

Slingerlands National Historic District

As you drive out New Scotland Road from the roundabout, you are welcomed by a sign, "Slingerlands National Historic District," and you enter an especially lovely area of the Town of Bethlehem. The Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012, and includes New Scotland Road from Couse Lane to Helderberg Parkway, as well as Mullens Road and Bridge Street. These streets are lined with carefully restored old homes, stately trees, and several original carriage houses.



Slingerlands is named after the Slingerland family, which was instrumental in the development of the hamlet. In 1790, John A. Slingerland built a home (the oldest building in the Historic District) and raised his family. Three of his sons and one grandson were responsible for much of the development of our historic district as we know it today.



John I. was a highly respected politician, and a member of both Congress and the NYS Assembly. He worked to assure that the Susquehanna line of the D&H Railroad would be run through Slingerlands. William H. was a surveyor and civil engineer who was responsible for the creation of a water system which supplied four towns in Albany County; he served as Slingerlands postmaster for over twenty years. Albert I. was a farmer and landowner, who donated the land for the Slingerlands Community United Methodist Church and built many of the houses in the Historic District. Cornelius H., grandson of John I., established the Slingerland Printing Company in 1879.



The homes of each of these men still stand proudly in the district, with the exception of the second home of William H., which was demolished in the early 1980's. The Slingerland family burial vault is located adjacent to that property. A few of the old business buildings also remain. The old store and post office building now houses The New Village Deli. The old church interior has been renovated into the offices of Delmar Family Medicine and the exterior restored, complete with the original stained glass windows and the old chimes that ring twice a day. The schoolhouse and the printing company were renovated into apartments, and the old Home Lawn Hotel is a private residence.



Today, the Slingerlands Historic District is a quaint area of old homes and buildings which have been lovingly cared for. The residents take great pride in the history of their district and the stories of those who lived here before them. Walking through the area, time seems to stand still a bit and one pauses and muses about all of the families who lived in and loved these old homes.

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