

Exploring Rhinebeck #2 ~ by Nancy Kelly

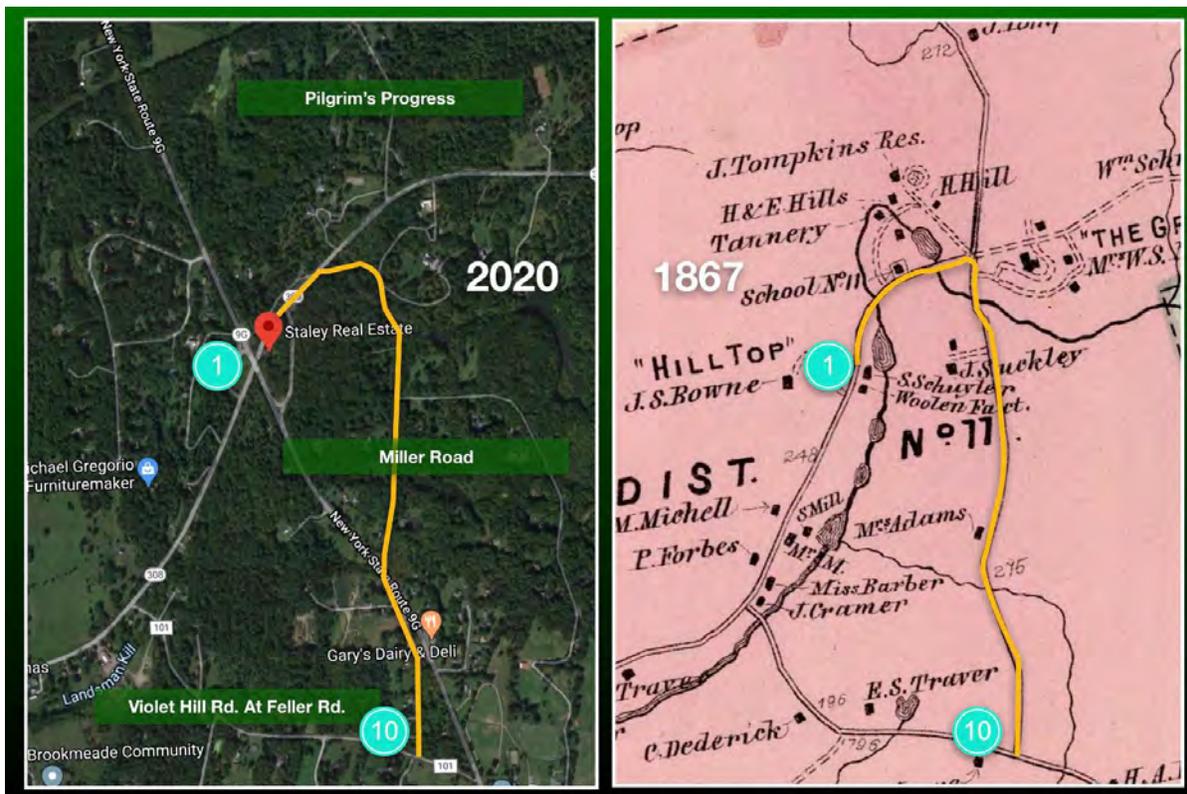
The Rhinebeck Town Historian takes us on tour of Salisbury
Turnpike & Pilgrim's Progress.

StoryMap, contemporary photos by Bill Jeffway,

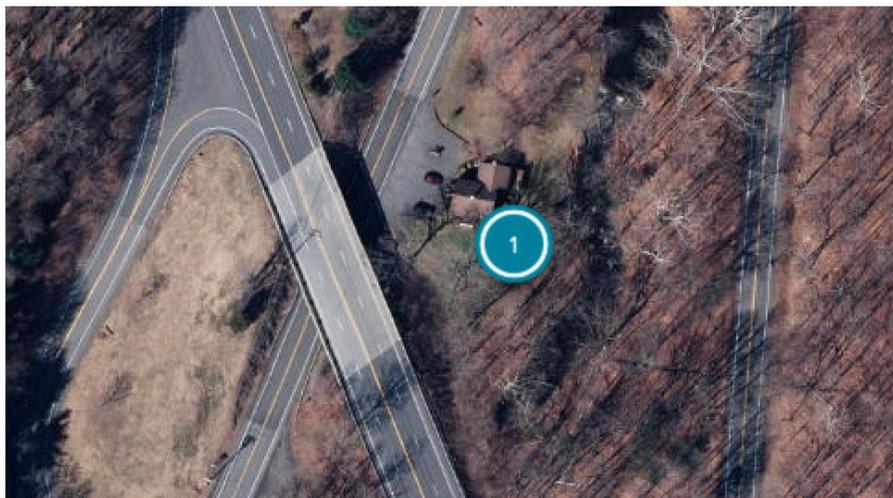
Director, Dutchess County Historical Society

May 21, 2020

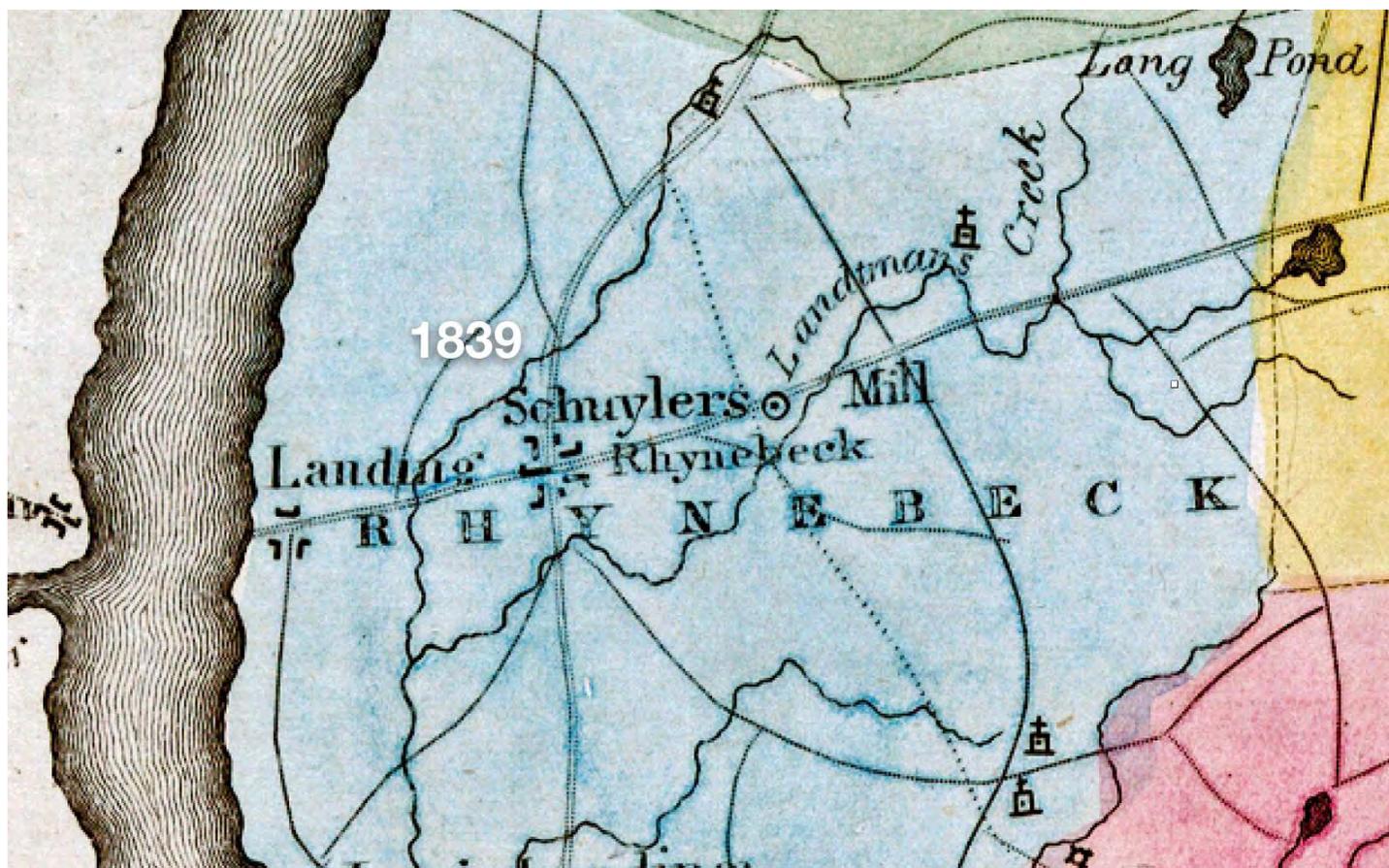
The tour starts at Staley's Real Estate on Route 308 and ends
where Violet Hill Road meets Feller Road.



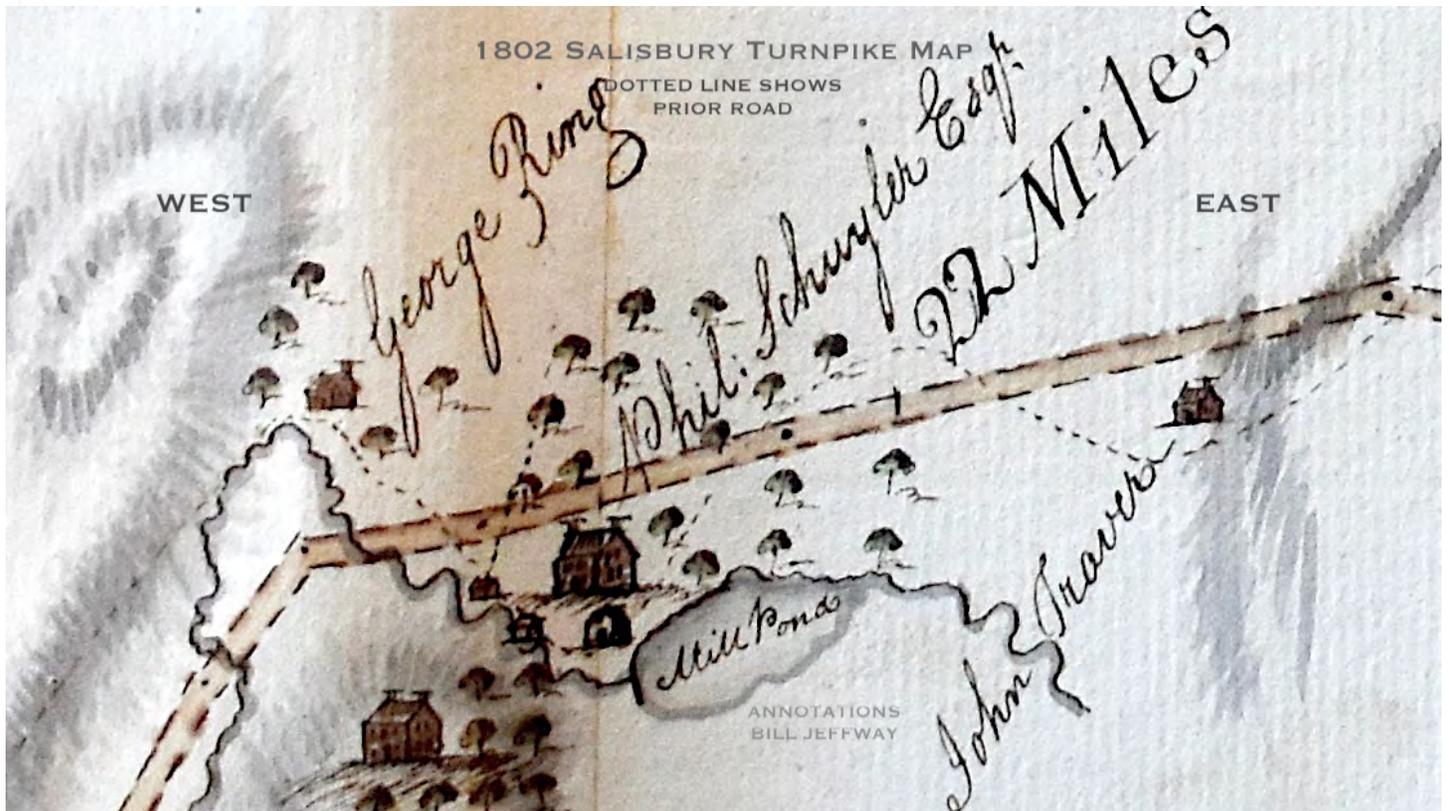
2020 Google Map and 1867 Beers Map.



1 Starting at Routes 9G & 308



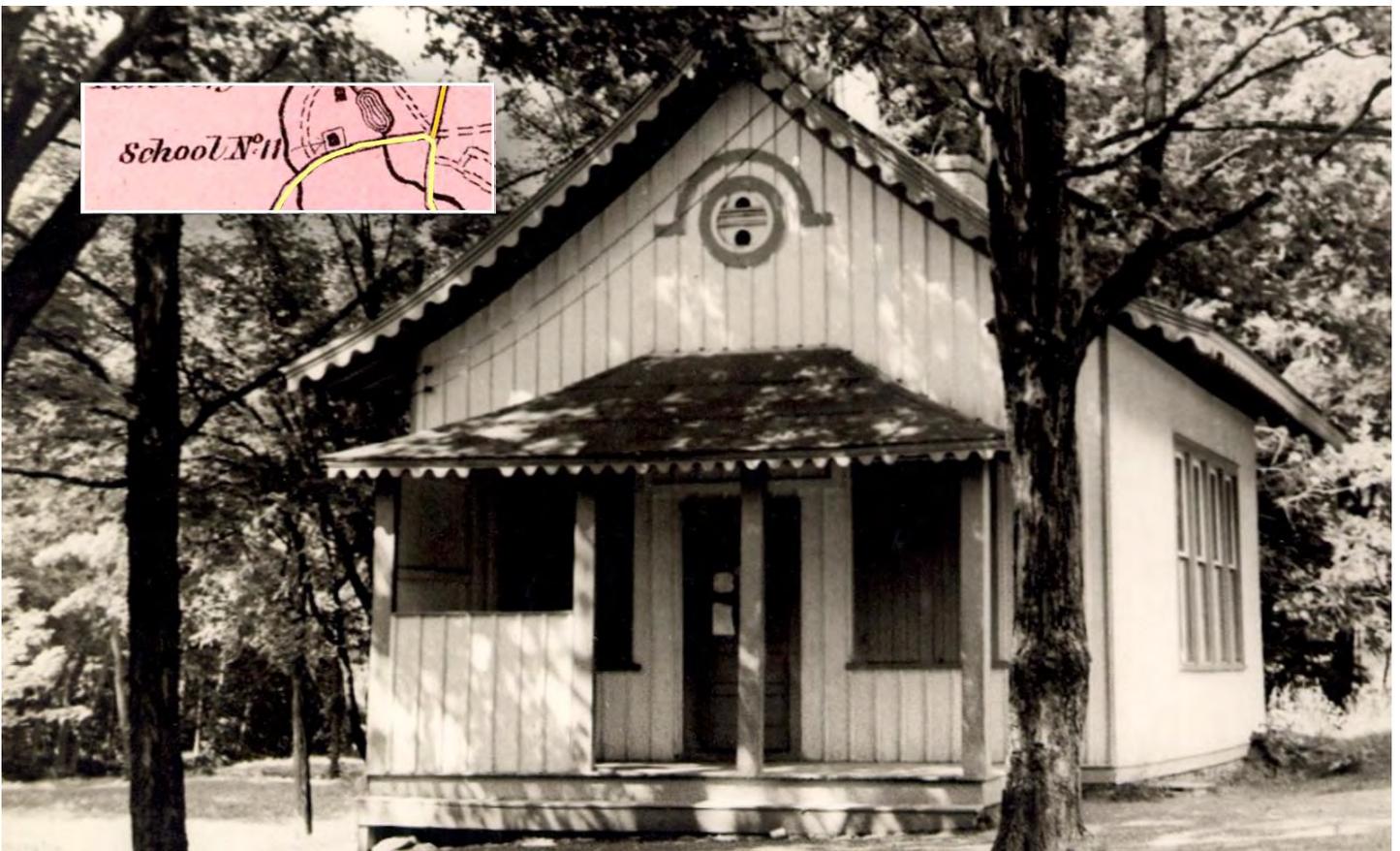
Begin at the overpass at the intersection of Route 9G & Route 308. Staley's Real Estate Office, 400 Route 308, was once part of a Mill site. Landmanskill, which runs along the south side of 308 was an important source of water power for the town. *While this 1839 map by Burr lacks precision detail, it beautifully illustrates how important Schuyler and his mills just east of Rhinebeck Village were at the time.*



The Salisbury Turnpike was begun in 1802 as a toll route from Long Dock on the Hudson River, east to Connecticut. On the north side of 308, traveling east from our starting point, we can observe the original route of the road, now abandoned. *The 1802 Turnpike map shown is oriented with east to the right. Courtesy of the Dutchess County Clerk.*

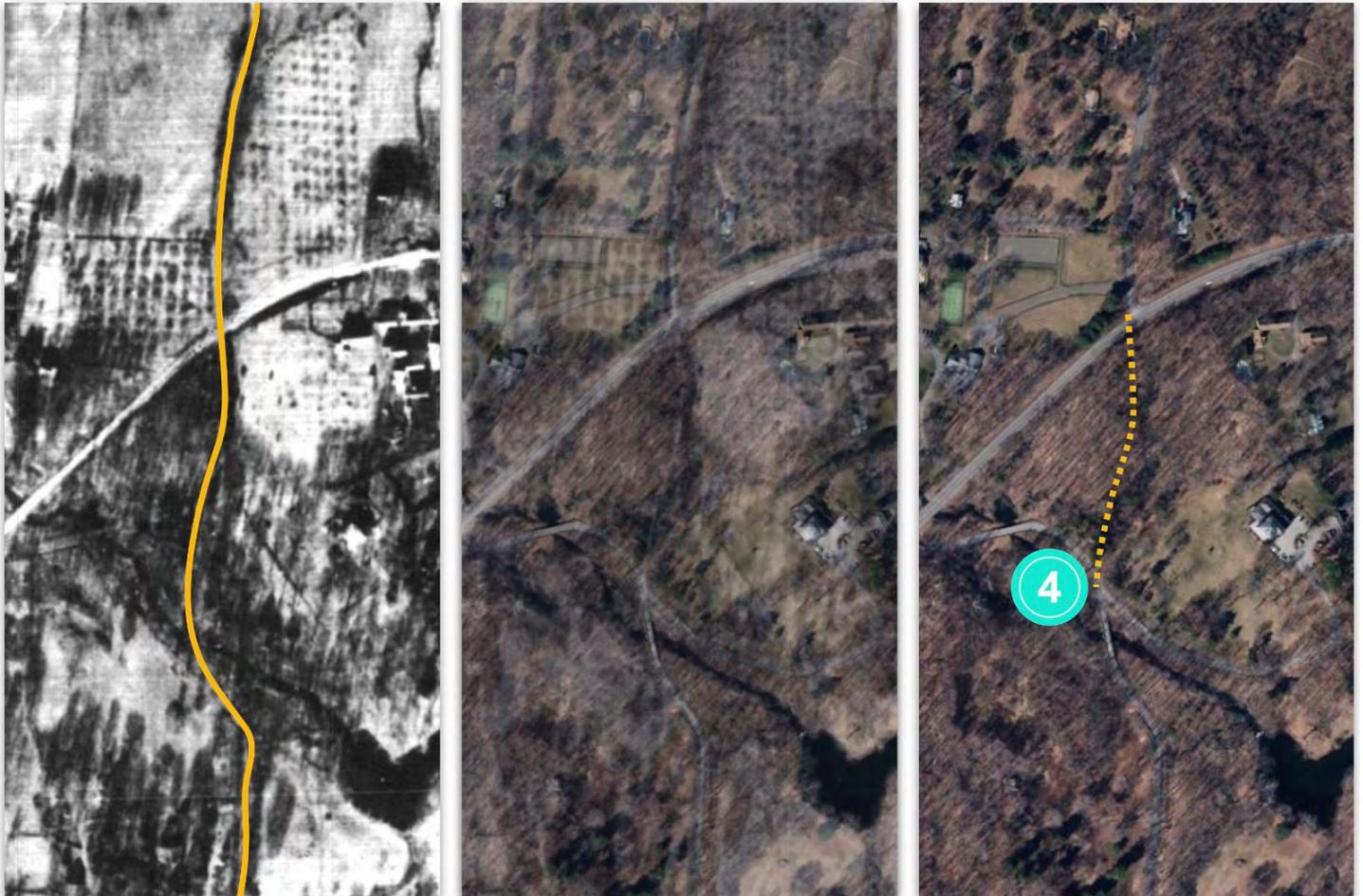
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Miller Schoolhouse



The Turnpike passed in near the Miller Schoolhouse, District 11 (42 West Miller Road). A one room school built in the Gothic Revival tradition, it was probably financed by the Miller family. The Turnpike crossed what is today's Route 308 to follow the current Miller Road. *Photo, Rhinebeck Historical Society.*

Before leaving Route 308, note the Historic Marker at the intersection, denoting the Schuyler House (#5 on our tour).



Note that Miller Road meets the remnants of Pilgrim's Progress Road. This road originally led from the west & went toward the Wurtemberg church. There was a section between current Pilgrim's Progress Road which comes from the north and intersects with 308. The route crossing 308 was abandoned because it created a dangerous intersection so the section leading to the current Miller Road was also abandoned. *Dutchess County Aerial Survey 1936 to 2020, Dutchess County Parcel Access.*



Following Miller Road, straight ahead we see many mailboxes for the current tenants of the Schuyler House. This mansion was built by Phillip Jeremiah Schuyler, the son of General Schuyler of Revolutionary War fame.

The land belonged to descendants of Henry Beekman, of whom Mrs. Schuyler was one. Eventually, it descended to Dr. George Miler. The mansion has been altered from two to three story, and was donated to Bard College and eventually sold & converted to apartments. The drive leading to the east was originally part of the road to Rock City (the Sepascot Trail).

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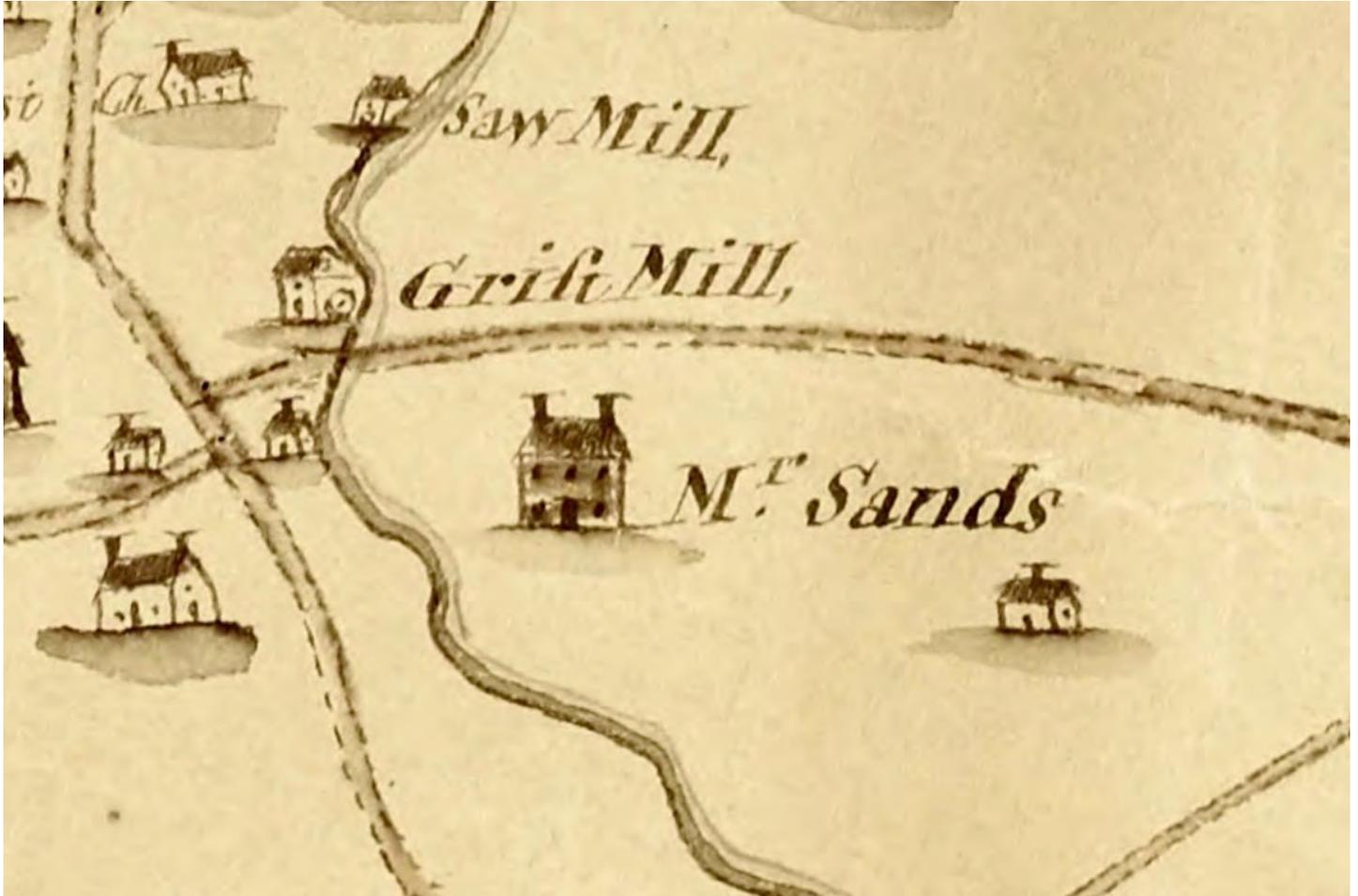
Mill Site



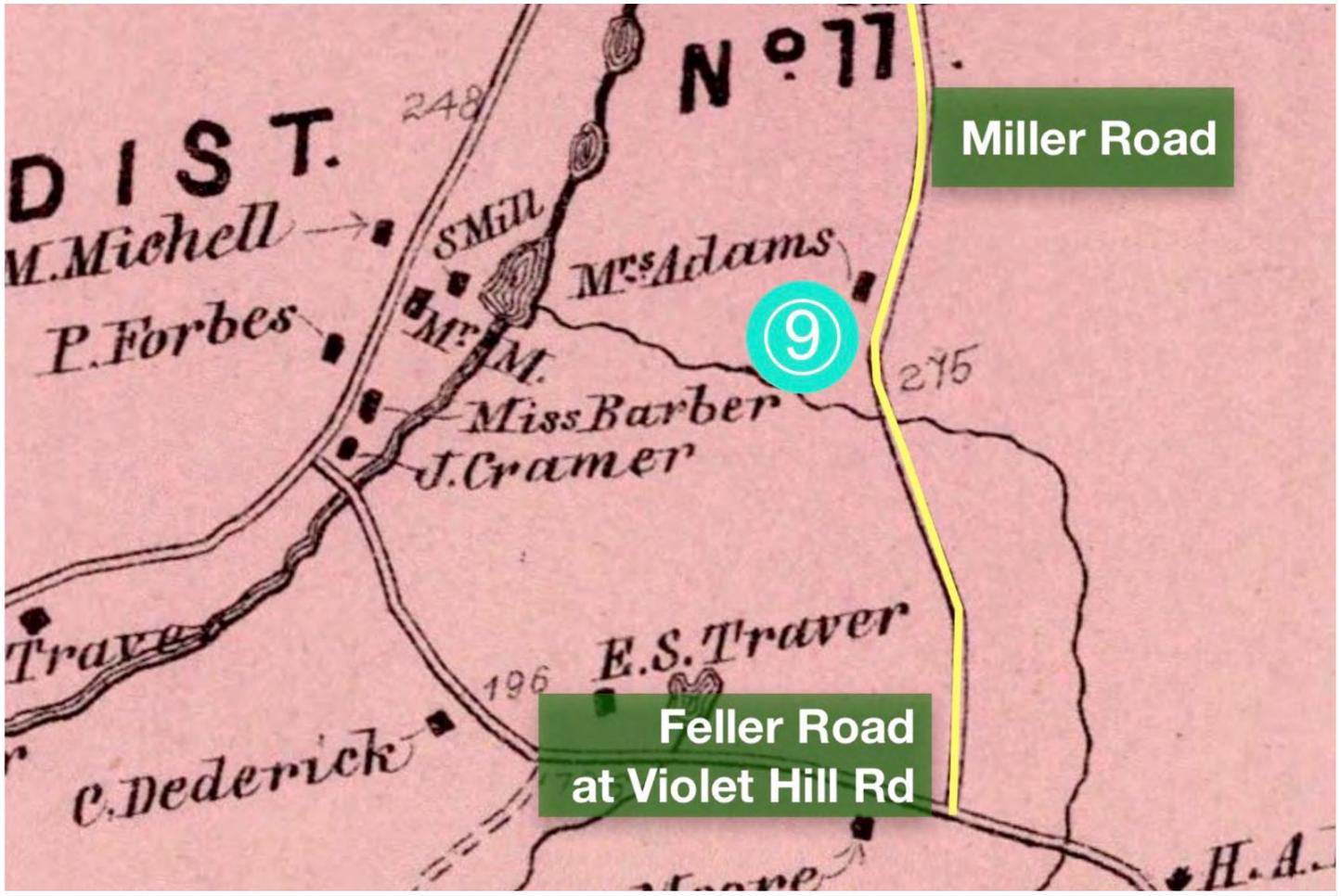
The original mill, serving all of the property in this area, was located along the drive. A store and headquarters for the mill was located at the intersection of the drive and Miller Road. *Inset photo: Rhinebeck Historical Society.*



Driving up Miller Road, we cross the Kill on Miller's Bridge, one of three stone arched bridges built on the property which became the home of Dr. George Miller. They are all on the National Register. See [historic documentation](#) at Rhinebeck Historical Society. *Photo by [John Phelan](#) wikimedia commons.*



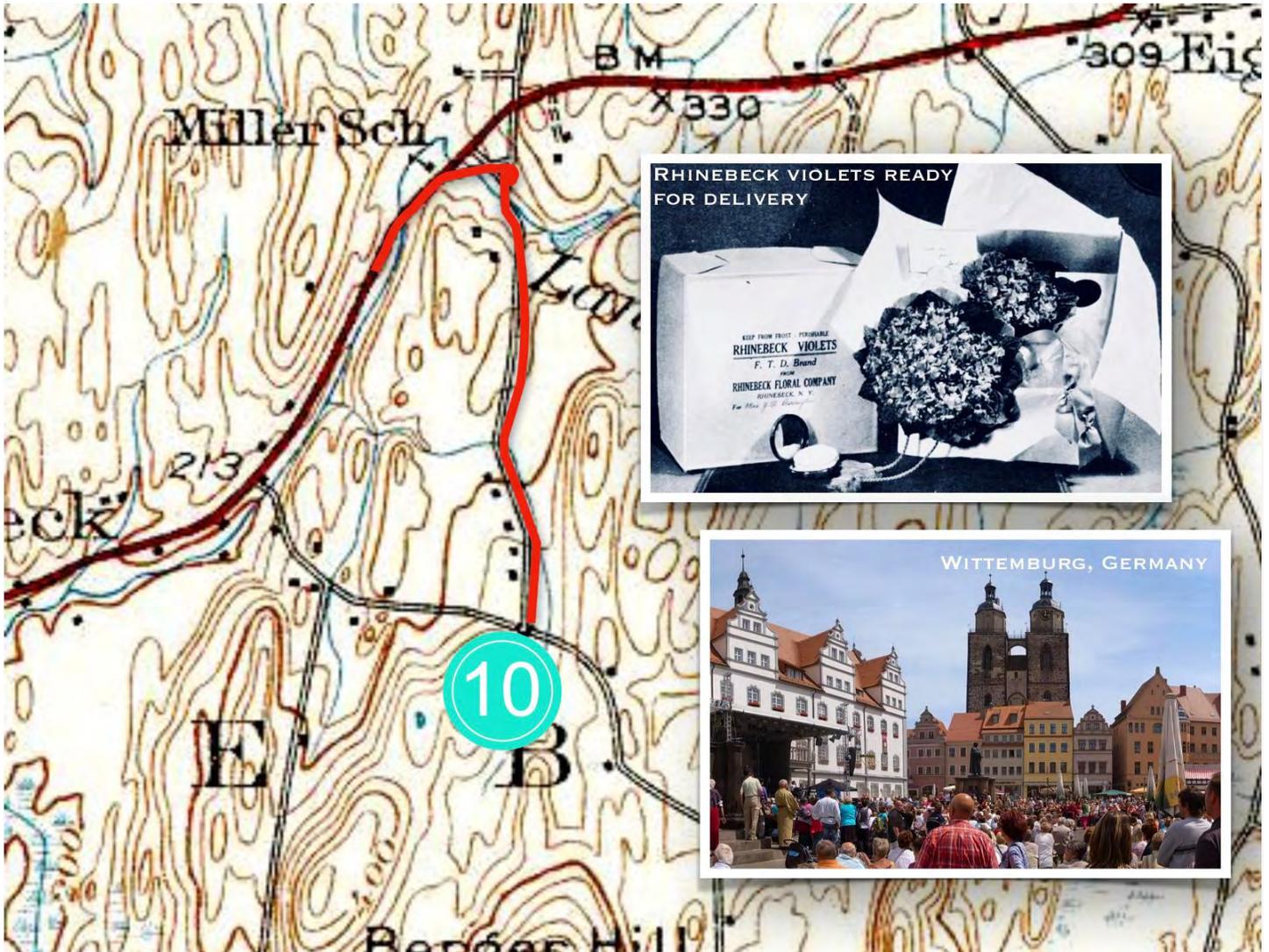
Continuing south on Miller Road/Pilgrim's Progress we again cross the Landsmankill and reach land which belonged to the Sands Family -another female Beekman descendant. The Sands built a Federal House on the west side of the road. Unfortunately, this lovely house burned and was not replaced. The drive is closed with a farm gate. Looking back along the former drive, you will see a very early colonial structure, the home of the Traver family, who managed the Sands property. *1797 Thompson Map, Rhinebeck Historical*



Continuing on Miller-Pilgrim's Progress, we pass 11 Miller Rd, a colonial house near the intersection with Route 9-G. The original road actually continued across 9-G on what is now Feller Road.

Feller homestead was the first you will encounter. Further down the road are several other colonial houses. *1867 Beers map.*

10 Terminus at Violet Hill Road



At Violet Hill Road, we reach the end of our tour. Violets were a major industry in Rhinebeck for decades. *Inset photo from "The Complete Book of Violets," by Nelson Coon.*

Pilgrim's Progress continued south along Wurtemberg Road to reach the early Lutheran Church in the area known as Wurtemberg since many of the original settlers came from Wittemberg, Germany. *1939 USGS map.*

Tour index at www.dchsny.org/nkellytours