

Town of Hoosick Timeline 1900 - 2000

Compiled by Gilbert E. Wright, Town Historian 1995-1999

1900 - 1910

1900 The Hoosick Valley Railway built two water-powered generators for use by their trolley line. The trolley line ran from Hoosick Falls to Bennington. The generators were located near the Bennington Battlefield Park, near the Caretaker's Bridge in Walloomsac.

1901 The Peoples Bank was organized and opened at 14-16 Main Street in Hoosick Falls.

1901 The Noble and Johnson Machine Company, manufacturer of potato diggers, was destroyed by fire.

1901 The Shaw Brothers established a paper box factory and operated it for thirty-five years. They had one customer, the E-Z Mills of Hoosick Falls, who later moved to Bennington. Up to a thousand boxes per day were produced.

1902 Noble and Wood Machine Company purchased the Noble and Johnson Machine Company plant. They produced papermaking machines and contracted general machine work.

1902 Woods Opera House was damaged by fire. Several stores located in the building included James Parsons and Company, Ely and Company, the First National Bank and Wallace and Company.

1902 A new bridge was erected over the Walloomsac River at the Stevens and Thompson Paper mill. It is an iron and steel bridge, 120 feet long.

1903 A muster picnic and field day, under the auspices of various members of the Immaculate Conception Church, was held at the Driving Park July 4. It was located south of Johnson Hill near Route 22. A schedule of sports included a horse race and ball game.

1904 Walter A Wood exhibited his farm machinery at the St. Louis Exposition.

1905 A proposition was passed to build a Municipal Building for use by the Town and Village on January 14. The cost was \$25,000.

1906 The Walter A Wood reaper was awarded first prize at the Bulgarian Government Field Trials.

1906 The suspension bridge that crossed the Hoosick River at the end of River Street, known as the Shanghi or the Rainbow Bridge, was replaced with an iron bridge (truss design).

1906 A fire in Eagle Bridge destroyed the Eagle Hotel and McClellan's store, in which the Post Office was located. A shed, ice house and barn were also burned. Livestock owned by Michael Curtis were in the barn.

1907 January 15. Citizens of Hoosick Falls voted to purchase the water supply system, property, rights and privileges of the Hoosick Falls Water Supply Company including renewal and repair of the system at a cost not to exceed \$75,000. The Village took control on February 23, 1907.

1908 The Men's Association of the Presbyterian Church built and presented a fountain located in Monument Park to the Village on July 20. Monument Park is located at the corner of Classic Street and High Street. A monument in honor of the Civil War soldiers is also located there.

1908 The Hoosick Falls Country Club was organized.

1908 The Walloomsac Episcopal Chapel was built as a mission church of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Hoosick Falls. Services were held there until 1950.

1908 The Hoosick Grange No. 1127 was organized. Their meeting place was in the Thorpe building in Hoosick Falls. There were 95 charter members.

1909 Fire damaged the Wood Block on Main Street. Fire also damaged the Baptist Church in that year. Both were renovated.

1909 The Old Men's Club was organized. Members had to be at least eighty years old to belong.

1910 The Specialty Insulation Company was organized. It first operated in a building on Water and Superior Streets known locally as the "Rubber Works".

1910 The New Theater on Church Street was built. It was located in the building later occupied by Shapiro's Department Store. Several businesses have used the building since. The Theater advertised "No Cheap Trash".

1910 The wooden dam that provided water power for the Stevens and Thompson paper mill in North Hoosick was replaced with a concrete dam.

1911 - 1920

1911 The Neighborhood House was established. It began as a day nursery and eventually became the Hoosick Falls Health Center.

1911 A \$50,000 street improvement project was completed in the village. The village boasted having the best streets for any village of its size in New York State

1911 Fire destroyed Seward's Ice Cream Store and the M. Lurie Department Store.

1911 Old Home Week was celebrated in August. Eight former residents returned for the celebration.

1912 A train wreck on Railroad Avenue near the station caused damage to the train, track and street.

1913 The Star Theater was built on Church Street. It was located where the Village Parking Lot is today.

1913 The Bradley Electric Company was founded by J. A. Bradley. It is now owned and operated by his sons, Phil and Don Bradley.

1913 Miller's Market opened on Church Street. It was started by Hyman Miller and operated for sixty years by his family.

1914 The Neighborhood House of Hoosick Falls was chartered.

1915 The Easton and Thorpe Building, Lurie's Department store and Garberino's were damaged by fire.

1915 The Methodist Church in Walloomsac was moved to the Dalton farm on Cottrell Road.

1915 The Twin State Electric Company bought the Power Plant that was built by the Hoosick Falls Water and Power Company in 1888. The Twin State Electric Company supplied electricity to customers in Hoosick Falls area and Bennington.

1916 The Teashoke Post Office was renamed the Buskirk Post Office.

1916 Company M of the National Guard in Hoosick Falls were called to reinforce United States troops in Mexico. There was a send-off from Hoosick Falls with a large parade on June 23. The army was on a punitive expedition in Mexico when Mr. Carranza, the president of Mexico, threatened their presence with extensive measures. President Wilson responded by mobilizing the Guard.

1918 Frank Riley and Sons Livery Stable burned. Fourteen horses perished and many carriages burned.

1919 In April, a large crowd gathered at the railroad station to welcome the men of Company M returning from France at the end of World War I.

1919 The American House in Hoosick Corners, located on Route 7 and South Street, burned. It was later rebuilt by the Armstrong family who ran a store there.

1919 The Stone School House at the corner of Route 7 and 22 was closed.

1919 Hoosick Falls suffered a flu epidemic. The Neighborhood House Association, whose building was located on Hall Street, was turned into a temporary hospital. The Neighborhood House was used as the Red Cross Headquarters during World War I.

1920 Hood's Milk Transfer Station opened in Eagle Bridge. Milk was transferred from truck to train. Three railroad cars loaded with milk and several passenger cars left Eagle Bridge at 5:30 PM each day. Its destination was Boston, and was known as the "Milk Train".

1920 The Hoosick Engineering Company was founded by Forest White. The company's business office was located at 23-25 Elm Street in Hoosick Falls and the plant was located in Cambridge. The company produced ignition parts and heating supplies.

1921 - 1930

1923 The power house, located at the Caretaker's Bridge, was demolished. It was owned by the Hoosick Valley Railway Company.

1923 The corner stone of the new Hoosick Falls Post Office was laid. It replaced the old "Brown Row" houses that were torn down to make room for the building.

1923 On November 23 the Cheney Free Public Library and Historical Records opened in its new building on Classic Street. The Carnegie style building is an icon in the village. The Corner Stone had been laid on October 28, 1922.

1923 The Lovejoy Chaplet Company was incorporated and later moved from West Sandgate to River Street in Hoosick Falls.

1924 The Walter A. Wood Manufacturing Company closed. The company produced horse drawn farm machinery since 1853. Much of their sales were in the European market. World War I caused a decline in the European economy. That, plus the increased use of tractors, caused a reduction in sales.

1925 The Neighborhood House Association changed its name to The Hoosick Falls Health Center and became incorporated.

1927 Church Street Bridge, known today as The Shop Bridge, was reconstructed.

1927 Walter A. Wood Memorial High School opened.

1927 The Hoosick Valley Railway Company closed their trolley route between Hoosick Falls and Bennington.

1927 A devastating flood damaged the village pumping station. Chief Engineer John J. Hughs was rescued from the roof of the building. A record water mark was set.

1927 The Bennington Battlefield State Historic Park was dedicated. It is located on Route 67 across from the Caretaker's Bridge.

1928 The Wood Flong Corporation moved from Stillwater into the Malleable Iron Plant that formally belonged to the Walter A. Wood Company in Clay Hill. Wood Flong produced mats for the printing industries.

1928 The Kiwanis Club of Hoosick Falls was organized on fourth of May. Their meetings were held in the Wadell Hotel, located where Rite Aid is now.

1930 Michael Kane, a Bennington taxi driver, was murdered Route 7 near the Stone School House. His murderers were not caught until 1936. A Mr. Pencus and a Mr. Franco were arrested, convicted and sentenced. Miss Mark was also arrested and charged. She turned state evidence and was not prosecuted. -source Jan Shields, reporter for The Troy Record.

1930 The iron bridge at River Street was replaced with the present concrete bridge.

1930 Walter Shurewood built a dam on a stream known as White Creek just above the White Creek pool. Mr. Shurewood operated a beater for making paper and experimented with improving the efficiency of beaters.

1931 - 1940

1931 The People's Bank and the First National Bank merged. The name became the People's First National Bank and conducted business in the same building that Key Bank is located in today.

1932 The Hoosick Valley Coach Line began operation. The routes ran to and from Bennington, Hoosick Falls, Troy and Watervliet. Harold Walter Gardner owned and operated the company.

1932 The road reconstruction of Route 22 began. Pat Ward's Hotel was moved from the corner of Route 67 and Route 22 across from Delaney's Hotel. It is now located next to the North Hoosick Post Office. Flynn's Barber Shop was a part of that building.

1933 The Rensselaer County Standard and the Hoosick Falls Press consolidated and became known as the Hoosick Falls Standard Press.

1933 Forrest S. White founded the White Flomatic Corporation. Operating in the Walter A. Wood building, the company produced water system valves.

1934 The Gymnasium at the Hoosac School for Boys was destroyed by fire on November 16.

1935 The Derby Club was organized. The members donated a sum of \$20.00 to wager on a horse in the Kentucky Derby. The horse they chose, named Omaha, won. The Club made \$75.00 that year. The Derby Club is still active today.

1935 The White House Bridge, known locally as the Long Bridge, and the White House Mills were demolished to allow reconstruction of Route 7. White House Mills produced electric light bulbs and dynamos.

1935 The Estellite Company that produced electrical fixtures moved into the Hall-Hartwell Shirt Company building on lower John Street.

1937 The Manchester Feed and Coal Business in Eagle Bridge was sold to Harold Mosely who opened the first GLF (Grange League Federation) store in the Hoosick area.

1938 Flooding ravaged the area for the third time.

1938 Grandma Moses's paintings were discovered to be of great value. They were displayed in the window of Thorpe's Pharmacy located on John Street in Hoosick Falls.

1939 The Rectory of All Saints Church at the Hoosac School for Boys was destroyed by fire on July 18.

1939 Bob Eberly, lead singer of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, was named male vocalist of the year after he was rated #1 in a popularity survey. Bing Crosby was second. The Eberle Brothers (Bob and Ray) were singers during the big band era and were from Hoosick Falls.

1939 Miller's Super Market opened on Church Street. The building is now known as the John A. Murphy Building.

1940 The New York Power and Light Company bought the rights to sell electric power in New York State from the Twin State Electric Company.

1940 The draft board opened in an office on Main Street next to the present Post Office.

1940 On a day in October the members of Charlie Company left Hoosick Falls for action during WW II.

1941 - 1950

1943 The White-Flomatic Corporation, later renamed Flomatic Corporation, moved from its location in Hoosick Falls to the former Stevens and Thompson Paper Mill in North Hoosick.

1946 The North Hoosick Community Club was organized for the purpose of raising funds to install water and sanitary facilities in the North Hoosick School.

1947 The North Hoosick Fire Department was organized on May 1

1947 The Memorial Honor Roll, honoring the veterans of World War II, was erected in the Wood's Memorial Park and dedicated.

1948 Hathaway's Drive-In Theater in North Hoosick opened. It is still in operation each summer. It is one of the few drive-in theaters remaining today.

1949 A flood that broke the 1927 high water record occurred on December 31. It caused damage to the various factories. Water was five feet above the ground on Water and Lyman Streets. As in 1927, John Hughs, Chief Engineer, had to be rescued from the roof of the pumping station.

1950 The Holman Manufacturing Company moved into the building on lower John Street in Hoosick Falls. Many plastic products were manufactured there.

1950 The Community Factory building on Mechanic Street was turned over to the B & M Shoe Company. This was a project of a group of citizens who worked to bring industry to the area.

1950 The Crestwood Restaurant burned on February 10. It was owned and operated by Fred Dowling at the time. It had been the home of Christina Stevens, who was an accomplished Town Historian. Originally built by the Stevens family of Stevens and Thompson Paper Company.

1950 The St. John Episcopal Church in Walloomsac ceased having services. It had been active for forty two years.

1950 The Methodist and Presbyterian churches joined and held services at the Methodist Church on Main Street in Hoosick Falls.

1950 Albany Felt started production in Hoosick Falls on Danforth Street. They purchased the building formerly owned by the LaPan brothers.

1950 New York Power and Light Corporation and the Mohawk Power Company consolidated to become the Niagara Mohawk Power Company.

1951 - 1960

1951 The vacated Presbyterian Church on Church Street was purchased by the World War II Memorial Committee. The committee was formed in 1945.

1952 The Town of Hoosick War Memorial Community Center was incorporated. Its purpose was and is emphasis on youth activities.

1953 The Army Corp of Engineers completed the flood control project that was started in 1951. The Corp removed the natural falls and concrete dam that had been built by Walter A. Wood to supply the power for his manufacturing plant. This ended the floods that had plagued the village many times in earlier years. The last and perhaps the most damaging flood occurred in December 1949.

1953 The Hoosac School for Boys, which opened in 1889, moved from their original campus at Hoosick Corners to the Tibbits' Estate which is their present location.

1953 The Rutland Railroad Company abandoned its tracks from North Bennington through Petersburg Junction to Chatham. These tracks were originally owned by The Harlem Extension Railroad.

1955 The Hoosick Inn on Main Street was razed to make room for the Grand Union Super Market (site of the present Rite Aid location)

1955 Cleveland Dodge opened his business of producing Teflon-coated materials in a building on John Street. Later, the business developed into the Dodge Fiber Corporation.

1956 The Grand Union opened its store at the corner of Main Street and Wilder Avenue.

1957 The Public Service Commission authorized the closing of the B and M Passenger Service and the closing of the Hoosick Falls Depot. This ended eighty-three years of passenger service to and from Boston and Troy.

1957 The new Hoosick Grange (No 1127) Hall on the Hill Road was dedicated on June 30. Grange meetings, dances, card parties and other community activities have been held there since.

1957 On September 25, 1957 the Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad was formed. Their first vehicle was a combination ambulance and hearse, and cost \$750.

1958 On January 2, Yankee Trails Incorporated started a daily bus service to and from Hoosick Falls and Troy.

1958 The North Hoosick Post Office moved to its present site located near the trestle in North Hoosick. It is still in use in 1999. The United States Post Office rents the building from the owners of the property on which it stands. Prior to this, the North Hoosick Post Office was located in the homes of the various Post Masters.

1960 North Hoosick Fire Department built a new fire station on Route 22 in North Hoosick.

1960 The Hoosick Falls Health Center began admitting patients in its new building on Danforth Street on June 18.

1960 St. Mary's Academy opened their new High School building at the corner of High Street and Parsons Avenue.

1961 - 1970

1961 The Hoosick Falls Central School grades K-12 moved into their new building on Route 22, River Road. The building was dedicated on January 8, 1962

1961 Blue Flame Gas Company built storage facilities on River Road just south of the village of Hoosick Falls.

1962 Walter Wood Memorial High School and Mansion were razed.

1962 The Buskirk Methodist Episcopal Church building and property was sold to the Schaghticoke Encampment No. 10 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOF).

1965 Buskirk Fire Company was incorporated.

1966 The Merry-Go-Round Restaurant burned on June 20. Originally, it was the home of Gordon Byers of the J.C. Byers Bottling Company. It had been a restaurant several years earlier and was known as "The Byers House Restaurant".

1967 The Weir-Reynolds Community Swimming Pool was dedicated. Funding was provided through private donations and community fund raising activities.

1967 A satellite office of the Rensselaer County Office of Economic Opportunity was opened in Hoosick Falls.

1969 Mrs. Austin's Ice Cream and Candy Store in Eagle Bridge burned. The building also housed the Eagle Bridge Post Office. The present Post Office was erected at that site.

1970 Noble and Wood Company closed. It had produced paper-making machines.

1970 The village of Hoosick Falls started operation of the sewage treatment plant in January. It is located near Thayer's Pond.

1971 - 1980

1971 The Town of Hoosick Housing Authority was established.

1973 The Hoosick Falls Hardware and Supply Company, located in one of the Walter A. Wood buildings, was destroyed by fire on June 8. It had been owned and operated by Jerold Greenberg since 1952. The fire was caused by an arsonist.

1973 The Hoosick Falls Municipal Building burned on July 19. It was built in 1905 and both town and village offices were located there.

1973 The Knights of Columbus building on Main Street was demolished. A new building was erected on that site for the Home and City Savings Bank.

1973 Oak Industries bought the Noble and Wood Manufacturing Plant.

1973 The Rensselaer County Community Action Agency began operating a rural bus line from Hoosick Falls to Troy. One via Routes 67 and 40 and another via Routes 22 and 2.

1974 Oak Industries merged with Mitsui and became Oak-Mitsui Incorporated, producing copper foil for laminating.

1974 The Gold Medal Creamery burned. The company had bought milk from surrounding farmers for more than 125 years. The company shipped milk to New York City.

1976 Land was purchased for the new Grand Union Store on Route 22. The land was part of the former Ehmler Estate.

1977 The Reynolds Gilchrist Skating Rink was dedicated though it had opened for skating earlier.

1978 The Victorian-style band stand in Wood Park in the village of Hoosick Falls was completed. The Hoosick Community Band plays there every Wednesday evening during the summer months

1978 The Covered Bridge in Buskirk was placed on the National Register on March 8.

1980 The former home of the Thompson family of the Stevens and Thompson Paper Company burned December 12. It was owned and occupied by Larry and Judy Peterson at the time.

1980 The Wood Flong Company sold their plant to the Lydall Company. Lydall produces electrical board, engraving material and gasket material.

1980 On March 19, fire damaged Dougherty's Hotel on the corner of John Street and Main Street, Hoosick Falls. Three men lost their lives in the blaze.

1981 - 1990

1981 Allied Signal built the River View Plant in Hoosick Falls located on the site of the former Walter A. Wood Manufacturing Company. The plant produces laminates used for circuit boards in computers as well as for communications and automobile industries.

1981 Rite Aid Drug Store moved into the building formerly occupied by the Grand Union. It is located on the corner of Wilder Avenue and Main Street.

1981 Hoosick Meadows opened 25 units of low-cost housing located on Route 22 south of Hoosick Falls.

1982 The Louis Miller Museum, located at 166 Main Street, was established. It is managed by the Town of Hoosick Historical Society.

1982 The Ehmler Mansion burned in June. This mansion was built by Mr. John Hobart Warren in 1878 and was his summer home. Mr. Warren manufactured stoves in Troy. Hans Ehmler purchased the estate in the late 1800s. He operated it as a place to train prize-fighters. Later, he operated a zoo. The building was empty at the time of the fire.

1982 The Wood Park Housing for Senior Citizens opened. There are 30 units in the building.

1984 Robert Weeks was murdered in his store at 1:30pm on August 20. The suspect was arrested on November 16. The store was located on Depot Road in Hoosick.

1984 One of the cast iron eagles was mysteriously taken from the iron bridge at Eagle Bridge. This was noticed in August. It was replaced on December 18 of the same year as mysteriously as it was taken.

1984 The Daniels' Antique Shop on Main Street was demolished and replaced by the Cumberland Farm Store.

1984 Fire damaged the State Line Night Club on Route 67. The building is located both in the state of New York and the state of Vermont.

1984 Walt Wirmusky died on December 9. He was a prominent citizen and is most remembered for his impersonation of Santa Claus each Christmas season.

1985 A section of Route 7 was improved through the efforts of the Hoosick Falls Kiwanis Club.

1985 The new Municipal Building was completed. The original building burned in 1974. The Village Offices moved into this building on January 15.

1985 Albany International Felt Company closed its plant on Danforth Street.

1985 The Stone School House at the junction of Routes 7 and 22 was renovated. It was built in 1842.

1986 Flag Acres Zoo opened its doors to the public. It is a nonprofit educational learning facility with more than three hundred animals on display.

1987 The Specialty Insulation Company on Center Street, Hoosick Falls closed. It was a pioneer in the field of plastics. It operated for eighty-seven years.

1989 The Woodbridge Heights Housing for Senior Citizens opened with 24 units.

1991-1999

1991 The Hoosick Baptist Church was destroyed by fire September 18. The original building was erected in 1870.

1991 Trustco Bank replaced the Home and City Savings Bank.

1992 The Alternatives Plus Company bought the building formally owned by Yankee Wood on Center Street. The Company manufactures store displays (mannequins) made of polyurethane.

1993 The Barclay Building on the corner of Hoosick Railroad Avenue was destroyed by an arson fire. This building was the home of many factories since 1878. Among these were a grist mill that ground and packaged buckwheat flour, a clothing manufacturing company and later bedding supplies.

1996 Flomatic Corporation, manufacturer of brass valves for water systems, moved from North Hoosick to Glens Falls. This included the business office, sales and production.

1996 The forty-one bed addition to the Hoosick falls Health Center was completed in October.

1996 The Fluorglass Division of Allied Signal on Mc Caffrey Steet was sold to the Furon Company including the Liberty Street plant (formerly Nancy Shoe Company) and the John Street Plant.

1997 The Mary McClellan Family Health Center, located on Danforth Street, opened and was dedicated on October 5.

1997 WCW Incorporated, which produces air mattresses for hospital beds and wheelchairs, moved into a building owned by Allied Signal. It is located on River Road in back of the Falls Dinner.

1997 The Hoosick Falls Chamber of Commerce was organized.

1998 A tornado touched down at Round Lake in Saratoga County and continued east until it lifted in North Bennington. In the town of Hoosick, a barn owned by the Hoag family and a house owned by Mr. And Mrs Bruce Patire was destroyed. Many homes were damaged along with many acres of trees.

1998 The Southwestern Vermont Medical Center opened the Putnam Family Practice Center on Parsons Avenue, December 9.

1999 Bryan Pello of CLS Transportation purchased the former Fairbank's Express Terminal on Route 22 in North Hoosick. He operates a full-service trucking business, as did Leo and Richard Fairbanks.

1999 Woods Mowing Company Restaurant, formally Dougherty's Restaurant, opened under the management of Scott Areson.

1999 The new addition to the Hoosick Falls Central School building was completed and occupied in September. It provides classrooms and offices for the Middle School grades.

1999 The Bodyworks Health and Fitness Club opened on Water Street. The business is operated by Brian Shaw.

1999 The Town of Hoosick Athletic Field was dedicated in December in honor of Senator Joseph Bruno.

A historical notation: There have been mills in operation at the same location in Walloomsac since the end of the Revolutionary War. These mills include a sawmill, a flax mill, a cloth mill, and a succession of paper mills. The Bennington Paper Mill is operating there today in 1999. It is believed to be the only location in Rensselaer County where industries have operated continuously since the late 1700s, when the first mill was built.