## Nine Partners Friends Meetinghouse, 1780-81

After fire destroyed its earlier building, the Nine Partners Monthly Meeting erected this capacious two-story brick meetinghouse, which cost more than £800. Solidly built and well preserved with few later alterations, the meetinghouse measures 60 ½ feet in length and 43 ½ feet in depth. It is an early example of a symmetrically arranged meetinghouse in the Hudson Valley. The south entrance façade is laid in Flemish bond while the two gable ends and rear north façade are finished in 1:2 bond. The apertures have segmental arches and unmolded architraves.   The four doors (two on the south, and two on the north, which provide access to the elders' benches) are double sheathed.

The interior is an exemplary of the Quaker aesthetics of sufficiency, where unpainted woodwork and fittings are well joined and pared of superfluous moldings and turnings. The unpainted pine contrasts with the white plaster walls. Quaker worshippers entered the meetinghouse through the two south doorways, which open into a four-foot wide vestibule that runs parallel with the south wall. This vestibule is a nineteenth-century addition and now provides access to the two staircases in the southwest and southeast corners of the meeting that lead to a four-sided gallery. The stairs originally were open strings that rose along the south wall and then turned back at a 45-degree angle toward the center of the meetinghouse. The newels are square and there are no balusters to support the handrail. Beyond the vestibule, the meetinghouse is divided into two rooms separated by a sliding paneled

partition and vertical sheathing in the center. The panels are unmolded. Women sat in the west room and men in the east. A double door near the center of the partition allows access between the two rooms on the ground floor, but there is no communication between the two rooms in the gallery. Benches on the ground floor are unfixed and have slightly sloped back rails. Three rows of benches are arranged in tiers against the north wall and are backed and flanked by horizontal beaded sheathing boards secured by t-headed nails. The benches rest on unshaped supports, have straight backs of vertical boards on top of which are short open spaces framed by unmolded rails and stiles. Rear doors in the north façade provided separate entrances for elders who sat in these benches.

Seating in the gallery stretches around all four walls—a single row along the back (north) wall above the elders' benches and multiple rows on the west, south, and east walls arranged on risers. The breastwork of the gallery is covered with vertical sheathing above which there is an unmolded railing. The division of the seven rows of gallery seating on the south side consists of vertical pine boards. In each row of seat in the boys' side, a peephole has been bored through to the girls' side. The holes were covered over with a small sheet of tin, which in turn was reopened from the boys' side.

Description by Carl Lounsbury

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE ¼"=1'-0"

CLIFFORD WILLSON DEL.
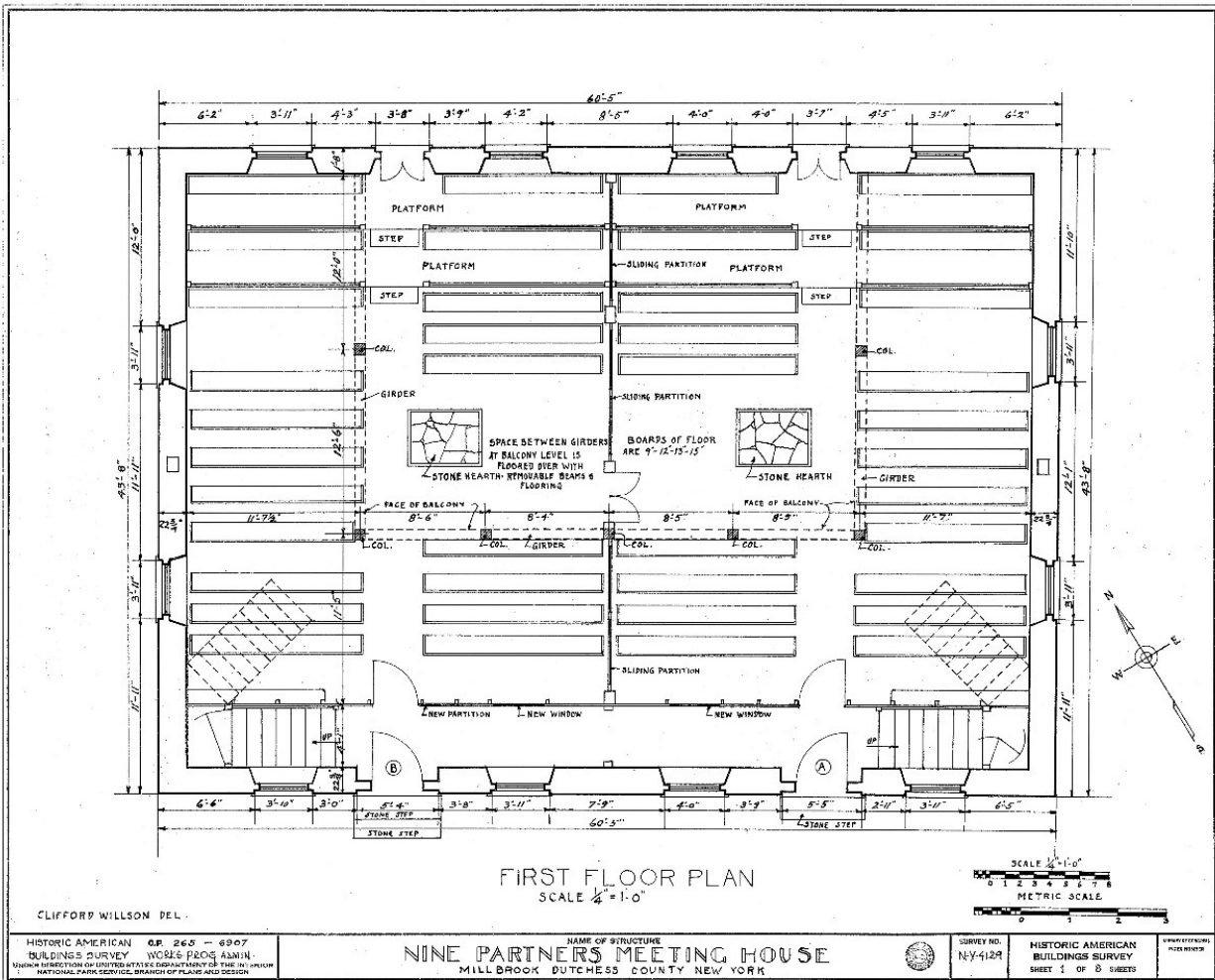
Lithgow

Lithgow is a story-and-a-half, gambrel-roofed frame building built ca. 1758 as the centerpiece of a 1000-acre wheat plantation. A large addition designed in a similar manner was constructed in 1909 and connected by a hyphen that preserved the historic integrity of the original house. The center-passage plan contains two principal rooms in the front and a smaller dining room and bed chamber in the rear. The stairs are concealed in the rear of the passage. A piazza spans the front façade, tucked under the front sweep of the roof supported by chamfered posts; the railing has been removed from the front. The central entrance features a wide Dutch door surmounted by a large transom and flanked by sidelights added in the 19th century. A similar porch is located on the rear of the house with rooms enclosed at the corners accessed only from the exterior. There are four chambers and a center passage in the upper story, for which dormers were added later. A kitchen is located in the basement. On the interior and exterior, the house remains remarkably intact to its historic appearance, retaining original beaded weatherboard siding, plaster walls and woodwork and chimneybreasts.

In addition to the house, the property retains at least three historic outbuildings: an 18th-century farm building, a 19th-century barn, and a 20th-century masonry garage. The story-and-a-half farm building has early hewn bent framing. The rambling barn contains numerous sections unified by picturesque gambrel and gable ends, board-and-batten siding and hooded windows. The garage is a two-story, cross-gabled stucco-covered brick building covered with a gambrel roof. The corner entrance bay retains original wooden double doors and a simple parapet.

New York merchant David Johnstone constructed the house ca. 1758 as a country seat on his wheat plantation, on land which he had inherited from his grandfather David Jamison, one of the proprietors of the Great Nine Partners Patent. Two types of plantation houses were popular in the mid-18th century: one followed the symmetrical two-story façade and plan of the English country house, while the other originated with the regional Dutch traditional story-and-a-half form but expanded with a double-pile, center passage plan usually spanned by a gambrel roof. Obviously, Lithgow conforms to the latter type. The framing and elegant finishes of the house have little connection to the Dutch vernacular. Why the low, gambrel form was preserved in this case is a mystery; Johnstone was by no means Dutch by heritage.

The 760-acre property, which remains essentially intact, functioned as a wheat plantation during the 18th and early 19th centuries that relied on slave labor. The 1790 and 1800 censuses report 14 and 15 enslaved Africans, respectively. After manumission, a small free black community developed near the Nine Partners Meetinghouse between 1790 and 1820, which included several former Johnstone family slaves. Isaac Smith, prominent judge and local figure, purchased Lithgow in 1813, and it remained in the Smith-Wheaton family into the mid-twentieth century. The family operated a large dairy farm well into the 20th century, which employed African Americans, many who had come from Southern states after the Civil War.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

St. Peter's parish was founded in 1801 as a chapel of ease for members of Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, living in eastern Dutchess County, who had difficulty traveling to that city in bad weather. The first building was erected in 1834 just east of the present site on land donated by David Johnstone of Lithgow, where the church's cemetery is still located. That building burned in 1880 and the current location on Deep Hollow Road was chosen for rebuilding because it was closer to the center of population.

The new church was designed in the Rural Gothic manner that had characterized Episcopal Church architecture in the region since the renowned church architect Richard Upjohn, designer of Trinity Church in New York, published *Rural Architecture* in 1852. Upjohn had designed a number of modest Gothic churches for small congregations in the Hudson Valley, including St. Thomas Episcopal Church in nearby Amenia in 1849 at the request of his friend, Rev. Homer Wheaton. At that time, Wheaton lived on the Lithgow estate, having married Isaac Smith's daughter, and he also served as the rector of St. Peter's until his death in 1894. Richard Upjohn died in 1878, but Wheaton's role in the rebuilding of St. Peter's clearly relied on his designs.

Rescued from the first building were the pulpit bible, a Book of Common Prayer and the stone Baptismal font, all of them still in use. In 1884 the sanctuary was extended to include a recessed chancel that was elevated so that the altar could be seen more easily. Vestry minutes for November 7, 1886 record that seven Cathedral Glass windows were in place at a cost of $76. These are the windows on the north and south sides of the church. The dominant window, directly above the altar, is a darkly stark depiction of the "Old Rugged Cross" was installed in 1886; the reredos was added a year later.

HARTS VILLAGE
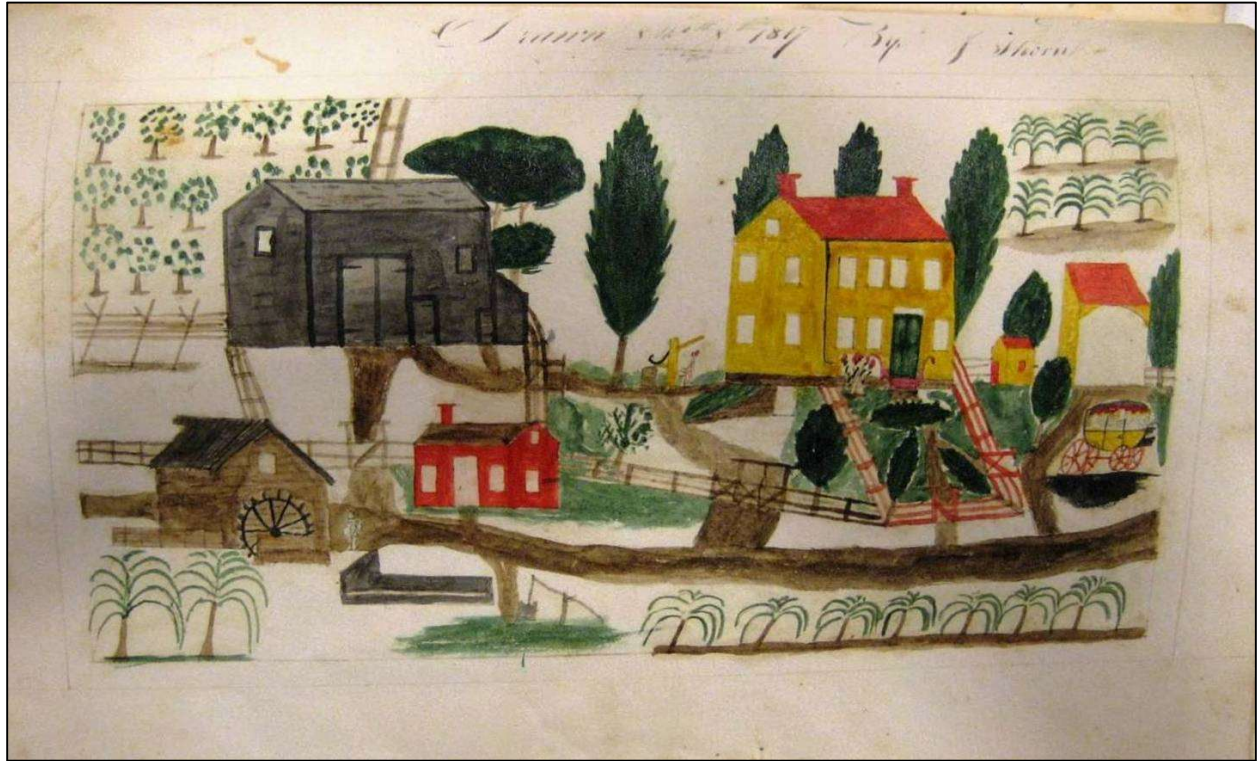
Harts Village is located in the northwest corner of the village of Millbrook in Dutchess County. It was established on the East Branch of the Wappingers Creek at a falls improved to provide power for industrial pursuits. The deep gorge cutting through the village explains its choice of location and pattern of development. Harts Village also was a crossroads center, which became more important with the completion in 1802 of the Dutchess Turnpike, which ran from Poughkeepsie on the Hudson River to Sharon, Connecticut. In its heyday, there were textile, turning, grist, saw and plaster mills staged along the water way at a number of impoundments. One mill survives, having been renovated into a picturesque representation by architect James E. Ware for Millbrook baron Charles Dederick in the 1890s. Historic houses associated with owners, managers and laborers fill out the village.
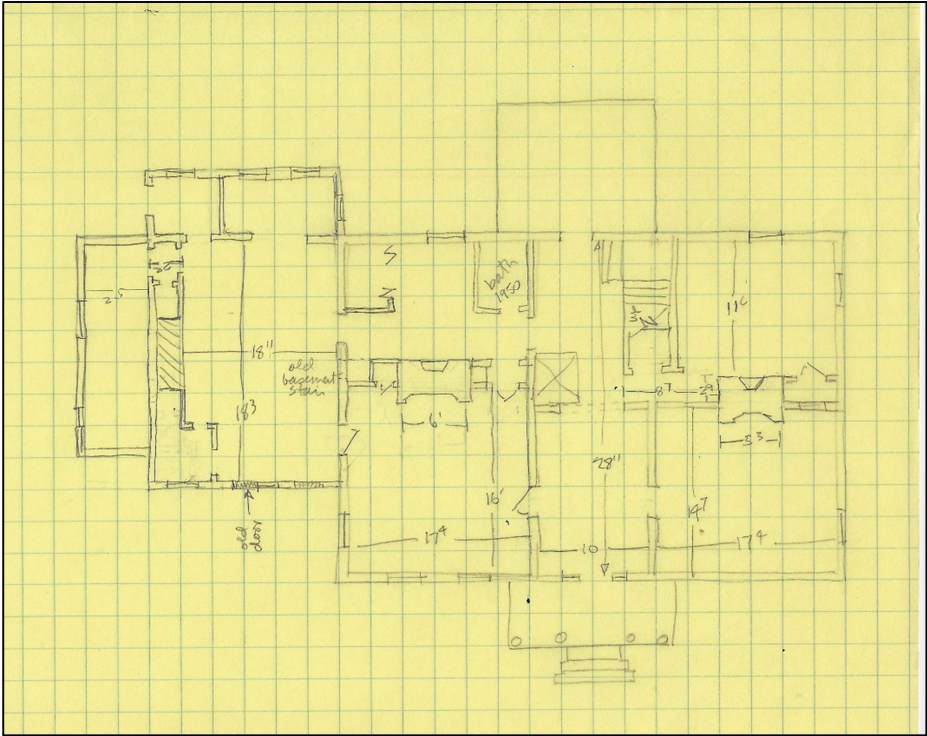
Harts Village is named for Philip Hart, scion of a Rhode Island merchant family, who purchased water rights to the creek around the time of the Revolutionary War and initiated the industrial development. He and his children built their homes on the west side of the creek opposite the industrial village. Hart's elegant mansion, built ca. 1800, is the centerpiece of the development. A two-story wood-frame residence with a center-hall plan, it displays distinctive decorative details on the exterior as well as the interior. A barn associated with the house is extant on an adjoining property. Two other large houses were built nearby for Hart's daughters upon their marriages. A third for a brother-in-law who was a partner in the hamlet's cotton mill. It originated with a smaller side-passage plan, which was later filled out to create a larger house. A small dwelling on the highway, reputedly Philip's Hart's first home, also originated with a side-passage plan with corner fireplaces in front and rear rooms.

The tour of Hart's Village will be providing access to Philip Hart's first and second houses, as well as his barn, and one of the houses built for his daughters. The grounds extend to the edge of gorge from which the development on the other side of the Wappingers Creek can be observed. Our hosts are David and
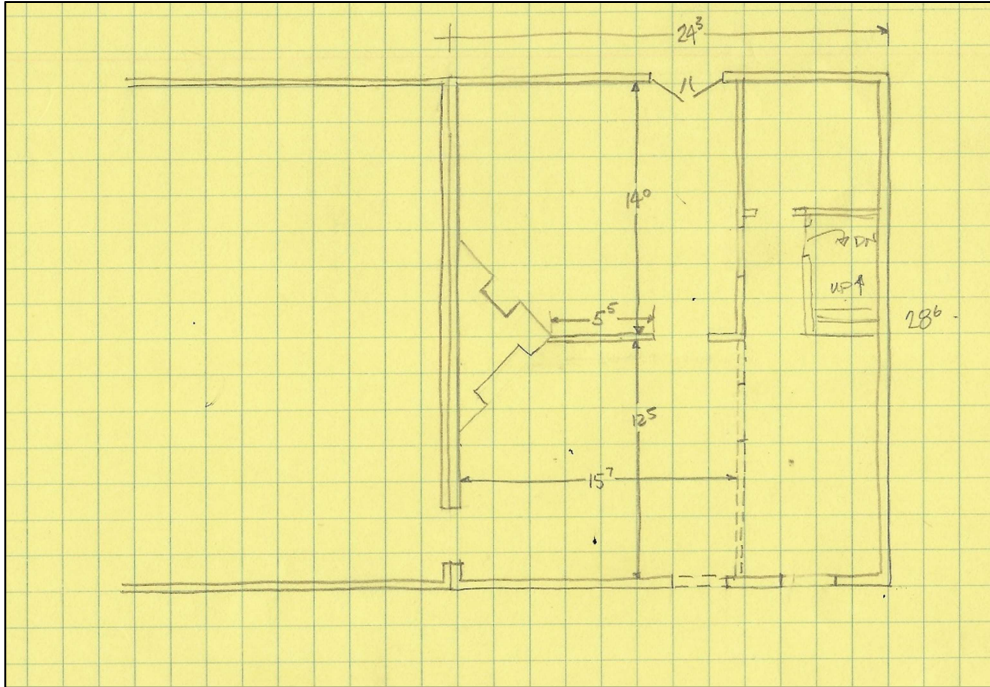
Nan Greenwood, owners of the second Philip Hart House. David is both the Village of Millbrook and Town of Washington historian.

Philip Hart House, ca. 1800

Sketch plan of Philip Hart House

Sketch plan of first Philip Hart House, ca. 1780

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HARTS VILLAGE
Town of Washington Dutchess Co. N.Y.
Scale 40 Rods to the Inch

From the 1867 Beers Atlas

BUSINESS DIRECTORY
Case Dr W. R. Physician & Surgeon
Haight F. S. Dealer in Flour, Feed & Plaster
Haviland E. Farmer
Knapp E. Merchant
Merritt I. Farmer
Martin J. Carpenter Sash & Blind Maker
Varney E. Carpenter
Welling J. Farmer