

HISTORICAL REFERENCES

NATIONAL REGISTER

Created in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Register is a national listing of significant points of interest from our nation's history. The mission is to, "protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to tribes." The program is a coalition between the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the United States Department of the Interior. The National Register of Historic Places includes significant properties, classified as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects (National Register).

By the register's standards' buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects are defined by the following (Historic Preservation):

- **Building** – any structure created to shelter human activity; examples would include houses, barns, schools, railroad stations, theaters, factories
- **Structure** – any construction other than a building; examples would include bridges, lighthouses, water towers, tunnels, and civil engineering structures such as a canal
- **Object** – a construction of functional aesthetic, cultural, historical, or scientific value that may be moveable but is also generally related to a specific setting or environment; examples would include boats, locomotives, monuments, sculptures
- **Site** – The location of a significant event, prehistoric or historic activity, or remnant of a building or structure such as a battlefield, landscape, or the ruins of a building or structure
- **District** – a geographically definable area containing buildings, structures, objects and/or sites that are linked historically or aesthetically by plans or physical development and acknowledged to possess collective importance

NEW JERSEY REGISTER

In 1970, New Jersey Legislation passed the New Jersey Register of Historical Places Act which established the state's list of historical resources. The list is modeled after the National Register and uses the same criteria and forms for nominating properties (Historic Preservation).

REGISTER EVALUATION

For both the State and National levels of registers, the following criteria is used to define a significance in Federal/State History (Historical Preservation):

- It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history
- It is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or representing the work of a master or possess high artistic values, or representing a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- Have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history

HAWTHORNE HISTORICAL SITES

Founded in 2006, Hawthorne's Historical Society is dedicated towards preserving its history. Currently, the society is not a commission; however, the Borough of Hawthorne has been very supportive towards helping the Hawthorne Historical Society preserve the town's history.

The Hawthorne Historical Society has deemed many sites to be of historical importance to the Borough of Hawthorne. The following is a list of some sites and an explanation of its history (MacDonald Ditko, per. com. 2010).

Goffle Brook Park (National Register and State Register)

Goffle Brook Park was designed by the sons of New York Central Park architect Frederick Law Olmsted and their partner Percival Gallagher, and commissioned by the Passaic County Park Commission in 1927. The 115-acre park required the purchase or condemnation of 99 acres of private property. Included were three historically significant brown sandstone houses on Goffle Road: the John W. Rea House (1840); the Vreeland House (1760); and the John George Ryerson House (1750), also called Lafayette's Headquarters. Only the Rea House still stands today. The original Olmsted design was actually arranged around these historical houses. The design also included several foot bridges and bridal paths to ride horses, as Hawthorne used to have several horse farms. Today Goffle Brook Park is largely located off of Goffle Road and runs along much of the borough. It is still maintained by Passaic County.

Rea Mansion (National Register and State Register)

Originally, this Dutch brown sandstone house on Goffle Road was called the Doremus House and was built in 1840. In 1857, a well-known minstrel comedian bought the house on Goffle Road for his family. John W. Rea, whose stage name was Jack Raynor, toured across North America and Europe. While in Europe he bought the house unseen, which was then called a "farm." It was in an area called North Paterson, which was then part of the Manchester Township. It included 150 acres and cost \$10,000. Rea retired from performing in 1875 and was elected Justice of the Peace of Manchester, and from then

on was called "Squire Rea," and settled small disputes. He also served as Superintendent of Manchester schools. He later died in 1900 and was buried in Ridgewood in a place called "God's Acre."

Sometime after Rea's death, the house was sold to the Knapik family who operated the Knapik Inn and/or Goffle Inn starting in 1920. It was a tavern and hotel that was relatively short-lived, since only a decade later, they were forced to sell it for the creation of Goffle Brook Park. It was deemed historic then, and was preserved as part of the park. At one time it served as the Boys and Girls Club, and then as Senior Citizen offices. Today it houses Passaic County offices.

House of Johannes Ryerson/Ryerson House Monument 367 Goffle Road



The grandfather of the builder of this house was Martin Ryerszen, who emigrated from Amsterdam about 1646 and settled at Breukelen, where on May 14, 1663 he married Annetje, daughter of Joris Jansen de Rapalje. Their son Joris Martinse Ryerse, bap. Sept 19, 1666, died about 1749-50, married August 11 1691 Anneken Schouten, widow of Theunis Dey. At the time of his marriage he lived at the Wallaboct on Long Island. In 1695 he joined Arent Schuyler and others in buying extensive tracts of land on both sides of the Pequannock River. He settled at Pacquanac (near Mountain View) about 1710. He was a judge and a very prominent man. He had 3 step children and 11 children. Of these, Dirck Dey built the mansion at Lower Preakness, Marten Ryerson built on the south branch of the Raritan River near Flemington, and Johannes Ryerson built at the Goffle.

On November 11, 1706 Joris Ryerse of Pompton joined with Ryer and Frans Ryerse of New York in buying a tract north of the Passaic River along the Wagaraw or Goffle Brook from Blandina Bayard of New York; this tract was surveyed and divided between the owners on June 7, 1721. In his will of 1744 Joris Ryerse devised his plantation at Wagaraw, on which his son Johannes lived, to this Johannes. The settlement of Wagaraw was on the north bank of the Passaic River at the bend north of Paterson. From here a road led northward along the Goffle Brook to the house and mill of Cornelis Lozier at the present Midland Park. As farms were opened up along the brook, this settlement became known as the Goffle. Johannes Ryerse was living here in 1744, and may have removed here shortly after the survey of 1721. He probably built an earlier house no longer existing as well as the present house, if it was built in 1750 as claimed.

Johannes Ryerse, also called John G. Ryerson, bap August 8, 1694, died between 1779-82, married October 27, 1716 Maritie Janse Spier and later married Geertje Hessels, and had 9 children in all. He was a Justice of the Peace. He lived at the Goffle on a farm left him by his father, and in 1779 willed 1/3 of the estate upon which he dwelt

to his grandson John, eldest son of his son George. Joris or George I. Ryerson left all his lands in 1801 to his only son John. This John G. Ryerson, born July 3, 1769 died 1835, married July 21, 1793 Leah, daughter of Cornelius Westervelt, died 1861 aged 87 years. He lived on his father's and grandfather's place on the east side of the Goffle Road in the house still standing (1936). After the marriage of his only child, he gave him the farm of 180 a cres, and removed to his wife's farm. This son, George I. Ryerson, born December 17, 1793, died December 16, 1875, married September 19, 1813 Hillegont, daughter of Gerrebrant Van Houten; after her death June 23, 1847, he married Mrs. Eliza Burtzell of New York, and thirdly Margaret Hanson. He lived on the place occupied by his grandfather on the Goffle Road. His son Henry Garrison Ryerson, born December 3, 1822, died 1879, married Martha, daughter Adam Dater. He was an auctioneer, and continued to reside in the ancestral home. It later passed to his two children, George who died in 1887 and Elizabeth who married John Ackerman of HoHoKus. The Ackerman estate owned it until recently. It is presently unoccupied (1936).

It is claimed that the house was erected in 1750. This date could only apply to the wing by the road, as the main house is probably post-revolutionary. The wing is built of roughly cut stone and the main of dressed stone, whitewashed; the rear of both units is of stone rubble, and both sections are covered by gable roofs, extending to form an overhang on the south front. (The photograph shows the rear view.) An unusual feature is the string course of carefully cut and finished sandstone at the floor level of the main story of the house and also the rare type of fanlight. The double Dutch doors and solid shutters have typical panelling. The house stands on the east side of Goffle Road by the Goffle Brook, about one mile north of the Passaic River.

During the Revolutionary War, the Ryerson homestead, a house that once stood in what is now Goffle Brook Park, served as an outpost for General Lafayette. The house was owned by John George Ryerson. It was here Lafayette stationed his Light Infantry Corps in the fall of 1780. Located off of Goffle Road, the encampment was called Lafayette's "Light Camp," where patrols were sent to guard the flank of Washington's main army. Why Lafayette did not commandeer the house is not known. But that he did not is additional proof that the only the small unit was then in existence. As his host Johannes Ryerse had nine children, some of whom were married, the house was undoubtedly full, and Lafayette may not have wished to disturb them.

The Ryerson homestead stood for many years in disrepair after Goffle Brook Park was created (see Goffle Brook Park above), and burnt down mysteriously in 1950. A bronze plaque and memorial plaza now stand in Goffle Brook Park where the house once stood. They were erected in 1952.

Vreeland House Goffle Road (Opinion eligibility of State SHPO)

Edo Van Marselis, a fourth-generation resident of the American Colonies and prominent landowner, allegedly built what became known as the Vreeland House in 1760. The house no longer exists, but was originally deemed to become part of Goffle Brook Park. Passaic County planners decided to remove the Vreeland House in 1934 during the height of the Great Depression, however there were no funds to either demolish or maintain it. In 1939, the Vreeland House was again set to be demolished but the community protested enough to halt the work. It is not clear exactly when, but this house was razed anyway.

There is a house on the opposite side of Goffle Road that is commonly called the Vreeland VanDenBerg house. It has historical significance and now houses the offices of the Van Dyk Park Place retirement home.

Bottagra Restaurant 80 Wagaraw Road

One of the earliest homesteads constructed in Hawthorne (formerly Manchester Township) around 1730 by John Francis Ryerson. Ryerson also built a grist mill, potash works, sawmill and a store in the area. The home was confiscated by the State of New Jersey in 1779 as Ryerson was a loyalist. General Lafayette's infantry encamped here briefly during the Revolutionary War.

Richard Dirrick DeGray owned a farm, grist and saw mill, potash works, and a store, and fought in the Revolutionary War. He purchased the house (then located at 40 Wagaraw Road and now 80 Wagaraw Road) in May 1800. Its previous owner was his uncle John Francis Ryerson, who was a loyalist with the British Army and was stripped of his possessions. His uncle fled to Nova Scotia. About 140 acres were included Richard DeGray's purchase of the house. DeGray later added an east wing. Wagaraw Road was also once called Ryerson Lane. A De Gray descendant lived in the house until the 1960's. The house later on became Scordato's Restaurant starting in 1970 and then Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern, and now currently houses the Bottagra restaurant.

Bottagra Restaurant has great historical significance as the place where a Revolutionary War soldier lived, and is possibly the oldest building in Hawthorne. Although it has been altered, the restaurant retains some of the features of the original DeGray house built in the 1730s.

Hawthorne Library 345 Lafayette Avenue

The original Hawthorne Library was just a one-room building on Lafayette Avenue, which now houses the administrative offices of the library and old periodicals and newspapers in the basement. It was built in 1931.

The library changed its name to the Louis Bay 2nd Library to honor longtime mayor Louis Bay. An addition to the library, which is now the main library and the Children's Wing, was designed by local architect Larry Tromeur. He had been part of firm Neil Greydanus in Hawthorne, and later Jim Pipens, and opened his own firm, Associated Architects, in Paterson. Tromeur was inspired by the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright and Ludwig Meis van der Rohe. He also designed the municipal building in Hawthorne and the Wachovia Bank building.

Hawthorne Theater 300 Lafayette Avenue

"Our borough has a modern and attractive motion picture theatre, the HAWTHORNE THEATRE."

In the late '20's, a group of Hawthorne citizens decided that Hawthorne needed a theatre and they formed the Community Theatre Corporation. The theatre was built and leased to Mark Block who opened the doors of the Hawthorne Theatre on January 14, 1928. A capacity audience that night came to admire the new theatre and to see the picture "Topsy and Eva" with the Duncan Sisters.

A few years later the operation of the theatre was taken over by William C. Herman. Bill, together with his wife, Jessie, and son, Howard, reopened the theatre on October 30,

1930, with "Common Clay" starring Constance Bennett and Lew Ayres. In 1930, the theatre changed hands to the Herman family, who operated the theatre for 50 years over two generations. Under the Hermans' guidance, the theatre was remodeled in 1950 by John Ebersson, a noted theatre architect of the time and was one of the first theatres in the State to have air conditioning. In 1980, the cinema was sold to Lee and Moe Sayegh who renamed it CJM Cinemas. The Sayeghs revamped the theatre in 2009, restoring the front of the building to show old seascape motifs, and added Dolby digital equipment with 3-D capabilities.

The Hawthorne Theatre was among the first theatres in the State to be air-conditioned. It also pioneered in the policy of special shows for children on Saturday matinees. A series of "Great Opera Nights" the past few years has proved very popular.

During the last war the Hawthorne Theatre helped in the sale of War Bonds and in 1950 helped in the Korean Orphan Clothing Drive. Throughout the years, the theatre has helped raise funds for the Red Cross, March of Dimes, and many other charities.

The Hermans have always taken great care in the quality of movies shown at the Hawthorne Theatre and they will strive to continue the policy of bringing the best motion picture entertainment to Hawthorne in comfortable and attractive surroundings."

Masonic Temple Lafayette Avenue

On the night of May 25, 1918, the Hawthorne Masonic Lodge, No. 212, F. & A.M. was instituted. Meetings for the first five years were held at Lafayette Hall at Fire Company No. 1 on Lafayette Avenue. Membership swelled and the group created the Hawthorne Masonic Building Association for the purpose of erecting a building where they could hold meetings and other activities. A plot was purchased on Lafayette Avenue and on November 7, 1925, a cornerstone for the Masonic Temple was laid. The first regular meeting of the Lodge was held in the finished building on September 16, 1926. By 1948, there were 200 members of the Hawthorne Masonic Lodge.

Today, the Masonic Temple building has been converted into offices.

Hawthorne (Diamond Bridge Avenue) Train Station (SHPO)



The first station to serve Hawthorne in the early 1870's via the New Jersey Midland Railway was located on Wagaraw Road. Midland trains terminated here and passengers descended stairs to transfer to trains run by the Erie Railroad for points east of Hawthorne. By the early-1890's Hawthorne's population began to steadily increase. New residents began to settle and develop in area slightly west of the Wagaraw Road station. The New York Susquehanna & Western Railroad (successor to the New Jersey

Midland) constructed a new station in 1894 and called it "Hawthorne" to meet the needs of the residents in the downtown area. This small station continued to serve the borough's commuter's needs until June 30, 1966 when the Susquehanna ceased passenger operations.

The railroad leased the building for many years, most notably to a local newspaper dealer and more recently to Volunteer Railroaders Association. The Volunteer Railroaders Association through various fund raising activities was able on September 17, 2010 to move the station 75 feet north from its original location. This was done to protect the building from structural damage resulting from tractor trailers turning from Royal Avenue onto Diamond Bridge Avenue. A small park is planned for the former station site.

This was not the first time residents were interested in moving the station. Hawthorne wanted to make a transit center in the early 1940s, which required the relocation of the station. The original plan was to move the station to sit across from Ashley Avenue on Royal Avenue. The last set of blueprints were drawn up in 1941, and the project was abandoned when the U.S. entered World War II in December of that year.

Dutch Cemetery Brockhuizen Lane

Holland Cemetery, or Vermeulen Cemetery, was used by local Dutch reformed churches in the 1800s off Brockhuizen Lane. Abraham Vermeulen and John Holster established this land as a cemetery in 1868. Vermeulen later sold a plot that would become the Ahavath Joseph cemetery. Today, there are just a few gravestones remaining of the Dutch cemetery. Most of the bodies and stones were exhumed in the 1920s and moved to Fair Lawn Memorial Cemetery on Maple Avenue, which was also owned by the Vermeulen family. Those gravesites remaining give a chilling glimpse of life two centuries ago. A child only 1 year 9months old has a tiny gravestone. Others are entirely in Dutch with names such as Van Adrianis and Veeneman.

Ahavath Joseph Jewish Cemetery Brockhuizen Lane

The Ahavath Joseph Cemetery, located on Brockhuizen Lane, was purchased by a group of people originally from Slutsk, Lithuania (now Belarus) from Abraham Vermeulen (see above section on Holland Cemetery). They moved to Paterson in the 1890s and formed a Jewish congregation on Godwin Street in Paterson. Many of the gravestones reveal people succumbed to the Influenza epidemic of 1918 and the Diphtheria epidemic of the 1920s. Many stillborn and very young babies were also buried at that time without gravestones, following Jewish tradition. Records no longer exist on where these children were buried in the cemetery. Other people buried in the cemetery include members of the Spira family, who founded Spira's Department Store in Paterson in 1898. The gates of the cemetery were donated by Dina Solte Webster, one time owner of the Junior Shop in Paterson. The Ahavath Joseph congregation eventually merged with Congregation B'nai Israel in Paterson, adopting the B'nai Israel/Ahavath Joseph name. That congregation is still alive today in Paterson and cares for the cemetery.

Thomas Road/DeGray-Ryerson Cemetery

Now located on the Kohler property off Thomas Road, the ancient DeGray-Ryerson cemetery stands in a fenced-in area and is in very poor condition and missing some of the original gravestones. In 1748, John DeGray married Lena Ryerson. She was 18 years old he was 20. They settled on the Goffle Brook on what is now Goffle Road. They had three children: John, Richard, and Jenneke. According to old records, only sons

John and Revolutionary War hero Richard (please see Bottagra Restaurant above) were buried in the DeGray-Ryerson cemetery.

Others buried in the original cemetery included Lena Ryerson's father Frans Ryerson. Ties can be seen in old family trees between the DeGray family and former graves with the names Berry, Doremus, Westervelt, and VanWinkle. John DeGray married Mary Berry. His sister, Jenneke, married John Berry. The Berry's relative, Catherine Berry, married Hassel Doremus (who was widowed and then married Gasiah Westervelt, who was interred in the cemetery). Lena's brothers and sisters married into the VanWinkle, Doremus, and VanBlarcom families, which were names once found in the cemetery. Like many families in small towns, intermarriage was common.

House of John Van Winkle 868 Goffle Road

The ancestor of the family was Jacob Walingen, who emigrated to this country by 1639, probably from the village of Winkel in North Holland. He died in the summer of 1657, and his widow Tryntje Jacobs married three times before she died May 11, 1677. Their son Symon Jacobse Van Winckel, bap. Aug. 24, 1653 at New York died 1728-32 married at Bergen Dec 15, 1675, Annatje Sip of New York, sister of Jan Adriaensen Sip, owner of the house at Bergen. He was allotted two tracts in the Acquackanonk patent of 1685, and settled on the west side of the Passaic River in the present Passaic, near the Van Wagenings to the north and the Sips to the south. His son Simeon Van Winkle, bap. August 6, 1686, died 1775, lived several miles further north near the ford at the Bogt at the west side of the Passaic River (now the easter part of Paterson). His house of white washed stone was often referred to in deeds as the White House; it was torn down in 1828. He had 20 children by his two wives.

John S. Van Winkle, born 1723, was a son by the first wife, Prientje Van Giesen, daughter of Abraham Van Giesen, probable owner of the house at Third River in Essex County. On February 9, 1730 Richard Ashfield sold a tract at Wagaraw to Gerrit Gerritse, who on June 8, 1743 sold 212.5 acres to Simeon Van Winkle of Essex County; on October 26, 1774 Simeon Van Winkle, shortly before he died, deeded to his son John the 212.5 acre tract where John was then living at Wagaraw. Wagaraw was the name of the region above the most northerly bend of the Passaic River, north of the present Paterson. The settlement in the northern part of Wagaraw along the Wagaraw or Goffle Brook came to be called the Goffle. It was here that John S. Van Winkle settled some time between 1743 and 1774. The old part of the present house is said to have been built by him in 1761. On December 5, 1746 at Acquackanonk he married Janneke Ryerson of New York, and had two sons. He deeded the Wagaraw tract to his son Simeon on May 24, 1783, but lived many years longer, and probably continue to occupy his home until he died in January 1816. His son Simeon J. Van Winkle born December 12, 1749, died November 4, 1828, aged 78 years, 10 months and 22 days, married Claesje, daughter of Cornelis Gerritse. Although his father deeded him the Wagaraw homestead, he did not reside here; he was known as Simeon of the Bogt, and lived at Riverside in a stone house destroyed about 1880.

Simeon's son Judge John S. Van Winkle, born November 13, 1784, lived on his grandfather's place at the Goffle and built the main part of the present house in 1811. He ran a grist mill here. On March 24, 1805 he married Jannetje, daughter of Pieter Kip, born January 14, 1788. He and his wife were foully murdered the night of January 9, 1850 by John Johnson, an English farmhand whom Judge Van Winkle sympathetically released from jail, where he had been lodged on some complaint. This murder is still the

theme of conversation in the district. Their surviving son Cornelius Van Winkle, born September 9, 1806 died May 26, 1873, married May 31, 1826, Catrina Leah Van Dean, born March 4, 1809. They lived at the Goffle, at Riverside, and later in Paterson. The place at the Goffle was inherited by their only son Simon Peter Van Winkle, born July 6, 1831, married October 10, 1852 Maria Ackerman; they lived however, at Paterson. Their daughter Jennie Van Winkle married Aaron Van Houton of Passaic, and the property at the Goffle was sold by her estate about 1901. It was purchased by Thomas Arnold whose son Ivan Arnold is the present owner (1936). Until the Arnolds purchased it, the house had been occupied for many years by farmhands, tenants of the Van Winkles. In 1942, Dr. Claude Van Stone purchased the house in an auction and passed it down to his daughter, Jean Brennan, who sold it in 2002.

It has been stated that Judge Van Winkle replaced his grandfather's old house in 1811 by a larger stone dwelling. But the present wing certainly dates from his grandfather's time, and it is probable that the wing formed the whole of the early house, and that Judge Van Winkle greatly enlarged it rather than tearing down some of it. The old wing was built by John Van Winkle at some time after his marriage in 1746 and before 1774; the date 1761 has been ascribed to it. The old house is built of rough stone laid in irregular courses, and is covered by a steep gable roof extending in front to form an overhang. The main house has a cornerstone dated 1811; it is characteristic of the period, built of well-dressed stone, and covered by a gambrel roof which has a beautiful curving slope. The main house contains unusually beautiful specimens of carved woodwork of the period and a panelled over-mantel. The house is on the northwest side of the Goffle Road, on the opposite side of which runs the Goffle Brook. It stands at the foot the Goffle Hill Road leading to Sicomac and the Ponds settlements, and is less than 2 miles north of the north bend of the Passaic River.

33 Forest Avenue – Forest Mills Apartments



In the early 1900s, Excello Hosiery Mill was built. This large 3-story brick structure served for many years as the Prospect Park Furniture retail store, and later the Valley Furniture retail store. In 2004, Joseph and Anthony Dello Buono purchased the old factory and converted the building into 21 high-end apartments in 2006. The façade is original to the Excello Hosiery Mill and still appears etched in the top of the facade. The condos retain the high ceilings of the three-story old factory and new windows were

inserted into already existing openings. The freight elevator is also original to the early 1900s building. An adjoining house was knocked down to make room for parking for the condominium residents.