

= New York State Route 308 =

New York State Route 308 (NY 308) is a short state highway , 6 @. @ 19 miles (9 @. @ 96 km) in length , located entirely in northern Dutchess County , in the U.S. state of New York . It is a major collector road through mostly rural areas that serves primarily as a shortcut for traffic from the two main north ? south routes in the area , U.S. Route 9 (US 9) and NY 9G , to get to NY 199 and the Taconic State Parkway . The western end of NY 308 is located within the Rhinebeck Village Historic District , a 2 @. @ 6 @- @ square @- @ mile (6 @. @ 7 km2) historic district comprising 272 historical structures . The highway passes near the Dutchess County Fairgrounds , several historical landmarks , and the Landsman Kill .

Indicated by artifacts found near Lake Sepasco , a small lake along NY 308 , the highway began its history in about 1685 , when a group of Native Americans called the Sepasco built the Sepasco Trail ; this trail ran from the Hudson River , eastward through modern @- @ day Rhinebeck (then Sepasco or Sepascoot) , and ended at Lake Sepasco , following roughly Route 308 and its side roads . The trail remained until 1802 , when part of the Ulster and Delaware Turnpike ? also known as the Salisbury Turnpike ? was chartered over the trail and extended from Salisbury , Connecticut to the Susquehanna River at or near the Town of Jericho (now Bainbridge) .

Route 308 was designated as part of the 1930 renumbering of New York state highways , incorporating a portion of the former Ulster and Delaware Turnpike . The route originally extended from Milan westward to Rhinecliff to serve a ferry landing on the Hudson River . It was truncated to US 9 in the 1960s but its former routing to Rhinecliff is still state @- @ maintained as an unsigned reference route . The highway was also intended to be part of the then @- @ new Kingston ? Rhinecliff Bridge until plans were changed to involve other routes and the building site for the bridge was moved about 3 miles (5 km) northward .

= = Route description = =

Part of NY 308 is located along the Rhinebeck Village Historic District , a 1 @, @ 670 @- @ acre (6 @. @ 8 km2) historic district that contains 272 buildings in a variety of architectural styles dating from over 200 years of the settlement 's history . It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 as a well @- @ preserved and cohesively built area of historic buildings . A notable attraction is the Beekman Arms Inn , which is located at the corner of NY 308 and US 9 . Founded in 1776 , it claims to be the oldest continuously @- @ operated inn located in the United States .

Route 308 begins at US 9 in the Dutchess County village of Rhinebeck , at about 200 feet (61 m) in elevation . To the south is the American Legion Park , a small lake , and the Rhinebeck Cemetery . In the center of the village is the Rhinebeck , New York U.S. Post Office , which is situated very close to the US 9 / NY 308 intersection . The Post Office was established in 1940 , and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 . At this point , the Dutchess County Fairgrounds are located just to the north of Route 308 . The highway proceeds eastward on East Market Street , soon exiting Rhinebeck while it runs parallel to the Landsman Kill River , a minor tributary of the Hudson River , which is sometimes known as Landsman Kill or Landsmankill . The Landsman Kill has numerous spawning runs of smelt , alewife , and blueback herring .

An intersection with County Route 101 (CR 101 , known as Violet Hill Road) soon follows , as NY 308 turns slightly to the north . It intersects with NY 9G via an interchange before crossing the stream and gradually turning to the east into a relatively rural area . Between US 9 and NY 9G , NY 308 carries an average of about 6 @, @ 400 vehicles per day . East of NY 9G , the traffic volume drops to about 3 @, @ 700 vehicles per day . Several small lakes surround NY 308 as it intersects CR 52 in the hamlet of Eighmyville and subsequently turns to the northeast , traveling within a large open field . NY 308 then travels west of Sepasco Lake before turning on an eastward route once again . The highway runs initially in a fairly flat area , although passes between two large hills of at least 400 feet (120 m) . It passes just to the south of the Red Hook Golf Club before coming to an end at NY 199 in Rock City , a hamlet within the town of Milan that is situated just east of where the Milan , Red Hook , and Rhinebeck town lines converge .

= = History = =

= = = Native Americans and old roads = = =

Indicated by artifacts recovered close to the road in Milan and in other areas along the Hudson River , the earliest inhabitants of the northern Dutchess County region were the Mohicans , a Native American nation , about 3 @, @ 000 years ago . The range of the Mohicans extended from northern Dutchess County to the southern tip of Lake Champlain , and from the Catskill Mountains to the Berkshires in Massachusetts . The total population of the Mohicans was estimated at 8 @, @ 000 during the time of first contact with the Europeans , although only 800 remained after the American Revolution . Artifacts were also recovered along the shore of Lake Sepasco ? a small lake NY 308 passes near its ending terminus . Those artifacts recovered included ancient arrowheads , and are now on display at the Museum of Rhinebeck History .

A group of these Native Americans were , in deeds and correspondence , known as the Sepasco Indians , a name specific to Native Americans in the Sepasco area (modern @-@ day Rhinebeck) . The word Sepasco probably originated from the tribe 's word for little river or stream , sepuus , which is believed to have referred to the Landsman Kill , a stream parallel to NY 308 . After the American Civil War , only a few of the Sepasco were left ; the last Sepasco died in a hut near Welch 's Cave and Lake Sepasco and was reported in the local newspaper in 1867 . By 1685 , a trail known as the Sepasco Trail was formed by them and was routed from the Hudson River , eastward through the present @-@ day Village of Rhinebeck , ending at Lake Sepasco . The trail from the Village of Rhinebeck to Lake Sepasco follows roughly modern @-@ day Route 308 , in some areas slightly to the south , where the highway 's side roads are curved in a pattern similar to that of the Sepasco Trail . It is possible that the trail as a whole existed as a spur of an ancient path that stretched from Rhinebeck to Cornwall , Connecticut .

The trail remained intact until 1802 , when part of the Ulster and Delaware Turnpike was chartered over it " for improving and making a road from the west line of the Town of Salisbury in the State of Connecticut to the Susquehannah [sic] River at or near the Town of Jericho [present @-@ day Bainbridge] " . The portion of the Ulster and Delaware Turnpike east of the Hudson River was also commonly known as the Ulster and Salisbury Turnpike . The turnpike crossed the river by way of the Kingston ? Rhinecliff Ferry and used modern Rhinecliff Road and West Market Street to the village center of Rhinecliff , then followed roughly modern NY 308 to the hamlet of Eighmyville . It continued east from there using part of CR 52 to eventually connect with NY 199 .

A bronze plaque attached to a large boulder was erected in November 1922 by Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on the property of the Beekman Arms , that marked the crossing of the Kings Highway (present @-@ day US 9) and the Ulster and Salisbury Turnpike . Still existent , it reads " This stone marks the crossing of the Kings Highway and the Sepasco Indian Trail , later named the Ulster and Salisbury Turnpike , over which traveled the Connecticut Pioneers to their new homes in western New York . "

= = = Designation = = =

The NY 308 designation was assigned as part of the 1930 renumbering of New York state highways . At the time , it extended from the Rhinecliff ferry landing to Rock City in the town of Milan . West of US 9 , NY 308 continued to follow the old turnpike alignment to Hutton Street , where it connected to the Kingston ? Rhinecliff Ferry . In 1947 , the ferry was the only crossing of the Hudson River between Catskill (the Rip Van Winkle Bridge) and Poughkeepsie (the Mid @-@ Hudson Bridge) ? a distance of 36 miles (58 km) ? and the only one serving the Kingston area .

Initial plans for the Kingston ? Rhinecliff Bridge , a structure that replaced the ferry between the two locations , called for the bridge to span the Hudson River between downtown Kingston (at Kingston Point) and the village of Rhinebeck along a corridor similar to that of NY 308 . Due to political and

economic factors , the bridge site was moved 3 miles (5 km) upstream (northward) . The bridge , then partially complete , opened to traffic on February 2 , 1957 , at which time the ferry service between Kingston and Rhinecliff was terminated . However , NY 308 continued to extend west to Rhinecliff up to the 1960s , when it was truncated to US 9 in the village of Rhinebeck . The section of former NY 308 west of US 9 is now designated as NY 982M , an unsigned reference route .

= = Major intersections = =

The entire route is in Dutchess County .