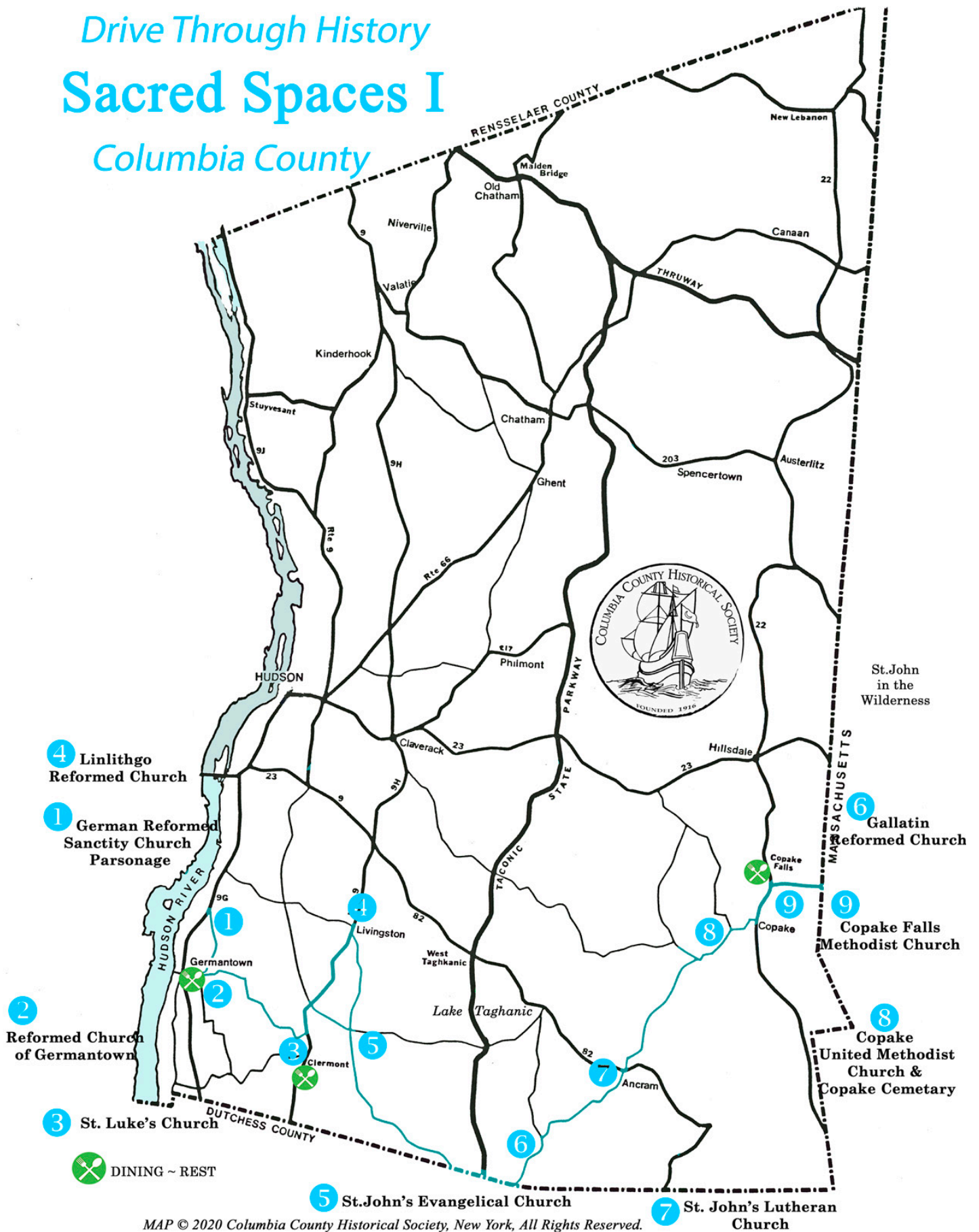


# Drive Through History

## Sacred Spaces I

### Columbia County



## Sacred Spaces (Part I)

Columbia County's pastoral landscapes are dotted with historic houses of worship and cemeteries that preserve the rich religious traditions of the area. From simple, wood-frame country churches to Greek Revival grandeur, many of these sacred spaces grace the National Register of Historic Places and date back to our early European settlements. This road trip explores churches and cemeteries of the **Roeliff Jansen** region.

\*Places of worship with an asterisk are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### ① German Reformed Sanctity Church Parsonage\*

52 Maple Avenue, Germantown

This wood, stone and brick former parsonage is the oldest surviving structure in Germantown. It dates to the 1740s, when the town was a thriving Palatine German settlement known as East Camp. The parsonage was sold in the early 1800s, and has served various functions through the years. Today, it houses Germantown's history department. The interior still features original beams, doors and cabinets. Though temporarily closed to the public, interpretive signage out front provides a history of both the building and the Palatine settlement.



Head to Main Street to pick up some snacks from **Otto's Market**. Take a stroll through charming Germantown before continuing on to your next stop.

**Directions to Next Stop:** Walk east on Main Street and hang a right on Church Avenue.

### ② Germantown Reformed Church

20 Church Avenue, Germantown

Influenced by European Gothic design, this soaring edifice was built by architect J.A. Wood in 1879. The church, however, was first organized in 1728 or 1729 by Rev. Johannes Van Driessen of Albany, at a time when settlements like East Camp (Germantown), Claverack and Linlithgo were remote outposts of the Dominie of the Reformed Church of Albany. A bit further east on Main Street/County Route 8 is **Germantown Reformed Cemetery**.

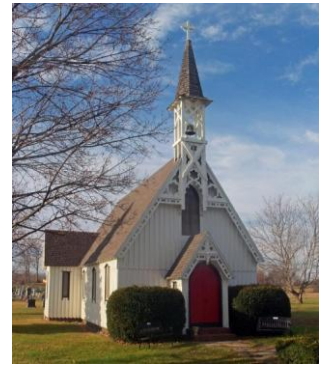
**Directions to Next Stop:** Drive east on Main Street, and continue onto County Route 8. Turn right onto U.S. 9 South. In less than a mile, the church will be on your right.



### 3 St. Luke's Church\*

1795 U.S. 9, Clermont (next to Clermont Town Hall)

Established in 1859 as an Episcopal parish, this diminutive Gothic Revival-style church features detailed trimwork, an open-frame bell tower and board and batten siding. The church was designed by Richard M. Upjohn, a renowned ecclesiastical architect whose other notable works include Trinity Church in New York City, the Connecticut State Capitol and the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, which you'll come to later on this road trip. After a period of declining attendance, St. Luke's was decommissioned for town use in the 1970s.



**Tousey Winery** and **Hudson Valley Distillers** are both located a few hundred feet from St. Luke's Church, and are currently offering outdoor tastings and dining on weekends. (Call ahead to confirm hours.)

**Directions to Next Stop:** Head northeast on U.S. 9 for 4.6 miles. Turn right onto County Route 10, then turn left at the first cross street onto Old Post Road. In .3 miles, turn right onto Church Road. The church will be on your left.

### 4 Linlithgo Reformed Church\*

447 Church Road, Livingston

One of the earliest churches in Columbia County, this Dutch Reformed Church was organized in 1722 and served the area's many Palatine families. The church was originally located in the hamlet of Linlithgo, but was relocated five miles to the east in 1814 to the current Livingston location. In 1854, the Italianate structure you see now was built to better serve the expanding congregation. Its striking white tower is visible from many points throughout Livingston. The adjacent cemetery contains several hundred burials dating from about 1814 to the present.



**Directions to Next Stop:** Head west on Church Road toward Old Post Road. Church Road turns left and becomes County Route 19/Old Post Road. Continue for 3.8 miles, then turn left onto County Route 8. Church entrance will be on your right.

### 5 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church\*

923 County Route 19, Elizaville

Sitting high atop a hill at the intersection of County Route 8 and County Route 19, this Late Gothic Revival-style structure was built in 1901-1902—but the history of the church dates back nearly 200 turbulent years. The original church, founded by Palatines who had moved eastward from Germantown, was built in 1715, then replaced in 1764 and again in 1820, this time in a new location. That church was destroyed in a natural disaster, and yet another church was erected in 1861. Sadly, that church, too, was destroyed—this time by a fire, the result of a lightning strike. The present edifice, which (thankfully) has endured for nearly 120 years, consists of red pressed brick and a one-story wooden frame with a high pitched gable roof and two towers of different heights. Take a peaceful walk through the adjacent cemetery to see gravestones dating as far back as 1821.



**Directions to Next Stop:** Head south on County Route 19 toward Calendar House Road. In 3 miles, slight left on Jackson Corners, then continue straight to stay on Jackson Corners. Slight left on Jackson Corners. Merge onto County Route 7. In about 1 mile, the church will be on your left (parking is on the right).

## 6 Gallatin Reformed Church

County Road 7, Gallatinville (map coordinates: 42.019, -73.703)

This quintessential country church is the only remaining church in the hamlet of Gallatinville. It was first established in 1748 as the Dutch Reformed Protestant Church, and was built in the simple Dutch style of the time. However, the church was condemned in 1823, and the present church was constructed just to the north. The addition you see at the rear of the church was added in 1872 to house the pipe organ. Herman Vedder (1777-1873) served as the pastor for 61 years, and to this day the church is commonly referred to as “the Vedder Church”



**Directions to Next Stop:** Head east on County Road 7/County Route 7 toward Ancram for approximately 4.7 miles. The church will be on your left, just before the intersection of NY-82 in the hamlet of Ancram.

## 7 St. John’s Lutheran Church & Ancram Union Cemetery\*

2364 NY-82, Ancram

This historic church complex dates to 1847, and comprises the church, a parsonage, 19th-century horse sheds and a church hall. Like many churches on this itinerary, St. John’s has its roots in the Palatine German settlement of the early 1710s. The Greek Revival-style church consists of a heavy timber-frame meeting house that has seen many modifications over the years, including a bell tower that was added in 1886. Across the street, **Ancram Union Cemetery** features graves dating to 1827.



**Directions to Next Stop:** Continue east on County Road 7/County Route 7, toward NY-82. Slight left to stay on County Road 7. In approximately 6.3 miles, the church will be on your left.

## 8 Copake United Methodist Church\*

179 County Road 7A, Copake (directly across from KeyBank)

In about 1832, a small group of Methodists began holding “grove-meetings” in different locations in southwestern Copake and northern Ancram. By 1834, a simple house of worship was built to accommodate the growing congregation. However, this building was moved and converted into a store soon thereafter, and the church you see now was erected in 1854. Stout, white and rather grand, it is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style, with four columns and a two-tiered belfry. The cemetery is one of the oldest in Columbia County, with burial dates from 1757.



**Directions to Next Stop:** Head east on County Road 7, then turn left onto County Road 7A/Main Street. Make a left on NY-22. In 1 mile, turn right onto NY-344. Turn right to stay on NY-344, then turn right onto Miles Road.

## 9 Copake Falls Methodist Church\*

8 Miles Road, Copake Falls

This tiny church was built in 1890-1891 to accommodate the growing number of Methodists who worked at the nearby Copake Iron Works. Though built in the late Victorian Era, the church has Gothic characteristics, including a steep gable roof topped by a belfry and a projecting front vestibule. The church is now home to the **Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Museum**.

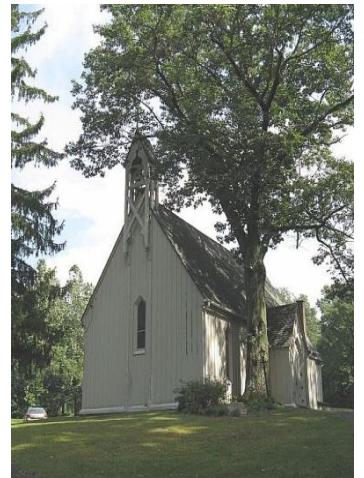


**Directions to Next Stop:** Walk or drive north on Miles Road, then turn left onto NY-344. Stay left.

## 10 Church of St. John in the Wilderness\*

261 NY-344, Copake Falls

Located at the entrance of Taconic State Park, this c. 1851 Gothic Revival-style church was the first in Columbia County to be built by noted architect Richard Upjohn. The one-story, wood-frame building is clad with board and batten siding, with an open-frame bell cote. The property also contains a parsonage and two cemeteries.



Since its inception, the Church of St. John in the Wilderness has served the many Episcopalian farmers and laborers who sought their livelihoods in the burgeoning Copake area. The history of the church mirrors the ups and downs of the nearby Copake Iron Works, which ran from 1846 to the 1870s, and the church closed its doors for several periods in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1943, Rev. Allen W. Brown, rector of Christ Church in Hudson, entered the shuttered St. John's to find raccoons and squirrels living inside the church! Rev. Brown and his wife reopened the church in 1944, and regular worship services have been held since 1949.



Stretch your legs with a hike to scenic **Bash Bish Falls**, which lies on the Massachusetts side of **Taconic State Park**. Or, learn about another aspect of Columbia County history at the **Copake Iron Works Museum**.

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