

RIVER GUIDE TO THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS



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PREPARED BY

ALAN CONRAD AIMONE
MILITARY AFFAIRS LIBRARIAN
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

and

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN F. LANGOWSKI, Jr.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide a reference for visitors to use while traveling the scenic and historic Mid-Hudson River Valley region. Depending upon the changing weather and season of the year, one can view most of the locations described in this booklet from a river cruise. The sequence of historical and cultural sites which follows this introduction is a circular route from the United States Military Academy's South Dock, north along the west bank of the Hudson River to the Newburgh-beacon Bridge, then south along the east bank to the Bear Mountain Bridge and back again to the South Dock. Each site has been numbered to correspond to the guide maps inserted at the end of this booklet.

This guide is the combined effort of the Department of Geography and Computer Science and the United States military Academy Library. Lieutenant Colonel John F. Langowski, Jr., Associate Professor and Alan Almone, Military Affairs Librarian, have pooled their resources to expand and update the Department course book on land use patterns of the Mid-Hudson Valley. The map illustrations and cover were prepared by Robert Getz, Illustrator, Department of Geography and Computer Science.

Additional points of interest are welcomed. Your comments will be incorporated in the next printing of this orientation tour guide of the Hudson Highlands.

SEQUENCE OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
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[1] HUDSON HIGHLANDS AND HUDSON RIVER

The steep wooded hillsides overlooking the narrow river below form the most spectacular scenery in the Hudson River Valley. The prominent areas include Manitou Mountain, Canada Hill, Castle Rock, North Redoubt and Storm King Mountain.

The few gaps in the rugged, linear ridge on the river's eastern bank are often deep ravines or narrow valleys that have been cut by tributaries through the hard rock. The sheer rock walls, old forests, tumbling rapids, and waterfalls represent unique scenic resources, originated in the last Ice Age. A continental glacier flowed along the current course of the Hudson River, terminating with a moraine known as Long Island. Occasionally, the shoreline thrusts out beyond the railroad tracks into the river's channel, offering both river access and spectacular views of the Highlands. Among the largest of these peninsulas with extended shoreline access are the North Manitou Riverfront, Arden Point, and the North Garrison Waterfront.

The Hudson River, discovered by Henry Hudson on his sail aboard the Half Moon in 1609, is about 1/4 mile wide at Bear Mountain and West Point, the narrowest points, and about 1 and 1/6 miles wide off Cornwall, the widest point in this area. It varies from about 40 feet to 200 feet deep at center channel, with the deepest point being off the North Dock at West Point (202 feet). The river is tidal from New York City to Troy and has a rise and fall of about one foot at Albany. The zone where fresh water is significantly penetrated by salt water is approximated from Peekskill to Bear Mountain.

Sloop traffic began shortly after the founding of New York City in 1613 and Albany in 1614 and continued as late as 1915. Steamship traffic began in 1807 with Fulton's Clermont and continued until 1851. The Erie Canal was opened in the fall of 1825, and canal boats ran the full distance that year. The Hudson River Day Line began operation in 1826; the Night Line, in 1831. The river is still used extensively by pleasure boats, oil tankers, cement barges and trap rock barges. Occasional ocean freighters making their round trip to Albany and U.S. Coast Guard ice breakers in winter add to the varied river traffic.

East and west bank railroads parallel the river. The railroads have prevented much of the river banks from being developed and have thus helped to maintain the Hudson Rivers' unparallel scenic treasures. Today, Conrail operates freight trains along the west shore and passenger trains along the east shore. New York City commuters from as far as Red Hook in Dutchess County take daily commuter trains to Grand Central Station in Manhattan.

(2) SOUTH DOCK AND DEPOT

A tunnel was planned in 1872 because the Plain was used by cadets for military training. Unfortunately, the movement of trains through the 2,640 foot tunnel caused the scientific equipment in the West Point Observatory in the library to give inaccurate readings. The railroad agreed not only to construct a new observatory, but also to build a passenger and freight station for the exclusive use of the United States Military Academy. When recruits (plebes) arrived at West Point by train, they were made to run up the hill as their first reception at the Point. The scene will be familiar to those who saw the motion picture "The Long Gray Line." Note the 1926 gothic railroad station. With its graceful arches and oaken doors, it blends right in with the gothic graystone architecture of the West Point campus. Regular passenger service to West Point ended in 1956. The Class of 1948 restored the abandoned station building and is now used for social receptions.

The South Dock is a regular landing of the Day Liner, Commander and West Point boats. The schedule between here and New York City is the oldest scheduled passenger steamer route, having been established by Fulton's Clermont.

[3] MAHAN HALL

Mahan Hall is the new science and engineering classroom building. Mahan Hall has a large auditorium.

[4] THAYER HALL

Formerly the Riding Hall, it was built in 1911. At the time the Riding Hall was the largest masonry building of its type in the world. It was an arena covering more than 16,000 square feet and was used for cavalry practice. There were stalls for 100 horses. The academy discontinued horse training in 1947. The hall from 1956 to 1967 was divided into one hundred classrooms, four academic departments, a computer and television studio and two large auditoriums. It is of granite gothic construction; a power house is located in the lower portion and the roof is used for parking.

[5] WEST POINT

West Point has been called the Gibraltar of America because of its strategic situation. In sailing days, ships had to change course here, because of the sharp bends in the river, and virtually came to a halt. In the narrow waters, they became easy targets for guns on shore. Early in the American Revolution, fortifications were built both on West Point and Constitution Island on the opposite shore. Fort Constitution, on Constitution Island, was completed in September 1775. In 1778, a chain was stretched across the river from West Point to Constitution Island. Fort (George) Clinton, originally called Fort (Benedict) Arnold, was completed at West Point in the spring of the same year. In 1779, Fort Putnam was built atop Mount Independence, behind Fort Clinton. It was built on an impregnable crag and provided covering protection to Fort Clinton. There were several smaller batteries. Battery Knox faced the river near Fort Clinton. Redoubt Wyllis and Redoubt Meigs both faced to the south and were located on lower ground southeast of Fort Putnam. In early Army orders this group of fortifications was designated as "the citadel and its dependencies." After the failure of Arnold's plan to hand it over to the British in 1780, West Point was never again threatened, and the American flag has flown over it since January 14, 1778. It was first occupied by the United States Army on January 20, 1778, making it the nation's oldest continually occupied military post.

In October 1776, Congress appointed a committee to prepare plans for a military school. Shortly after

the American Revolution (1783), Washington suggested West Point as a possible site for a military academy. In 1793, in his annual message, Washington again recommended West Point as a location. In 1794, Congress organized a corps of artilleryists to be stationed at West Point, with thirty-two cadets attached. In 1798, the number was increased to fifty-six cadets. On March 16, 1802, Congress formally authorized the founding of a military academy at West Point, and it opened on July 4th of that year with ten cadets. Under Major Sylvanus Thayer, who served as Superintendent from 1817 to 1833, West Point became a military school of the first order; the basic system established by Thayer is continued today.

In the nineteenth century, West Point was a popular summer resort, because of the attractions of the beautiful scenery and interesting historic associations. It is still a popular place for pleasure excursions. It is the third most visited site in New York after New York City and Niagara Falls.

Around the turn of the century, Academy officials realized that a certain amount of expansion was going to be necessary if the academy was to continue to prosper. A nation wide architecture contest was sponsored. In 1903, the firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, adherents of the gothic style, was named the winner. As a result, the Cadet Chapel, the Administration, the East Academic Building, the North Barracks, and the Riding Hall (Thayer Hall today) were designed in a modern adaptation of the Gothic style erected in the years from 1903 to 1914.

[6] ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS

Built in 1909 along Thayer Road. The Administration Building is the tallest structure of solid masonry without girder in the United States. The dark gray granite trimmed with limestone in gothic style with a 150-foot tower-keep on its southwest corner was built of solid masonry with battlements, buttresses, and cross-mullioned and traceried windows. The entrance is ornamented with heraldic seals of the United States government and the George Washington coat of arms, and is guarded by a raised portcullis.

[7] USMA LIBRARY

West of Thayer Hall is the academy library built in 1964. The library has over one million titles in books, microforms and government documents. The west entrance has two mounted perpendicularly cannons. The smaller piece fired the first shot in the Civil War at Vicksburg several days before the better known Fort Sumter incident in April of 1861. The larger cannon fired the last round of the Civil War at Appomatox, Virginia on April 9, 1865. At the main entrance on the east side are three bronze plaques depicting the pageant of American history.

[8] OFFICERS' MESS

On top of the bluffs on Cullum Road, the Officers' Club is one of three neoclassic buildings in a row designed by McKim, Mead & White. The structures were built between 1898 and 1903 out of granite. It is one of the oldest officer clubs in the service.

[9] CULLUM MEMORIAL HALL

The neoclassic building is granite with a hipped roof. The main facade is adorned with four three-quarter engaged ionic columns. The building was named after Major General George W. Cullum, USMA 1833, Superintendent, 1864-1866, who gave it to house trophies of war and "statues, busts, mural tablets and portraits of distinguished deceased officers and graduates of the U.S. Military Academy. Cullum Hall is used for cadet social activities and offices of the Association of Graduates.

[10 / 11] GEES POINT / WORLD'S END

Named after Captain Gees of the sloop Federal who brought supplies to West Point from 1790 to 1810. There is a lighthouse and fog bell here. The position is 88 feet deep off the point and the river bends sharply to the west. At mid-channel between Gees Point and Constitution Island an area called "World's End," is the deepest part of the Hudson River at 202 feet.

[12] FLIRTATION WALK

Originally a Revolutionary War sentry guard path, this gravel and rock foot trail which leaves Cullum Road just north of the Bachelors Officer Quarters and winds three quarters of a mile down the cliff to the river. It traverses past the lighthouse at Gee's Point, the beach where the western end of the great chain was anchored, the site of the Chain Battery, and the remains of the earthworks of Fort Clinton, and ends at Battle Monument. Just before passing the lighthouse the path is overhung by "Kissing Rock," so called because according to tradition, if a cadet passes underneath with his best girl and fails to kiss her, the rock will crush them both.

[13] CHAIN ACROSS THE HUDSON

This chain was installed in April of 1778 under the direction of Captain Thomas Machin. It was manufactured from forges in the Ramapo Mountains. The links were made of iron bars, 2 1/2 inches square. Their average length was a little over two feet and their weight about 140 pounds each. The chain was stretched across the river at the narrowest place, just above Gee's Point (the extreme rocky end of West Point) and a southwest inlet at Constitution Island. It was laid across a boom of heavy logs, that floated parallel to each other and aligned with the flow of the river's current. These logs were sixteen feet long, and pointed at each end, so as to offer little resistance to the tidal currents. The chain was fastened to these logs by staples, and at each shore by huge blocks of wood and stone. This chain and boom seemed to afford an efficient barrier to the passage of vessels. It was protected by a "Chain Battery" at West Point. Links of the chain are on display at Trophy Point.

[14] KOSCIUSZKO MEMORIAL

Honors Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Polish Engineer who volunteered to assist the Continental Army and supervised the defenses at both the battle of Saratoga and the various fortifications in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Designed by John H. Latrobe, class of 1822, it was erected by the Corps of Cadets in 1828 at 202 feet.

[15] FORT CLINTON

Originally named Fort Arnold. It was built in the spring of 1778 under the direction of Thaddeus Kosciusko, then colonel in the Continental Army and chief of the Engineers' Corps. It was 600 yards around within the walls with embankments 21 feet high. It was 180 feet above the river and could accommodate 600 persons. One of the key positions in West Point's complex of forts, Fort Clinton's cannons could easily rake any sailing vessel attempting to make the sharp bend in the Hudson River below.

[16] FORT PUTNAM

Fortification built in 1778-1779 under the direction of Colonel Rufus Putnam by men of his Massachusetts regiment during Revolutionary War - highest point of land commanding West Point. The fort was built to provide protection for Fort Clinton and the southern approaches to West Point. Under the direction of Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a second ring of forts was built to the west of Fort Putnam on the commanding hills in that vicinity. These were called Redoubt 1 and Battery 1, Redoubt 2 and Battery 2 and Redoubts 3 and 4. Upon completion of these defense structures, West Point was ringed by a double series of redoubts, batteries, and small and large forts. The 451 foot high fort was restored in 1907-1910 and 1976. Fourteen reproduced cannons for the 1976 restoration were lifted by helicopter into place.

[17] THE PLAIN

The large grassy ceremony parade ground for the U.S. Military Academy dating back to the Revolutionary War. The grounds has had many uses. Baron Von Stueben drilled the American forces prior to their seizure of the British fortification at Stony Point. A now covered hollow on the northwest area of the plain served as "Execution Hollow" during the American Revolution. Two large siege guns once used for cadet training are also buried in the parade ground. The early years of the academy had its summer camp on the plain.

[18] BATTLE MONUMENT

West Point's most famous memorial was built in 1897 and designed by the renowned architect Stanford White. A roman doric column, five feet in diameter and forty-six feet high stands upon a five-step circular stairway, broken by eight plain pedestals around the perimeter, each of which supports a sphere flanked by two bronze cannons. The shaft of polished granite supports a winged statue of fame. It is dedicated to the 2,042 officers and enlisted men who were in regular federal units who died in the Civil War. Their names are all inscribed on the various ornaments on the memorial.

[19] CADET CHAPEL

This church, open to the public, boasts the largest church pipe organ in the world. The magnificent pipe organ has more than 18,200 pipes. The chapel rises 300 feet above the Hudson River and built in the form of a cross, 200 feet long and 72 feet across. The 1910 granite neo-gothic style has a high buttressed tower. The architecture incorporates features found in Gothic cathedrals of England, with some modifications to adapt the chapel to its location. Native granite quarried at West Point, was used in the construction which began in 1908. Stained glass windows are gifts of the various graduating classes. The Class of 1976 was the last window. They are the product of the longest business contract for stained glass in the world. One company, the Willet Stained Glass Window and Decorating Company in Philadelphia, Pa., began in 1911 to create the many windows in the chapel under this contract. During the holiday season the Cadet Chapel's floodlights highlight the granite walls against the gray of winter at West Point.

[20] CATHOLIC CHAPEL OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

On Washington Road near Mill Road this chapel was modeled on an English Carthusian abbey church. Its interior is richly and authentically decorated in the manner of the Middle Ages. It was consecrated in 1900 and expanded twice to accommodate the enlargements of the student body.

[21] JEWISH CHAPEL

The newest chapel completed in 1984 includes a Museum-Gallery which portrays the role Jews have played in America's defense and statesmanship. It may be the most visited Jewish building in the United States.

[22] EISENHOWER HALL

Completed in 1974, Eisenhower Hall is one of the largest theaters in the world. The entire Corps of Cadets can sit in the theater. Display areas, a bowling alley, a ballroom, restaurants and other recreational rooms are housed in the building.

[23] OLD CADET CHAPEL

In the cemetery on Washington Road, this chapel was built in 1837 on the site of the Cadet Library. The Old Cadet Chapel was moved to the Post Cemetery in 1911. It is in renaissance revival style with a roman doric portico. Inside is an oil painting by Robert W. Weir entitled Peace and War. Black marble shields on the walls inscribed in gold with the name, rank, and dates of birth and death of every Revolutionary War general. One bearing only a date of birth and rank, omits the name of Benedict Arnold, who had committed treason. It is currently used as a funeral chapel for all faiths.

[24] POST CEMETERY

This has been the final resting place of immortalized heroes since 1816. George Custer, the colorful leader of Little Big Horn; Margaret "Molly Pitcher" Corbin, the Revolutionary War heroine; General Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal; General Winfield Scott, the victor of the Mexican War; and Lieutenant Colonel Edward White, the first American to walk in space who was killed in a fire aboard Apollo 1 at Cape Kennedy are but a few echoes from the past. The largest monument, a 25 by 31 foot Egyptian style pyramid house the remains of Egbert Ludovicus Viele (USMA 1847) and his second wife, Juliette. Two

sarcophagi (stone coffins) with life-size statues of the Vieles sculpted on the top. An epitaph, written in the Etruscan language, is inscribed on one wall. A solid bronze door and two miniature granite sphinx guard the crypt. Until World War II when a blackout was ordered the tomb was lighted at night.

[25] WASHINGTON VALLEY

This is a long broad valley along the southern foot of Crow's Nest Mountain, Hill of Pines, Mose Gees Mountain, and Mount Rascal, at the northern end of the USMA Reservation. It is traversed by Routes 293 and 218. The West Point golf course is at its eastern end. The valley was named after George Washington when he stay at West Point in the now demolished Moore House or Red House.

[26] CROW'S NEST MOUNTAIN

Rises 1,396 feet above sea level. Frequently shortened to "Cro-Nest," the name is given to a huge hollow among the summits. In the early days West Point trainees and trial artillerists at the West Point Foundry used the southern and eastern escarpments for target practice throwing up masses of dirt and gouging holes in the stone mountain. Nineteenth century boaters, out for a leisurely cruise up the Hudson, would sometimes be startled by a cannon ball whizzing over their heads toward the mountains. A number of unexploded shells on the mountainside have not been found. Cro-nest Cave, which features a projecting section called Kidd's Plug Cliff was believed to be the site of Captain William Kidd's lost treasure. It was presumed that the cave was used during the Revolutionary War as a "lookout" because coins of that date were found at the site.

[27] ROUTE 218 OLD STORM KING HIGHWAY

Between West Point and Cornwall, this narrow and winding "lower road" carved from the cliffs of Crows Nest and Storm King Mountains, affords magnificent views of the eight by 1.6 mile Newburgh Bay. Its highest point is a 200 foot overlook. The age of the rocks in this formation has been radiometrically

determined to be 1.16 billion years old. Besides the spectacular scenery, notice also the beautiful stone walls lining the edge of this mountain roadway built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

[28] STORM KING MOUNTAIN

This is the northeastern buttress of the Hudson Highlands, originally named Buttel Hill. Buttel, translated from the German language, means bailiff or jailor, one who guards, which was corrupted into Button Hill and Butter Hill. The prominent local poet, Nathaniel Parker Willis renamed the hill Storm King Mountain. The western extension of the ridge is still called Butter Hill.

[29] ROUTE 9W - NEW STORM KING HIGHWAY

Going across the tops of Crow's Nest and Storm King further inland, it affords quite a different yet equally magnificent view at 900 feet elevation. Completed in 1940 it has recently been improved. The Storm King highways offer many painters and photographers picturesque scenes.

[30] CORNWALL ON-THE-HUDSON

A former resort area, now a residential village at the northern foot of Storm King Mountain. A large portion of the town is on a plateau or terrace affording fine views over Newburgh Bay and many attractive homesites.

[31] SANDS RING HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

One of the best examples of pre-Revolutionary frame houses still standing in the Hudson River Valley built around 1760 by Nathaniel Sands. His son David became a distinguished Quaker preacher, traveling extensively in New England and Europe. Located across from the Town Hall, it is now a Town of Cornwall museum and civic meeting place.

[32] MOODNA CREEK MARSH

This small, 75- acre site is an important tidal marsh and waterfowl feeding area.

[33] SLOOP HILL/PLUM POINT

Large west bank peninsula was settled in the 1680's by an Indian trader, Captain Patrick MacGregorie. During the Revolution, it was fortified with a battery of fourteen guns.

[34] KNOX HEADQUARTERS

The spacious stone residence of John Ellison, mill owner, merchant, and militiaman, provided comfortable quarters for American Generals while the Continental Army occupied the Hudson Highlands during the latter half of the Revolutionary War. Although Baron Von Steuben and Nathaniel Greene were billeted there, the site is best known for its association with General Henry Knox, who served as Washington's Commander of Artillery during the war and afterward as Secretary of War in the first U.S. Cabinet. Located in New Windsor at the corner of New York Highway 94 and Forge Hill Road.

[35] NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT

This is the place where the Northern Continental Army waited for peace to come during the last year of the war. Located on Temple Hill Road in Vails Gate, this restored Revolutionary winter camp is also the site of drills and demonstrations. It was here that Washington opposed the idea of leading a revolt of the officer corps against the Continental Congress. The tension was brought to a head by the circulation of the "Newburgh Letters," two documents urging the officers to rebel and ordered Congress to meet their demands for back wages and pensions. Appalled, General Washington summoned an assembly of his officers in the Temple or Public Building and in a dramatic speech appealed to the group's patriotism. The strength of General Washington's character and statesmanship broke the

budding mutiny. Many historians claim that his prudent action saved representative government in America. At the Cantonment in New Windsor, General Washington named the first soldiers to receive the Badge of Military Merit, a decoration he created to commemorate acts of bravery by enlisted men. The Purple Heart, awarded today for wounds received in battle, takes its design from this badge.

An original log hut is preserved at the State of New York site. Across from it is New Windsor Town park lands which extends the preserved hut site area of the Revolutionary War winter camp. The two parks have preserved most of the 714 officer and enlisted men hut sites from modern developments.

[36] NEW WINDSOR STEWARD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

A Newburgh bordering town, the Town of New Windsor contains many historic sites. It is also the home of George Clinton, first New York Governor and first Vice-President of the United States.

West on New York Highways 207 and 17K is the site of the first air academy to instruct Army Air Corps pilots from West Point during World War II. Stewart has continued to change from a U.S. Air Force Base to the second largest by area (10,000 acres) airport in the country. It is now the major New York Air National Guard base and a base for a wing of C-5's and an air detachment supporting West Point. Stewart had been planned to be the fourth major New York metropolitan airport.

[37] WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, NEWBURGH

This Dutch fieldstone house, built in 1724, was owned by the Hasbrouck family at the time Washington used it for his headquarters during the last year of the Revolution. The headquarters served George Washington longer than any other during the Revolutionary War. It was here that Washington rejected a monarchy in his famous "crown letters." In 1850, the State of New York purchased the house from the Hasbrouck family. This was the first historic preservation effort by any state or federal agency.

[38] NEWBURGH

It was first settled in 1709 by German Palatinates. The town was named after Neuberg-on-Rhine. However, the Palatinates were almost penniless and, by 1762, most had moved west into Pennsylvania to find richer farmlands. They were replaced by Scots and Englishmen who modified the name of the town to Newburgh, in honor of Newburgh-on-Tay in Aberdeen County, Scotland.

It was an important ferry crossing to New England and a supply base for the Continental Army. After the Revolution Newburgh developed as a trading center for the rich agricultural area further inland. Produce was shipped from here to New York City. During the early nineteenth century, Newburgh was a whaling port and home of China and Ivory traders - a true seaport.

Today visitors can still see one of the few serviceable brick roads, Liberty Street. Older, once-grand homes are terraced on this slope.

[39] CRAWFORD HOUSE

Although built a few years after the American Revolution, this home offers dramatic example of late Federal exterior and completely greek revival interior design. Exceptionally fine mantles, doorways and stair. Its ionic columns, palladian windows and balcony are reminiscent of southern colonial architecture. The house located at 189 Montgomery Street, Newburgh, is the home of the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands.

[40] NEWBURGH-BEACON BRIDGE

The American Institute of Steel Construction selected the north span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge as the winner in the reconstruction category of its 1984 Prize Bridge Competition. The north span reopened in June 1984 following a three year, \$43 million rebuilding effort. The 7,855 foot span was built originally in 1963. In 1965, the American Insitute of Steel Construction presented an award to the

Newburgh-Beacon Bridge as one of the ten most beautiful steel bridges opened to traffic during the year 1963 to 1964. The companion \$100 million south span opened to traffic in 1980. The spans are described as combination deck-truss-cantilever structures. Also pleasing is the round curving arch reflected in the shape of the bridge. The south span uses a new structure material, A-588 steel marketed by U.S. Steel Corporation under the trade name "Corten". A-588 weathers upon exposure to the elements, forming a protective oxide coating that does not require costly painting. The older north span was painted to match the newer south span.

[41] MOUNT GULIAN, FISHKILL

Gulian Verplanck built a large home about 1700, known as Mount Gulian. During the American Revolution it was used as headquarters by General Baron von Steuben, and here, on May 13, 1783, General Henry Knox and other Continental Army officers founded the Society of Cincinnati. Located just north of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge the Mount Gulian Society restored both the house and a rare 18th Century Dutch barn with unique overhanging gables.

[42] VAN WYCK HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

This house has both literary and historic significance, as it is reputed to be the model for the Wharton House in James Fenimore Cooper's book, the Spy. It was also the headquarters of the Continental officers in command of the troops stationed at the head of the Highlands. Located on Route 9 and I-84 near Fishkill.

[43] BEACON

To foster trade and transport between Beacon (then Fishkill Landing) and Newburgh, a ferry was begun. It operated continuously for 250 years until the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge opened in 1963, and was vital to the American Revolution as a crossing point for troops and supplies just north of territory held by the British.

The swift streams rumming into the Hudson River furnished power for milling and textile factories, and generous deposits of local clay resulted in a major brickmaking industry. At one time, Beacon was second only to Danbury, Connecticut in the manufacture of hats. Thousands of yards of blue cloth for the Union Army were produced at local mills during the Civil War. Prosperous owners built estates for themselves and housing for their workers. Three nearby prisons and a gigantic modern IBM assembly plant at East Fishkill dominate the economy in the area.

[44] DENNING'S POINT

Protruding like a cocked thumb from the east bank of the Hudson, aimed toward Storm King, is a 55-acre point of land just south of Beacon. Denning's Point is little changed from pre-revolutionary times.

In 1743, the premier business woman of the American colonies, Madame Brett built the storehouse and freight depot in the vicinity of Denning's Point. This was the colonies' first producer's cooperative, owned by 22 Dutchess County farmers. Flour ground in Madame Brett's nearby grist mill was stored here awaiting shipment to New York in her fleet of sailboats.

George Washington routinely landed on the Point when he visited the Fishkill Plain where the New England soldiers camped from spring of 1782 to August 1783.

To Beacon natives, the name evokes the image of red clay building blocks stamped D.P.B.W. Literally millions of bricks were shipped through the years from the Brockway Brick Works and its subsidiary plant on Denning's Point to New York City, some to end up as units of the Empire State Building and Rockefeller Center.

[45] MOUNT BEACON

North and South Mount Beacon rise to 1,531 and 1,635 feet elevation. It is the highest point between the Catskills and the Atlantic Ocean. The Indians used the mountain as a signal site. North Beacon was chosen by George Washington during the American Revolution to have a rectangular pyramid thirty foot

high built of logs filled with brush wood for signaling militia that the British were approaching. The signal system ran from Philadelphia to Albany and Boston.

[46] TIORANDA/CRAIG HOUSE

Tioranda, "meeting of the waters," was built in 1859 by Richard Morris Hunt for Civil War General George Joseph Howland, a shipping magnate. It is gothic-victorian with contrasting black and white glazed bricks. It is now known as Craig House and is used as a privately-owned hospital devoted to the care of patients with psychiatric disorders.

[47] BANNERMAN'S ISLAND

The island with a castle ruins jutting from it is called Pollepel's Island and Bannerman's Castle. The 6 3/4 acre island has had many names. Years before Hendryck Hudson sailed up in the Half Moon, the Indians called it Menahtis (small island) and stayed away from it at night, thinking it haunted. Later, Dutch sailors believed that it marked the northern end of the domain of the goblins around Dunderberg Mountain. A terrible storm might suddenly envelop your ship as you sailed through, miraculously disappearing once you passed the island. Sailors on their first trip were protected from the Heer of the Dunderberg (the chief goblin) by ducking out of view as their boats passed the island. By then it was called Pollepel's Island, Pot Ladle, Polly Pell's, and at one time Cheese Island. "Poptlepel" or "polopel" is Dutch for spoon or potladle. It was also known as Drunkard's Island because of the tradition that sailors who had imbibed too freely at the rum pot were dropped off at the island to sober up. They were then picked up upon their ship's return trip. In the American Revolution the island was the site of a chevaux-de-frise (spiked barrier) placed between it and the western shore (Plum Point/New Windsor) in the hope of stopping the British. The Continental Army used it as a convenient munitions storehouse and prison. Afterward, it belonged to the Van Wyck family for a century, and was acquired by Francis Bannerman VI in 1900 from Thomas Taft. Taft had bought the island to rid it of a band of moonshiners in the late nineties.

Bannerman born in Scotland, was brought to New York at the age of three. His father built a business selling surplus Navy goods picked up at auction, and

the son flourished and expanded the trade, especially after the Civil War into a worldwide business. Bannerman's based on lower Broadway, New York City, was a source of munitions and armaments well into the present century. Bannerman was an avid antique collector as well. He kept an impressive assortment of memorabilia on the island, including artifacts from Admirals Farragut, Dewey, and Peary and a table from General Washington. Stored items also included siege towers, battering rams, chariots, medieval balistas, catapults and Civil War cannons. The castle built by Francis Bannerman was a functional fantasy, designed to be a nostalgic summer home for the family as well as a storage depot for the business. Bannerman also liked to experiment with ammunition products on the island. He built the present structure with its crenellations, turrets, moats, battlements, etc. with the intent to be both romantic and functional at the same time. Ammunition, explosives, and weapons were stored there, protected from intrusion and curiosity. The castle itself was built of granite paving blocks from New York City. It had not been finished when Bannerman died in 1918, but was continued in use as an arsenal. Because of the volatile nature of the merchandise stored there, the arsenal maintained two armed guards, a patrol boat, and used flood lights by night to discourage the curious. At the same time it became a landmark to travelers by land and water, a centerpiece of such trips as "the Hudson by Searchlight", a night steamboat excursion which highlighted points of interest by turning a powerful floodlamp on them.

In 1967, Charles Bannerman removed the arsenal and gave much of it to the Smithsonian Institution and sold the island to the State of New York as part of the state parkland. Public tours were briefly available, but a fire August 8, 1969 wrecked the buildings and put an end to public access. The empty shell of Bannerman's Castle is all that is left, but it still has the power of its Scottish predecessors to evoke romance and imagination, especially by moonlight or in gloomy weather.

[48] BREAKNECK RIDGE

Its highest elevation is 1,210 feet. A popular hiking trail runs along the ridge. There are tremendous cliffs in the old quarry section on the southwest face. Dark granite was quarried at relative early date. Quarried stone was used for the capitol in Albany and the Brooklyn Bridge.

[49] CATSKILL AQUEDUCT

The path of the 159 miles of tunnels and aqueducts lead from the Ashokan reservoir downstate, across the Hudson River to an equalizing reservoir, and then to New York City. The aqueduct rises up at the northwestern foot of Breakneck Ridge, near the shore, and then passes beneath Breakneck in a 1,100 foot-long tunnel. The tunnel is horseshoe shaped, being 17 feet high and 17 1/2 feet wide - large enough for a railroad train to pass through. The water flows at a rate of 4 m.p.h. and passes 500 million gallons per day. Granite towers can be seen on either side of the river atop the tunnel shafts. On the east side the water continues through another 1,000 foot tunnel beneath Breakneck Mountain and another, a mile long, beneath Mt. Taurus. The aqueduct tunnel is 1,400 feet below the high water mark. It was completed in 1919 at the cost of \$187 million. The Catskill Aqueduct still supports the major share of New York City water.

[50] MOUNT TARSUS OR BULL HILL

Elevation 1,420 feet and opposite Crow's Nest Mountain, it once had a wild bull which had failed to win the respect and confidence of the inhabitants, so the mountaineers drove him over the hill. The name stands as a monument to his exit.

[51] OUR LADY OF COLD SPRING OR ST. MARY'S -ON-THE-ROCKS

Catholic Chapel in the combined Hellenic and Tuscan styles was built for the Irish workers in the West Point Foundry in 1833. It is the oldest surviving Catholic church structure on the Hudson River and in the Archdiocese of New York. The four pillars are stucco-covered brick. Many versions of the church have been painted at various times, by artists such as

Robert Weir and W. H. Barlett. The actress, Helen Hayes, contributed funds and helped to raise funds for improving the site and restoring the building. It is now open for religious civic services and observances.

[52] COLD SPRING

This attractive residential village takes its name from a large cold spring that George Washington named while inspecting the valleys American Revolutionary War defences. The West Point Foundry contributed to the town's growth, and many small scaled eighteenth and nineteenth-century structures survive in a good state of preservation. It was a popular resort of such literary lights as Washington Irving.

The waterfront remains a lovely and lively place with the tree shaded nineteenth-century bandstand and stone mooring walls. Today, over thirty antique shops dot the town. The Hudson View Inn at the landing is charming and has been continuously dispensing hospitality since 1837. It is a fine place to watch the boats passing by on an afternoon, or to visit on a full moonlit evening.

[53] FOUNDRY COVE/WEST POINT FOUNDRY

It was named for the former West Point Foundry which operated here between 1817 and 1884. During the War of 1812, President James Madison ordered the creation of four foundries in different parts of the country. Cold Spring was chosen as one, as it could be protected by West Point. James Kirke Paulding, the writer, was serving as secretary of the board of naval commissioners at the time and gave the direction of the foundry to Governor Kemble. The iron and brass foundry was a pioneer in much technology and built America's first iron ship, the revenue cutter Spencer. By 1845, it was also producing the earliest train locomotives, engines for steamboats and enormous tubes for the water systems of New York, Chicago and Boston along with small ironware like sleds, wagon wheels, sugar mill parts, iron spatulas and trivets. Its greatest fame came from the "Parrott gun," much used in the Civil War because it was rifled and was therefore accurate and deadly. Nine hundred and twenty-five parrott cannons and 759 siege and seacoast guns were moulded and constructed for use in the American Civil War. The innovation of boring spiral grooves in the cannon

barrels was invented by charismatic Robert P. Parrott, a West Point graduate and former foundry inspector of government munitions. He became the foundry's superintendent. There were very close ties between the firm and the administration of West Point. For many years the foundry operated a fleet of seven sloops plying between Cold Spring and New York City. The foundry ultimately closed down in 1911 because it could not compete with modern plants, the iron ore from the Lake Superior regions and the cheaper use of coal, rather than the more-expensive charcoal, for smelting. The last Hudson Valley iron mine closed in 1931.

Foundry Cove is bounded on the south by Constitution Island and to the east Boscobel restoration.

[54] BOSCOBEL

This lovely mansion is the former home of States Morris Dyckman (1755-1806) who served in the Quartermaster Corps in the British Army and who was allowed to return to the United States several years after the Revolutionary War. The federal style mansion was built by a relative who was a master builder. It was originally at Montrose in Westchester County where the Veterans Administration Hospital is now located. Westchester County had taken it over in 1941 for a park but decided it was too expensive and threatened to demolish it. A preservation group dismantled the structure and reassembled it fifteen miles north in Putnam County. Readers Digest founder, Lila Acheson Wallace, funded the Boscobel Restoration, Inc. A 1975 inventory list of household goods was found which allowed the house to be refurnished in a represented manner. The show place has samples of Duncan Phyfe and other early New York furniture. The orchards, English formal gardens and rose gardens are extensive and very beautiful. Located on New York Highway 9D. Garrison-on-Hudson.

[55] CONSTITUTION ISLAND

The rocky island with a maximum elevation about 100 feet is a National Registered Historic Landmark. It belongs to the United States Military Academy and is not open to the public except on Constitution Island Association tours operating from the South Dock.

It is claimed that a French family by the name of Martelaire lived here about 1720. In any event, it was acquired by the Phillipse family and lost by them when they remained loyalist during the Revolutionary War. It was purchased by Henry Warner in 1836. The stretch of the Hudson here is called the Martelaer's Rock, or Martyr's Reach. It is possible that this derived from the early settler Martelaire.

The island was fortified early in the Revolution at the suggestion of Bernard Romans. It was first garrisoned on September 21, 1775, and the fort was called "Constitution Fort," in honor of the British Constitution. A block house or powder house was built near the high western tip of the island, and its ruins can still be seen. Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who directed the construction on Constitution Island, built three redoubts and a battery to protect the east end of the Great Chain. Washington's bodyguards were mustered out here on December 20th of 1783. After the Revolution, it generally became known as Constitution Island, although the Warner Family used the old name Martelaer's Rock well into the twentieth century.

Henry Warner, whose brother Thomas was the Chaplain at West Point from 1828 to 1838, purchased the island in 1836. Henry was a New York City lawyer who had financial reverses shortly after purchasing the island and retired here to a simple house he called "Wood Crag." This house was built of stone and clapboard, with parts dating back before the American Revolution. A large addition was added about 1845. His household consisted of his sister, and his two daughters, Susan (1819-1885) and Anna (1827-1915). They lived a simple life here. The girls were very religious and never married. They conducted Bible classes and befriended homesick cadets. Cadets on Sundays would row over for classes and have tea and gingerbread. Aside from a rare trip to Boston or New York, they never left the island. However, they did attain a wide fame.

The two sisters using their grandmothers maiden names wrote 106 publications to help their finances. In 1850, G. P. Putnam published a novel by Susan Warner entitled The Wide Wide World, which turned out to be a tremendous best-seller, selling hundreds of thousands of copies. It went through thirty editions. Only Uncle Tom's Cabin outsold the book. The book was quite sentimental, but struck the popular note. A second novel entitled Queechy sold almost as well, and its name was even given to a lake in Columbia County near

the foothills of the Berkshires. Susan used the pen name of Elizabeth Wetherell. Anna Warner also tried her hand at writing with some substantial success. She wrote under the name Anna Lothrop and specialized in children's books. Her most famous publication is the beautifully simple "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." The sisters always wanted the island to become a part of the Military Academy and refused large offers for it. However, Congress would never appropriate the small price they asked - needed for their maintenance. In 1908, Anna and Mrs. Russell Sage gave the island to the government. The terms of the gift provided for Anna Warner to live there until her death and for the maintenance of the island and house "as is" forever. The Warner sisters are buried in the West Point Cemetery.

[56] DICK'S CASTLE

Evans R. Dick, co-owner of the New York Stock Exchange firm of Dick Brothers & Co. liked the four hundred foot high panoramic mountain top view. The Dick family had traveled extensively in Europe and admired the castles in Spain and decided to build a residence near Garrison that would be the "showplace of the Hudson Valley." The palace was one of the first buildings of poured concrete in the country. It consists of a series of halls and courtyards. The plan was to make the castle the world's largest concrete residence. The structure is 180 feet long facing the Hudson and is 222 feet deep and its highest tower is 86 feet above the ground. The walls and ceilings were adorned with geometric designs, and the ornamental stone lions guarding many of the fountains are heresies of Christian influence prevalent during the 15th Century.

Dick's Castle is in the flavor of Moorish architecture and Christian motifs. Construction began in 1905 and stopped in 1911 when the stock market slumped. The family had spent close to three million dollars and had another four million planned on the fifty-two room building. Local lore has it that Mr. Dick and his wife fought frequently over the castle's design. It is said that Mr. Dick was not a subtle man; if he disapproved of a statue or staircase installed by his wife, he simply had it destroyed. The castle was sold for \$1.1 million to a New York City art foundation in 1979. The financial difficulties of the foundation has led the property up for sale for \$3 million.

[57] GORDON SCHOOL

This former home of William Moore was built in 1855. Moore had been a Columbia University president. The stone gothic structure is now the exclusive Gordon School for Boys.

[58] GARRISON

Originally called Garrison's after Harry Garrison, a ferry operator. Continental Army troops were stationed here during the Revolution. Before World War II, whole platoons of West Point cadets were ferried to this side of the river for maneuvers each summer at the end of August. Sham battles were staged from Garrison to Mahopac and back, complete with wagon trains of supplies, artillery, cavalry and infantry.

Picturesque Garrison was used as the site for filming some of the scenes of Hello Dolly! because of its supposed resemblance to Yonkers in the 1890's. Thirty 19th-Century buildings were used in the village. Colorful residential-commercial fronts transformed the community to the turn-of-the century Yonkers.

[59] EAGLE'S REST/SAINT BASIL'S ACADEMY

Jacob Ruppert, founder of the Brewing Company and former owner of the New York Yankees built the tudor style house in 1929. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehring and "Near Beer" during Prohibition allowed him the pleasure of his Garrison house. The house was converted in 1944 to St. Basil's Academy, a Greek Orthodox Seminary.

[60] NORTH REDOUBT

Built for Reverend Walter Thompson in the 1880's, the Tudor revival structure is now a religious retreat. The name North Redoubt refers to the American Revolutionary War redoubt manned by Connecticut troops protecting the strategic Hudson Valley.

[61] HURST-PIERREPONT ESTATE

U.S. Attorney General, Edward Pierrepont erected the gothic villa in 1867.

[62] OSBORN CASTLE OR CASTLE ROCK

A spire-topped castle atop of a 630 foot hill. The three story chateau of rough-hewn stone with turret was built in 1881 for William H. Osborn. Osborn was a banker and president of the Illinois Cental Railroad and later the Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad. One of his sons, Henry Fairfield Osborn enlarged the estate in 1905. He was a paleontologist and involved in the dramatic Scopes Trial. He served as president of the American Museum of Natural History from 1908 to 1933. In 1979, nearly 135 acres of the estate was purchased by the State of New York for its Hudson Highlands State Park. The Appalachian Trail is being rerouted by the National Park Service over the Castle Rock property. However, the picturesque castle of five generations of Osborns remains in the family.

[63] FREDERICK OSBORN HOUSE

One of several monumental residences located on the ridge-line. Built in the 1920's, the crenellated towers was home to Brigadier General Frederick Osborn, who was in charge of morale during World War II. It has been observed that on a clear day you can see the spire of the Empire State Building.

[64] MANITOU MARSH

This extensive tidal marsh, which is an important migratory bird stopover and waterfowl feeding area, also enhances the scenic quality of the rugged hills behind it.

[65] ANTHONY'S NOSE

It may have been named for either St. Anthony the Great of Egypt, founder of monastic life about 251 A.D. or after Anthony Van Corlaer, a friend of Peter Stuyvesant, Dutch governor of New Amsterdam.

[66] BEAR MOUNTAIN BRIDGE

Lining the banks of the Hudson just south of West Point, the Bear Mountain Bridge is part of Highway Routes 6 and 202. The Bear Mountain Bridge was the first bridging of the Hudson River south of Albany. It is also the narrowest passage below Albany at 3/8 mile. The Appalachian Trail, from Mount Katahdin, Maine to Springer Mountain, Georgia also crosses the bridge. The Harriman family built the bridge privately to promote Bear Mountain State Park and its donated 10,000 acres for public recreation. The Bear Mountain Bridge span is 2,257 feet, 155 feet above the water at high tide. Since November 1924 the bridge has been providing travelers with spectacular views of the Hudson River Valley. When it was first built it was the world's longest suspension span. The free span is 1,632 feet. General Omar Bradley, on leave from the faculty at West Point, worked temporarily as a construction engineer on the bridge. The Bear Mountain Bridge led to other more famous suspension spans. It was the first to test new methods of cable fabrication which opened the field to cables of practically any diameter and number of wires.

The portion of the river south of the bridge is called the "Horse Race." The long stretch sweeps southeast from Bear Mountain Bridge to the Dunderberg Mountain. Dunderberg Mountain is a rocky prominence named "Thunder Mountain" by the Dutch.

[67] CAMP SMITH

Located south of Bear Mountain Bridge and Anthony's Nose is the New York National Guard training camp established in 1882. The 1,900 acre camp is named for Alfred E. Smith, Governor of New York and presidential candidate.

[68] BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

You, or your friends or family may lay on the grass under a tree at Bear Mountain State Park; eat, play and be merry in a picnic grove, go paddle or row boating on a lake, go hiking through the woods, go mountain climbing, go swimming in a pool or lake, visit a zoo, visit a museum, go on a self-guided nature walk, go roller skating or play miniature golf. The park has over 51,000 acres. Perkins Memorial Drive has many

scenic vistas along its winding road to the 1,350-foot high point.

[69] IONA ISLAND

The island off Indian Point and the Consolidated Edison Company's one hundred million dollar atomic power plant was an orchard and vineyard of horticulturist Dr. C. W. Grant in the mid-19th Century; later it became a popular summer resort. It is not open to the public, but it once was a bustling military complex - in both world wars. The U.S. Navy had a munitions storage facility from 1900 to 1945. It is now part of the Palisades Interstate Park and open only to marsh creatures and the American Bald Eagle. The island is the eagle's winter sanctuary and has helped to begin to turn around their endangered species status.

The island was the site of where the "mothball fleet" lined up in the Hudson River from 1946 to 1970: the Liberty ships were used as storage bins for surplus wheat.

[70] FORTS MONTGOMERY AND CLINTON

In 1776 two forts were built to defend the mid-Hudson River region. Robert Erskine, operator of the Ringwood iron mines and furnaces, and George Washington's chief surveyor, undertook to manufacture a two inch chain from Fort Montgomery to Anthony's Nose. The chain consisted of heavy iron supported on wooden floats and protected on the downriver side by wooden booms. When the British captured Forts Clinton and Montgomery they took up the chain and removed it to the harbor at Gibraltar. It had cost the Americans a quarter million dollars in today's terms.

Fort Montgomery, north of the Popolopen Creek and Fort Clinton south of the Popolopen Creek were respectively commanded by two brothers, Generals George and James Clinton, the former at that time governor of the newly organized State of New York. The forts fell on October 6, 1777 when a resident Loyalist led a combined British and Hessian force. The veteran infantry force attacked the unfinished militia held forts from the mountain side.

[71] BROOKS CREEK

This site of the present-day yacht club at the mouth of Brooks Creek used to be a shipment point for magnetite (iron ore) dug from the Highlands in the west. It was transported across the present Highway 9W in huge askets on cables and loaded onto boats at the old dock.

[72] HIGHLAND FALLS

Formerly called Buttermilk Falls, because of its one hundred foot Highland Brook spill, it is basically a service village for the adjacent United States Military Academy and commuter village to New York City. It was formerly a resort town. Fourteen Highland Falls area buildings were selected in 1983 for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The historical landscape painters Emanuel Leutze (1816-1868) and Robert W. Weir (1803-1889) both resided here. Other prominent residents were poet-naturalist John Burroughs who wrote "Waiting." "Molly Pitcher." Margaret Corbin, heroine of the Battle of Fort Washington and J. P. Morgan, a multi-millionaire who had his estate "Cragston" here.

[73] OLD LADYCLIFF COLLEGE/NEW SOUTH POST

The history of Ladycliff College can be traced back to the famous Cozzens' Hotel (later known as the Cranston) which, in the latter part of the 19th century represented all that was wealthy, chic and opulent. Later other resort hotels at Newport, Atlantic City, the Catskills and Saratoga Springs successfully competed for the elite customers.

The Franciscan Sisters, who had outgrown their school in Peekskill purchased the Cragston Hotel on January 2, 1900. The location was immediately named Ladycliff because of the precipitous cliff on the Hudson River side of the property and "Lady" in recognition of their Peekskill school, "The Academy of Our Lady of Angels."

Declining funds halted the operation of the school in May 1980. The United States Military Academy first leased the college in 1982 and then purchased it 1984. Rosary Hall is the new home of the West Point

Museum and is now called Olmsted Hall. The West Point Museum has the largest military collection in the Western Hemisphere. The nearby Visitor Information Center is now located in the former library building.

[74] U.S. ARMY HOTEL THAYER

On West Point grounds, this hotel is owned and operated by the United States government. Built in 1926, renovated in 1978, it was named in honor of Sylvanus Thayer, who established many of the methods and ideals of the United States Military Academy. The hotel has played host to many of our country's and foreign countries' leading dignitaries. The 52 Iran hostages were special guest of the hotel in 1981.

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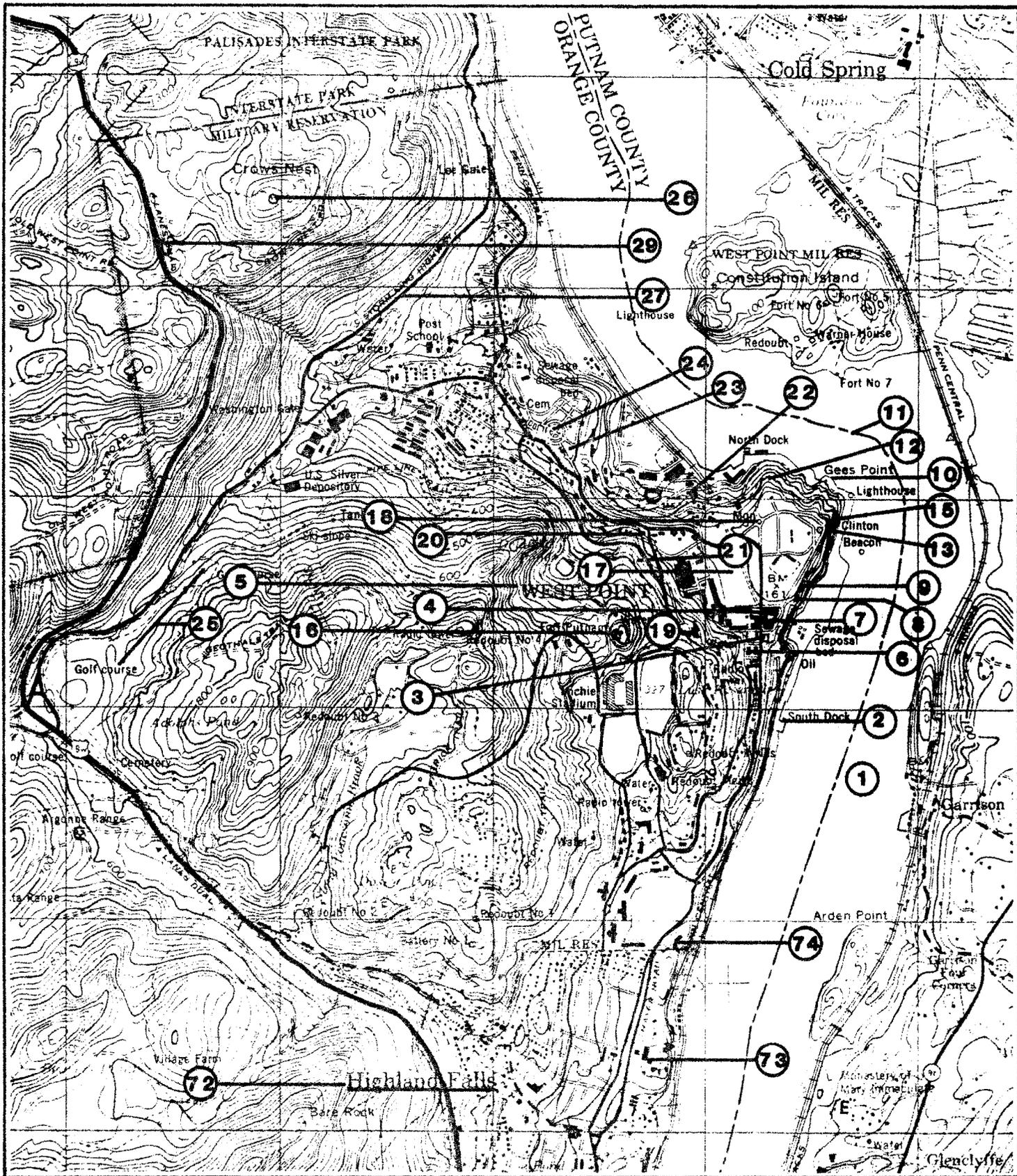
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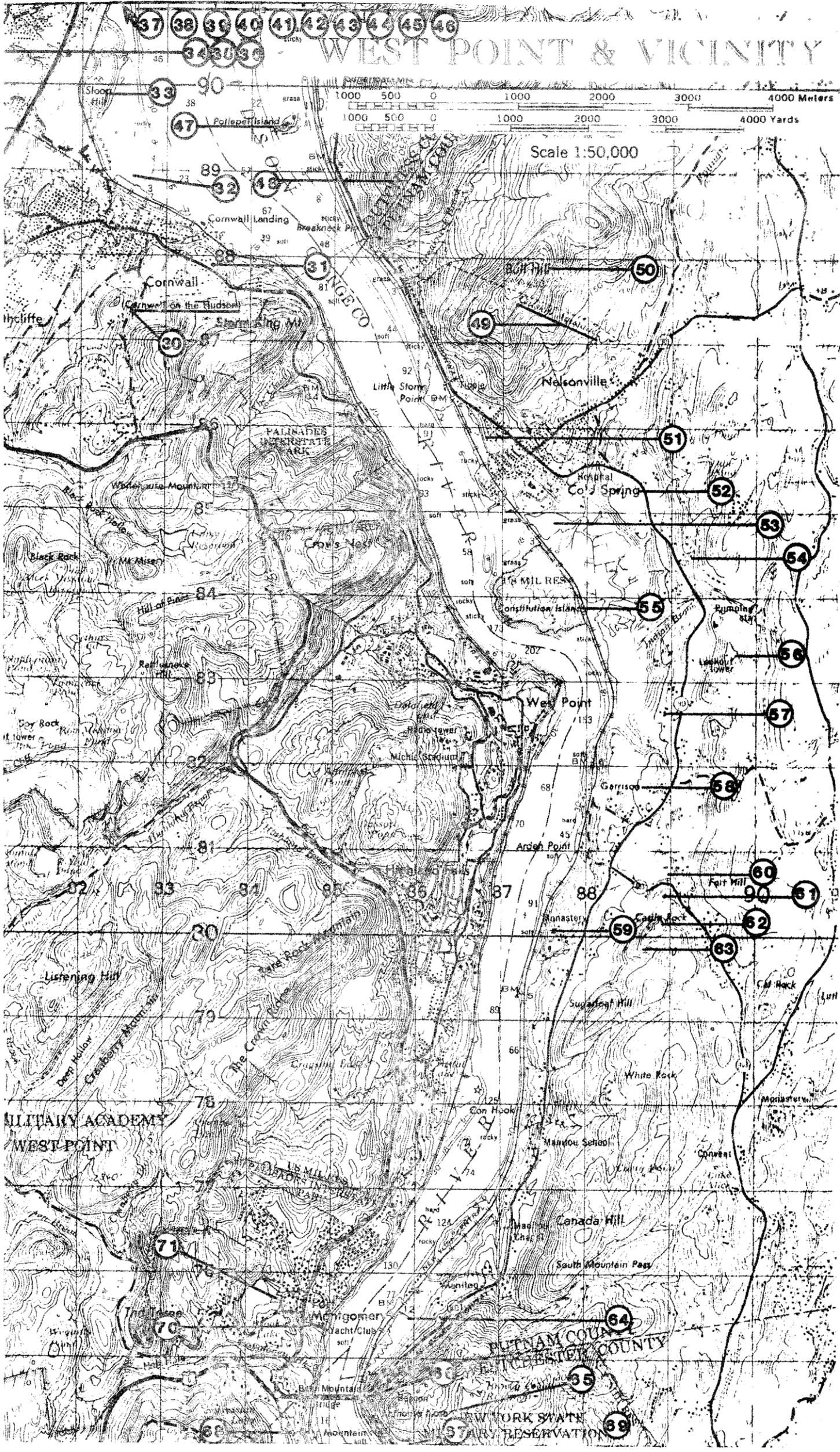
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WEST POINT AND VICINITY





WEST POINT & VICINITY

Scale 1:50,000



MILITARY ACADEMY
WEST POINT

PUTNAM COUNTY
WESTCHESTER COUNTY

NEW YORK STATE
RESERVATION

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