



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## Requiem for "Building G"

The Country Grove Inn has recently been demolished. Located across from Hudson Valley Community College, it was affectionately nicknamed "Building G" as if it was one of the campus educational facilities. To many students it really was. People have told me they spent many a hour sampling the beer selection at "The Grove".

The history of the Country Grove Inn goes back to 1949 when Michael and Kate Filuta bought the property from the heirs of Madison Youngmans who in turn purchased this 1797 farmhouse from the Vandenberg family early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Filutas were the proprietors of the Madison Grill in Troy and wanted to expand their

operations to include clam steams. The name has an interesting origin. Anything outside of the City of Troy was deemed the country and there were at least 15 fruit bearing apple and pear trees in the "grove" of the property-hence the "Country Grove".

One of the first things the owners did was to build a pavilion for hosting clam steams. These were very popular over the years. Robert Lasky, a relative of the owners, remembers working there in the 1960's when more than 25 events per year would be held.

Besides clam steams, the Grove hosted church picnics, wedding receptions, political meetings and dancing. I have a news advertisement announcing "Moonlight Dancing every Friday night featuring polkas, rhumbas and waltzes."

The Grove building celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1997, but in the early 2000's there was a bid to replace it with a Walgreens. Although this failed, the Grove was purchased by Hudson Valley Community College and entered a period of "benign neglect" until December 2016 when it was taken down for commercial development.

Several architectural pieces were saved and will be displayed in the new building along with

photos. . If you have any pictures of the Grove which the developer will display in new building, or mementos, or simply wish to share stories, please contact me.