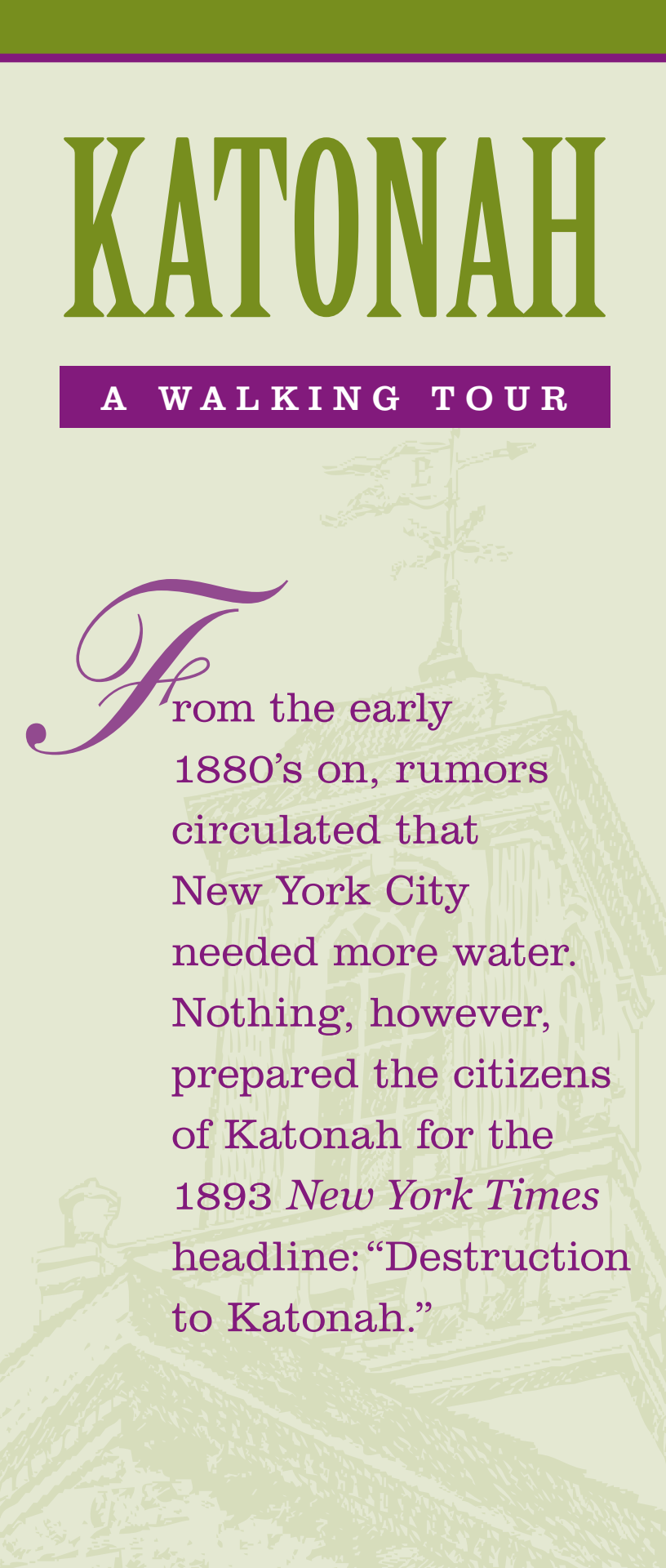


# KATONAH

## A WALKING TOUR

A faint, light-colored illustration of a building with a prominent weather vane on its roof. The weather vane features a bird and a cross. The building has multiple windows and a classical architectural style. The illustration is positioned in the background, behind the text.

*F*rom the early 1880's on, rumors circulated that New York City needed more water. Nothing, however, prepared the citizens of Katonah for the 1893 *New York Times* headline: "Destruction to Katonah."



On September 20, 1893, at a meeting of the Katonah Village Improvement Society, the people of old Katonah pondered the City's decision to condemn their village and replace it with a new reservoir. Ultimately, they decided to move the hamlet, buildings and all. The Katonah Land Company purchased a farm about a mile south of the old village, and hired the landscape architects G.S. and B.S. Olmstead to design a new village there with broad islands and tree-lined streets arranged in the Celtic cross. Deed restrictions limited commercial development to the streets near the railroad tracks. Katonah's residents then moved roughly fifty-five of Katonah's original homes, stores and barns to "new Katonah." The hamlet you will explore today is the result of their efforts. This walking tour will guide you through the residential National Register Historic District of Katonah, as well as the hamlet's historic commercial core.

This tour has two loops: residential and commercial. The residential tour begins at 5 Edgemont Road to the right of the train station.

**(M) indicates moved from old to new Katonah**

- 1 5 Edgemont Road**, the Katonah Publishing Building, has been used as a print shop since R. D. Knapp built it to house the offices of the *Katonah Times* in 1898.
- 2 7-11 Edgemont Road (M)** This Empire-style building was the home of Fletcher Lent. A large livery stable built behind it was destroyed in a fire in 1909, although the house was saved, and the stable was rebuilt. By 1917, Lent had sold his last horse, then used automobiles to pick up passengers at the train station.
- 3 19-21 Edgemont Road (M)** housed Katonah's first reading room, established by KVIS in 1878 in the old village; it continued to serve as Katonah's library until 1930.
- 4 25 Edgemont Road**, c. 1899. John D. Thomas, a blacksmith and carriage maker, housed his shop in the rear.
- 5 37 Edgemont Road**. Huldah Whitlock moved this house a short way down Woodsbridge Road from its former site across the street from today's commuter lot. **6 28 Edgemont Road**, across the street, was built by Elbert Washburn in the 1920s as a private residence.
- 7 22 Edgemont Road (M)** was Henry Deacon's home and grocery store.
- 8 4 Bedford Road**, c.1897. Theodosia Miller, a widow, showed her independence and wealth by building one of the finest homes in new Katonah, on a spacious three lot parcel.
- 9 8 Bedford Road (M)**, originally the Methodist parsonage in old Katonah, was moved to the new village by James Cox.
- 10 10 Bedford Road (M)** was the home of James Williams, the village harness maker in old Katonah. Alfred Avery moved it and added its square tower, which echoes the tower on the *Cobbles (12)*.
- 11 12 Bedford Road (M)**, c. 1860, is one of the oldest houses in the historic district. The porch and entryway, most likely added in the 1880s, reflect Queen Anne influences. In old Katonah it was the residence of Dr. Wickware, the village dentist.
- 12 16 Bedford Road (The Cobbles)** was built by William Avery to serve as both a family homestead and a summer boarding house for visitors from New York City. The eave surrounding the third floor sleeping porch displays tiles and *bas-reliefs* collected by the Avery family on their tours of Europe.
- 13 Lawrence Circle**. This landscaped circle forms the center of Katonah's Celtic cross. The town's flagpole has always stood there. Today it is dedicated to James F. Lawrence, a former partner in Kelloggs and Lawrence, and the only member of the Katonah Volunteer Fire Department to be killed in the line of duty.
- 14 The Katonah Village Library** occupies the site originally set aside for community meeting and reading rooms. In 1928, Katonah resident and architect Kerr Rainsford designed the new library, in continuous use since 1930.

**15 30 Bedford Road**, c. 1906. Its Dutch Colonial design reflects the growing interest in colonial revival styles in the first decades of the twentieth century.

**16 34 Bedford Road**, c. 1900. Its first story was made of blocks molded of sand from building sites in new Katonah, a common construction technique in the early twentieth century.

**17 36 Bedford Road**, c. 1905, originally boasted a tower containing a turret room and sleeping porch, since removed.

**18 40 Bedford Road**, c.1910. The village milliners lived here and sold their hats on the first floor.

The rest of the houses on this block were all built by William Fowler, one of new Katonah's most prolific builders and developers.

**19 42 Bedford Road** c. 1905. Its front-facing gambrel roof sets it apart. **20 46 Bedford Road** is a simple Queen Anne style; the gingerbread trim on the porch is a modern addition. **21 48 Bedford Road** is a vernacular home with colonial revival touches, typical of many built throughout the country in the early 1900s. **22 50 Bedford Road** is a good example of a house type referred to as "American foursquare." **23 54 Bedford Road** is another American foursquare house, built in the colonial revival style. Its porch was enclosed some time in the first half of the twentieth century.

**24 22 The Terrace (M)**. This grand Second Empire house was Dr. Chapman's home in both old and new Katonah. The family lived in the house during its six month move. A model of this house on the move can be seen at the Katonah Village Library.

**25 51 Bedford Road** was the second home commissioned by E. P. Barrett and his family in new Katonah. Built by William Fowler, this house was based on a design found in an architectural pattern book. Originally the home featured a broad open veranda, since enclosed.

Aspects here

**26 St. Mary of the Assumption (M)**, built in 1890, was the only church moved from old Katonah. From 1899 to 1900 the church was disassembled and reconstructed in its present location. A single door and additional windows replaced the twin doors which had existed previously at the entryway.

**27 55 Valley Road (M)**, c. 1860. This Italianate house was originally the home of Joseph Benedict. While building the New Croton Dam, the New York City Board of Water Supply used it to house its engineers. Father Cornelius J. Crowley purchased the building in June 1908, moving it next to the Church to serve as its rectory. Now used for church functions, it was restored in time for the parish's 100th anniversary in 2008.

**28 4 Valley Edge (M)** has the distinction of being the first house to reach its foundation in new Katonah.

**29 86 Edgemont Road** was built in 1898 for Joseph and Emma Robertson Barrett and is now the Presbyterian manse.

**30** The congregation of the **Katonah Presbyterian Church** commissioned architect George Kramer to build their church in new Katonah. He incorporated a number of stained glass windows from the old Katonah church into the new Norman Romanesque building. The church was dedicated in July, 1900. The stone entrance vestibule is a later addition.

**31** **The Presbyterian Church house (M)** was built in 1880 in old Katonah for the Church's first minister, the Rev. John H. Eastman. In 1958 a new Christian Education wing was built to connect the church to the old manse.

**32** **29 Bedford Road**, one of the earliest houses on Bedford Road, is remarkable for its grand double porches. During the Depression, one resident operated a small café known as "The Twin Porches" on the first floor.

**33** **27 Bedford Road** was built in 1902 for E.P. Barrett by William H. Fowler. Barrett was living here in 1905 when he was first elected Supervisor of the Town of Bedford, an office he held for the next forty years.

**34** **25 Bedford Road** was built after 1900 in the Shingle Style. Of particular note are the curved pediments on its third floor dormers.

**35** **21 Bedford Road (M)**, a Queen Anne house originally the home of Samuel B. Hoyt, was modified after the move with the addition of a Colonial Revival porch.

**36** **48 Parkway (M)** belonged to James Hoyt, Samuel's brother. This Italianate house was built in old Katonah in the 1860's.

**37** **52 Parkway**, at the corner of Edgemont, was built for Sarah Avery in 1899. It was a boarding house and hotel known as the "Parkway Inn" until the 1960s.

**38** **71 Edgemont Road** and **40** **61 Edgemont Road** were both built in 1905 by William Fowler, using wood salvaged from old Katonah's dismantled buildings **39** **67 Edgemont Road** was built by Fowler for his own family. Originally a Queen Anne, it was given a Dutch Colonial roof and porch after a fire destroyed much of the attic area sometime in the early 1900s. The new gambrel roof turned the attic into a full third floor.

**41** **51 Parkway**, c.1900, is a particularly fine example of Shingle Style architecture. With the exception of the enclosed first floor porch, little has changed here since the house was first built.

**42** **49 Parkway**, c.1896, is the most ornate Queen Anne house in the historic district. It was built for J. Franklin Ryan, Katonah's butcher and Justice of the Peace for the Town of Bedford.

**43** **13 Bedford Road**, c. 1896, was built by William H. Robertson, a former New York State senator and supervisor of the Town of Bedford. Often cited as one of the finest examples of late Queen Anne architecture in Westchester County, it became the home of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in 1951.

**44** **9 Bedford Road** was built for James Horton, who also served as supervisor of Bedford. Completed around 1897, it originally had a broad wraparound porch. The porch was removed and the front entry was given a neo-classical portico, most likely in the 1930s.

**45 The Methodist parsonage (7 Bedford Road)**

and **46 Methodist Church.** The congregation of the United Methodist Church, like their Presbyterian neighbors, chose to build a new church in new Katonah. They also hired George Kramer who designed a cobblestone church very different from the Romanesque building down the road. The Methodist Church's dominating asymmetrical roof and its rounded windows are characteristic of the Shingle Style of architecture. Today, it looks much as it did when it was dedicated in 1901, as does the matching wood and frame parsonage, also designed by Kramer.

Commercial District Tour – This tour begins with the property directly across the street from the train station.

**47 5/7 Katonah Avenue (M),** originally owned by Moses Benedict, was one of the last two buildings moved from old Katonah. Like his brother Joseph's house, which eventually became St. Mary's rectory, this home was used by New York City to house engineers working on the New Croton Dam. William Doyle bought and moved it in 1909-1910, after the completion of the Dam.

**48 29 Katonah Ave (M),** was the Jere Lyon home in old Katonah. Its original architecture is clearly visible on the second and third floors.

**49 33 Katonah Avenue** was built in 1898 by Frank Westcott

**50 37 Katonah Ave.** This fine brick structure was built in 1907 by J. Franklin Ryan to house his meat market and butcher's shop.

**51 63 Katonah Avenue** originally housed Hoyt Brother's furniture, tailoring and general merchandise business, as well as new Katonah's first funeral parlor.

**52 19 Parkway** was built in 1923. In 1913, Katonah's first motion pictures were shown outside on this then vacant lot, until Katonah Hall opened on Valley Road.

**53 23 Parkway,** one of new Katonah's early buildings, originally housed F. W. Gorham's drugstore.

**54 27 Parkway** was originally the site of Arnold's Shoe Store. In Katonah's early days, the job of postmaster was a political appointment. As the Arnolds were staunch Democrats, Arnold's Shoe Store housed the post office whenever there was a Democrat in the White House.

**55 26-30 Parkway** In 1887, Henry W. Kellogg bought Charles Avery's hardware store in old Katonah. First known as Kellogg and Mead, it became Kelloggs and Lawrence in 1919. The Kelloggs were influential Republicans; whenever there was a Republican in the White House, the post office was housed in their hardware store.

**56 18-24 Parkway** was built in 1896 by Harry Barrett. It was here in an upstairs apartment on November 1, 1897, that Cornelius J. Pronay, the first baby of the new village, was born.

**57 83-85 Katonah Avenue,** on the corner, was the first major building erected in new Katonah, and was thus known as the "pioneer building". Built in 1895, it housed a bakery and ice cream parlor, as well as the Doyle Bros. Grocery Store, and a hotel on the upper floors.

**58 95 Katonah Avenue** and **59 101 Katonah Avenue** were both built in 1928, the first by Henry Von Berg and the second by Austin Thompson. The latter building was known as the Barrett Building

because it once housed the E.P. Barrett's law offices. **60** **107-109 Katonah Avenue** was erected in the late 1890's by Thomas Doyle.

**61** **113 Katonah Avenue (M)**, now Charles Department Store, was once the Travis Building. Built in 1875, it housed the Benedict Drug Store in old Katonah. After its move, a new facade was added to the Empire-style building. The original mansard roof can still be seen from the alley which runs along the northern side of the building.

**62** **119-123 Katonah Avenue (M)** was Romaine Ritchie's Barber Shop in old Katonah. It was bought and moved by Frank Gumboldt who changed the facade and later put on the addition to the left. He ran a hairdressing parlor, billiard hall and stationery store here. In 1916, at a time of tension related to the impending World War, a bomb exploded mysteriously at the rear porch of Gumboldt's building.

**63** **127 Katonah Avenue**, c. 1897. Mrs. John French operated a 5 & 10 cent store here. The family lived above the store.

**64** **135 Katonah Avenue** was built in 1900 by James Williams, Katonah's harness maker, to replace his original, smaller shop once located where **65** **143 Katonah Avenue** now stands. In 1918, Katonah's first bank opened at 135 Katonah Avenue. **66** **25 Valley Road**, one of Katonah's earliest garages, was built by Arnell F. Dickenson, Jr. in the 1920s for his sons.

**67** **24-30 Valley Road** was owned by Edgar Hitt, Katonah's wheelwright and blacksmith in the old village. This building survived two of Katonah's most dramatic fires: the great fire of 1874 in old Katonah and the Livery Stable fire in 1902.

**68** **20-22 Valley Road** was known as Katonah Hall. Built in 1913, it was Katonah's first indoor movie theater. From the 1920s on, it was the home of another famous local landmark, Fred's Restaurant, owned by Fred S. Clark and operated twenty-four hours a day. Fred's was the gathering place for the Katonah Volunteer Fire Department for at least 30 years, during which time it housed the department's alarm system.

**69** **151-157 Katonah Avenue (M)**. Once the village millinery shop in old Katonah, it was considerably expanded after its move in 1896 to become Van Tassel's Katonah Provision Store. It barely survived the 1902 fire.

**70** **165 Katonah Avenue** was built by A.M. Van Tassel in 1905 to replace the barn and ice house which he lost in the 1902 fire. Its brick front was added in 1966.

**71** **The large building [171-173 Katonah Avenue]** which now stands behind **72** **the diner [175 Katonah Avenue]**, was built in 1918 and housed Katonah's last motion picture theater. In the era of the silent movie, prices of fifteen to thirty-five cents drew large audiences to this wonderful modern facility, which operated until 1929 when the arrival of "talkies" in Mt. Kisco brought about its demise.

From this point, a detour south down Katonah Avenue takes you to the area that was once Katonah's industrial heart. Katonah's freight yards, with separate railroad sidings and, after 1910, a freight station, started across the street. The freight yards stretched south to the current Katonah Shopping Center. Until 1986, the area now occupied

by the Katonah Commons and its parking lot was filled with huge heating oil storage tanks, along with several small residences and at least one apartment house, all since demolished. **73 215 Katonah Avenue** was erected in 1909 by William G. Barrett as a garage and car dealership. It later became the headquarters for H.H. Park's fuel company. This lot and those immediately to the south were originally occupied by Elliott's Livery stable, which burned to the ground in 1902, taking most of the block with it. **74 223 Katonah Avenue** was built in 1918 by Peter Noe, who created apartments for his family on the upper floors and operated a carpentry shop on the lower level. At the end of Katonah Avenue stands **75 St. Luke's Episcopal Church**, designed by Hobart Upjohn, the son of the architect of Trinity Church in New York City. It hosted its first service on December 9, 1923.

**76 184 Katonah Avenue**, was built by Seth Hoyt to serve as Katonah's first mill, powered by gasoline engines rather than by water. The adjoining buildings were added as business expanded.

**77 156 Katonah Avenue**, Katonah's second firehouse, was built in 1927 to supplement the original wood-framed firehouse which stood just to the south. Both buildings remained in service until 1958 when the present fire house on Bedford Road was built. The original 1899 firehouse was demolished shortly thereafter.

**78 140 Katonah Avenue.** Katonah's first bank, the Northern Westchester Bank, moved here from 135 Katonah Avenue in 1925. In 1937, this was the site of two unrelated bank robberies, six weeks apart.

**79 The Old Railroad Station.** New Katonah's original Railroad Station was built in 1897, the year of new Katonah's birth. Katonah continued to grow as a commercial center and in 1910, the original station building was moved down the tracks to the south to become Katonah's freight station. The present structure was built to replace it. This continued to function as a waiting room for passengers until the early 1980s, when the current Metro-North Station was built a block to the north. Until recently, due to restrictions in the deeds created by the Katonah Land Company, the sale of liquor was barred everywhere in the business district except here, on land which was owned by the railroad.

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The Katonah Village Improvement Society (KVIS), is an all-volunteer community organization dedicated to preserving the best from the past while improving the quality of village life in the present and for the future.



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