



Closter's Heritage: Historic West Street & Harrington Avenue



West Street looking north before Harrington Avenue was extended.

This exceptionally attractive neighborhood remains remarkably intact from its time of creation in the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Built up in the booming post-1859 railroad development frenzy, a major crossroad in Closter's history, the two streets serve as a gateway to Closter's downtown area (Harrington Avenue was once named "Main Street"). These unique streetscapes are about to be proposed as the West St./Harrington Ave. Historic District, an area worthy of Historic Preservation. This brochure describes each contributing structure in the proposed District.

The aim of preservation is to protect our architectural and cultural heritage. Local designation would safeguard the historic character of this neighborhood by discouraging demolitions and alterations that would negatively impact this unique streetscape.

**Closter Historic
Preservation Commission**



THE REFORMED CHURCH OF CLOSTER
Designed by John Henry Stephens and erected in 1862 on land donated by Thomas Demarest (Northern Railroad president), Closter's first church never had a steeple for most of its life; the one it now supports is of recent vintage, erected in 1957. In 1894, stained glass windows were installed by the Lamb Studios. It is now occupied by the R.C.A. Cross Cultural Ministry.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
This L-plan church has a distinctive square tower with a bell-shaped roof. Built in 1881 on land from Jacob Blauvelt, it might have been designed by J. Cleveland Cady (research in progress). It features artwork by local artist, Robert Alexander Baille. It is now called the New Life Church.



125 OLD CLOSTER DOCK ROAD
An unusual example of Gothic Revival style architecture, this is the oldest house within the proposed Historic District. A house is indicated on this site on an 1840 coastal survey map. R. Vervalen is listed as the owner in 1861. When Betty Bogert Magel and her husband Frank moved here in the 1940s, the kitchen was still in the basement.



248 HARRINGTON AVENUE
Built between 1865 & 1876, this Second Empire style house with a slate mansard roof was moved from West Street down the hill to its current location on Harrington Avenue around 1913, when the road was extended. Charles Tanner, a lumber and coal business owner, lived here. In 1953, Attorney and municipal judge Edward Cahill became the owner.

264 HARRINGTON AVENUE
Built after 1913, this Foursquare with a pyramidal roof and wrap-around porch with a hipped roof, was constructed on land owned by Charles Tanner. The well was once part of the Tanner estate. The twice-widowed Mae Taveniere Trager (Palmer) sold the land to Dudley Bancroft in 1935.



270 HARRINGTON AVENUE
This impressive three-bay Second Empire house was built before 1876 by the Ferdon family. In 1898, James F. Blauvelt sold it to Julia and Dr. Lewis Parsell. Dr. Parsell started his practice around 1884 and died, much beloved, in 1908. Marcel Jovine, an award-winning artist, purchased the property in 1951.

280 HARRINGTON AVENUE
This Second Empire house was constructed just after 1876. The empty lot was at that time owned by a Duryea, (probably Albert) and later listed on a property map of J. Wyman Jones. Sarah Stephens (listed in the 1912 Blue Book), the Garret Eckerson family, and Cleary Pelletier (lawyer) were prior owners.



289 HARRINGTON AVENUE
This Second Empire style house was built between 1865 & 1876. The land was conveyed from Adam Haring to J. Wyman Jones to George Bloomer,

then to David G. Demarest in 1866. R. Hopper owned the property in 1876. The house at one time was the parsonage for the Congregational Church.

290 HARRINGTON AVENUE
This Second Empire style house was built before 1876. In 1888, Albert Duryea sold the house to Maria Ferdon (single) for \$4,700. Maria is known for her journals written between 1857 and 1891. Maria willed the property to Richard and Maria Parsells. Maria Ferdon and the Parsells are buried in Closter's historic Naugel/Auryansen Cemetery.



295 HARRINGTON AVENUE
Constructed between 1865 & 1876, this Queen Anne style house was built on land once owned by J. Wyman Jones. It was sold to Abraham J. Demarest for \$500.00 in 1866. The Demarest family ran the local hardware store. The Wetyen family, who owned the Closter Pharmacy, later acquired it.

**For additional information,
visit our website at
www.closterhistoricpreservation.org**



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292 WEST STREET

A stately central hall Colonial Revival style house with a front balcony was built by William Tate around 1913.

Mr. Tate was an insurance broker, postmaster, county official, and the first notary public in the borough. Mr. Tate, Sr. and his wife, Debbie Naugle Tate, lived across the street.



268 WEST STREET

Built between 1865 & 1876, this Second Empire style house has a concave mansard roof with two gabled dormers. J. F. Haring is listed as the owner in 1876. Two generations of the Bell family owned the house for many years. At one time it was listed as 263 Harrington and featured a wrap-around porch.



250 WEST STREET

This Queen Anne style house, recently beautifully restored, was built between 1876 & 1912. Owned by the Lozier family for many years, Betty Bogert Magel lived here as a newlywed with her parents, Albert and Dorothy Lozier Bogert. Later, school Superintendent John Howarth lived here with his large family.



238 WEST STREET

is a Colonial revival style house built between 1900 & 1923. The Zabriskie family owned the land in the late 19th Century. The property was

later acquired by John H. Dotson, a partner in Demarest Brothers Hardware. When he died in 1954, his executors were Beulah Tate, William's sister, and Henry Mandel, founder of the U.S. Bronze Powder Works.

289 WEST STREET

Built around the turn of the century, this is a nice example of an American Foursquare with an unusual hipped roof dormer with a bay window. The property belonged to David D. Demarest on an 1859 map. In 1904, William and Grace Tate sold the house to Edwin Durie (also spelled "Duryea" and "Du Ric") for \$1.



258 WEST STREET

This Second Empire style house with two elliptical arched dormers was built between 1865 & 1876. Parts of the land were earlier owned by Ernest Hopper, who sold it to Charles Tanner and William Ferdon in 1866. It was conveyed to John D. Ferdon in 1899. John was listed as a boatman in the 1860 census and is buried in the Alpine Cemetery.



247 WEST STREET

This vernacular Italianate style house was constructed between 1865 & 1876. This house is depicted on the 1876 Walker Atlas map as being owned by Jacob Blauvelt. Blauvelt had at least three lots in this area. This was lot B, and adjacent lot C was "the Church lot." Taveniere and Johnson sold the land to Aaron Remson in 1893. John and Tannis Alexander bought the property in 1952.



237 WEST STREET

This vernacular Carpenter Gothic style house with a front gable roof and three-quarters-width porch was built between 1876 & 1912.



Charles Tanner was an early owner of the property. After Tanner's death in 1911, his heirs, Lena and John R. Demarest, Clara and Edwin Demarest, Annie and George Cronyn, and Sophie and William Wray sold the house to Albert Gotham.



280 WEST STREET

Built in 1864, this vernacular Carpenter Gothic style house with a wrap-around porch retains its original front double

doors. The house belonged to Hildebrand Naugle, a carpenter and clockmaker who died in 1899. His son, Resolvent, also a carpenter, lived here in 1903. His grandson, William Tate, bought the house in 1922 for \$6,150.



254 WEST STREET

This side hall Foursquare with a pyramidal roof and pedimented dormers was built around 1913. When Joseph Duryea sold the land to Herminia Wray (Mrs. Warren Wray) in 1911, she agreed that no tenement house or dwelling to cost less than \$2500 be erected. The Wrays sold the house to Willard Dayton Brown and Mable Brown in 1920.



244 WEST STREET

is a Carpenter Gothic style house with a front gable roof with a scalloped edge of jigsaw bargeboards. The porch has jigsaw panel balusters in a low

railing. Built between 1865 & 1876, it was part of the land of Ernest Hopper, later owned by harness maker and trimmer, A.J. Zabriskie, in 1876. Charles Pike's family lived here at the turn of the century. It was later owned by the Thomas Jarrett family.



233 WEST STREET

is a T-plan, vernacular house with an arched window in the front gable peak. This house was built between 1876 & 1912. The side ells were added after 1913. The land was owned by Ernest Hopper

(Hoppe, or Happe). Cornelia Vanderbeck owned the property in 1876, and willed the house to William Endres, Jr. in 1899.

277 WEST STREET

is a Colonial Revival Style house with prominent eaves and a steep pitched center front gable.

Built before 1913, this structure originally served as a barn for the residence at 270 Harrington Avenue. Dr. Lewis Parsell's widow, Julia, sold the property to James A. Russell in 1920. Russell's widow sold it to Arthur Pelletier in 1946.



251 WEST STREET

This is a Queen Anne vernacular style house built between 1876 & 1912. Jacob Blauvelt owned the land in 1876. By 1893, James Taveniere and Darius Johnson, owners of the livery stable, bought it and sold it to Aaron Remson. One of Closter's earliest school teachers, Miss Kittie Remson, lived here around the turn of the century. In the 1950's, Phys. Ed. instructor "Sully" Mott purchased the house.



243 WEST STREET

This is an unusual Second Empire style house built in 1869. The house is depicted on the 1876 Walker Atlas map and labeled "T. R. Westervelt." In 1930, Willard Dayton Brown (widower) sold the property to Frank and Julia Chace. The house has both front and rear porches and continues to have its kitchen in the grade level floor at rear.



232 WEST STREET

This Carpenter Gothic style house with an oculus in the gable peak was built between 1865 & 1876. The property was sold by Ernest Hopper to Harman Eiche in 1865. Mrs. Zabriskie was listed as the owner on the 1876 Walker Atlas map. In 1913, John H. Dotson, a plumber and partner at Demarest Brothers Hardware, bought the house.

