opening of their new building?

Examine the Mekeel's storefront and window. Do you recognize some of the brands being advertised? Where do you shop for your school supplies?

Create a pictograph below that symbolizes your hometown or a club that you belong to.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

From your current location at the Nelsonville Village Hall, continue along Pearl Street (away from the Village Green) until you reach the intersection of Pearl and Sector Streets. Enter the parking lot and turn right. A large, unique building will be standing in front of you. Welcome to Stop 7!

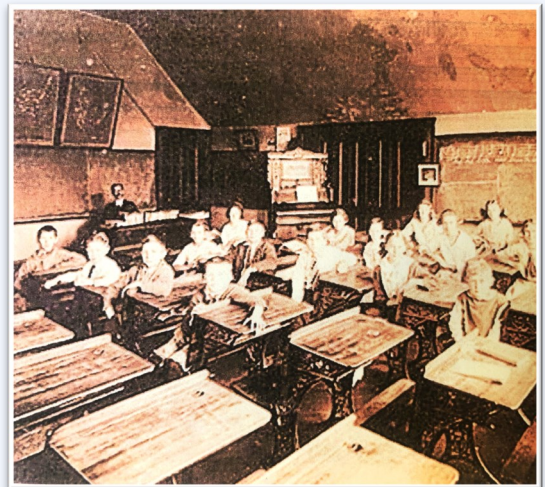
STOP 7: THE NELSONVILLE UNION FREE SCHOOL/ MASONIC LODGE

STOP 7 IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. PLEASE STAY IN THE PARKING LOT & PROCEED COURTEOUSLY.

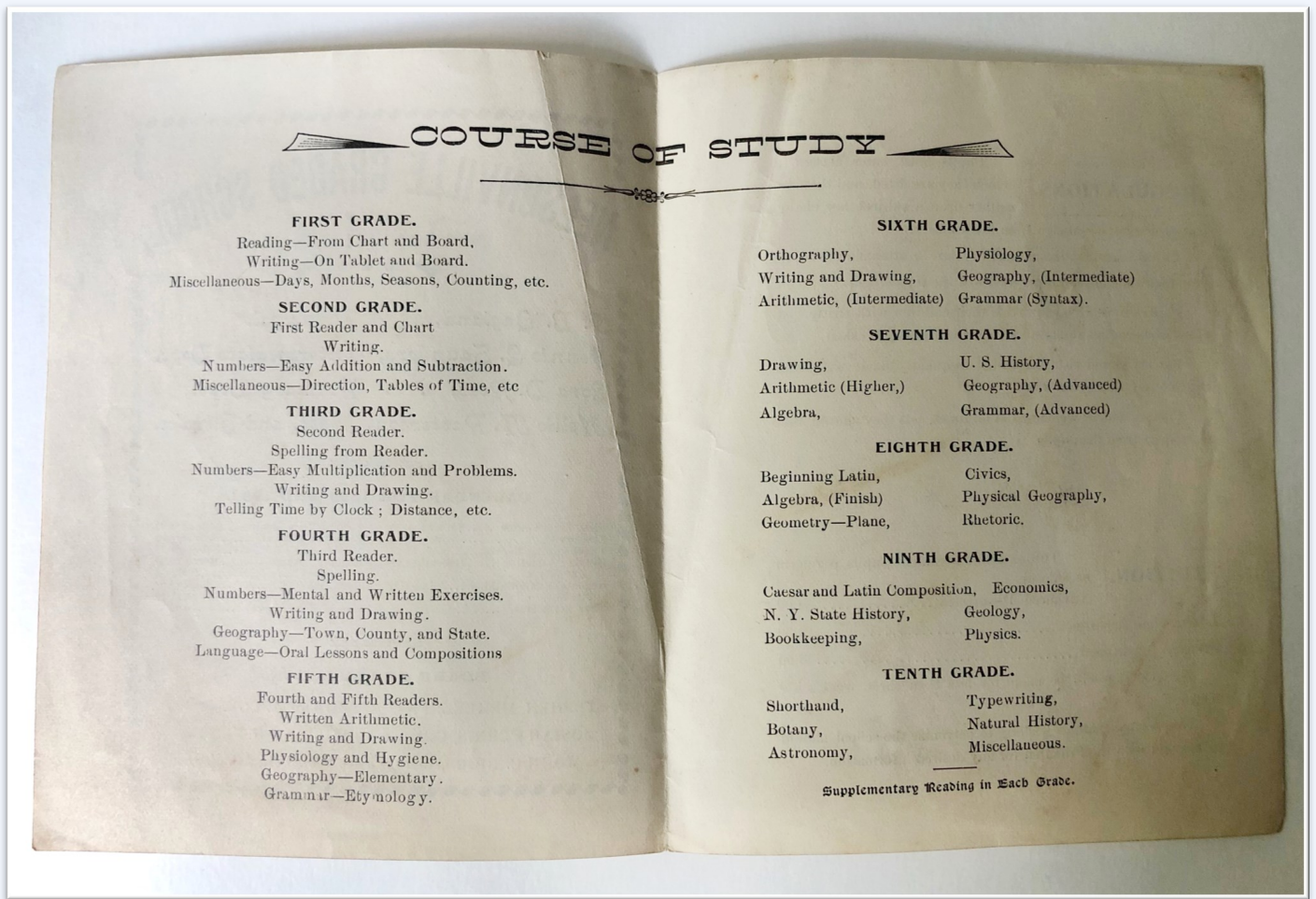
This Queen Anne style building was constructed in 1880 as the Nelsonville Union Free School. The school was also known as “The Hickory Grove Academy,” due to the numerous nut trees surrounding the school. The building has changing rooflines, varying materials and window types, and a Stick-style porch. Its bell could be heard throughout Nelsonville and in parts of Cold Spring.

The school served Nelsonville’s students until its last graduating class in 1936. In April 27, 1937, the building was sold to the Free and Accepted Masons for \$3,000. The Philipstown Masonic Lodge #236 is still active today.

Adjacent to the Masonic Temple is the Nelsonville Preserve. This system of breathtaking trails leads hikers from the Village Green to the top of Mount Taurus and to other trails in the Hudson Highlands State Park. The Village of Nelsonville was once named “The Hikers Hamlet” by the New York State Greenway Conference. After the Crawl, plan to explore this amazing set of trails and discover more of Philipstown’s beauty.



(Above) Nelsonville Union Free School, now the Masonic Lodge #236. (Top Right) 7th & 8th Grade Students at the Nelsonville Union Free School. (Right) Nelsonville Union Free School students, c. 1900.



Calendar and Course of Study Pamphlet, Nelsonville Union Free School, 1899 and 1900. From the PHM Collection.

Fun Fact

Free Masonry is the oldest fraternal organization in the world, and the Philipstown lodge is one of the oldest lodges in New York State.

When did the Nelsonville Union Free School become a Masonic Temple?

What is one interesting architectural feature of the building?

Examine the “Course of Study” pamphlet above. Do you recognize all of the courses?

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

From the Masonic Temple continue west on Sector and note house number 40. Constructed in 1830, this building served as the first schoolhouse in Nelsonville, known as the Pear Tree School. It is now a private residence. Once you reach Spring Street turn right and head toward Main Street. Once on Main Street, look to your immediate left. You are now at Stop 8!

CHAMPLIN'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

STOP 8

You are now standing in front of the former H.D. Champlin Blacksmith Shop. A blacksmith is a metalsmith who creates objects primarily from wrought iron or steel (but sometimes from other metals) by forging, and using tools to hammer, bend, and cut. Blacksmiths produce objects such as gates, grilles, railings, light fixtures, furniture, sculpture, tools, agricultural implements, decorative items, cooking utensils, and more.

Henry D. Champlin took over the operations of a smaller blacksmith shop on this site in 1858, and was later joined by his son Norman. The shop took on the formal name of H.D. Champlin & Son Horseshoeing and Wagonmaking. Norman Jr. continued to run the shop for decades—making it, for many years, the oldest continuously owned family business in Putnam County.

The shop consisted of two parts. The front of the shop contained two forges which were used to help create different types of horseshoes. The floors of the shop were made of thick wood so the horses could easily come in and out of the shop without causing damage.



Replica Parrot Gun created at the H.D. Champlin & Son Blacksmith Shop.

The back of the shop was added in the 1930s and housed the third and final forge. Materials crafted in this third forge were integral for the construction of Route 9 and the Cornish Estate located on Route 9D. The shop produced other notable creations, including furniture for Russell Wright's Dragonrock Estate at Manitoga and the replica West Point Foundry Parrott Gun located at the Cold Spring Waterfront. Today, the Blacksmith Wine shop occupies the space and honors the building's history with its name.

Look across Main Street and you will see Juanita's Kitchen. This mid-19th century building has been the site of various grocery stores and delis, and for many years it housed the J.Y. Dykman Flour and Feed Store.



*Champlin Blacksmith Shop with a view of the Pear Tree School in the background.
From the PHM Glass Plate Negative Collection.*

Questions:

Examine the historic photo above. Can you still see the former Pear Tree School in the distance? How has the neighborhood changed since this photo was taken in the 19th century?

What other stop on the tour was operated by J.Y. Dykman?

If you were a blacksmith, what special object would you design and make out of metal? Draw it below.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

From the Blacksmith Shop, turn right and head back down Main Street, as we will be starting our return to the PHM. Heading down Main Street, cross the street at the intersection of Main and Division. Take a moment to pause on the corner. This is the location of the former Alhambra House Hotel, which opened c. 1837. The Alhambra House Hotel was the site of the annual village elections before it was converted to apartments. The building was lost to fire in 1967.

Moving on from the corner, continue along Division Street until you reach the intersection of Bank Street and Division. Look for a rock wall on your right. You have arrived at Stop 9!

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

STOP 9

**Using the rock wall and historic postcard as your guide, identify the location of the Imperial Hotel.*

The Imperial Hotel, featured in this 1908 colorized postcard, was a popular destination near the border of Nelsonville and Cold Spring. It was noteworthy for its two-story wrap around porch. It also had a bracketed cornice at the top of the third floor. Similar to the fate of many wooden hotels of this period, the entire building was destroyed by fire in 1914.

Resorts in Putnam

With traditional economic prospects dwindling after the Civil War, many Putnam County residents adopted tourism as a new source of income. This process transformed the county into a vacationland for working and middle-class urban New Yorkers.

Traveler guides advertised resorts such as the Imperial Hotel in Cold Spring, the Highlands House in Garrison, the Gregory House on Lake Mahopac, and The Oscawana Lake House. Many new establishments continued to open into the 20th century around local lakes and rivers. Two Putnam County resorts, Magnolia Farm and Snowdale Farm, provided a safe haven for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era and advertised in the Green Book travel guide. These destinations offered hunting, hiking, swimming, boating, and various other amenities, including bowling alleys, billiard rooms, golf courses, and croquet lawns for their guests.

Local resorts reached their height of popularity in the mid-20th century. As more urban New Yorkers experienced the area, many decided to become year-round residents by purchasing homes in Putnam and commuting to the city for work.

Questions:

Have you stayed at a hotel or resort in Putnam County? Which one?

What is your favorite activity to do while on vacation?

Name the two resorts in Putnam County that advertised in the Green Book and provided safe haven for Black travelers during the Jim Crow Era:

A-1126. Imperial Hotel, Cold Spring, N. Y.



Imperial Hotel, Cold Spring, N.Y., c. 1908. From the Mark Forlow Historic Postcard Collection.

DIRECTIONS TO NEXT STOP

The final stop will include several places of interest along Bank Street. As you walk along the route for Stop 10 (Bank Street), we will guide you back to PHM and provide you with brief notes on some of the buildings and streets that you will pass along the way. Flip to the next page of the Crawl booklet to start the path back to the PHM.

BANK STREET

STOP 10

On your journey back to the Putnam History Museum, turn right and head down Bank Street. While walking along the street take note of the homes; many of them were built to house the West Point Foundry's workers.

Pause on the corner of Parsonage and Bank Street. This corner is the former location of Duffy's Tavern. Duffy's Tavern was opened by Horace and Ellen Gent, who moved to Philipstown from England. The Tavern was later taken over by Jimmy Ricevuto. It was a favorite gathering place for the citizens of Nelsonville and had a jukebox, pool table, and an array of drinks and snacks. Duffy's closed its doors in 1983 and has since been turned into apartments.

Continue along Bank Street, and you will next arrive at Parrott Street. This street's namesake is Robert Parrott, the creator of the Parrott Gun and a Superintendent of the West Point Foundry. Parrott Street also has a long history of transforming into a Halloween destination. The street turns into a child's playground with trick-or-treating at every door and extensive decorations.

Continue down Bank Street, and look to your left to see the stream down below. This is Foundry Brook (also known as Margaret Brook), which was once the power generator for the West Point Foundry. Water from the brook spun a large backshot water wheel, which powered essential equipment for the West Point Foundry.

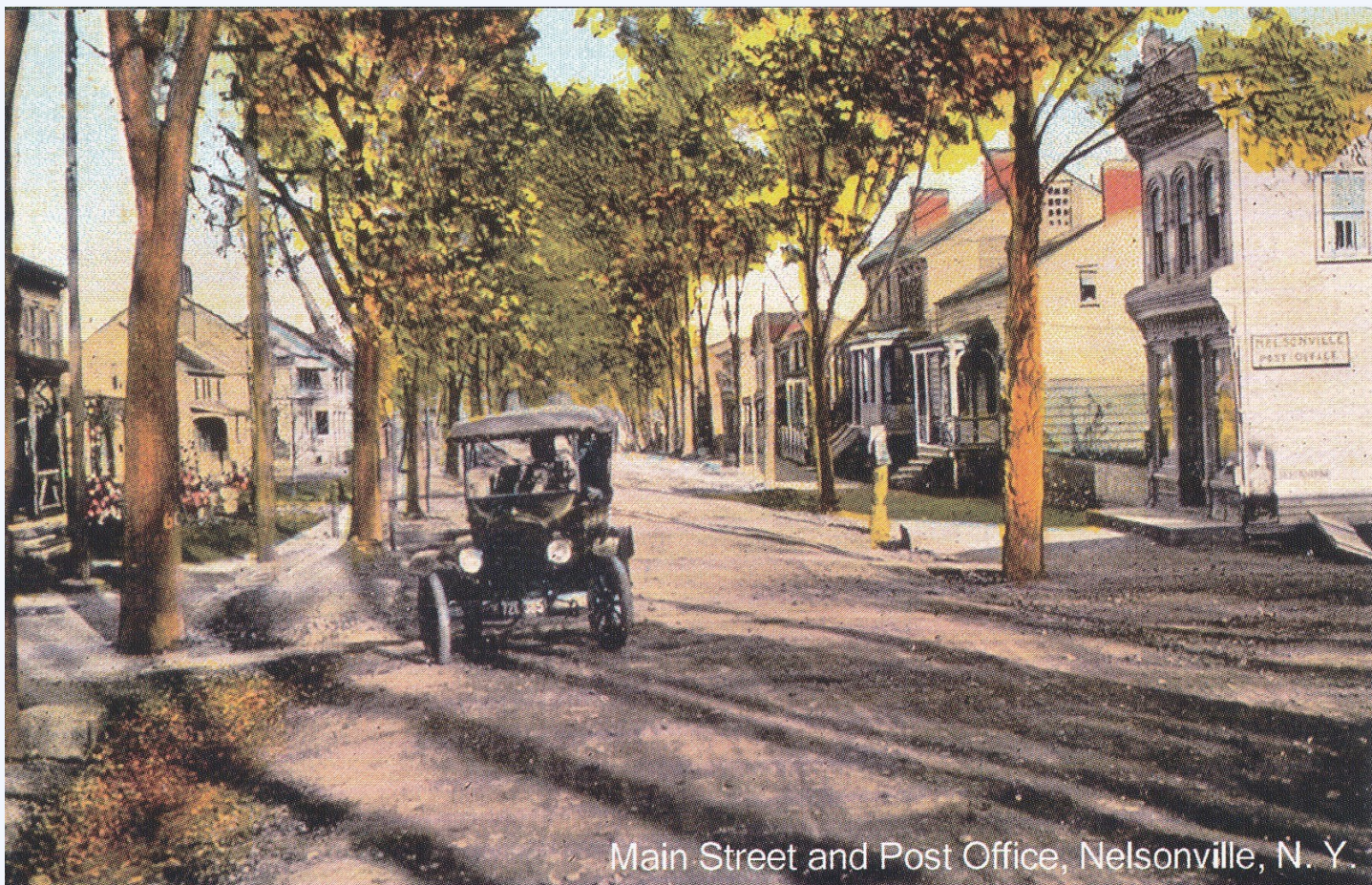
Once you have reached the end of Bank Street follow the sidewalk toward the Butterfield Apartments and the Cold Spring Post Office. Carefully cross Route 9D utilizing the crosswalk at the corner of Chestnut and 9D. You will see the Putnam History Museum in the distance. Congratulations! You have completed the Upper Main Street and Nelsonville History Crawl!

Special thanks to: Greater Hudson Heritage Network Creativity Incubator Grant Program

Andrew Platt, Project Consultant, PHM Staff, Interns, & Editing Team

www.putnamhistorymuseum.org | 845-265-4010

Select Answers: How far do you think the Parrott Cannon can fire? Answer: Up to 5 miles. | How many tombstones do you think there are in the Old Cold Spring Cemetery? Answer: 655



Main Street and Post Office, Nelsonville, N. Y.

**Thank you for participating in the Putnam History Museum's
Upper Main Street & Nelsonville History Crawl.**

**Now that you have completed the
History Crawl, we encourage you to
stop by the museum to explore the
exhibitions and learn more about
Putnam County's history. Museum
staff will also be available to review
questions and answers with you.**



NOTES

NOTES

HUDSON HIGHLANDS

PUTNAM

HISTORY

MUSEUM

WEST POINT FOUNDRY