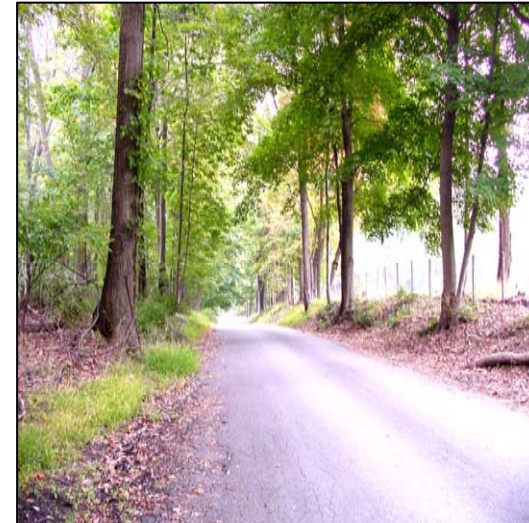


## 6. Scenic & Historic Preservation

### 6.1 VISION STATEMENT

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Yorktown has a distinctive scenic and historic character, comprised of farmland, woodlands, lakes and streams, historic structures and sites, and unique natural resource areas like the Croton Reservoir. These characteristics contribute to Yorktown's unique character and help make the Town an attractive place to live, work, and play. Yorktown's scenic and historic resources should be protected and carried forward into the Town's future.



Locke Avenue, Yorktown Heights.

### 6.2 GOALS

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Goal 6-A: Preserve the unique character, heritage, and identity of Yorktown for the benefit of future generations, by protecting historic sites, historic districts, and scenic corridors.

Goal 6-B: Increase public awareness and appreciation of Yorktown's history, its historical figures, and its historic sites and districts.

Goal 6-C: Work with private property owners, residents, and local, County, and State organizations to continuously identify, document, and preserve historic sites and districts.

Goal 6-D: Take into account private property rights, while undertaking historic preservation initiatives.

Goal 6-E: Encourage the ongoing use and re-use of historic structures by private property owners, while encouraging owners to take steps to protect the historical or architectural attributes of those structures.

Goal 6-F: Ensure visual compatibility between new development and nearby historic sites and districts.

Goal 6-G: Take advantage of funding, information, and other resources available through County, State, and federal agencies, as well as private-sector entities and non-profit organizations, for historic preservation purposes.

Goal 6-H: Work with the Yorktown Historical Society, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the John C. Hart Memorial Library, as well as County, State, and federal agencies, to identify and protect those resources that might provide insights into local history or historical figures.

Goal 6-I: Protect the visual quality of scenic corridors throughout Yorktown, and maintain landscape and woodland buffers along identified "green" corridors.

Goal 6-J: Protect vistas of open space from key locations.

### 6.3 OVERVIEW OF SCENIC AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

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- Historic resources in Yorktown are notable for their historical integrity and quality. Their historic character is relatively intact and recognizable. In addition, Yorktown has a great diversity of historic resources and significant landmarks. These resources range from *nationally* significant Revolutionary War sites to *regionally* significant resources such as the Croton Reservoir and Aqueduct to *locally* significant sites and landscapes such as stonewalls, cemeteries, and farms.
- Yorktown has important archaeological sites dating to Revolutionary War times. These include French Hill and Crow Hill earthworks, which were the sites of encampments.
- Growth pressures have increased the need for historic preservation strategies and tools. The Town should enact legislation that will protect historic resources while also respecting private property rights and maintaining a healthy business climate.
- Through the topography and natural features of its landscape, from wetlands and woodlands, to farms and meadows, to hills and slopes, Yorktown has a valuable scenic beauty and retains important elements of its rural character.
- Yorktown has potential for heritage tourism, attracting people for recreational trips (i.e., biking), as well as history enthusiasts on short day-trips. There are opportunities for State and regional linkages as well, such as the Washington-Rochambeau Trail and the Westchester County African American Heritage Trail.
- Historic and scenic resources are a source of community pride, and Yorktown has a strong preservation ethic.
  - During the Task Force workshops, a few participants said that they consider themselves to be “temporary stewards” of the history of the place.
  - Yorktown has a Landmarks Preservation Commission that has been locally designating properties of historic significance throughout the community.
  - In surveys, eighty-two percent of respondents said they felt historic preservation to be important or very important.
  - Ninety percent of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the Town should protect scenic roads and vistas.
  - Forty-nine percent of respondents said that historic stonewalls should be protected. An additional twenty six percent said that all stonewalls should be maintained, whether historic or not.
  - There are several longstanding families tied to the Town that help characterize its historic sense of community.

- Yorktown has a strong commitment to open space protection and natural resource conservation (see Chapter 7). Yorktown has significant amounts of Town, New York City, County and State-owned open space. These open space resources provide the foundations for an emerging greenway network and abundant opportunities for enjoying the outdoors.

## 6.4 POLICIES

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### Historic Resources

#### *Policy 6-1: Become a Certified Local Government (CLG).*

- Yorktown should revise its preservation ordinance and the membership requirements for the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
  - To participate in the CLG program, the Field Services Bureau has to certify that the local government has enacted appropriate preservation legislation and appointed a review commission that meets State and federal standards.
  - The CLG coordinators at the Field Services Bureau will be available for advice and review throughout this process. The Town should be in close communication with the Field Service Bureau to fully understand all program requirements.
- Utilize grant funding administered through this program for projects such as surveys.
- Utilize the Field Services Bureau for technical preservation assistance and legal advice as well as training opportunities.

#### *Policy 6-2: Establish a Central Repository for the Town's historical documents.*

- Resources to be centralized would include, but not be limited to, the records of the Yorktown Historical Society, the records of the Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Yorktown Museum files and the photographic and cartographic resources currently stored in the Town Archives.
- A "Town Room" could be designated in the John C. Hart Memorial Library or the Yorktown Museum, provided that adequate space can be made available in one of those locations, to house this collection which would make it accessible to researchers and local students for educational purposes. These resources would trace the history of the community and provide a centralized location for future documents.

***Policy 6-3: Appoint a Town Historian who will serve as an archivist for a central repository and liaison for research and educational activities within the community.***

- Apply for grant funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which offers funding through a variety of programs such as Learning Opportunities Grants and National Leadership Grants for Library-Museum Collaboration.
- Consider hiring of a librarian with historical and/or archival experience. Another possibility is to enlist volunteers or interns to work on archival projects, under the supervision of the Museum.

***Policy 6-4: Undertake the completion of and periodically update an Historic Structures Inventory.***

- Hire an outside consultant or other qualified professional. The inventory should include the location, significance, architectural or historical features and the condition of each historical structure in the community. The inventory would ideally identify those structures most threatened and in need of immediate protection measures.
- The list of Historic Resources prepared for the Comprehensive Plan (see the appendix to this chapter) could be utilized as a starting point but should be expanded to include more detail.
- The list should be updated at least once every five to ten years.



Stonewall along Hunterbrook Road, Hunterbrook.

***Policy 6-5: Undertake the completion of a stonewall inventory, and develop a long-term protection strategy for stonewalls.***

- Hire an outside consultant or other qualified professional to complete this inventory. The consultant would determine the appropriate criteria to use in identifying these resources but the inventory should investigate three categories of walls:
  - *Original/Historic.* The inventory should identify all historic stonewalls, determine an approximate date of construction and provide a description of their condition. This can include remnant or partial walls.
  - *Rebuilt/Restored.* These should be identified by their original construction dates and technique and by the date of restoration.
  - *Modern walls that follow historic landscape patterns such as property boundaries and roadsides.* These would be either re-creations of lost walls or new walls that follow earlier patterns and construction techniques.

- Options for protection strategies should include:
  - *Scenic road designation* will protect any walls that are within the right-of-way. Restrictive provisions regarding stonewalls and other critical landscape features can be written into the scenic road bylaw.
  - Identify and protect historic stonewalls as *individual landmarks* with restrictions on demolition and/or reconstruction.
  - Protect other stonewalls on an as-needed basis through *site plan review*. If a project under review contains a historic stonewall, the Landmarks Preservation Commission should have the ability to recommend measures for its preservation and/or reconstruction.
- Develop and implement an enforcement program for stonewall protection.

**Policy 6-6: Establish a Demolition Delay law.**

- Pursue the creation of a demolition delay law through local legislation. This will provide a time period to consider alternatives to demolition. The law would provide a requirement that the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Town Historian review all demolition permits requested for historic resources. ~~The law would provide a requirement for all historic resources that request a demolition permit be reviewed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and Town Historian.~~
- Establish a three to six month delay period if a resource is found to be significant to explore options such as resale, relocation, and/or finding funding for rehabilitation and preservation. If after the chosen period of time no viable option can be agreed upon, the applicant may be issued a demolition permit.
- Demolition delay law legislation only provides a delay; it cannot be a means to deny a demolition permit if no alternative can be found. In circumstances of a threat to public safety, certain buildings or structures can be issued an immediate demolition permit regardless of historic significance. This is up to the discretion of the Town Building Inspector.

**Policy 6-7: Expand the site plan review process to include the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Town Historian as advisory authorities.**

- The Commission and the Historian should address the impact of development projects on, or in close proximity to, existing and potential historic and archeological resources.
- Encourage the adaptive re-use of historic buildings in Yorktown as restaurants, bed and breakfast inns, art galleries, cultural or community facilities, or as office space for non-profit entities. However, utilize the site plan review process to ensure that re-use plans respect the original architecture and history of a site, and that such uses would be compatible with their surrounding neighborhoods.



Triangle Intersection in 1926, Yorktown Heights.

- Standards should be established to protect historic or scenic quality, while being flexible enough to allow suitable development. In certain cases, it may be appropriate to require buffers to protect resources.

***Policy 6-8: Undertake the preparation of National and State Register nominations for priority historic resources.***

- Prepare nominations for priority resources such as historic districts, individual buildings and structures, and landscapes and archaeological sites.
- Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places are made through the NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO.)
- For landscapes and archaeological sites, although register nomination is useful for the purposes of symbolic recognition and opportunities for grant funding, conservation easements are actually the preferred method for preventing disturbance. (see separate discussion in Policy 6-10.)
- In preparing nominations, seek the input of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Town Historian, and civic organizations concerned with local history.
- Pending further study, historic resources in Yorktown which may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places or the New York State Register include, but are not limited to, the following:



Holland Sporting Club, Mohegan Lake.

*Districts — National Register:*

- The *First Presbyterian District* is notable for its associations with the Revolutionary War and the resources that remain intact within the area. These include the First Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, The Lee-Tully House, the Congregational Parsonage and East Yard Cemetery, Strang House, Lee House/Hyatt's Tavern, the Rev. Sackett House and the Dr. Ebenezer White House.
- The *Croton Heights District* is also notable for its association with events surrounding the Revolutionary War and its development as the first planned residential area in Yorktown. Significant resources in this district include the Davenport House, the Forge, Peter Pratt's Inn, and the Croton Heights Bridge.
- *Note:* Historic resources within districts can also be nominated on an individual basis.

*Districts — State Register and/or Local Significance:*

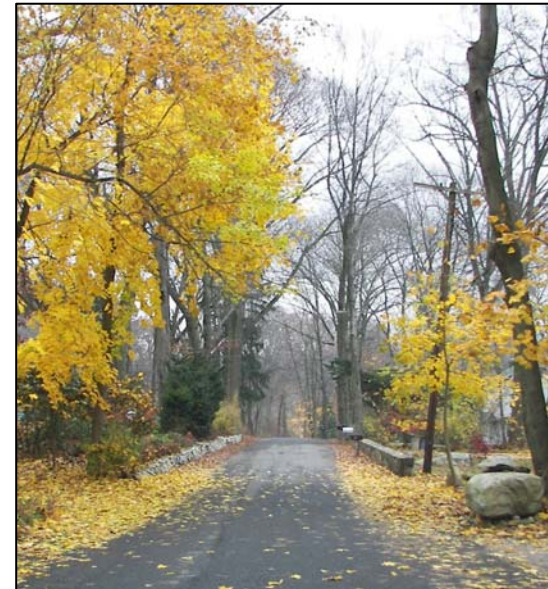
- The *Shrub Oak District* has an historic streetscape and community character. Notable resources in this district include the John C. Hart Memorial Library, Willow Brook Lodge, Mrs. Stark’s Tourist Home and the Shrub Oak Cemetery.
- *Note:* Historic resources within districts can also be nominated on an individual basis.

*Buildings, Structures and Landscapes — National Register:*

- First Presbyterian Church and Cemetery (Revolutionary War)
- St. George’s Chapel (association with John LaFarge, Sr. and Christopher G. LaFarge, Architect)
- LaFarge Chalet (Eligibility is uncertain. Although the home is associated with the LaFarge family, LaFarge himself has only a loose association with the property.)
- Davenport House (Revolutionary War)
- Chadeayne Homestead (Revolutionary War)
- Freyer Nursery/ Hunt’s Tavern (Revolutionary War)
- IBM Watson Research Center (Renowned architect Eero Saarinen, built 1957-1961.) To be considered eligible for listing on the National Register, buildings have to be at least 50 years old. Therefore, nomination of the Saarinen building will have to wait until ~~2007~~<sup>up7</sup> to 2011.
- Westfield Farm Tower on the grounds of the Field Mansion and Estate (used for Civil Defense during WWII and rebuilt by Cross & Cross Architects)
- Croton Lake Gatehouse Bridge “B” (significant for construction technique)
- East Yard Cemetery (association with African-American history)
- Purdy’s Cemetery (Eligibility is uncertain. The underground burial chamber is no longer intact, meaning the site could have archaeological significance.)



St. George's Chapel, Mohegan Lake.



Crawford Road, Mohegan Lake

*Buildings, Structures and Landscapes — State Register and/or Local Significance:*

- Travis House (Association with Town History)
- Strang House (Association with Town History)
- First Baptist/ Community Church and Cemetery (pre-Revolutionary War period and association with making of Croton Reservoir)
- John C. Hart Memorial Library (association with Town history)
- Field Home/ Holy Comforter (association with Town history)
- Holland Sporting Club- formerly Rock Hill Lodge (association with Town history)
- Hilltop Hanover Farm (rural historic landscape, agricultural)
- Field Mansion and Estate (designed by Cross & Cross Architects, NY)
- Beaver Conference Center (association with Town History)
- Ansonia Lodge (association with Mohegan Lake Boys School)
- Hyatt/Merck House (association with Sparkle Lake development)

***Policy 6-9: Establish a local historic district ordinance, or as an alternative to historic districts, adopt neighborhood design guidelines to encourage new buildings to better fit into established neighborhoods.***



Shrub Oak United Methodist Church Cemetery,  
East Main Street, Shrub Oak.

- The establishment of local historic districts is also a viable tool for the preservation of community character. Differing from National Register districts, local districts have the teeth necessary to protect resources through the local government.
  - Not all structures or buildings within a proposed district need to be considered "historic", but such non-historic buildings can still be included in the district if they contribute to the overall historic character of the area.
  - New buildings and contemporary styles could continue to be built, but they would have to be architecturally compatible, meaning that the basic scale, height, materials, and proportions would have to fit in with the historic character of the area.
- Architectural design guidelines can be used to encourage new development to have a character that fits into the neighborhoods. The goal is not stylistic uniformity, but consistency in terms of massing, fenestration, height, scale,



materials, building siting, etc. Within such parameters, there can still be a great deal of flexibility of use and architectural variety.

***Policy 6-10: Procure conservation easements for privately owned sites that contain critical historic and archaeological resources worthy of protection.***

- A conservation easement is a restriction placed on a piece of property to protect the natural or man-made resources and to exclude certain types of development such as residential or commercial.
- The easement is typically described in terms of the resource it is designed to protect, in this case, historic or archaeological. An easement is either voluntarily sold or donated by the landowner, and constitutes a legally binding agreement and should be filed with the Westchester County Clerk's Office.
- Historic sites that should be considered for this type of protective tool include the Crow Hill earthworks, the French Hill archeological sites, Cat Hill and Indian Hill. Conservation easements can also be used for historic resources such as the Yorktown milestones and old quarry sites.
- A conservation easement is a pro-active way to protect archaeological resources. Such sites can be nominated for listing on the National or State historic registers, but a conservation easement is actually more effective as a protection tool.

***Policy 6-11: Promote awareness and appreciation of local history by sponsoring educational programs and improving access to historic sites.***

- Work with the civic groups to explore the feasibility of opening up historic homes to occasional tours and visits for interested local residents. This can only be done with the voluntary consent and active involvement of property owners. Priority sites to be considered include: the Rochambeau House, the Ebenezer White House, and the Davenport House.
- Establish a Town history trail that winds through Town and links several historic structures and sites.
  - This trail need not be in the form of a free-standing trail or path, but could follow a combination of paths and sidewalks.
  - Directional signs, as well as plaques or other informational resources, should be placed along the trail. These can be either embedded in the pavement or posted on a free-standing sign or kiosk.
  - The trail can have a theme that conceptually links together the sites along the trail. For example, the theme can be "1776," relating to the Town's Revolutionary War history.
- Continue working with the YHS, the Yorktown Museum, and the John C. Hart Memorial Library to sponsor lectures, arts shows, events, and other educational programs that celebrate Town history.

***Policy 6-12: Encourage heritage tourism, where day-trippers are drawn into Yorktown from other towns to visit historic places.***

- If historic home tours are established for local education purposes, explore the possibility of opening them up to a larger audience. On a case-by-case basis, carefully consider the potential traffic and other impacts that could result for each site.
- Building off the day-trip traffic drawn by Yorktown's recreational attractions, promote local historic sites in FDR Park, Teatown Lake Reservation, at trailway entrances, and other recreational sites.

***Policy 6-13: Support efforts to create the Rochambeau Trail and the African American Heritage trail.***

- The State of Connecticut is currently developing legislation that protects the Rochambeau Trail throughout the state.
- Westchester County is developing the African American Heritage Trail. The trail is a system of linked historic sites that chronicle the history of the African American community in the County.

**Scenic Resources*****Policy 6-14: Undertake a scenic roads inventory.***

- Identify and assess all roads in Yorktown that have significant scenic value and integrity. Typical landscape features identified in a scenic resource inventory include, topography, water features, historic buildings or structures, natural features such as forests or wetlands, stone walls or trees, views or vistas. The inventory should also note any qualities that detract from the scenic quality, such a sprawling subdivision, large building, or poorly designed parking lot.
- Develop criteria to be used for evaluation and determination of significance that include magnitude, distinctiveness, intactness, opportunity and preference.
- Potential scenic roads in Yorktown include, but are not limited to:
  - Baptist Church Road
  - Croton Dam Road
  - Crow Hill Road
  - Hanover Street
  - Hunterbrook Road
  - Portions of Route 118
  - Spring Valley Road
  - Evergreen Street
  - Stony Street

- Quinlan Street

These roads all contain a high level of significant scenic resources including stonewalls, historic buildings and landscapes, water features, street trees and views.

***Policy 6-15: Establish a system for scenic road designation and protection.***

- Consider utilizing the NYS Scenic Roads Program as authorized by Article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law which provides for the individual designation of scenic roads. The goals of the program are to “protect, preserve and enhance the natural and man-made beauty of New York State; promote a greater awareness and appreciation of the state’s scenic, ecological, cultural, and historical attributes; and provide economic benefits by stimulating tourism.”
- The responsibility for nominating scenic roads lies with interested local citizens and Town officials. The criteria for designation includes the condition of the road, the regional attributes defined as “distinctive cultural, historic and landform features of the region,” and evidence of significant public support.
- Once a scenic road is designated, projects along the corridor should be required to meet standards to maintain the scenic quality of the corridor. For example, standards could include additional woodland buffers along the roadway; required preservation of existing stone walls along the street frontage; increased setbacks; expanded lot widths; lower buildings heights; and screening. Such standards should be adopted in local zoning laws and would be applied through the site plan review process.
- As a related option, the Town can establish a *scenic overlay zone* that includes all areas visible from the designated scenic road. This would help apply scenic standards to properties within the viewshed but which do not directly abut the roadway.
- Scenic road designation in Yorktown would aid with the protection of historic stonewalls and other significant landscape and cultural features.

***Policy 6-16: In addition to scenic corridors, identify "green corridors" throughout Yorktown and establish standards for maintaining woodland buffers or dense landscaping along the roadways.***

- Some corridors throughout Yorktown may not meet the criteria for scenic roads, but may nevertheless have attractive woodlands or landscaping along their edges. These green edges lend those roads a distinctive and natural character, even through significant development may be located to the rear.
- An existing example is the Route 6 frontage of the Jefferson Valley Mall. Despite the presence of a major retail facility, the building can barely be seen from the densely wooded and bermed frontage along Route 6.
- Candidates for "green corridor" designation include, but are not limited to: Route 6 east of the Mohegan Lake hamlet center, Route 118 through Yorktown Heights, Underhill Avenue west of Route 118, Lee Boulevard south of Route 6, Old Yorktown Road (Route 132).

***Policy 6-17: Expand the Farmland Protection District to include other potentially developable farmland.***

- Expand the District to include farms such as Wilkens Fruit Farm and Hemlock Hill Farm.
- Utilize the NYS Farmer’s Protection and Farm Preservation Act of 1996 to protect other significant agricultural resources. This act offers provisions that will encourage the rehabilitation of historic barns and the preservation of farmsteads.

***Policy 6-18: Procure scenic conservation easements or consider the use of a Scenic Overlay Zone to protect important views.***

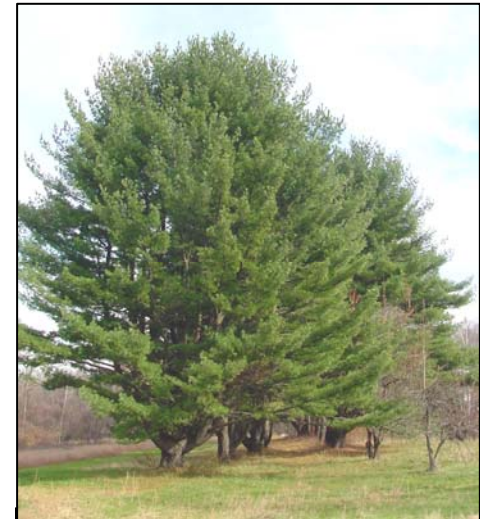
- Preserve priority views and vistas such as the Turkey Mountain Reservation, east from Mohansic Golf Club toward Mohansic Lake, and the three Revolutionary War encampments at Cat Hill, Crow Hill and French Hill. Ideally, establish pocket parks at those sites, with monuments commemorating the historical events.
- Provide and maintain trails to certain key outlook points if they are inaccessible by car. This would include trails along water resources that will provide visual access to significant water features. The protection of a viewshed should include all visible, contributing components that make the view or vista a significant resource.
- Consider procurement options for scenic easements such as the use of revolving loan funds through the Yorktown Land Trust or the Landmarks Preservation Commission, or through private gifts or donations.

***Policy 6-19: Establish priority scenic roads, views and trails that provide linear linkages for a local and regional greenway system.***

- Designate select arterial or collector roadways as "green corridors," where roadsides would be maintained with dense vegetation or woodlands. Through the zoning regulations, lots fronting on such roads would have to minimize curb cuts, provide generous front setbacks and densely landscaped buffers along the roadway. One potential candidate is Route 6 east of Strawberry Road (see Chapter 4.)
- Critical resources should be mapped to provide coordination for the development of the system. These would include the North County bike trail and, the extensive hiking trails within the community.

***Policy 6-20: Continue to encourage open space, and review all development projects.***

- Utilize *site plan review* as an important tool toward directing where and how development should take place and critical resources protected. Design review for projects can include the control of elements such as signage, overhead utilities, height requirements and vegetative buffers.



Pine Hill Property, Kitchawan.

***Policy 6-21: Undertake the completion of a Tree and Forest Management Plan and ultimately a Tree Preservation and Planting Program.***

- Utilize this plan to protect and manage the critical forested portions of the open space resources owned by the Town.
- Implement the plan through the creation of a Tree Preservation and Planting Program. This would provide restrictions on the removal of significant trees within the Town and provide design guidance and review for any new plantings within critical resource areas. For example, this would be useful for the protection of historic resources such as the beech trees within the Evergreen Street right-of-way which are a remnant of the Amawalk Nursery.
- Apply to be a Tree City, USA.

***Policy 6-22: Expand local beautification programs and maintenance strategies for scenic resources.***

- Consider including the use of local volunteer groups such as garden clubs and Boy and Girl Scouts, for landscape planting and maintenance.

## **Enforcement**

***Policy 6-23: Establish a record system that keeps track of historic and scenic resources and any protective provisions that apply to them.***

- The Town should prepare an official map of designated historic sites, i.e., those listed on the State or National Registers or identified by the Town as having local significance.
- The Town should ensure that all scenic or conservation easements are recorded in the form of deed restrictions and are delineated on the Town's official tax maps and filed in the Westchester County Clerk's Office.
- Use the Town's GIS system to track historic and scenic resources, as well as protective provisions.
- In conjunction with a property transfer, require the seller to provide the buyer with complete and accurate information about any historic designation, easement, or other property restriction for the purposes of historic or scenic preservation.

***Policy 6-24: Continue to enhance the Town's historic and scenic enforcement capabilities.***

- In order to implement recommendations of this Chapter, the Town's inspection and enforcement needs will increase. The Town should consider any appropriate strategies for keeping up with those needs.
- Explore the possibility of adding inspection and enforcement responsibilities to the Town Historian position.

***Policy 6-25: Encourage civic organizations to continue calling attention to potential threats to historic or scenic resources.***

- Civic organizations like the Yorktown Historical Society, in addition to serving an educational purpose, help identify "endangered" sites.

**APPENDIX TO CHAPTER 6: EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT**

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**Certified Local Government Status**

- The Certified Local Government Program was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This program supports and strengthens local preservation activities. Currently only about 30 communities in New York State are designated as such, which allows for greater funding amounts for preservation projects such as inventories. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: Field Services Bureau administers this Program, provides technical assistance and administers the CLG sub-grant program, distributing financial aid for community preservation projects.
- The Field Services Bureau offers assistance with determining significance and the proper organization and interpretation of data for the completion of a Historic Structures Inventory. The Field Services Bureau has an inventory form but does not require its use. The "building-structure inventory form" used by the Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission could be used for this project with modifications approved by the State.

**National & State Registers of Historic Preservation**

- Nomination forms for the State and National Registers are prepared either by the staff of the SHPO or by private individuals. The National Register criteria for evaluation is described as "the quality of significance in American history, architecture, engineering, and culture present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
  - That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
  - That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
  - That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information in prehistory or history."
- Generally the criteria for the State Register are similar to the above but the significance is based on the Statewide level versus the National level.
- The National Park Service offers significant technical information to guide the evaluation and nomination of historic resources in the form of National Register Bulletins (NRB). Specifically useful to the Town of Yorktown would be NRB No. 41, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places" and NRB No. 30, "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes."

- Further information regarding the use of local historic districts can be found from the National Trust for Historic Preservation Information Series No. 58, 1992, “Maintaining Community Character: How to Establish a Local Historic District”. The State of New York also has a bill pending that would restrict speed limits within historic districts. This is another advantage to the establishment of local historic districts in Yorktown.

### **Regional Historic Trails**

- The State of Connecticut is currently developing legislation that protects the Washington/Rochambeau Trail throughout the state. According to literature published by the State of Connecticut, “the development of a tourism route along the Revolutionary Road is a linkage that by proxy will allow each state to share the benefits of the heritage of the other states along the route.” This could be a critical partnership for Yorktown in order to develop its own heritage tourism and create an economic opportunity through its historic and cultural resources.
- Westchester County is also developing an historic linkage through the development of an African American Heritage Trail. The mission of this program is to “preserve and interpret the legacy and contributions that people of African descent have made to the development of our unique American identity.” The trail is a system of linked historic sites that chronicle the history of the African American community in Westchester County.
- The Town of Yorktown has several historic resources, identified by Linda Kiederer, president of the Yorktown Historical Society, which could be linked to this trail system. They include:
  - First Presbyterian Church: 1740-1799 Revolutionary War: monument dedicated to members of the all-black regiment from Rhode Island killed in Yorktown; 1800-1899 Baptized, married and buried local black families.
  - The East Yard Cemetery: Contains the graves of free blacks and at least one black veteran of the Civil War.
  - Ebenezer White House: Home of famous Revolutionary War doctor who owned slaves then freed them and ultimately left one his property in his will.
  - Davenport House: This is the site of the Revolutionary War skirmish that killed 40 members of the all-black Rhode Island regiment and their leader Colonel Christopher Greene. Richard Davenport freed his slaves in 1800.

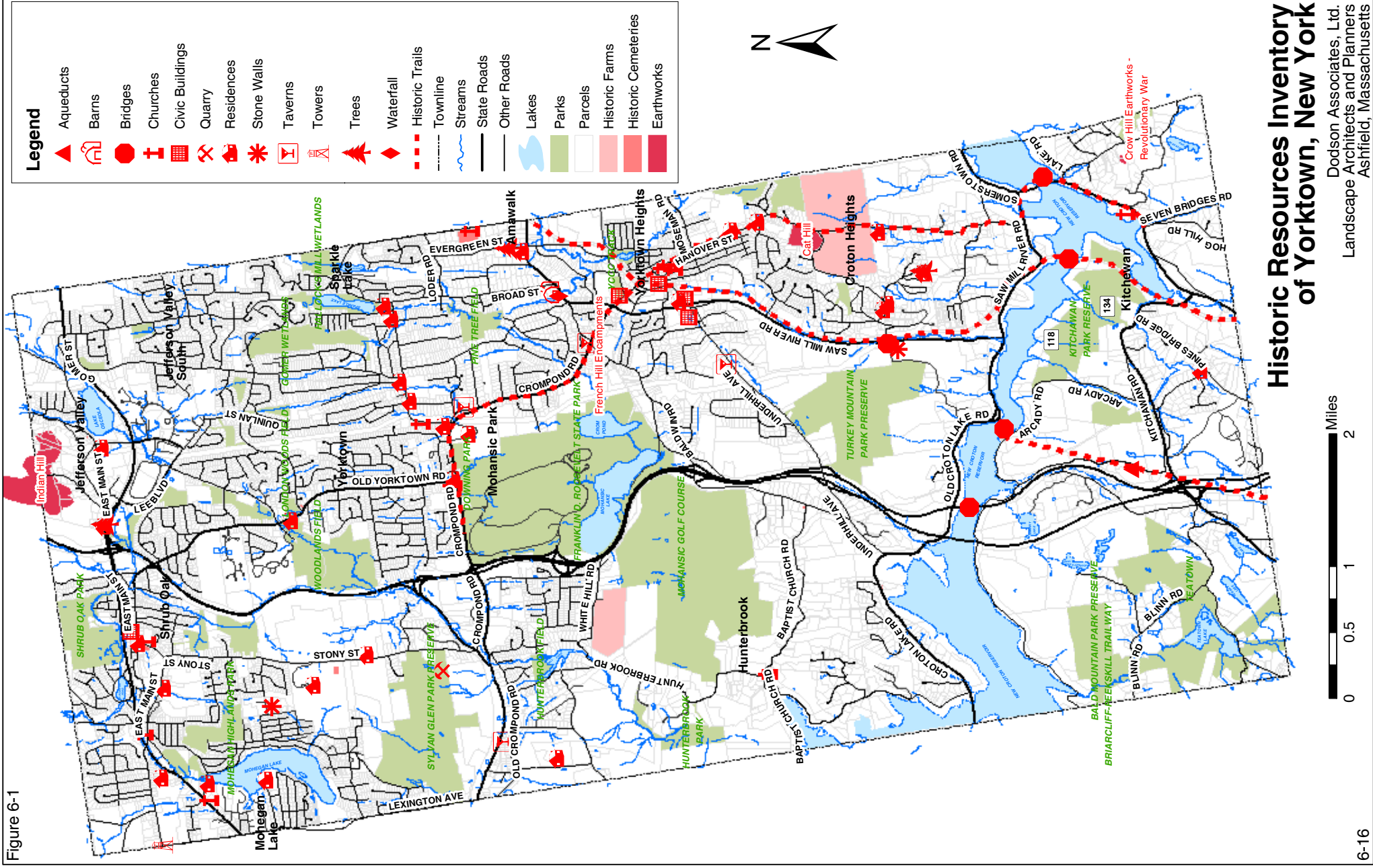
### **Scenic Road Preservation**

- A potential funding source for scenic road identification and designation is the National Scenic Byways Program. Through this program and administered by the Federal Highway Administration, TEA-21 funds are available on a competitive grant basis. These funds can be used for projects such as corridor management planning, byway promotion, the purchase of scenic easements and billboard removal.

- Additional information regarding scenic road designation and the nomination process is available through a variety of sources and the NYS Field Services Bureau. Helpful publications include:
  - *Preserving New York State Scenic Roads: A Guide to Designation*, NYS DEM.
  - *Scenic Roads in New York State*, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, 1990.
  - *The Protection of America's Scenic Byways*, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Information Series No. 68, 1992.



Figure 6-1



# Historic Resources Inventory of Yorktown, New York

Dodson Associates, Ltd.  
Landscape Architects and Planners  
Ashfield, Massachusetts

**Inventories of Scenic & Historic Resources**

- Historic resources are shown on Figure 6-1 and listed in Table 6-1.
- Scenic resources are shown Figure 6-2 and listed in Table 6-2.

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Churches</b>			
Amawalk Friends Meeting House	Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) meeting house. Two previous buildings (1773 and 1787) were destroyed by fire, also surrounding landscape had been the site of Amawalk Nursery (1904-1943)	2467 Quaker Church Road	National Register of Historic Places, 1989, State Register of Historic Places and Westchester County Inventory of Historic Places, 1988
Community Church/ First Baptist Church	Circa 1848 Greek Revival church served residents of Huntersville which was flooded to build the Croton Reservoir	1645 Baptist Church Road Tax ID: 11024	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Congregational Parsonage/Rahte House	c.1806, parsonage of former Congregational Church, one of few remaining structures built in the Federal period	728 Granite Springs Road Tax ID: 0513721	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Croton Lake Methodist Episcopal Church	Originally built in 1930's. Now a private residence.	Rte. 100, near Reservoir	
First Presbyterian Church	Original building erected c.1738, served as a rallying place of patriots during the American Revolution. Burnt to the ground by British troops on June 24, 1779 –rebuilt 1785.	2880 Crompond Road Tax ID: 042166	Town of Yorktown, 1976 Part of proposed “African American Heritage Trail”

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Heights Calvary Bible Church	Originally Society of Friends Meeting House, graves believed to be under parking lot	1835 Hanover Street	
Shrub Oak Methodist Church		1176 E. Main St.	
St. George’s Chapel	Normandy-style chapel built by Aimee La Farge Heins in 1913 in memory of her parents, husband and brother. The building originally had stained glass by prominent artist John LaFarge. It was designed by Edward Hewitt and William Bottomley.	East Main St.	
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church	Established in 1788. Present building erected in 1870, parish organized in 1887. One of the last remnant of the famous Mohegan Lake School an elite military academy.	1836 East Main Street	
St. Patrick’s Stone Chapel		Hanover and Church Streets	
Temple Beth Am	Formerly Yorktown Methodist Church	203 Church Street	
<b>Civic Buildings</b>			
Beaver Conference Center	Formerly Beaver Family Estate, 1880’s buildings	370 Underhill Ave	
John C. Hart Memorial Library	Early 1800’s building. Bought by John Hart in 1854. Property and house left to the town by Catherine Dresser to found a library in 1916.	1130 East Main Street	

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Yorktown Town Hall	First permanent location of gov't, police and court	363 Underhill Ave	
Yorktown Heights Cultural Center	Former school	1974 Commerce Street	
Yorktown Railroad Station	c. 1905 One of the Railroad stations in NY Central Putnam Division (1881-1958) c. 1905	Commerce Street Tax ID: 1013133	National Register of Historic Places and NYS Landmark, 1981 and Town of Yorktown, 1976
<b>Residential</b>			
Adams/ Bernstein House	19 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse	3147 Old Yorktown Rd	
Amawalk Nursery House	1700's house, barn used as tavern, originally property of Hallock Mills Nursery was largest tree nursery in Country. 1 <sup>st</sup> living Christmas tree for White House	60 Saw Mill River Rd	
Ansonia Lodge	1880 part of Mohegan Lake Boys School		
Andre/Underhill House	Major Andre ate his last meal here before being captured	Hanover Rd and California Rd	
Boehme Martens House/ Hyatt House	Pre- revolutionary house (circa 1732), allegedly the home of Colonel Hyatt who served in American Revolution	760 Old Route 6 Tax ID: 020198.2	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Chadeayne Homestead*	Circa 1755, Originally built by Van Cortlandt family, gathering site of Loyalist troops under British Colonel Delancy who attacked Colonel Greene at Davenport House	797 Pines Bridge Road Tax ID: 1804344	Town of Yorktown, 1976

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Davenport House (formerly Davenport/Carpenter Farm)	1750 by Richard Davenport-General Washington's command post during Revolutionary War and site of skirmish that killed members of African American First Rhode Island regiment and their commanders Colonel Greene and Major Flagg	127 Croton Heights Road, Tax ID: 150310114	Town of Yorktown, 1976 Part of proposed "African American Heritage Trail"
Ebenezer White House	1700's home with bee-hive oven, home of Revolutionary War doctor	2718 Hickory Rd Granite Springs Road	Part of proposed "African American Heritage Trail"
Field Mansion and Estate	Mansion built by Cross & Cross Architects, NY in 1935. Later became Franciscan High School	Strawberry Road and Lexington Ave.	
Field Home/Holy Comforter	Originally part of the Field Farm- founded in 1887 by Benjamin Field as a memorial to his wife to house "aged and respectable poor persons" today it has merged with Holy Comforter (originally in the Bronx)	2300-2302 Catherine St., Tax ID: 070213	
The Forge/Hobbs House	c. 1760 Part of the Davenport Farm	645 Croton Heights Road, Tax ID: 05031036	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Freyer's Nursery/Hunt's Tavern	Pre-Revolutionary Tavern and Site of French army encampment under Rochambeau 1781-1782	2138 Crompond Rd	
Gilbert House	Severely renovated in 1900, late 1800's surrounded by apple orchards homestead of Gilbert and Emily Maurer	Hanover Street	
Groht House	1700's Farmhouse	Underhill Avenue	

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Hallock/O'Rourke Farmhouse	Pre-Revolutionary farmhouse, built prior to 1765 by local artisans, abuts the Washington/Rochambeau route	1578 Hanover Street, Tax ID: 15203	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Hill Homestead	Home of former Supervisor Theodore Hill	Jefferson Valley	
Hyatt/Merck House	House on farmland owned by Hyatt family from 1861-1926, became part of Sparkle Lake Resort by Merck family in 1928	Granite Springs Road, Near Sparkle Lake	
Jeremiah Travis House	Loyalist property sold to E. White after Revolutionary War	362 Granite Springs Rd	
LaFarge Chalet	1860's Swiss style chalet, Residence of mother and sisters of John LaFarge, Sr., artist, stained glass, author	Rte 6 across from Church (1700 Rte 6)	
Lane's Tavern	c. 1782 Believed to have been tavern during American Revolution, <u>s</u> Significant Dutch architectural features	620 Underhill Rd, Tax ID: 1209151	Town of Yorktown, 1976
Lee House	1700's- old Hyatt Tavern attached to house (partial)	875 Granite Springs Rd	
Lee House	1900's	800 Granite Springs Rd	

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Lee-Tully House	Pre-Revolution house, residence of one of the founding fathers of the Presbyterian Church, on the sight of skirmishes resulting in attacks upon parsonage in June, 1776	2594 Old Yorktown Rd.	
London Apartments	1880, part of Mohegan Lake Boys School	Route 6	
Lauder House	Summer cottage of Este Lauder	Across from Rock Hill Lodge (Holland Sporting Club)	
Mrs. Ward Stark's Tourist Home	Early 1900's rooming house for Lake Mohegan Summer Resort residents	East Main Street at New Road	
Old Dutch Mill	Popular restaurant, bar and dance hall in the early 1900's	3717 Crompond Road	
Peter Pratt's Inn	Situated at the site of the battle of the demise of Washington's Northern Continental Command Post to the British Tories in 1781- the original Inn was part of Carpenter-Davenport homestead and added on to	Croton Heights Road	
Phoenix Academy	Jesuit Seminary	Stony Street	
Rev Sackett House	Pre-Revolutionary War home	611 Granite Springs Road (now Guiding Eyes for the Blind)	
Rochambeau House	Reputed headquarters of Rochambeau		

**Table 6-1: Historic Resources**

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Rock Hill Lodge (now Holland Sporting Club)	Early summer resort	Mohegan Lake	
Sanctuary Country Club	Former estate of Opera star Lydia Locke, previously the Griffen Farm	Rt.118	
Strang House/ Melbourne Farm	Currently occupied by the Yorktown School System	2723-2727 Crompond Rd.	
Tompkins Farm			
Walker-Hyatt House			
Westfield Farm Tower (Part of Field Estate/Franciscan property)	Built between 1910-1925. Remodeled by Cross & Cross Architects in 1936 for Field family. Used by Civil Defense during WWII	Strawberry Road and Lexington Ave	
Willow Brook House/Lodge	Early 1900's rooming house for Lake Mohegan Summer Resort residents		
Wilson Residence		Crompond Road Yorktown Heights	
Witzel Farmhouse	19 <sup>th</sup> Century Home, became Turkey farm	Stony Street	
Wyand House		360 Underhill Ave	
IBM Building	1960's designed by Saarinen, early technology headquarters		



**Table 6.1: Historic Resources**

<b>Landscapes</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Cemeteries</b>			
Amawalk Friends Cemetery	Adjacent to Friends meeting house	Quaker Church Road	
Aner Gerow Cemetery	One upright stone and some markers, seven members of Gerow family buried here	East side of Illington Road, down the road from Wiltwick Boys Home, across from Estates Drive (now Yeshiva School)	
Brown Cemetery	Contains five Brown family engraved upright stones and others from 1800's and Smith family (formerly called Old Smith family cemetery)	Abuts 1536 Hanover St.	
Community Church/First Baptist Church	Pre-Revolutionary War graves	1645 Baptist Church Road, Tax ID 11024	

**Table 6.1: Historic Resources**

<b>Landscapes</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
East Yard Cemetery/ Congregational Church	Civil War soldiers buried here, plot dedicated to African American soldiers	Granite Springs Road between Rte 202 and Quinlan Street	Part of proposed "African American Heritage Trail"
First Presbyterian Church Cemetery	Graves of Revolutionary War soldiers from all black RI regiment and Colonel Greene and Major Flagg of Washington's forces.	2880 Crompond Road	Eligible for listing in National Register
Hayes Family Cemetery		1345 Croton Lake Road	
Hyatt Plot	Contains only 3 stones with inscriptions (10 burials listed), but is the burial place of Colonel John Hyatt, "Soldier of the Revolution"	Old Yorktown Rd and London Rd	
Indian Burial Ground	Last Indian settlement in Westchester County	South slope of Indian Hill at shore of Lake Osceola	
Lyon Cemetery	Front yard cemetery with 26 graves of Lyon family	Kitchawan Rd.	
Phoenix Academy Cemetery	Priest graves from previous monastery. John La Farge, Jr., Jesuit Priest, is buried here.	Stony Street	
Purdy's Cemetery	Underground burial crypt for the Purdy family who farmed the land around 1900	Mohansic Golf Course in Yorktown Heights	Possibly eligible for National Register for Underground chamber

**Table 6.1: Historic Resources**

<b>Landscapes</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Shrub Oak Cemetery	Mostly 1800s graves, some 1700's	Across from Methodist Church (1170 E Main Street)	
Tompkins Burial Ground	Gravestones and small markers	1250 Baldwin Rd.	
<b>Farms</b>			
Hilltop Hanover Farm (formerly Christal farm and Charelen Farm)	c. 1785 farmhouse, 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century farm	1270 Hanover Street	
Wilkens Fruit Farm	Orchards	1313 White Hill Rd	
<b>Trees</b>			
Amawalk Nursery Trees	Beech trees remaining from nursery line the street	Evergreen Street	
Martens/Hyatt House Historic Trees	Two 150 year old maples and two 200 yr. old White Oak trees	Rte 6	Protected from development in 1963
Pratt Inn Trees	200 Year Old Sugar Maple trees lining front of property	Croton Heights Road	

**Table 6.1: Historic Resources**

<b>Landscape Structures</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Bridges/ Dams</b>			
Croton Bridge	Steel bridge		
Croton Heights Bridge Walls and abutments	Old Putnam Railroad crossing	Rt. 118	Recently received historic designation by Yorktown Landmarks
Croton Lake Gatehouse Bridge "B"/ Old Croton Dam Bridge	Significant for long span, granite piers and abutments and is built directly above the Old Croton Dam.	Arcady Road	Eligible for inclusion in National Register as a component of New Croton Aqueduct System  Potential landmark designation suggested by Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2000
Hallock Mills Dam	C 1724, stone dam part of Hallock Mills	2220 Saw Mill River Rd	
North Bound Taconic Bridge	c. 1931 original bridge for parkway	Taconic Parkway	Potential landmark designation suggested by Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2000
Old Croton Aqueduct	1837-1842 Historic gravity –fed aqueduct carrying water to NYC	To NYC	
Old Croton Dam	Built in 1837-1842 (presently under water)	Croton Lake Gatehouse and Bridge "B" (see above)	National Register of Historic Places, 1973 NYS Register, 1980
Old Putnam Railroad Trestle at Croton Lake		On North County Trailway	Potential landmark designation suggested by Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2000
Pines Bridge	On Washington-Rochambeau Route, original "Old Pines Bridge" about 100 yards east	Rte 100	

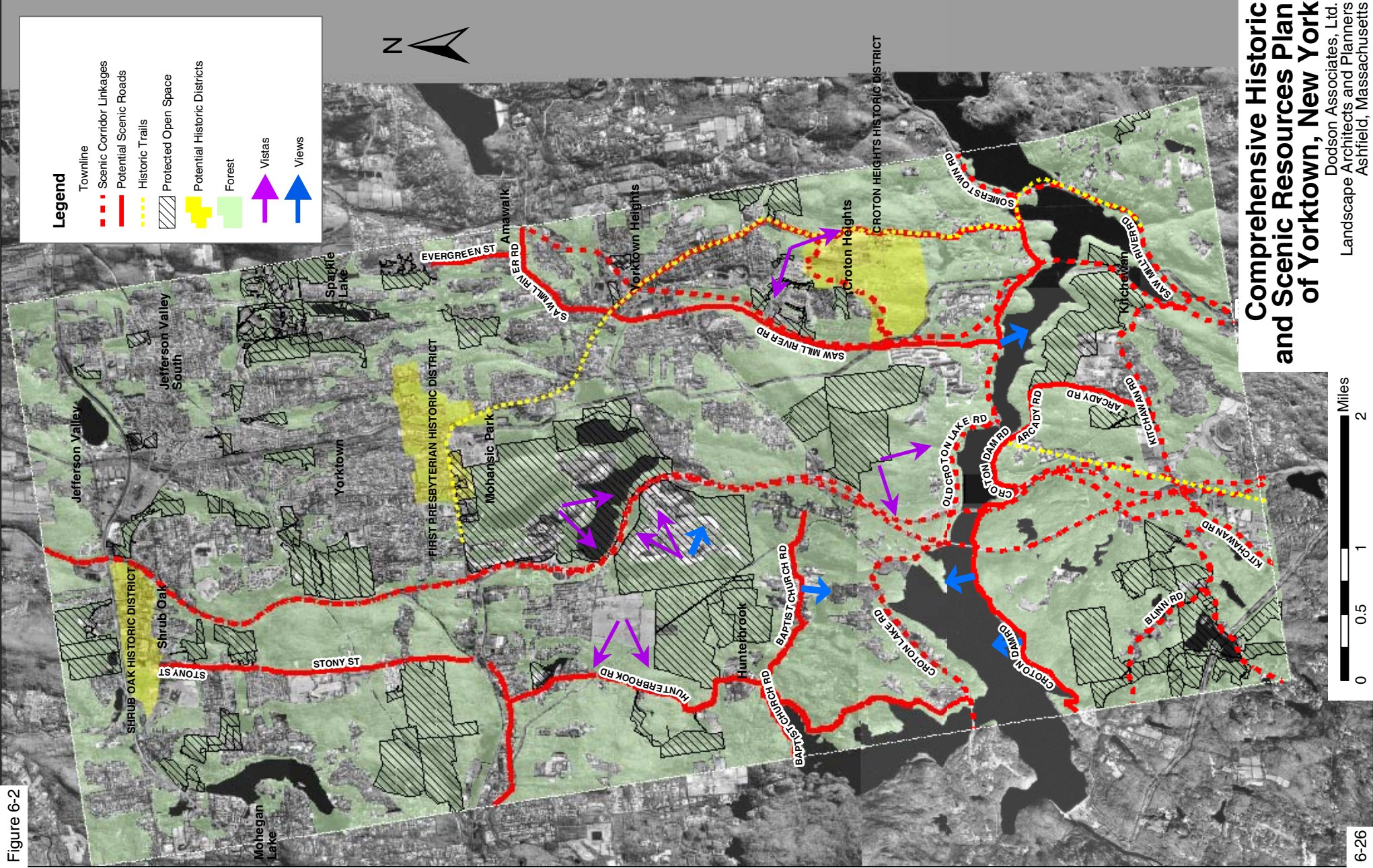
**Table 6.1: Historic Resources**

<b>Landscape Structures</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Stone Walls</b>			
Locke Ledge Gates (Sanctuary Golf Club)	Original gates from Lydia Locke's 1920's estate.	Across from Croton Heights Road	
Stone walls and milk house (now a small home) at the Mohegan Farm	Remnants of the Mohegan farm operated by Wm. Baker of Baker Chocolates	Judy Rd and Turus Lane – near Mohegan Lake	
Walls at Old Hallocks Mill Rd		Old Hallocks Mill Rd	
<b>Earthworks</b>			
French Hill (French Camp #16)	Archaeological artifacts from pre-revolution found		Potential landmark designation suggested by Landmarks Preservation Commission in 2000
Crow Hill Earthworks	Entrenchments and embankments erected in 1776 where colonial troops could see all approaches to Pines Bridge and Croton River Valley	Crest of Crow Hill	
<b>Other</b>			
Mohegan Quarry	(1900-1940 period of greatest activity) Granite Quarry/ Lime Kiln- granite used in numerous important monuments & buildings	Sylvan Glen Park	
Milestones	One still in existence on Granite Springs Road		

Table 6.1: Historic Resources

<b>Landscape Structures</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>Trails /Routes</b>			
North County Trailway	Biketrail on site that was New York Central Putnam Railroad Line from 1881-1958		
Aqueduct Trail	Follows aqueduct, important civil engineering structure that carried water to NYC	41 miles along aqueduct, only part in Yorktown, from Cortlandt to Ossining	
Rochambeau	The path along which Washington's Continental Army and Rochambeau's French army marched to and from their ultimate victory over British Gen. Cornwallis in Yorktown, VA in 1781-1782	Rte 202, along Hanover St, across Pines Bridge to Rte 100	Work being done on Federal and State levels

Figure 6-2



# Comprehensive Historic and Scenic Resources Plan of Yorktown, New York

Dodson Associates, Ltd.  
Landscape Architects and Planners  
Ashfield, Massachusetts

**Table 6-2: Scenic Resources**

<b>Roads</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Aqueduct Road			
Baptist Church Road	Large tracts of land and rolling hills		
Illington Road		Teatown lakes area	
Blinn Road			
Croton Dam Road	Wild and scenic views around reservoir, not good roads		
Croton Heights Road	Views at Cat Hill and across Hilltop Farm		
Hanover Street	Views of farmland and hills		
Hunterbrook Rd	Southern portion, south of White Hill Road		
Old Crompond Road			
Route 100			
Route 134			
Rt. 118			
Rte 129	Views around reservoir		
Spring Valley Road			
Stony Street (formerly Wall Street)			
Taconic Parkway	105 miles, One of four highways built in 1920's and 1930's, enabled people from the city to drive into country		Designated scenic byway
Farms			
Acadia Riding Club			
Cabbage Hill			
Faraway			
Hemlock Hill		Croton Avenue	



**Table 6-2: Scenic Resources**

<b>Farms</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Hill Farm	Owned by former Town Supervisor and Assemblyman	Route 6W	
Hilltop Hanover Farm (formerly Christal Farm and Charelen Farm)	18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century farm c.1785 farmhouse	Hanover Street, 1.5 miles north of Croton Reservoir	
Solomon Farm		Gomer Street	
Wilkins Fruit Farm	Orchards	1313 White Hill Rd	
<b>Parks &amp; Trailways</b>			
Aqueduct Trail	41 mile trail following the historic aqueduct corridor	From Cortlandt through Yorktown into Ossining	
Bald Mountain Park Preserve		Blinn Road	
Briarcliff-Peekskill Trailway	12 mile trail running from Ossining to Blue Mt. Reservation		
FDR State Park	Paved walking trails, Mohansic Lake and Crom Pond		
Hemlock Brook Preserve	14 acre park owned and maintained by the Nature Conservancy, walking trails	Baptist Church Road	
Hunterbrook Park	Town –owned, hiking trails		
Indian Hill			
Kitchawan Preserve	208 acres, was originally part of a research station for Brooklyn Botanic Garden	Kitchawan Road	

**Table 6-2: Scenic Resources**

<b>Parks &amp; Trailways</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Mohansic Golf Course	Walking and skiing in late fall and early spring, Views to Mohansic Lake and south	Baldwin Road	Mohansic Golf Course
North County Trailway	Bike trail on corridor of New York Central Putnam Railroad line 1881-1958		
Piano Mountain			
Sylvan Glen Park Preserve	Hiking trails, wetlands, abandoned granite quarry	Grant Avenue	
Teatown Lake Reservation	410 acres, Community Nature Center w/ trails	Spring Valley Road	
Turkey Mountain Nature Preserve	125 acres owned by Yorktown nature trails and views	Saw Mill River Road	
<b>Views &amp; Vistas</b>			
Croton Heights Rd and Hanover Street (Cat Hill)	Views of Hilltop Hanover Farm and Hudson Highlands in the distance		
Fenimore & Heyward		Mohegan Lake	
Mohansic Golf Course	Views of Yorktown Hills, orchards and lake at FDR Park		
Quinlan Street	Views of Piano Mountain		
Turkey Mountain Summit	Views of Croton Reservoir, Hudson River, and NYC. Bear Mountain, Hudson Highlands and beyond		
<b>Water Bodies</b>			
Blueberry Pond			
Cockrene Pond		Crow Hill Road	
Crom Pond		FDR State Park	

**Table 6-2: Scenic Resources**

<b>Water Bodies</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Crystal Lake		Granite Springs Road	Crystal Lake
Dream Lake		Off of Illington Road, near Journey's End Road	
Farm Pond "Skating Pond"		On Hanover Street	
Flamingo Lake			
Grant's Pond		Sylvan Glen Park	
Jefferson Village Pond			
Journey's End Lake		Off of Journey's End Road	
Junior Lake		Edgewater Street	
Lake Osceola		East Main Street	
Loretta Lake			
Mill Pond		Hunterbrook Road	
Mohansic Lake		FDR State Park	
Mohegan Lake	Named by Wm. Jones in 1859 famous resort in late 1800's and early 1900's		
New Croton Reservoir	Created from Croton Lake which was formed by damming the Croton River		

**Table 6-2: Scenic Resources**

<b>Water Bodies</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Sparkle Lake	Originally on 162 acres of farmland. Owned by Hyatt family, 1861-1926, then sold to Merk family. Lake created by damming of a small spring and managed as a campground and resort c.1928.	Granite Springs Road	
Shrub Oak Pond		Mountain Brook Drive	
Shadow Lake		Kitchawan Road	
Teatown Lake		Spring Valley Road	
Vernay Lake		Off of Spring Valley Road	