

SUNNYSIDE

Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown

When Washington Irving returned home in 1832 after a 17-year European sojourn devoted largely to writing, he found himself regarded as America's foremost prose author. In 1835 he purchased an old stone house on the eastern bank of the Hudson and subsequently enlarged and remodeled it into Sunnyside, a charmingly romantic dwelling in what might be called a "faux Dutch" style. Irving published his first book, *A History of New York*, in 1809 under the pseudonym Diedrich Knickerbocker. He is best remembered for his 1819–1820 work, *The Sketch Book*, with its unforgettable characters. Rip Van Winkle, Ichabod Crane, and the headless horseman all gallivanted, or slept, not very far from Sunnyside. Irving's home is open to the public.