

LANDMARK DESIGNATION FORM

TOWN OF NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK

Town of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commission
Town of New Paltz Building Department (845) 255-0102
Web Page: [www.http:// townofnewpaltz.org](http://townofnewpaltz.org)

For Bldg. Dept. Only

Rec'd by _____
Date: _____
File #: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Print or type clearly with black ink.

Attach additional sheets for each category as needed to ensure completeness of form.

Label all accompanying forms with Section, Block, & Lot (SBL) number.

Your Name: Byron J. Preston
Your Address: 28 Apple Road, New Paltz, New York 12561
Your Telephone #: 1-845-255-5745
Organization (if any): Town Historic Preservation Commission, New Paltz

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Building's Common or Current Name: The Blake House
- 2 Building's Historic Name (if known): The Josiah DuBois House
- 3 Street Location (and SBL) Libertyville Road SBL: 86.3-1-22
- 4 Present Owner, Address, and phone Number: Alan Brasington
181 Libertyville Road
[List all owners of record] New Paltz, NY 12561
- 5 Tenant Name and Phone Number: _____

PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION:

Category:

Building
 Site

Ownership

Private
 Public

USE OF PROPERTY:

Please describe Current and Historic Use(s):

Current use is as a private home but also serves as storage space for theatrical props and antiques. Historically, has served as a farm.

Property Description:

- 6 Building Materials: stone, brick, and wood
- 7 Structural System (if known): timber frame and brick on a stone foundation

8 Condition/Integrity: well preserved and in excellent condition

9 List Major alterations and dates (if known): Skylights were added in the 1990s
but are not visible from the road.

10 Surroundings:

(Check all that apply)

* Open Land
* Woodland
 Scattered
Buildings

Industrial
 Commercial
 Densely Built Up

* Residential
* Other agricultural

11 Notable features of building and site (i.e. style, details):

The house was constructed in the Federalist style of architecture
while there are a variety of other buildings on site, notably--
a 1775 Dutch barn, an 1815 blacksmith's shop, an 18th Century smokehouse
and an 1865 carriage house.

12 List the following and your source(s) of information:

Date of initial construction: 1822

Architect (if known): Cromwell of Newburgh, New York

Builder (if known): Henricus Schoonmaker

Source(s): The archives of the Huguenot Historical
Society, a 1978 deed of the Blake Family papers.

Historical and architectural importance: Referring to the criteria set forth in the Town Preservation Ordinance, 140-118, list those that apply and explain how the property meets those criteria.

- 140-118 i: Possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation.
- ii: is identified with historic personages
 - iii: embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style
 - iv: is the work of a designer whose work has significantly influenced an age
 - v. because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood.

This historic site meets the following criteria as stated in the town preservation ordinance 140-118. (i.) possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation. (iii.) embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style. (v.) because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic represents an established and visual feature of the neighborhood. see attached report.

13. Please attach any additional material that might be useful in considering the site for landmark designation, i.e., copies of newspaper clippings, magazine articles, old photographs, etc. Photocopies are acceptable. Please be advised that no material can be returned.

14. Sources of Information:

For sources of information, please see attached report.

16. Photographs Required:

- Current views
- Minimum size: 4"x6"
- Color prints
- Two (2) Sets of each photograph
- Include all exterior views (front, back, sides), showing complete elevations of all structures to be considered.

17. Map Required:

Obtain from the Town of New Paltz Building Department a location map and mark the property's location on this map. If more than one building is being considered on a property, or the property has notable landscape features, include a sketch plot plan of the property noting these buildings and/or features.

Byron J. Preston
SIGNATURE

April 7, 2003

DATE

Landmark Designation
Historical and Architectural Importance
Josiah DuBois Homestead

The Josiah DuBois house in the Town of New Paltz is an example of Federal style of architecture. The large two-and-half-story brick house and its surrounding buildings are located along the Wallkill River on Libertyville Road. Listed on the National Register of Historical Places, this historic site is intertwined with the history of the town and with a prevalent local architectural style. Although there are other examples of this style of architecture in the town, only a few remain as remarkably intact, aesthetically attractive, and well preserved.

This historic site is significant in that it represents a growing affluence and refinement in the agrarian culture of the Hudson River Valley in the early 19th Century. Indeed, the form of this house is associated with wealth and status reflected in the early Federal period of American architecture.

The Josiah DuBois house was built on land portioned out through successive generations of the DuBois family from their share of the 1677 patent. The land was originally owned in common by the twelve Huguenot patentees who settled New Paltz. The possession of that land proceeded down the generations from Louis DuBois, the patentee to his son Solomon on June 23, 1693, his grandson Cornelius, his great grandson Cornelius Jr., and finally on March 3, 1816 to his great-great grandson Josiah. Of Louis DuBois' three thousand acre portion of the original patent, nearly a thousand acres passed from Cornelius Jr. to Josiah in 1816. According to the will, dated November 8, 1810, and probated March 25, 1816, "to wife Geertruyd, farm now occupied by Peter Sciver in Town of New Paltz Patent, while widow; and later to son Josiah." Geertruyd DuBois died three days later.

Josiah DuBois, born December 18, 1781, had grown up in New Paltz. In his younger days he owned a mercantile business in partnership with Col. Josiah Hasbrouck. Josiah DuBois married Elizabeth Hasbrouck, daughter of Col. Hasbrouck in September 1805. Josiah DuBois and Elizabeth lived in the Jean Hasbrouck house on the old stone house street in the village of New Paltz. Josiah DuBois continued to maintain the traditional Hasbrouck family storefront in that house. Elizabeth Hasbrouck DuBois died at twenty-six years of age on June 9, 1815. After Elizabeth's death, Col. Hasbrouck raised Josiah and Elizabeth's two daughters at Locust Lawn, his new manor home. Meanwhile, Josiah DuBois married again in December of 1816, and continued to use the Jean Hasbrouck house as a store until 1820. He moved to his newly constructed home on his inherited land in the Libertyville neighborhood in 1822.

The brick for the house was made on-site, at the farm. The house is constructed on a stone foundation. One interesting feature of the house is the marble arch and keystone over the front door. The arch bears the name of Josiah DuBois and the keystone, 1822. The marble sill completes the entrance. The caps and sills of the windows are also of marble. According to a deed of 1978, the architect of the home is listed as Cromwell of Newburgh. This may be Daniel Cromwell of Orange County, New York, a builder, later of New York City. The contractor for the work was Henricus Schoonmaker.

The 1798 tax assessment list for the Town of New Paltz shows that Cornelius DuBois Jr. owned buildings on two neighboring parcels of land at Libertyville, on the road from Shawangunk to Kingston. On the two-acre site there were two wood-frame dwellings. The first, a 60' X 20' structure was assessed at 100 years old and the other, 18' X 20' was assessed as new. On the second parcel, Cornelius DuBois Jr.'s 645-acre site, there was a Dutch barn measuring 60' X 50', a 20' X 10' hay house, a 20' X 12' corn house, and one stone smokehouse at 12' X 10'. Several of the buildings listed in the second parcel are located on the current Josiah DuBois site. One of the pre-1822 buildings is a Dutch barn and granary that tradition dates from 1775. There is also an 1815 blacksmith's shop.

Once known by the Indian name Nescatock, the vicinity of Libertyville Road around the Josiah DuBois house is steeped in history. The "Owl Kirk" (church) of the Conferentia faction that defected from the New Paltz Dutch Reformed Church was constructed there in 1767. There are remnants of a DuBois family burial ground located one-hundred yards south of the 1822 house on an adjoining property and the sites for the seventeenth century Louis and Solomon DuBois houses are located a little further south at or near the County Fairgrounds complex. Two of the three traditional fords in the Libertyville Road section of the Wallkill River are located there, one of which served as a sentry post during the Revolution. The rear of the Josiah DuBois property, where it abuts the Wallkill River was the site of a Revolutionary War event (the aforementioned sentry post) that involved the capture of Captain Jacobus Roosa and a large group of Loyalists who were later executed at Fort Montgomery in May of 1777. The historic tenure of the DuBois family in this area of New Paltz came to close a little less than two hundred years after their initial settlement in 1881.

Upon Josiah DuBois' death in 1869, his estate, the house and property were divided among his surviving children. Elizabeth, his daughter appears to be the recipient of the property. She and her husband Dr. Isaac C. Reeve moved into the house the year of her father's death. In 1881, Dr Reeve's nephew William Henry Dill Blake, Civil War veteran, moved to New Paltz from Orange County and purchased the 250-acre farm from them.

A contemporary of Capt. W.H.D. Blake, Ralph LeFevre wrote in 1909 in his History of New Paltz that, "Outside of our village there is no place in Southern Ulster of more interest to the antiquarian than this farm occupied by Capt. W.H.D. Blake . . . (Although) the homestead at Poughwoughtenonk has passed out of the possession of the DuBois family, it has a worthy owner in Capt. W.H.D. Blake, who seems to possess all of the love of the ancient traditions of Josiah DuBois." The house was in Blake family possession until it was given to the Huguenot Historical Society in 1978.

The Josiah DuBois site has had several owners since 1978. As caretakers they have worked to preserve the aesthetic and historical value of the property. In 1988 it was accepted onto the National Register of Historic Places.

Due in no small part to the diligence of its owners, this house has been maintained in a way that preserves its architectural style and aesthetic value. In this endeavor, they have preserved the culture and history of its locale. Therefore, the building meets the following criteria as stated in the Town Preservation Ordinance, 140-118:

- i. possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation
- iii. embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style
- iv. because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood.

Clinton, George. The Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York, 1777-1795—1801-1804: Military, Volume I. Published by the State of New York. New York and Albany, 1899.

Hasbrouck, Kenneth E. Historic New Paltz New Paltz, New York, 1959

Heidgerd, Ruth P. Ulster County in the Revolution—A Guide to Those who Served. Ulster County Bicentennial Commission, 1977

Heidgerd, William. The American Descendants of Chretien DuBois of Wicres, France, Part One. DuBois Family Association, Huguenot Historical Society, 1968

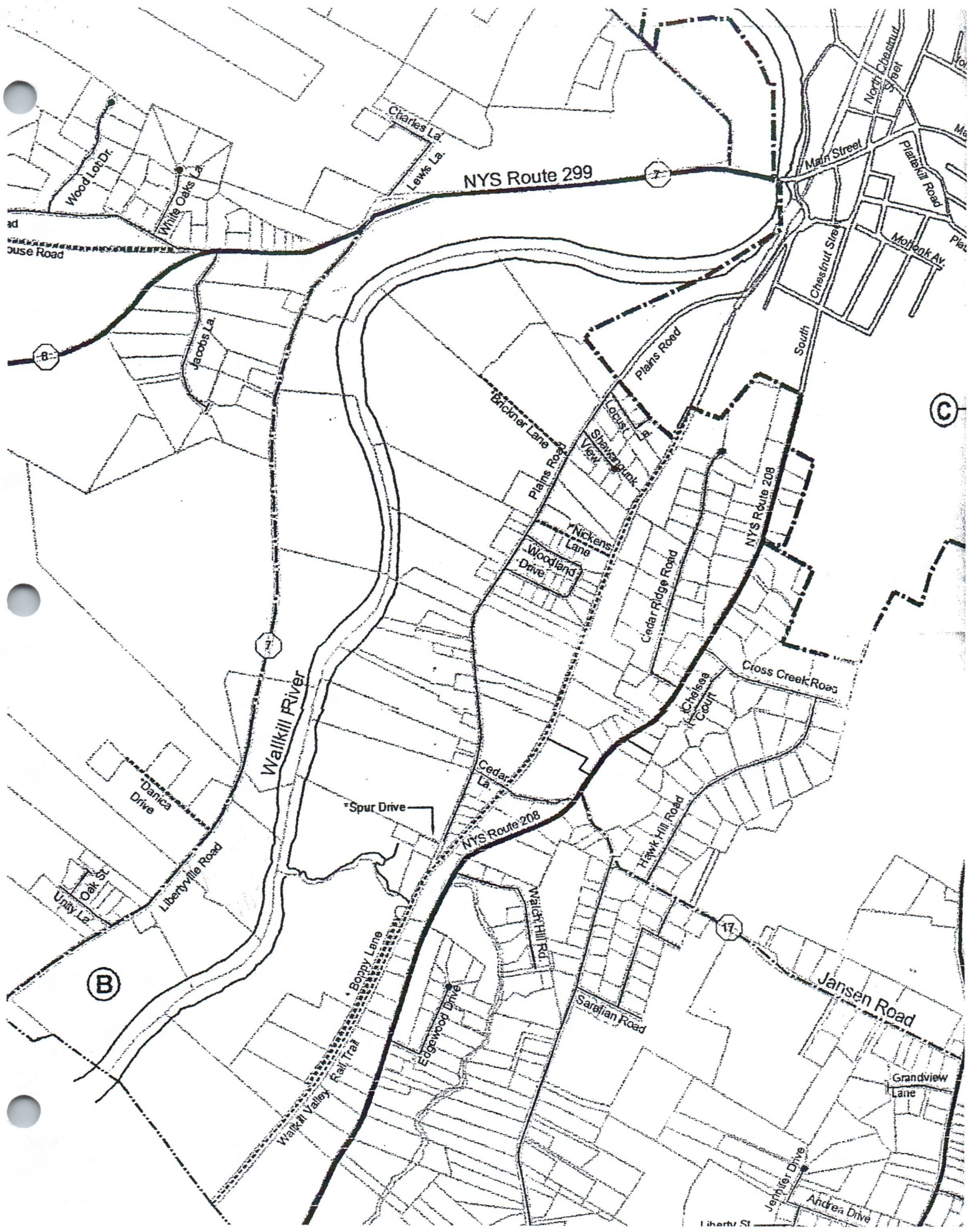
Heidgerd, William. A History of New Paltz. Elting Memorial Library Haviland Collection, Bulletin no. 4

LeFevre, Ralph. History of New Paltz New York and Its Old Families, from 1678 to 1820. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc. Baltimore 1973

1798 New Paltz, New York Tax Assessment List

Huguenot Historical Society Archival Collections, Blake Family Papers

National Register of Historic Places, Ulster County, New York



NYS Route 299

NYS Route 208

Walkkill River

Jansen Road

B

C

Charles La
Lewis La

Wood Lot Dr
White Oaks La

Main Street
North Chestnut
Plains Road
Moffenk Av

Jacobs La

Bickner Lane
Plains Road
Lotus La
Shenandoah View

Nickens Lane
Woodland Drive

Cedar Ridge Road

Cross Creek Road

Danica Drive
Oak La
Univ La
Libertyville Road

Spur Drive

Cedar La
NYS Route 208

Chelissa Court
Hawk Hill Road

Bobby Lane
Walkill Valley Rail Trail

Fogwood Drive

Walden Hill Rd

Sarejan Road

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Grandview Lane

Jennifer Drive

Andrea Drive

Liberty St