Col. Philip Pell's Farmhouse, from Sketch by Fred P. Schall
Village of Pelham
Walking Tour

Page

Village of Pelham ........................................... 3

Neighborhoods

Chester Park .............................................. 5
Pelham Heights ................................. 9
Pelhamwood ................................. 13
Pelville ............................................. 17
The Town of Pelham of which the Village of Pelham is a part is, geographically, the smallest Town in Westchester County.

The land was originally acquired by Thomas Pell in 1654 from the Siwanoy Indian Tribe who inhabited much of this area. It is believed that Thomas Pell named his manor either in honor of his childhood tutor, Pelham Burton, or for the “hamlet” of the Pell’s. Pell family members have a long connection with our nation’s history and have held important elected posts. Claiborne Pell, for many years a Senator of Rhode Island recently attended the Town Library opening as a representative of the Pell family.

Members of the Pell family fought on both sides during the American Revolution. Colonel Philip Pell III was appointed Judge Advocate of the Continental Army by George Washington. He served as a key member of Washington’s staff and was involved in the successful evacuation of Colonial troops from New York City to White Plains in 1776 and was a founder of St. Paul’s Church in Eastchester, now a National Historic Landmark. Colonel Pell is buried in the church cemetery. Other Pells sided with the British and had their property confiscated after the war.

During the Revolutionary War Battle of Pelham, October 18, 1776, the Marblehead Mariners, under the leadership of General John Glover, successfully held off a large British and Hessian amphibious force led by General Sir William Howe who was attempting to land in Pelham from Long Island Sound. General Howe’s objective was to cut off Washington’s troops retreating to White Plains. The stand by Glover and his men enabled the Colonials to reach their destination where they achieved a major victory in the Battle of White Plains. Glover Field was named after the General during the Bicentennial Year of 1976.

The Village of North Pelham includes three real estate development areas: Pelhamwood, Pelhamville and Chester Park and was officially incorporated in 1896. The Village of Pelham (usually referred to as Pelham Heights) was also incorporated in 1896.

In 1975, following years of discussion, the Villages of North Pelham and Pelham were incorporated as a single entity, The Village of Pelham.
CHESTER PARK

Chester Park comprises the most northerly section of the Village, bordered by the Hutchinson River Parkway to the north and west; Pelhamdale Avenue to the east and Willow Avenue to the south.

Except for Central Avenue, all of the thoroughfares in Chester Park are named for trees.

Originally part of 36 acres in Pelham owned by John Coutant, today’s Chester Park came to be owned by William and Elizabeth Standen who deeded the “green” on August 8, 1892 to the Pelhamville Land and Homestead Association. (This development entity ceased to exist after all of the lots were sold). The Chester Park Association was formed in 1912. Title to the “green” is now officially vested with the property owners in Chester Park.

Chester Park was named by the Standens in honor of the 21st President of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, who was from New York. A development map with that name was filed in 1891 showing 89 building lots for sale. Today there are 165 homes in the Park.

(1) Chester Park Stone
The “Chester Park Stone” may be seen as one enters the area from Fifth Avenue at Willow Avenue.

(2) Willow Avenue
Residents successfully opposed a threat to their enclave in 1949 when a proposal for a new highway extension was put forth. This would have cut across the neighborhood diagonally from Hutchinson River Parkway to New Rochelle at Willow Avenue. Through well organized resistance, a revised plan saved the state money and left Chester Park intact.

(3) 15 Chestnut Avenue
The original barn to this house, which was built in 1908, can still be seen at the rear of the property.

(4) Driveway
What appears at first to be a street bordering the Park, parallel to Chestnut Avenue, between Walnut and Birch Avenues, is really a private driveway installed to serve the four residences on Chestnut Avenue.

(5) 38 Birch Avenue
First house built “on the green” in Chester Park in the early 1890’s.

(6) 20 Birch Avenue
A “Sears Catalog house” - now considered to be an American classic - is unchanged save for new windows and siding.

(7) The Green
The Chester Park Association maintains the “green” through fees and volunteer help from residents. The Association makes use of the “green” for several annual events, including a Fourth of July barbecue and a Santa Claus party at Christmas. Equipment purchased by the Association for events is stored in various residents’ garages. A tree committee has been
formed by the residents for the restoration of the “green” to preserve it for future generations.

(8) **Stone Steps**  
(Leading to the “green” from Maple Avenue)  
Central Avenue, the only street with a non-tree title in all of Chester Park, was the original entrance to the Standen Estate. The stone steps were part of that entry. Stone pillars flank Central Avenue at Pelhamdale Avenue, the main approach to the “green”, which was also the driveway to the Standen Estate.

(9) **45 Maple Avenue**  
This interesting stone, flat roofed building with its pointed arch windows was originally intended as a church but was converted to a residence.

(10) **19 Walnut Avenue**  
Built in 1894, this turretted home is a typical example of the Queen Anne style popular at that time. This residence has been utilized as the location for several network television commercials.

(11) **57 Chestnut Avenue (The Log Cabin)**  
This building, with its original terra cotta tile roof, originally served as a bottling plant for spring water supplied to Village residents. When the plant closed, the building became a residence, the spring was sealed and the water was diverted to the Hutchinson River.

When the adjacent watertower was dismantled, the lumber was used to frame two houses nearby - 51 and 53 Chestnut Avenues. There was, at one point, a connection between the bottling plant and the watertower (no longer in use) on the Sanborn Map Company property.

(12) **78 - 80 Chestnut Avenue**  
This house is built on the original 100 feet by 100 feet lots - only a few of which still remain.

(13) **69 Maple Avenue**  
This house was originally located on Brook Avenue, which had run alongside the Hutchinson River, connecting Chestnut and Maple Avenues. In 1927, the construction of the Hutchinson River Parkway eliminated Brook Avenue, causing the house to be moved to its present location.

(14) **72 and 64 Maple Avenue**  
(At the corner of Oak Avenue)  
These Tudor houses are of the same design, but were built as mirror images on 100 feet by 100 feet lots. The properties have since been subdivided, as witnessed by the newer houses located there. The residence at 11 Pine Avenue is identical in floor plan to these. Along with 5 Pine Avenue, these four Tudors constitute the original development, of this block in the 1920’s.

(15) **Area North of Pine**  
(From Maple to Pelhamdale Avenues)  
With the exception of the four Tudors (see 14) which fronted Pine and Maple Avenues, this area was not included in the original Chester Park development. It was part of a large piece of property called the “Schwab Farm” which was bisected by the construction of the Hutchinson River Parkway. Vincent Lopardi purchased the land from the Schwab family in 1943 to create the lots now occupied by homes. He extended Linden Avenue (shown on the first development maps as Magnolia Avenue) beyond Pine Avenue to the Parkway.

(16) **31 Linden Avenue**  
This French Empire style residence, built in the late 1870’s but not shown on the 1891 survey, features a mansard roof which is typical of that period. Also to be noted are the distinctive chimneys.
Stone Steps (See 8)

45 Maple Avenue (See 9)

Stone pillars (See 8)
As originally defined, this section was bordered on the north by the railroad; New Rochelle city line on the east; Colonial Avenue to the south and the Hutchinson River to the west.

Developed by Benjamin Fairchild and Benjamin Corlies in the latter part of the 19th century, the two men retained separate title to the property but created a common plan for development purposes. In 1891, the Village of Pelham Manor sought to include Pelham Heights in its incorporation proceedings. State laws pertaining to population and acreage ratios prevented this from happening.

Benjamin Corlies incorporated the area in 1896 as the Village of Pelham. It was labeled the “smallest village in the United States” since it consists of only .368 square miles, and just nine families were living there. Immediately following World War I, rapid growth took place. By 1929, there were 100 families.

**Avenue Names**

Benjamin Fairchild, while returning from a trip to California and Alaska, was shipwrecked on an island off the Alaskan coast. His adventure is memorialized in Pelham Heights street names. The island he was shipwrecked on was Loring. The vessel involved in the shipwreck was the Ancon. The rescue steamer was named the George W. Elder. Another steamer of the line was called the Corona. Monterey was the name of the city in California that Fairchild visited and particularly enjoyed.

NYAC takes its name from the New York Athletic Club facility on Travers Island.

**Highbrook** was named for a brook, now underground. Cliff received its name from the topography and **Eastland** was named for its location. **Wolf’s Lane** was derived from Anthony Wolf’s farm, the principal portion of which became the Village of North Pelham. **Sparks Avenue** was named after Judge Sparks who lived on a corner of that thoroughfare.

(1) **Firemen’s Memorial**
(Corner of First Street and Wolf’s Lane)
This memorial contains the bell from the original firehouse. It was dedicated in 1993 to “Pelham’s Bravest”. When the bell hung in the firehouse it was rung upon the death of a fireman.
There are a number of memorial markers in this park recognizing past Pelham residents.

(2) **Flagpole**
The flagpole at First Street between Corlies and NYAC Avenues is accessible by steps leading from First Street. The plaque at the base of the pole reads “The Park Restoration and the Flagpole Gifts of ‘Pride in Pelham’ - Pelham Rotary Club 1978”.

(3) **146 and 152 Corlies Avenue**
Although these houses are of the same design, they are oriented differently on their respective sites - one having the entrance on the side instead of the front. This was done to comply with the local building code at the time which precluded having two identical houses in the same section.

(4) **Railroad Arch on Highbrook Avenue**
Benjamin Corlies sold a portion of his holdings to the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad for a right-of-way with two stipulations; that trains stopping in Mount
Vernon also had to stop at Pelhamville and that the railroad was required to construct this artistic stone arch over Highbrook Avenue.

(5) **“Snake Hill”**

Almost every community has a winding street that acquires the name “snake hill”. Second Street, from Cliff to Highbrook Avenue, has long been a favorite for sledding.

(6) **Boulevard**

Officially designated as a “parkway”, it has been closed each night since 1924. It prohibits drive-thru traffic from Mount Vernon to New Rochelle that could disturb residents’ sleep. The closing was possible as trustees determined that the Boulevard had never been dedicated to the Village and thus could be closed. Developers Corlies and Fairchild were credited as the architects of this action.

(7) **Philip Pell Farmhouse Site**

(Cliff and Colonial Avenues)

Colonel Philip Pell III, who fought for the American cause during the Revolution, had his farmhouse on what is now Colonial Avenue near Cliff Avenue (north east corner). General George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette were among guests entertained there. The farm included most of what later became the Village of Pelham. The building was destroyed by fire in 1888.

(8) **Oldest Tree in the Village**

The tree on the northwest corner of Monterey and Colonial Avenues is believed to be the oldest in the Village of Pelham dating possibly to Colonial times.

(9) **339 Highbrook Avenue - Barn**

This house, built around the turn of the century, has a large barn at the rear of the property.

(10) **Colonial School**

Known as the Highbrook Avenue School at the start of this century, the building consisted of four rooms with a “very noisy” wooden staircase - so loud that all teaching ceased when students went out for recess. It was replaced by another school that was later torn down because it proved to be a fire hazard.

In 1926, a temporary annex was set up at Boulevard and Cliff while the present school building was constructed at the same location as the old school.

(11) **334 Pelhamdale**

This home was built in 1901 and owned by John Fairchild, brother of developer Benjamin Fairchild. John was the engineer credited with designing houses that could be built on the cliffs in the area. At the edge of the curb there is a large stepping stone engraved with an “F”. This was used to assist riders in dismounting from horses. Note the barn at the rear of the property which originally had two horse stalls and an apartment upstairs.

(12) **Pelham Memorial High School**

The cornerstone of the High School was laid in 1919 in honor of those who died in WWI and
the name of the high school reflects this honor. The building is on the site of a sand pit that was, for many years, a source of regular income for the Village, as sand was a sought-after commodity while much local construction was taking place. The Middle School opened in the building in 1930. This location is also part of the original Pell farm. A datestone (1750) from the chimney of the Pell homestead (see 7) was imbedded in the monument at the entrance to PMHS (on the Corlies Avenue side). Prior to the opening in 1921, Pelham’s children attended either Mount Vernon or New Rochelle high schools.

(13) Old Boston Post Road
(Colonial Avenue)
A marker located at the corner of Colonial and Wolf’s Lane cites this important transportation route from New England to New York City. The road resumes its original name when it reaches the New Rochelle city line where it becomes “The King’s Highway”. This thoroughfare played a major role in the Battle of Pelham when the British occupied the site since it was a main supply route. Once a much-travelled Native American Indian trail, it became the route of post riders in January 1673, connecting New York to Boston. It became an official post road in 1732. It was renamed Colonial Avenue after the Village was incorporated in 1896.

(14) White Hotel (303 and 307 Wolf’s Lane)
This hostelry, built around 1870, was the only building at the corner of Boulevard and Wolf’s Lane. The hotel had approximately 14 rooms. The ballroom was on the third floor. Around the turn of the century the building was divided into two separate structures. The north half of the hotel (307 Wolf’s Lane) was cut off and moved south.

(15) Pelham Picture House
(Wolf’s Lane at Second Street)
Built in the 1920’s, it is one of the oldest movie houses still operating in Westchester. It is considered to be an excellent example of original “art deco” styling.

(16) Park Along Wolf’s Lane
In line with Benjamin Corlies’ concept of Pelham as a purely residential area, business establishments were restricted to the west side of Wolf’s Lane with the park serving as a buffer between residential and business sites. Any stores already in place on the east side of Wolf’s Lane were required to move to the opposite side.

(17) Port Chester and New York RR
(Wolf’s Lane and Sparks Avenue)
A new railroad company wanted to establish a rail line through Pelham Heights from Mount Vernon, with a station at the corner of Wolf’s Lane and Sparks Avenue. An individual posing as a Mount Vernon businessman seeking to acquire land for a retirement home, approached Benjamin Fairchild. In reality, he was one of the investors seeking to install the rail line. The plan was thwarted by quick legal action.

(18) Village Hall (195 Sparks Avenue)
The Village Hall, originally a residence, dates to the early part of this century.

(19) Westchester Brewery
Located on Sparks Avenue, this brewery operated until Prohibition was introduced. Horse drawn trucks carrying barrels were a familiar sight in Pelham. It is reported that a saloon on Wolf’s Lane near the railroad bridge, was one of the brewery’s best customers.
(1) Train Station and Trolley
(2) The Clocktower
(3) Railroad Overpass
(4) 68 Young Ave.
(5) 58 Young Ave.
(6) Corner of Washington & Storer Ave.
(7) Swimming Hole
(8) Congregational Church
(9) Pelhamwood Markers
(10) Pelhamwood Ave.
(11) Stairs Leading from Benedict Place

Mileage: 1.1
Approx. Walking Time: 25 min.
Bordered by Harmon Avenue to the north and west; the railroad to the south and the New Rochelle city line to the east.

This rocky, heavily wooded terrain was inhabited by wild turkeys and other game. It was purchased in the 19th Century by Colonel Richard Lathers, a commission merchant from South Carolina. The property comprised of approximately 100 to 200 acres located between New Rochelle and Pelham and was called "Lathers’ Woods” or "Winyah Park” which was a name inspired by the Colonel’s boyhood memories of South Carolina.

A dairy farm, operated by Walsh Brothers Dairy, rented some 120 acres for $35 a month. At first, Lathers paid taxes only to Pelham. When New Rochelle became a city in 1900, Lathers was pressed to pay taxes there as well. He sold the property to Winyah Park Realty. It was later sold to Clifford B. Harmon who began the rapid development of the area.

Pelhamwood Street Names

The street names Clifford, Benedict and Harmon Avenues come from the developer’s own name. Storer was the name of Clifford Harmon's employer in Boston. Other street names reflect Harmon’s relatives and friends. The name Pelhamwood is derived from Harmon’s mother’s maiden name, Wood.

Train Station and Trolley

Although the New York, New Haven & Hartford RR began operating through Pelham in 1848 trains only stopped when signalled by a flag. The first regularly scheduled service began in 1873 when a ticket agent was assigned to the station that was then on the site of the present post office. The present station was built in 1893.

At the beginning of this century, local trolley service ran from the railroad station to Shore Road. The trolley carrying 20 passengers, often jumped the tracks and crashed into the rocks at the end of Pelhamdale Avenue. The skipper performed a number of services for local residents, not the least of which was supplying the latest news and gossip about the community. The trolley was the inspiration for the nationally distributed cartoon series, "Toonerville Trolley", created by Fontaine Fox, a Pelham visitor from Louisville, KY who rode the trolley. The comic strip ran for nearly half a century - from 1907 to 1956. In 1937 the trolley was replaced by a bus. On the last day of trolley service, Pelham became “Toonerville” and residents played the parts of the cartoon characters. Trolley rails from a different line can still be seen on East Third Street in Mount Vernon on the bridge over the Hutchinson River Parkway. They are deliberately left exposed in memory of the Toonerville Trolley.

(2) The Clocktower

A Pelhamwood landmark, at the corner of Harmon Avenue and Harmon Place, was built by Clifford B. Harmon to aid in selling lots. The clocktower was rededicated in 1975 to “honor the memory of past, present and future Pelhamwood residents”. Extensive restoration, including remote control units for the clock mechanism, was donated by longtime Pelhamwood resident Helen Leale Harper, Jr., as a 1976 Bicentennial gift to the community.
railroad tracks, announcing: "This is Pelhamwood / Homes of Distinction/ Clifford B. Harmon Real Estate". When it was torn down, the lumber was used by a local resident to build his garage.

(7) **Swimming Hole**  
(Washington & Young Avenues)  
At the start of this century, local youngsters would create a "swimming hole" by damming up the brook that drained from New Rochelle. The "pond" held water to a depth of five feet.

(8) **Congregational Church**  
(Washington & Highbrook Avenues)  
In 1919, Trinity Congregational Church of NYC sold its property there and moved to Pelhamwood, at the same time changing its name to "Congregational Church of the Pelhams", (now called "Community Church of the Pelhams"). The cornerstone was laid in 1922. The house directly across Highbrook Avenue served as the rectory.

(9) **Pelhamwood Markers Wood & Stone Gates**  
(Corner Washington & Highbrook Avenues)  
The wood and stone "gates" over the sidewalks at this location mark the entrance to Pelhamwood.

**Stone Street Pillars**  
Pelhamwood streets were designated by stone pillars, with flower containers on top, leading from Washington Avenue. The original pillars at Washington and Highbrook Avenues were later removed as they obstructed vision for drivers.

(10) **Pelhamwood Avenue**  
In return for acquiring the right-of-way, the New York, New Haven & Hartford RR deeded land to the Village in order that a street, Pelhamwood Avenue could be put in place so
residents might walk to the shopping area on Fifth Avenue and Wolf's Lane without having to walk along the railroad tracks.

The stone wall along the north side of Pelhamwood Avenue, consisting of native rock, gathered from the large amount of excavation in the area, is considered to be an outstanding example of expert masonry. This was completed in 1930 - the same year that Pelhamwood Avenue was paved. Several other locations in Pelhamwood made use of local rock to create walls and foundations.

(11) Stairs Leading from Benedict Place

Developer Clifford B. Harmon had his sales office at the head of the stairs on Benedict Place. Initially, the stairs extended much further - to the present median strip on Pelhamwood Avenue.

A fountain and a small pool containing live goldfish were situated at the bottom of the stairs. A sign that could be read from passing trains read:

"If you lived in Pelhamwood, you would be home now."

*
(1) Gazebo
(2) Town House
(3) Town Hall
(4) War Memorial
(5) Pelham Art Center
(6) 148 Seventh Ave.
(7) Firehouse
(8) Lincoln Ave.
(9) "Happy Land"
(10) Sanborn Map Building
(11) The Stone House
(12) Hutchinson School
(13) 102/104 Third Ave.
(14) St. Catharine's Church
(15) The Reservoir
(16) 32 First Ave.
(17) Racetrack
(18) Post Office
The early development of Pelville as a residential community started in 1851 when Lewis Marsden and Henry Platt created the Pelhamville Village Association by acquiring the Wolf Farm property - some 110 acres. The farmhouse was situated at Third Street on Fifth Avenue and later moved to a site on Sixth Avenue.

The property purchased by Marsden and Platt was not particularly attractive for residential development because it consisted of mainly hilly acreage cut through by several streams that flowed into the Hutchinson River.

Despite this, “Pelhamville” property was sold in plots measuring 100 by 100 feet - for $50 a plot. Since the land was not easily accessible, purchasers made lot selections from a map. The promoters provided free lunch - with beer. It is said that many who showed up enjoyed the food and drink - then left.

Several purchasers, who had made lot selections by map only, upon inspection of their acquisitions, and learning that the village was only a “flag stop” station on the railroad, walked away, abandoning the lots.

A long term result of this initial land development scheme was to plague the Village for years to come. Subsequent buyers found that clear title to the lots were difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. The problem became even more complicated as squatters moved onto the property setting up their own houses (often without basements, presumably to facilitate quick removal, if required).

With incorporation in 1896, the Village Board of Trustees in North Pelham decided to install street lamps - much to the consternation of some longtime residents who were distressed by the cost. As a compromise, the trustees insisted that each lamp only contain enough fuel to last until midnight and not be turned on at all when there was a bright moon. Residents agreed to take care of the first street lights by sharing the upkeep, supplying oil and cleaning.

(1) Gazebo
The “Gazebo”, located on the lawn next to the Richard Daronco Town House at Harmon and Fifth Avenues, was built in 1994, following a fund raising drive spearheaded by the Rotary Club. It has enhanced the popular summer music series, as bands can play from within the Gazebo.

(2) Richard Daronco Town House
The Richard Daronco Town House, at 20 Fifth Avenue, was formally dedicated to the memory of Hon. Richard J. Daronco in 1991. Judge Daronco, who was born and raised in Pelham, was appointed to the Federal bench by President Ronald Reagan.

Originally built as the Episcopal Church of Christ the Redeemer, the building was deeded to the Town of Pelham in 1976 when the parish merged with Christ Church on Pelhamdale Avenue and Shore Road. The bell in front of the building is from the original church located at Second Avenue and Second Street built in 1892. The Pelham Children’s Center was started in the church basement in 1970 by the Junior League of Pelham and continues to operate there.
(3) **Town Hall**
The present Town Hall at 34 Fifth Avenue includes the Village Police Station and Town offices. Pelham’s original Town Hall was located on Shore Road in what is now Pelham Bay Park. That location was chosen for the convenience of residents of City Island (then a part of Pelham) and Pelhamville as it was the convenient point between the two. In 1896, when New York City annexed Pelham Bay Park and City Island (where Pelham Cemetery is located) as part of The Bronx, Town Hall was moved to its present spot.

(4) **War Memorial**
Immediately north of Town Hall is the Pelham War Memorial which includes trees and plaques placed there in memory of Pelham residents who died in this country’s armed conflicts.

(5) **Pelham Art Center**
Located in a former gasoline station at the corner of Third Street and Fifth Avenue, the Art Center incorporates the original building in its design. The brick section at the rear is the former station workplace. The “recycled” structure has won awards for its unique design.

The concept for a town art center started in 1970 as an outdoor art show sponsored by the Junior League of Pelham. A townwide fund raising effort, and some government grants, underwrote the present facility which provides a wide range of services to the community. The mission of the center is to see, study and experience the arts.

(6) **148 Seventh Avenue**
The barn on this property is now a garage. This was originally known as “Mrs. Gurney’s Barn.” It was used for meetings, dances and was the first site for Village of North Pelham meetings. Begun in 1866 by E.A. Gurney, it was completed in 1871. At a later date, the barn was rented, along with the adjacent residence, by William H. Cars, who operated a print shop on the premises. He became very successful with his invention of an adhesive that joined tin foil and paper, eventually providing all of the labels for Fleischman’s Yeast. As business expanded, the firm moved to Mount Vernon.

(7) **Firehouse**
The first local firefighting service began in 1893 with the formation of the First Fire District. The equipment consisted of a hand-drawn hook-and-ladder and pumper. Later, horses were used to pull these firewagons. The horse team names, at various times, were Tom and Jerry, and Tom, Dick and Harry. The animals were often rented out to residents with the strict proviso that, in the event of a fire, the horses had to be returned quickly. If the horses did not arrive in time, firefighters would commandeer any available team of horses to get their equipment to the site of the conflagration. Horsedrawn equipment included a pumper operated by a steam boiler that only local blacksmith Jim Reilly could get working. Reilly...
served as the last President of the Village of North Pelham and the first Mayor of North Pelham (i.e. before and after incorporation). “Reilly’s Bench”, at Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street, was the favorite spot for political discussions.

For many years, the top floor of the present firehouse was the center of community activities including dances, basketball games, etc. This is now used as a workout room by the firemen with equipment acquired without cost to residents.

(8) **Lincoln Avenue**

Formerly known as Fourth Street, the increase in traffic, since it is a main artery from New Rochelle to Mount Vernon, caused the street to be widened in 1929, at which time it was renamed Lincoln Avenue.

(9) **“Happy Land”**

Pelham’s first movie theatre was called the “Happy Land”. Located on the West side of Fifth Avenue opposite Seventh Street, movie-goers in 1918 sat on board seats after paying a five cents admission fee.

(10) **Sanborn Map Building**

Built in 1906, this manufacturing facility has long been considered unique for its parklike setting, contiguous to the adjacent residential streets.

The maps produced for insurance companies and other customers were considered to be of the highest quality and are still produced today. During WWII, Sanborn Map was a strategic war production plant. Maps were made of previously uncharted areas around the world from aerial photographs. The work was considered “Top Secret” as the plant worked 24 hours a day, with many employees commuting to Pelham from New York City and elsewhere to handle the exacting tasks.

(11) **The Stone House**

Located at 463 First Avenue, this is sometimes referred to as the “Parrish House”. Built in 1851 by Alex Diack, a native of Dundee, this house was modeled after a Scottish townhouse of one of his ancestors. Some of the windows in the building contain colored glass brought from England.

The Parrish family occupied the house starting in 1855. James Parrish employed a truckman named Adams who began an express business as a sideline. It prospered so that when James died, his widow received dividends in the form of gold coin. At a later point, she was robbed. Thereafter, she hid the remaining gold coins, for safekeeping, in various parts of the house. Unfortunately, she could not remember all of the hiding places and died before all the coins were recovered.

Legend has it that she appears at various times, even in daylight, to search for her gold. Some Pelham residents report having seen her, in ancient finery, walking about the house. To
date, searchers have found only a few small coins beneath the hearthstone of the basement kitchen.

Veteran actor Edward Everett Horton, a descendant of Mrs. Parrish, on visiting the house, heard the stories of the “ghost”. He reported that the description very much resembled a photo that he had seen of his great grandmother.

(12) Hutchinson School
The school was started in 1878 as the “Pelhamville School” in a two room building on the same site as the present structure. It was replaced with a larger building called “The North Pelham School” in 1888.

She and her children were massacred there by Native Americans within a year of their arrival.

(13) 102-104 Third Avenue
Built in 1868, this house is considered to be a typical example of homes of the era.

(14) St. Catharine’s Church
Founded in 1896, this Catholic parish is celebrating its centennial year. Remarkably, in its one hundred year history, there have been only five pastors.
St. Catharine’s Lyceum was built in 1903 as a recreation and meeting place. Later it served as a parish school until construction began in 1939 on the present building (now called the “Msgr. Murphy Parish Center”). The present Rectory was completed in 1968.
St. Catharine’s also had property and buildings donated by William T. Grant, the dime store chain founder, located on Boston Post Road where it had a mission church. In 1954 it was established as a parish of its own under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Following a fire in 1912 a new school was built which opened in 1914. The school was named after Anne Hutchinson and was erected in 1928.

Anne Hutchinson was a remarkable woman of pre-revolutionary times. Her radical religious teachings brought about her banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, following excommunication from the established church. She moved with her husband, William, to Rhode Island and formed a community there. Upon his death, and in light of continuing antagonism to her teachings, she left Rhode Island and moved to a location near the present day Co-Op City.
15) The Reservoir
Located near the railroad arch over the Hutchinson River close to First Street, the reservoir was part of the old New York Inter Urban Water Company. It was used by local residents for swimming, fishing and as a skating pond. A lagoon that was part of the reservoir was filled in during construction of the scenic Hutchinson River Parkway. Today only Pelham Lake remains from the original body of water.

Winter recreation at the reservoir

16) 32 First Avenue
This building cost approximately $500 to build in 1860 - with neighbors aiding in construction. Patrick Farrell, a devout laborer who brought together the first worshipers for St. Catharine’s Church, lived there. Upon the death of his widow in 1908, it became the residence of the church sexton, having been willed to the parish.

17) Racetrack
Before the arrival of the railroad, in the early part of the 19th Century, the land on both sides of what is today the Metro North right-of-way, was the Pelhamville Racetrack. The northern boundary was the property now occupied by St. Catharine’s Church on Second Avenue, extending south to what is now Sparks Avenue - then the location of an ice house. Pacing and trotting horses raised by local gentry - many members of the Pell family - raced here. The construction of the railroad in 1840 brought about the demise of the race course.

18) Post Office
In 1896, the Post Office serving Pelham was located in the Pelham RR station building. Some years later, it was moved to Fifth Avenue between Second and Third Streets. It arrived at its present location, One Wolf’s Lane, in 1936. The reason for this building’s address, originally used as a bank, stems from the street numbering system devised by the authorities to facilitate delivery of mail as the area’s population expanded rapidly. The lot on which the building is located is so close to the railroad tracks, for a long time it was believed that nothing could be built there. With that assumption in mind, the buildings on Fifth Avenue north of First Street were given numbers starting with “One” Fifth Avenue at the northwest corner. Later, when the bank building was erected, the structure was given the address “One Wolf’s Lane” - deemed to be a simpler solution than renumbering all of the buildings on Fifth Avenue.

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The impetus for the walking tour came as part of planning the 1996 Centennial Celebration for the Village of Pelham. One of the aims of the celebration is to highlight the historical attractions and special qualities of our Village. A walking tour that highlights some of the unique features in each of our neighborhoods is one way to accomplish this.

It is our hope that you will enjoy walking through our neighborhoods and that your appreciation for our Village will be enhanced.

Acknowledgments and Credits

Many thanks to all the people who so generously gave their time and expertise to this project.

Our thanks to Mayor Joseph E. Durnin, Jr., of the Village of Pelham and the Board of Trustees for funding this project.

We gratefully acknowledge the following people:
Mimi Buckley - Pelham Town Historian
Barbara Bartlett; Advisor - Treasurer of Pelham Historical Society
and Architectural Review Board Member
Frank Corbin - Editor
Bill McDevitt - Chester Park Association President
Susan Mutti - Research
Nigel Scott-Williams - Chester Park Source, Architectural Review Board

Junior League of Pelham Centennial Sub-Committee
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Alexa Ragsdale, Walking Tour
Anne Ruocco, Doors of Pelham
Catherine Scinta, Walking Tour
Ashlin Veith, Walking Tour/Desktop Pub.
Ginny Walter, Walking Tour

Cover: Official Village Seal by Paul Osmolski
Printed By: Trulli’s Printing, New Rochelle, New York

Sources:
Pelham Town Historian files. Pelham Town Library.