Historic Preservation Timeline
for Kingston NY
Circa 1850 to 1910: Arguably, the origins of the historic preservation movement in the US began about the time of the 75th Anniversary of the American Revolution with events and the publication of various works documenting the Revolution and colonial history before it would be lost to posterity due to the industrialization, redevelopment or otherwise. Washington’s Headquarters in Newburgh was designated as the nation’s first historic site on July 4th, 1850. Publications documenting Kingston’s history include, but are certainly not limited to, various volumes of compiled NYS and New Netherland archival material published by Edmond B. O’Callaghan between 1846 and 1868, Lossing’s Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution (1851), Major George Pratt’s An Account of the British Expedition published by the new formed Ulster Historical Soc. (1861) which included among its purposes, an attempt to rescue the history of Ulster County fast being lost at that time, Sylvester’s History of Ulster County (1881), the 1887 acquisition of the Senate House by NYS for preservation as a museum, Schoonmaker’s History of Kingston (1888), Picturesque Ulster (1896) a publication providing photographic documentation, various events and documents celebrating Kingston’s history in the run up to and during the Hudson Fulton celebration of 1909 among a list too long to include. The Villages of Kingston and Rondout were merged in 1872

1937 Kingston HABS HAER reports for various properties in Kingston. This is a cooperative project between the Library of Congress and the NPS that began during the New Deal in 1933. It should be noted that President Franklin Roosevelt had an interest in historic preservation especially in his native Hudson Valley.
Kingston 1695
Old Kingston Stockade
Old Rondout
Timeline 1961 to 1980

- 1961 Master Plan refers to Urban Renewal for Rondout area and a mall area for Wall St. in Kingston Stockade with a canopy structure in the center of the street
- 1965 Friends of Historic Kingston formed
- 1966 Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission established
- 1966 circa Commencement of the Junior League Surveys of Ulster County properties prior to 1850 in Kingston and Ulster County which later resulted in the book Early Architecture in 1974. A copy of The Junior League Surveys including the Kingston volume completed in 1969 is at the Kingston Library.
- 1966-69 Demolition of large areas of Rondout including many structures of historic significance
- 1968 Pike Plan in Kingston Stockade area on parts of Wall and North Front Street
- 1969 Historic Resources of the Hudson by the Hudson River Valley Commission on file on SHPO; document used in some Kingston nominations
- 1969-70 Demolition of the Old Post Office
- 1970 Clinton Avenue NHR Nomination dated January 1970 approved #70000434
- 1971 Senate House NHR Nomination dated Feb 1971 approved #71000564
- 1971 City Hall NHR Nomination approved Nov 1971
- 1972-73 Kingston HABS HAER reports for various properties in Kingston
- 1974 West Strand District NHR Nomination dated May 1974 approved #74001314
- 1975 Kingston Stockade Historic District NHR nomination approved #75001231
- 1979 Community Theatre NHR nomination approved #79001639
- 1979 Rondout District NHR Nomination dated 6-6-1979 approved #79001641
- 1979 Urban Cultural Park (now the Heritage Area) Work Program
- 1980 Hideo Saseki Feasibility Study for the Urban Cultural Park prepared dated 10-1980
1961 Comprehensive Plan
Rondout Urban Renewal Demolition
Kingston City Hall
Timeline 1984 to 2003

- 1984 Kingston Local landmarks Law Kingston Code Section 264 adopted 8-7-1984 as a local historic preservation ordinance covering Uptown Stockade District.
- 1985 Chestnut Street NHR Nomination 8-16-1985 approved 1985 #85002443, blue forms prepared by Lowell Thing
- 1986 Kingston Code Zoning Section 405.56 to 406.69 adopted 9-19-1986 to include Article IX covering the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission
- 1987 Urban Cultural Park Commission (now the Heritage Area Commission) established 10-7-1987
  Final report for the Urban Cultural Park by Reimann Buechner (now the Kingston Heritage Area) is dated 6-1987. The Heritage Area System (formerly known as the Urban Cultural Park System) is a state-local partnership established to preserve and encourage economic development to urban areas that have special significance to New York State.
- 1987 Stockade District ILS (referred to in 1990 ILS)
- 1988 Reconnaissance Level Survey of Historic Resources in the City of Kingston compiled by Jane Kellar and Kathy Maxwell
- 1988 City of Kingston Historic Properties (Landmarks and NHR) List compiled
- 1989 The local landmark Fair St. Historic District created effective 2-17-89
- 1990 Stockade Expansion and Albany Avenue ILS conducted by Tony Opalka and Peter Shaver;
- 1990 Dr. Joseph Diamond conducted Phase 1A Archeological Reconnaissance; Pine St African American Cemetery re-discovered
- 1992 LWRP adopted 7-7-1992 to encourage economic development of the waterfront area.
- 1992 Kingston Code Chapter 398 Sections 398-9, 10 and 11 designate the Heritage Area Commission as the LWRP consistency review committee. This is the second function of the Heritage Area Commission.
- 2000 A proposed Multiple Resource Area for Albany Avenue resulted in NHR nominations for six properties
- 2000-01 Midtown East ILS conducted by Kathy Maxwell of RUPCO
- 2002 LWRP Implementation Plan prepared by River St.
- 2003 Midtown West ILS conducted by Taylor and Taylor
Kingston Historic Districts

Kingston’s Four Historic Districts

In 1935, with the help of a study team from the Historic American Buildings Survey, the city began to investigate and document its buildings and districts, in an effort to identify and preserve them. By 1955, the city had four historic districts.

In the late 19th century, Kingston was named a Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and was included in the National Register of Historic Places. The district included the homes of prominent Kingston residents, including those of the Coxe, Bowne, and Van Rensselaer families.

In 1970, the city designated a large part of the historic district as a Historic District, and the boundaries were expanded to include additional properties. The district was designated a historic district in 1973.

Increased attention to the district began to decline in the 1980s, and it was designated a Historic District in 1983.

In 1989, the district was designated a National Historic Landmark, and the boundaries were expanded to include additional properties.

Kingston’s Four Historic Districts include the home of the late Senator AlSmith, the home of the late Senator AlSmith, and the home of the late Senator AlSmith.

Other Scenic Neighborhoods

In addition to the four historic districts, a number of neighborhoods and streets were added to the Historic Districts. Other significant buildings and properties, including those of the Coxe, Bowne, and Van Rensselaer families, were added to the Historic Districts.

A Part of Kingston’s Heritage Area

Kingston’s historic buildings and districts form a significant part of Kingston’s Heritage Area, an ongoing program supported by the City of New York. With a focus on celebrating the city’s history and culture, the Heritage Area in Kingston includes two areas: the South End Historic District and the Lower Town Historic District.

The South End Historic District contains the oldest part of Kingston, with a variety of buildings and properties added to the Historic Districts.

The Lower Town Historic District includes additional properties and buildings, including the home of the late Senator AlSmith.
Urban Cultural Park
City of Kingston
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

Adopted:
City of Kingston Common Council, July 7, 1992

Approved:
NYS Secretary of State Gail S. Shaffer, October 27, 1992

Concurred:
U.S. Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, October 6, 1993
Heritage Area and LWRP
Timeline 2006 to 2014

- 2006 Brochure covering Historic Preservation Guidelines in Kingston published. A revision of the 2002 NYS DOS publication Legal Aspects of the Municipal Historic Preservation dated 2005 cites the Kingston Historic Preservation Ordinance as a model for other communities in the state citing its brochure as a guide to Historic Preservation which includes explanatory sections to simplify the review process and a section entitled "Ways to Expedite the Process" as a way to help applicants reduce delays and costs.

- 2006 City of Kingston Historic Properties (Landmarks and NHR) List compiled in 1988 digitized with a GIS map provided by Ulster County however some data and overlays are either inaccurate or missing and required review or correction.

- 2008 Kingston Zoning Code Chapter 405, Section 405.31.2 Broadway Overlay District Design Standards added 11-12-2008 as Local Law #4-2008 with Heritage Area Commission to act as the review board [Added 11-12-2008 by L.L. No. 4-2008]. This is the third function of the Heritage Area Commission. The Heritage Area Commission now had three functions, advisory as to the Heritage Area itself and providing support for large Heritage Area grants, and regulatory as to the LWRP and the Broadway Overlay District.

- 2008 The Old Dutch Church declared a National Landmark

- 2012 Kingston Code Chapter 22 § 22 Article IV covering the Heritage Area Commission (formerly the Urban Cultural Park amended)

- 2013 Bluestone Survey Final Report dated 12-1-2013

- 2014 Placemaking in Bluestone presentation 3-2014

- 2014 CLG-Midtown Study by Jack Braunlein

- 2014-2018 NRI Mapping efforts by the Kingston Conservation Advisory Council resulted in updated cultural resource mapping still be reviewed and updated to be definitive
NRI Historic Resource Listing Map
Timeline 2014 to 2016

- 2014 Shuster memo of 10-20-14 on design standards and streamlining reviews

- 2015 HLPC has public meeting on 2-5-15 to discuss the then proposed Kingston Comprehensive Plan with Julian Adams SHPO CLG and Daniel Mackay, then at the Preservation League of NYS.

- 2015 Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan held on 3-15-15, written comments were accepted until 3-26-15. The Preservation League spoke and submitted comments.

- 2015 After comments from SHPO, the Preservation League and the local historic preservation community the draft comprehensive plan was revised as indicated in the Shuster Comprehensive Plan Agenda of 6-3-2015 with the intent of the memo of 10-20-14 abandoned: “The Draft Plan does not propose combining the Heritage Area Commission and the Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission. Each of these bodies has important separate functions beyond zoning. However, each of the three areas is currently governed by a different set of design standards administered by a different regulating body under different procedures. (Lower Broadway and the West Strand are not covered by any such design standards.) The Draft Plan proposes a more consistent process while maintaining the integrity of each body.” It should be noted that the Dept of Interior standards should apply to the historic districts including Rondout and East Strand.

- 2016 Nathaniel Booth House in Wilbur saved from demolition
Comprehensive Plan 2016

City of Kingston, NY

Comprehensive Plan
March 15, 2016

Prepared with technical assistance from:

Hudson-Turner-Planning Consultants
Timeline 2016 to 2018

- 2016 On 4-5-2016, the Kingston Common Council adopted a new Comprehensive Plan for the City - "Kingston 2025". See following provisions:
  - Strategy 2.4.1: Develop form-based policies for infill development on vacant lots to ensure new houses compliment neighboring properties with respect to placement, mass and orientation to the street.
  - Adopt form-based code for infill housing on vacant lots.
  - Ensure the height and scale of new houses is generally compatible with surrounding
  - Develop design guidelines for infill housing.
  - Ensure that any form-based codes do not abrogate the authority of the Landmarks Commission or Heritage Area Commission
  - Strategy 6.1.8: Support the preparation of Preservation, Interpretive and Marketing Plans. A City-wide Preservation plan should be developed that catalogs existing historic resources, existing preservation mechanisms, identifies any gaps in protections, and identifies additional resources to be preserved. An Interpretive Plan should be developed that develops a detailed, cohesive and practical plan for telling the story of Kingston’s historic resources to visitors. The Interpretive Plan would consider different approaches to the Visitor experience, from formal tours of resources, to interpretive signage, to online and digital phone applications. Goals, for interpreting historic resources would be more completely identified from tourist attraction to education and preservation. Lastly, a Marketing Plan should be developed to draft a strategy for generating interest in Kingston’s historic resources through advertising, online marketing, events and other means. All three plans may be developed together or in stages, but must involve existing civic and quasi-governmental entities currently engaged in historic preservation advocacy or administration.
  - Objective 6.2: Simplify the regulatory programs and protections to ease processing of development approvals involving Historic resources;
  - Strategy 6.2.1: Develop procedures to coordinate and streamline review functions by multiple agencies. Preservation of valuable historic resources must be ensured while expediting the reviews required by zoning and related laws.
  - Strategy 8.3.3: Consider adopting form-based codes and aesthetic requirements for homogenous areas of the Midtown. For certain neighborhoods with homogenous character and a uniform existing design, the City may wish to develop a basic building form and basic aesthetic guidelines along with a series of permitted uses for each story of the building.
  - The City could then allow any conforming application, for a new structure to be approved with no approval other than a Building Permit or Certificate of Use, so long as the use is a permitted district use. Development should remain subject to special design guidelines to maintain their historic urban character and any form-based codes should not undermine the intent and authority of the Kingston Heritage Area Commission.
  - Strategy 9.7.2: Provide more concrete design standards for development in the Stockade Area. The Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission regulations in the Zoning Chapter (Article 9) should be reconciled with Chapter 264 (that calls for creation of a Landmarks Preservation Commission) that regulates the Stockade District.
  - New or existing non-Landmark structures within the existing Landmark Districts should be subject to new design guidelines similar to the Broadway Overlay District design guidelines that provide concrete guidelines for how new buildings should relate to existing surrounding buildings. Such guidelines should be prepared and/or reviewed by the Landmarks Commission and the Kingston Heritage Area Commission. The introduction of concrete guidelines should speed review by telling applicants in advance the character of buildings that the Commission is seeking.
  - The City should explore other measures to streamline the review process for historic resources without undermining protections.
  - 2018 Proposed legislation to merge HLPC and HAC submitted to the Common Council Laws and Rules Committee for its April 2018 meeting