



Historic Huguenot Street Presents Virtual Historic House Tour *Over the Wallkill: The Western Hamlets of New Paltz*



NEW PALTZ, NY (August 2, 2021) – Historic Huguenot Street is pleased to present the tenth Southern Ulster County historic house tour, *Over the Wallkill: The Western Hamlets of New Paltz*, focusing on homes west of the Wallkill in the Town of New Paltz. The virtual tour will be available online beginning September 26, 2021; registration is available at bit.ly/2TiaPwE.

This innovative virtual tour explores the legacy of New Paltz’s farming communities west of the Wallkill: the Springtown, Buttermilk, and Libertyville hamlets, and the Guilford Neighborhood in Gardiner. Situated on the rich alluvial floodplains and sweeping plateaus above, interspersed with wetlands and wooded areas, western New Paltz lies between

Rosendale and Gardiner, and the Wallkill River and the Shawangunk Mountains. Settled predominantly by Huguenots in the 18th and 19th centuries, in an area long inhabited by the Munsee Lenni Lenape, an exception was a small Quaker community that emerged around Buttermilk at the turn of the 19th-century.

Featured are ten vernacular and stately homesteads nestled in picturesque locations, overlooking the Wallkill River or on high ridges above with commanding views. These homes include the oldest stone houses still standing, Greek Revival and Italianate frame dwellings, striking Federal and Gothic Revival brick homesteads, and a contemporary vision built almost entirely of salvaged wood from Montana—several are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The tour, presented in video format, was produced by professional videographer and local resident Robert Fagan, featuring aerial-view landscapes and intimate close-ups, narrative

passages, interviews with homeowners, and interior scenes. Music for the film has been contributed by Jay Unger and Molly Mason. Nancy Beard narrates the story. A link to a detailed booklet accompanies the film and provides a fascinating history of the area and richly detailed research on the houses.

The tenth in a decade of annual historic house tours in southern Ulster, the virtual tour provides new and stunning perspectives on this area and its treasures. First conceived in 2010 under the auspices of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, the program has evolved over the years into a long-term research project focused on the region's compelling history and cultural heritage, and its natural beauty and rich resources. Stewardship has been a prevailing theme throughout this endeavor—stimulating broader appreciation and engagement in historic preservation and land conservation.

To register, visit bit.ly/2TiaPwE. Access to the film and a downloadable PDF booklet will be available to all pre-registrants as of September 26.

A preview of the film will premiere at Historic Huguenot Street's Sixth Annual Fall Harvest Celebration September 25, 2021. This year's celebration commemorates the stories of the Hudson Valley's past and the people who keep them alive today. Vals Osborne will be honored for her contributions to historic preservation in Ulster County, inclusive of her leadership of the annual historic house tours program. Since 2016, the Fall Harvest Celebration has brought Huguenot descendants, historians, preservation enthusiasts, and valued friends of the site to Huguenot Street for an evening of fun and philanthropy. Doors open at 6 PM for a cocktail hour, live music, and dinner by Main Course Catering.

Tickets are available for an in-person or virtual event experience, which will feature a livestream of the evening and a take-home dinner. To register, visit huguenotstreet.org/fall-harvest-celebration.

Image information, clockwise from upper left: gothic revival porch (Guilford), 18th-century stone house (Springtown), entry to earliest stone house (Springtown), classic federal entrance (Libertyville)

About Historic Huguenot Street

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres comprising the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz settlement, including seven stone houses dating to the early eighteenth century. Historic Huguenot Street was founded in 1894 as the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical, and Monumental Society to preserve the nationally acclaimed collection of stone houses. Since then, Historic Huguenot Street has grown into an innovative museum, chartered as an educational corporation by the University of the State of New York Department of Education that is dedicated to preserving a unique Hudson Valley Huguenot settlement and engaging diverse audiences in the

exploration of America's multicultural past in order to understand the historical forces that have shaped America.

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Frances Vigna
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
frances@huguenotstreet.org
(845) 255-1660 Ext. 102