

YORKTOWN HOMES OF HISTORIC DISTINCTION

# Hunterbrook Road Saltbox

In 1971, when the Simons—Andrew and Andrea—were house hunting in Westchester, they kept returning to an unlikely wreck on Hunterbrook Road. This particular house was extremely old and, in the words of Andrew Simon, “Its guts were pretty rotten,” but it was located on a lovely property surrounded by open meadows.



After months of negotiations, the Simons finally purchased the home and subsequently spent the next 40 years renovating, restoring, honing and polishing their historic gem. As equestrians, the couple kept horses on the property for a number of years and were able to ride along centuries-old bridle paths that extended north through what is now a development of houses at Beekman Court.

When the Simons acquired the property, they discovered that the structure was once a simpler one-story saltbox building, possibly with a small sleeping loft. Over the years, one of its inhabitants had raised the roof to create more comfortable bedrooms upstairs. In their initial renovation, the Simons happily removed such 1960s accoutrements as orange shag carpeting and installed essentials such as insulation. Today, an expansive deck and sun-porch adjoin the home, providing splendid views of the sprawling meadows below, as well as a small original barn. The interior retains its 19th century charm.

Like many of the oldest homes in Yorktown, the Simons’ property was probably originally a tenant farmer’s cottage. And, like most of the land along Hunterbrook Road, it was a part of South Lot 2 of the original Van Cortlandt Manor, an 86,000-acre tract of land granted to Stephanus Van Cortlandt by



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NANCY MILANESE  
Andrea and Andrew Simon are all smiles after installing their Homes of Historic Distinction plaque.

King William III in 1697. Upon his marriage to Van Cortlandt’s only daughter, Gertrude, Philip Verplanck became the master of Lot 2, and in 1739, he leased 125 acres of farmland to Daniel Hor-

ton of White Plains. Horton’s son, Stephen, eventually purchased the land from Verplanck and passed it on to his

SEE HOMES PAGE 6

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