

The idea for an historic survey started about 15 years ago when we formed FOBC to protect the historic integrity of the Beaverkill Church. Since then we have talked a great deal about the numerous historic sites and buildings in our community and when we formed a committee, we found that there was a great deal of interest in researching historic sites with both foundations and residents.

This survey was funded by a major grant from the New York Preservation League, A Sullivan Renaissance grant, the Roscoe Chamber, BANA, The town of Rockland Historian's budget, the O'Connor Foundation and FOBC. This survey covers from the Sprague House in Roscoe, just south of the Roscoe Diner to the Beaverkill Covered Bridge and includes Burnt Hill Road and Miller Heights. We hope to expand the survey to the other hamlets in the Town of Rockland.

This survey is important for many reasons:

1. When Patricia Pomeroy –sent a questionnaire out to residents of the town as the master plan was being developed, one of the largest ‘requests’ by people answering the comprehensive survey was that residents want to preserve the rural character of our town. This survey will help do that because this shows that we have an incredible number of historic sites and structures, which contribute to the town’s character and in some ways define the special quality of our town.
2. The survey provides a useful way of taking stock of what we have and helps in planning for the future.
3. The survey also provides an historical narrative that is useful for both scholars and residents.
4. Our housing ‘stock’ in Roscoe still has a great deal of historic integrity and to recognize and enhance the historic nature of our neighborhoods can also be a great asset in terms of real estate.

5. The survey provides a basis for using legal and financial tools to protect and enhance the resources.

The survey can be used in numerous ways but the initial survey can also be a 'stand alone' study, which provides information that gives us the opportunity to work together to enhance and keep the rural/historic beauty of our community.

This is a working/living document for residents to read through. It is based on public information that Neil was able to obtain. Any corrections or further historic information is welcome.

We will be holding workshops about the interpretation and use of this document in late winter/early spring.