



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —

The Price of Hearth and Home Part I

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Few things are of higher importance to an individual than the: location, price, and safety of his/her home. This is why every ancient culture (and in this case we are using ancient as a synonym for the word, “**polytheistic**,” meaning a culture with multiple Gods/ Goddesses): Aztec, Chinese, Egyptian, Norse, Roman, Greek, Hindu etc. has had a God or Goddess of Hearth and Home. Therefore, we decided to research housing prices in Greenburgh. To do this properly, we need to do 4 things:

1. We need to consult the Real Estate Record Database hosted by Columbia University (hereafter referred to simply as “**The Database**”). The earliest record in The Database is January of 1870. Reading The Database properly is hard. Entries look like this: [133D st , n. a, 300.3 e. 5th av., 18.9.x99.11, house aud lo Thomas H. Farr^{Ma} to Galen T. Porter, of Greenburgh, Westchester co., N. Y. April 22 1870.](#) Plus, not every mention of “**Greenburgh**” in The Database actually refers to property in Greenburgh. For instance, the above entry refers to a house located at 300 East 5th Avenue, Manhattan which Thomas H. Farruca a resident of Manhattan sold to Galen T. Porter, a resident of Greenburgh on April 22 1870. Property which is actually in Greenburgh is referenced this way:

Greenburgh:

High st., w. s., James Dunworth to Stephen Hasbrouck.....3,000	Purdy av. (TarrytoAvn), 75^ .5 s. land of J H Hall, 2.5x111. Thomas H". Purdy to John H NeAvman, Jr., Greenburgh, N. Y..... 525
High st., w. s., 120x125. James Dunworth to Stephen Hasbrouck.....15,000	Purdy av. (TarrytoAvn), 50K s. land of j.' h. HaU, ^0x111. Thomas H. Purdy to Charles H. Humphreys, Greenburgh, N. Y..... 510
Eliza A. and Edward R. Bell to Mary J. Pierce, 75 350-1000 acres.....60,000	Main st. (TarrytoAvn), 75.3 s. land of J. H. Hall 725x111 ^Jilton Purdy to Aaron Archer! Mt. Pleasant, N. Y..... ^670
D^t., e. B., 46x100. WUliam A. McVicker et al to Edward McIntyre.....425	Main st (TanytoAA'u), 200.8 s. laud of J." H." Hall 50x103. Thomas H. Purdy to Wilson D Blake, Mt Pleasant, N. Y."..... 1 070
Washington st., e. s., 50x1.52. Hannah A. Sutton to Paul R. Brown.....6,000	Main st (TarrytoAvn), 401.4s. land of .1. H.'jiall abt. 50x103K. Thomas H. Purdy to Edmund R. Underhill, Greenburgh, N. Y..... 1 500
New St., e. s., adj. J. A. Van Tassel, 25x96.	Purdy av. (TanytoAvn), 100.6 s. land of j'li Hall, 35x109K. Thomas H. Purdy to Oscar McCoy, Greenburgh, N. Y..... .500
Thos. H. Purdy and wife to GUbert T. Davis. 950 Storm st., s. s., adj. A. Clark, 37x128. Thomas T. Tompkins to Mary E. Smith..... 1,200	Purdy av. (TanytoAvn), 3.5.6 s. land of J'h~ IlaU, 35x113. Thomas H. Purdy to Thomas A. BrAver, Greenburgh, N. Y.....510
Grove st., w. s., 100 s. Benedict av., 100x116.	Northwest cor. BroadAvay and Wldey "st (TarrytoAvn), abt 340.6x300. Belina Rushtoi to EdAvard C. BeU, TarrytoAvn, N. Y. .. 37 000
Wm. T. Smith to Jeniima S. Davis.....3,000	Main st. (TarrytoAvn), n. s.,adj. land of Richard Humphrey, 34.6x134.6. EdAvard R. Vander- bUt to David H. Ketchum, Putnam Co , N ^ Y..... 12,600
Church st., n. s., adj. S. Emberson, 100x150.	
Abigail L. MelJowe to Margaret Kilapp.....4,200	
Orchard st., w. s., 115 s. WUdey st., 25x95.	
Patrick H. Murray and wife to Ferdinand Mangold.....1,200	
Main st., n. s., 35x100. Margaret Romer to Geo. W- Abrams et al.....4,100	

We put two entries in red. We did this to highlight that they are of similar size.

2. The Town of Greenburgh covers a sizable amount of land geographically. It would not be prudent to compare the price of something the size of for example Massaro Park (2 acres) to the price of something the size of The Warburg Estate (eighty acres). However, the information on these pages is sorted by town, not total acreage or lot size. So, in order to make the comparison from 1870 - Present, we need to read each record in The Database to make sure we found land of similar acreage and lot size in the 1870s. We called this base unit of comparison **“point zero.”** Only with a **point zero firmly established**, can any comparison be made.

3. Then, we will need to compare this point zero to the price of land of the same size in the 1900s.

4. Then we need to go on Zillow to compare that to modern prices of the same size lot.

Since this process is an arduous one, we will be releasing several mini-articles to periodically update you, our readers, as to our progress. Stay tuned for updates.

