CLINTON HOLLOW HOME AWARDED LANDMARK STATUS

Photo by Kathleen Flood

An application from Michael Kaplan to add his home at 863 Hollow Road to the roster of landmarked properties was unanimously approved by the CHS Board in March. The Landmark Status award recognizes town of Clinton structures of historical significance that have been either well preserved or restored to near original condition.

Although the exact year of its construction is unknown, the building was first memorialized in Jacob Smith's 1797 map as Rudolph Van Hoevenburgh's store across the road from James Allen's Clinton Hollow mill, constructed circa
1767. Records show that it had mostly been used as a store which at times included a post office, a meeting hall, and a Civil War enlistment facility.

CHS President Cynthia Koch, in her review of the Kaplan application, focused her attention on Van Hoevenburgh: *"I learned from the owner that the building was once owned by a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War named Rudolph Van Hoevenburgh. Van Hoevenburgh left a journal documenting his experience as a soldier in a famous but horrific campaign into the "wilderness" of central NY led by Gen. Sullivan to punish the Native Americans allied with the British… After the war, Van Hoevenburgh bought property confiscated from a local Loyalist, Bastian Traver – likely the very same property!"*

Notable features of the structure are an interior exposed fieldstone wall, hand-hewn timbers in the ceilings and likely original wide board heart-pine floors. There is a heavy plank door with very old hinges to the rear

of the current living room which was probably an exterior door. The west end of the structure was enlarged around 1830. Alice Rikert kept a store there in the late 1950s. She carried everything from beads to bread in her tiny store. (But no spirits! She was a devout member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.) The store's wide cement porch, which remains intact, was a place to sit and dangle your feet, eat cookies, and watch the not-so-busy world go by. If Alice went home for lunch, she never locked the store. You just waited until she came back or took what you needed and left the money on the counter.

CHS welcomes this addition to our roster, entered as the Van Hoevenburgh property circa 1790/1830. As Cynthia pointed out in her review, *"This house is a great new addition toour landmarks list … and just in time for the Revolutionary War 250th anniversary. A find like this makes doing local history worth it."* Our thanks go out to Michael Kaplan for both his painstaking work in the preservation of this home and his perseverance in pursuing landmark status.