



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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BLOOMINGROVE DRIVE

This is one of the oldest road in the town and it has an interesting history. The first “highways” consisted of bridle-paths which followed a line of blazed or marked trees. The earliest indication of what was to become Bloomingrove Drive comes from a 1767 map. The route is unnamed but runs a route which we can identify. In 1788, surveyor John E. Van Alen describes the highway as the “New City Road” which was the original name for Lansingburgh approximately ten miles to the north. We don’t know for sure when the road became Bloomingrove.

The name derived from the name the hamlet Defreestville was originally called (there was another Bloomingrove in Orange County hence the name change).

Our Bloomingrove has several historical buildings along its route. However you must disregard Route 4 which wasn’t built until the 1930’s. Bloomingrove Drive was the only path directly to Troy.

Let’s start next to the Stewarts in the southern part of the town. Next door on the east side of “old “Bloomingrove is Madamoiselles Unisex Salon which in the 1790’s was the original parsonage of the Bloomingrove Church. To the west

there is a CPA business in what was a school in 1809. Also on the west side is the above mentioned church.

Bloomingrove then is "split" by the I-90 exit 8 interchange.

Crossing Route 4 on the east side are the Sharpe Apartments whose name derives of the family who were early settlers in the town. ½ mile further is the Bloomingrove Cemetery which celebrates their 170th birthday this year. Across the street is a house built by the Haywood family circa 1830.

Continuing north to the intersection with Jordan Road on the right is the only pillared Greek Revival house left in the town.

Further on, just before Winter Street Extension on the right is an 1840's house which is associated with the Defreest family, whose most prominent member was Peter M. Defreest, the town's fourth supervisor. Our journey ends just before Bloomingrove rejoins Route 4. Located near Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing Home is an 1840's house once owned by another prominent citizen and former supervisor James M. Wendell.

Enjoy history when you next traverse Bloomingrove Drive.