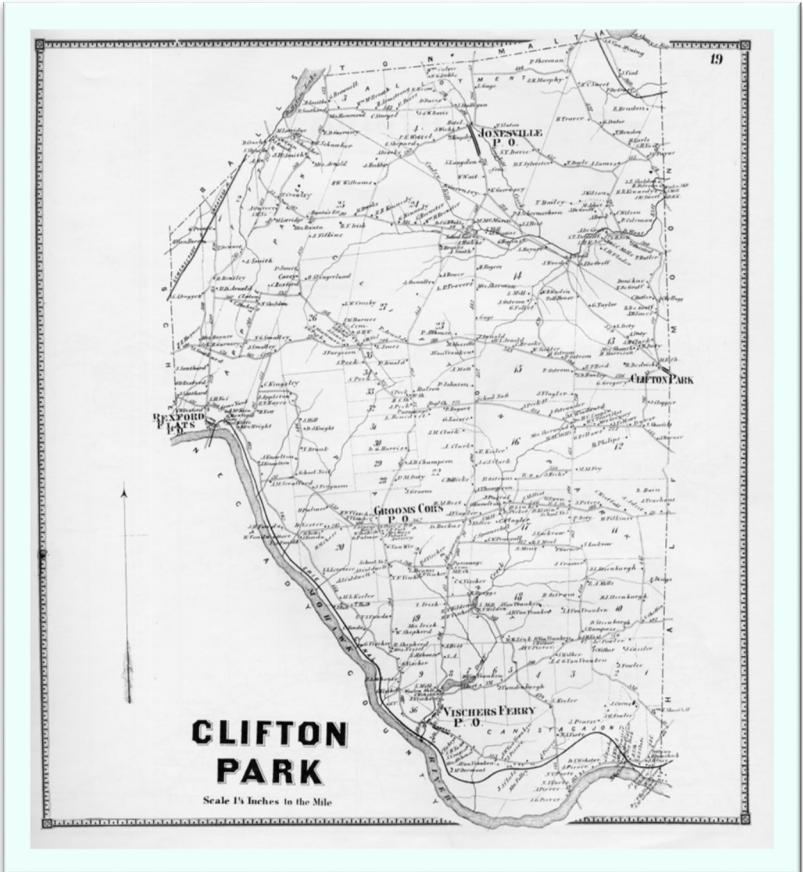




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Garnsey House-1453 Route 146, Rexford



This large, white brick house was built in 1791 by an early settler from Connecticut, Nathan Garnsey, in a style typical of New England. His son, Nathan Garnsey, Jr., was the supervisor of Halfmoon, before Clifton Park was formed from that town in 1828, and then became supervisor in Clifton Park in 1829.

Cyrus Rexford House-Route 146 & Riverview Road, Rexford



This colorful “painted lady” was built in the “Stick” style of Victorian architecture. Cyrus W. Rexford, who built the home in 1883, owned a canal-side store and was a Clifton Park town supervisor for seven years.

Rexford United Methodist Church-18 Main Street, Rexford



The Rexford United Methodist Church was founded about 1833. The present church building was dedicated in 1840.

Schenectady Yacht Club-1676 Route 146, Rexford



The Yacht Club is housed in a former canal store, one of many that provided 24/7 service for canal workers and passengers for the eight months of each year that the canal was open.

Birch Tavern-Grooms & Vischer Ferry Roads, Rexford



This country tavern was operated by Sylvenus Birch, and later by his sons Seymour and Almond Birch. Like Grooms Tavern, a mile to the west, it frequently housed Town Board meetings in the 1830s and 1840s.

Best Home-113 Vischer Ferry Road, Rexford



This brick farmhouse, located about one mile north of Vischer Ferry, dates from 1815. Before that date, Abraham and Harriet Best perhaps lived in the frame back wing of the building, which may date from as early as 1786.

Vischer Ferry General Store-357 Riverview Road, Rexford



The earliest owners of the store at this location were Gerardus and Jemima Clute, who built the large white house just past the store on Riverview Road. There has been a store of some type here for more than 150 years.

Nicholas Vischer House-10 Ferry Road, Rexford



The small, one-and-a-half story home of Nicholas and Annetie Vischer is likely the oldest building in Clifton Park, built as early as 1735. It is the smaller building attached to the back of the large brick structure (built 1806 by son Eldert). This would have been a typical early Dutch home along the Mohawk River, made with local bricks and timber, with cupboard beds and a fireplace with a large hood above it.

School House, District No. 3-343 Riverview Road, Rexford



This building, probably constructed in 1848, would have been the center of activity in the 1800s, as it was the local school. In 1849, it had 68 students, and six years later, 141 students! This sudden increase was due to all of the activity of the nearby Erie Canal.

Amity Reformed Church & Cemetery-335 Riverview Road, Rexford



In 1802, members of the First Reformed Churches of Schenectady who lived on the north side of the Mohawk River organized and built the Amity Dutch Reformed Church; the present building dates to 1888. Be sure to notice the lovely stained glass windows from Tiffany & Co.® New York.

Clute's Dry Dock-opposite 87 Riverview Road, Rexford



It was one-stop shopping at Clute's settlement on the Erie Canal: a store, barns, and a dry dock, built in 1852, spread along the north side of the canal near the Clifton Park-Halfmoon town line.

Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve Sites- Riverview Road, opposite VanVranken Road, Rexford

Whipple Bridge:

This 1869 Whipple truss bridge is typical of bridges built for the Erie Canal from the 1850s to the late 1800s. This bridge was originally in Schoharie County before being reconstructed at the Preserve in 1997.

The Erie Canal:



Just back from the riverbank, you'll find the paths that the mules used to pull boats along the Canal. The remains of the canal are just beside the path. When completed in 1825, the canal was 28 feet wide at the bottom, 40 feet wide on the surface, 4 feet deep, and ran 363 miles between Albany and Buffalo.

Fort's Ferry marker:



Fort's Ferry was the first European settlement in Clifton Park, started in 1672. The last surviving house was burned by arsonists in 1973.

School No. 5-Moe & Grooms Roads, Clifton Park



This original schoolhouse, Clifton Park No. 5, has served as a school since the creation of school districts in Clifton Park in 1828.

Clifton Park Hotel-Route 9 & Old Route 146, Clifton Park



This building straddles the Clifton Park-Halfmoon town line. Local lore says that the bar inside the hotel would be shifted from one side to the other, depending on which

town was "dry" at the time.

Clifton Park Methodist Church-10 Old Plank Road, Clifton Park



Most buildings of Clifton Park Village have been lost to Route 9 and development, but the original Clifton Park Methodist Church remains. The congregation formed in the 1830s, but the present brick structure dates

from 1842, when it cost only \$1,200 to build.

Jonesville Store-989 Main Street, Clifton Park



For many years, the Jonesville Store was both general store and post office, as well as one of the social hubs of Jonesville.

Jonesville United Methodist Church-963 Main Street, Jonesville



Although a “Methodist Church Society” had existed in the hamlet since 1826—and worshipped in their first church, now located across the street—this structure dates from 1855. It has elements of Greek Revival architecture in its pilasters and other details.

Jonesville Academy dormitory-958 Main Street, Clifton Park



The Jonesville Academy provided an academic, classical, commercial, and “ornamental” education to high school-aged students, 1836-1876. It educated 181 students at its height.

Smith’s Supply-857 Main Street, Clifton Park



Another general store, Smith’s Feed and Grain Store, served Elnora from the 1800s on. The store also sold hardware, plants, seeds, and farm equipment.

*Photos provided courtesy of the
Town of Clifton Park's Local History Collection.*

ABOUT THE HAMLETS...

CLIFTON PARK VILLAGE

This early village grew up at the intersection of the Waterford-Saratoga Turnpike: turn right for Mechanicville, and left for Jonesville. Ephraim Stevens built his hotel there in the 1820s. In the 20th century, the hamlet was first cut in half by Route 9, then isolated by the Northway. Few older structures remain.

JONESVILLE

Jonesville was bustling in the mid-1800s, with a store, church, village school, blacksmiths, and a carpenter shop.

ELNORA

A freight depot and feed and grain business at Elnora served the many local farms in the mid-1800s. In the last century, molding sand used in casting iron was shipped out by train from here.

REXFORD

Its location on the Erie Canal was all-important to the hamlet of Rexford. Boatmen and travelers were served by a saloon, a general store, and McLane's Hotel.

VISCHER FERRY

Eldert Vischer settled along the Mohawk River in 1734. He began a ferry, from which the hamlet takes its name. But the area really thrived during the days of the Erie Canal, in the 1800s. Most buildings are built in the Greek Revival style, which was popular at that time.