

# Frederic Church and Olana Timeline

## Introduction to Timeline for Frederic Church's Olana Landscape

Although there are several published timelines and chronologies that cover the career of Frederic Church, as well as the development of Olana, none focuses on the development of the Olana landscape in a comprehensive way. This Olana Landscape Timeline is not intended for the general reader who is simply interested in an overview of the salient events leading to the creation of Church's landscape. The Abbreviated Timeline serves this purpose. This extended document is meant to be used by those involved in curating, interpreting, preserving, rehabilitating and managing Church's career-long three-dimensional composition—the Olana landscape.

The entries do not represent original research and have been selected from the text of Robert Toole's "Historic Landscape Report," as well as from the timelines and chronologies included in volumes on Church and Olana by John K. Howat (2005), Franklin Kelly with Debora Rindge, author of chronology (1989), and James A. Ryan (1989, 2001, 2011).

The timeline's purpose is to create a broad context for the work of landscape-shaping that took place under Church's direction during his ownership of the Olana property, and not to generate a simple list of dates and events marking physical changes to the Olana landscape.

To accomplish this, several kinds of information are included that may not, at first glance, seem relevant to Olana's landscape story. First of these is the development of Church's intellectual focus and fields of interest. Key personalities and publications that shaped his understanding of the natural and spiritual worlds and their interrelationships are included. Second is the community of persons who were Church's friends, artist/colleagues, mentors, patrons, clients, and advisors. This circle of friends, together with his family, were Church's daily world with whom he corresponded, traveled, and communed about life and the times in which they lived. Finally, the path of Church the painter and landscape designer, as he travelled throughout the world both near and far, is traced. This is an important aspect of how his conception of what a landscape estate should and could look like developed over time. Although international travel was not unusual for the period, Church seemed to have an unusual penchant for viewing and experiencing landscapes that was almost insatiable. Whether travelling in New England, South America, or the Near East, his curiosity and passion for the study of a range of landscape types was remarkable. His affinity for places with dramatic vegetation and mountainous topography with long views had a profound effect on his choice of site for Olana's development, and the design that would move the visitor from the low elevation of the entry road to the high point where the house offered magnificent panoramas.

The inclusion of Church's major paintings within the timeline provides benchmarks that allow the reader to trace the development of Church's vision and aesthetic temperament as his artistic style evolved over the years.

Notes:

Entries in italics indicate events that would have affected the times during which Church was living, without having a direct impact on Olana and its evolution.

When a subject is not listed for an entry, but implied, the reference is to Frederic Edwin Church.

Abbreviations:

HLR            Historic Landscape Report

FCP            Final Comprehensive Plan

LRP            Landscape Restoration Plan

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## TIMELINE of the EVOLUTION of the OLANA LANDSCAPE

- 1720-1740 *Naturalistic approach to landscape design gains popularity in England.*
- 1760s-1780s *The concept of the ferme ornée, composed picturesque pastoral scenery adapted to farming operations, becomes popular in England. This approach would be used by Church at Olana a century later.*
- 1794 Wynsant Brezie (1739-1802) purchases farm lot of about 123 acres, including a farmhouse and an orchard, from John Van Renssalaer. (Toole, HLR, 33)
- 1826 Frederic Church born in Hartford, CN. His father Joseph Church was a successful businessman, jeweler, silversmith, and served on the boards of several banks and Aetna Life Insurance Company. (Rindge, 158)
- 1834 Map of former Brezie farm, now Miller farm, shows farmhouse and barn. (Toole, HLR, 34-35)
- 1835 *Washington Irving develops small ornamental farm and cottage ornée, Sunnyside, in Tarrytown, that includes picturesque landscape garden effects.*
- 1841 *Hudson Valley resident and nurseryman A. J. Downing publishes his Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, which translated the theories of the English picturesque style of gardening into approaches more appropriate for the smaller land holdings of Americans.*
- 1841 May Painter Thomas Cole (1801-1848), who would eventually become the founder of the Hudson River Valley School of Landscape Painting, writes “Essay on American Scenery.” (Ibid., 25)
- 1844 June Moves from Hartford to Catskill. (Meyers, *The Catskills*, 109)
- 1844 Becomes the first student of Thomas Cole.
- 1845 Feb. & Aug. Sketches near Mountain House, Catskill. (Rindge, 158)
- 1845 May “Cole takes Church across the Hudson to sketch the extraordinary views from a high shale bluff called Red Hill directly across the river from Cole’s home in Catskill. Completes *Twilight among the Mountains (Catskill Creek)*, one of his earliest paintings of the Catskills. Exhibits publicly for the first time at the National Academy of Design in NYC.” (Ryan, 89)
- 1846 Moves to New York City. (Toole, HLR, 26) “In the Berkshires, near Lee and Stockbridge, MA, sketching.” (Rindge, 158)
- 1847 Establishes studio and residence in New York City. (Howat, 189) Resides in Art Union Building, 497 Broadway, until 1858. (Rindge, 158) Church sells at least four paintings to the American Art Union. (Meyers, 109)
- 1848 February Sudden death of Cole at age forty-seven. ( Ryan, 89)

- 1848 Elected an associate member of the National Academy of Design. (Howat, 189)
- 1848 Possibly visits Niagara Falls for the first time. Sketches in Vermont. (Rindge, 159)
- 1849 Elected Academician (N.A.) (full member) by National Academy of Design. (Howat, 189)
- 1849 Sketches in Vermont. (Rindge, 159)
- 1840s-50s Church's paintings closely parallel Hudson River School precepts (careful composition, art as variety within unity, harmonious blending of otherwise separate parts); his art is influenced by the many trips taken in the wilderness during this period. (Toole, HLR, 26)
- 1840s late Is influenced by Alexander von Humboldt. Humboldt's 1845 *Cosmos* inspired artists to travel and paint equatorial South America. (Heilbrun Timeline of Art History, [www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd\\_chur.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd_chur.htm))
- 1850 Member of Century Club, private group of writers and authors in NYC. Travels through Vermont, New Hampshire (White Mountains), and Maine (Mount Desert). (Rindge, 159)
- 1850-51 *Architect Calvert Vaux designs house at The Point, a ferme ornée, which included a picturesque landscape design; and a year later the house at Idlewild near Newburgh, "as fine an example of Picturesque landscape gardening as can be identified in the valley."* (Toole, HLR, 23)
- 1851 Elected to Council of National Academy for one year and to membership in the Traveler's Club in New York City. (Howat, 189)
- 1851 Travels through the South with friend and patron Cyrus A. Field. Visits Mount Matahdin, ME, for first time. (Rindge, 160)
- 1852 *Death of Andrew Jackson Downing.*
- 1853 Charles H. J. Smith's *Landscape Gardening or Parks and Pleasure Grounds* published in New York; only book related to landscape gardening known to have been in Church's library. (Toole, HLR, 24)
- 1853 Millers sell Brezie parcel of 126 acres to Levi Simmons. (Toole, HLR, 35)
- 1853 Follows von Humboldt's footsteps, visits Colombia in South America. (Heilbrun) April through October, travels with Cyrus Field in Columbia and Ecuador. (Howat, 189)
- 1854 Completes first South American paintings. (Ibid.)
- 1854 *Henry David Thoreau publishes Walden, one of the treatises that led followers of Cole "to capture nature undefiled." A homestead in the wilderness becomes theme for many artists when society is torn between a worship of nature and a need to dominate it. (American Paradise, 251)*
- 1855 Travels to Mount Desert with large group of friends. Completes *The Andes of Ecuador, Cotopaxi*. (Rindge, 162)

- 1855 Census of farm under Simmons' ownership lists 110 acres as "improved," 60 acres of this ploughed—40 acres in oats; 5 acres in rye, wheat and buckwheat; 18 for corn; 1 acre of potatoes; 2 ½ acres of peas; and 1 ½ acre kitchen garden (including flowers). Remaining improved land was orchards (produced 150 bushels of fruit and 7 barrels of cider in 1855.); 10 acres of meadows; 18 acres of pastures; and the barnyards, roads, and house environs. The unimproved land was woodlots and wetlands. (Toole, HLR, 35)
- 1856 Visits Niagara Falls, New Hampshire, and Whiteface Mountain, NY. Spends July-August at Mount Katahdin with Theodore Winthrop. (Rindge, 162)
- 1857 *Niagara* is exhibited in New York City and London. May through August in Ecuador with painter Louis Remy Mignot. (Howat, 189) *Niagara* gives Church national and even international prominence. (Heilbrun)
- 1858 Moves into Tenth Street Studio Building. (Howat, 189)
- 1859 Completes and exhibits *Heart of the Andes* in New York; most popular display of single artwork in Civil War era, followed by two-year tour, including Britain. (Heilbrun) Sold for \$10,000, highest price ever paid for painting by living American artist at that time. (Ryan, 89)
- 1859 June-July Five-week trip along coast of Newfoundland and Labrador to sketch icebergs; sails from Boston to Halifax with Louis Legrand Noble (Cole's pastor and biographer) who describes trip in his 1861 *After Icebergs with a Painter*, and Louis Agassiz, former student of Von Humboldt in Paris, from 1847 on professor of zoology and geology at Harvard, and first to theorize that the earth had been subject to a past ice age. (Rindge, 164)
- 1859 Meets and becomes engaged to Isabel Carnes. (Howat, 189)
- 1859 Charles Darwin publishes *Origin of the Species*. Church questions "his own ideal world view of the union of science, religion, nature, and art...turning to the Holy Land for answers." (Dee, 29)
- 1860 *Heart of the Andes* tours major northern U. S. cities. (Howat, 189)
- 1860 Completes *Twilight in the Wilderness*, capturing the values of "unembellished, evocative nature." (Toole, HLR, 26)
- 1860 Purchases 126-acre Simmons (Wynsant Brezie) farm, near site of his early exploration in Hudson Valley, for \$10,000. (Toole, HLR, 2, 35)
- 1860 Marries Isabel Carnes (1838-1899) June 14, and moves to hillside farm in Hudson Valley; this would become Olana. (Heilbrun) Cosy Cottage built with assistance of Richard Morris Hunt or his staff. This was home for ten years. (Toole, HLR, 36-37)
- 1860 Begins planting trees at the farm. (Ryan, 89)

- 1860 February First reference to “getting out muck,” by Thomas Cole’s son Theodore who worked as caretaker/manager on Church’s farm. Theodore is referring to excavation of wetland area for future lake. Muck excavation would persist for 20 years. (Toole, HLR, 37)
- 1860 summer Church and new wife live with Coles while awaiting completion of new home across the river. (Meyers, 110)
- 1860 August Cole plants 250 strawberry plants, “probably in the cottage garden that was developed just east of Cosy Cottage.” (Toole, HLR, 38)
- 1860 August 15 Clergyman George Bethune, (1805-1862), a friend of Church’s, writes to Church when considering buying the steep west side of the hill: “The difficulty, however, is to get to it—a road cut down such a steep [slope] and made safe (if indeed it could be) would wish more than I could stand (sic).” (Ibid, 96)
- 1860 September Churches visit Mount Desert, ME. (Ibid., 38)
- 1860 October Cole, aided by Church, plants cranberry bushes; digs a well. (Ibid.)
- 1860-61 Initial development of Church’s gentleman’s farm. On south side of Cosy Cottage small lawn sloping to south is defined by “encircling carriage drive.” Cottage sheltered into hillside on north where large evergreens are backdrop. Structures and outbuildings include board and batten cottage storage shed and privy, probably a chicken coop, barn (built in three phases beginning c. 1867), farm stable with wagon house attached to west side, barnyard, small building for coachman or staff (under construction in 1867), corn crib (needed new roof in 1868), granary, earth or root cellar, sizable ice house. (Ibid., 108-109)
- 1861 Completes and exhibits *The Icebergs (The North,)* and *Our Banner in the Sky*. (Howat, 189)
- 1861 April 1 Receipt, Richard Morris Hunt to Church, for assistance with design of Cosy Cottage, a new farmhouse located near the center of the land that would be the Churches’ home on the farm for more than ten years. (Toole, HLR, 37)
- 1861 April 12 *Firing on Fort Sumter begins Civil War.*
- 1861 April Bethune purchases a 30-acre parcel adjacent to Church’s land. Plans for the two to collaborate on land development end with Bethune’s sudden death in 1862. Church acquires Bethune’s property. (Ibid., 39)
- 1861 May or June Cosy Cottage complete, and Churches move in. (Ryan, 89)
- 1861 summer Kitchen wing added to Cosy Cottage. Theodore Cole writes, “Quite a number of trees were set out.” (Ibid., 38)
- 1861 Simmons handles heavy farm work—ploughing, crop cultivation, barn operations, while the Churches are directly involved in kitchen garden, orchard, and flower garden close to Cosy Cottage. Church expands

- Simmons' apple orchard, and adds multiple varieties of cherries, pears, plums, peaches, grapes, currants raspberries, and strawberries. (Ibid., 38, 53)
- 1861-spring 1864 Church seems to have formulated “comprehensive landscape design scheme for the future.” At this point the farm included only the original 126 acres. (Ibid., 42)
- 1861-1865 American Civil War. During this time Church has difficulty finding a competent farmer and help in general. (Ibid., 41)
- 1862 *Cotopaxi*, commissioned by philanthropist James Lenox, is complete. (Howat, 189) A review of painting in *New York Tribune* describes the volcanoes as “pillars of warning rather than of guidance”; another reviewer describes the ash-laden sky as “the war clouds, rolling dun” that eclipsed the light.” <http://eyelevel.si.edu/2012/12/the-civil-war-and-american-art-cotopaxi-americas-moral-compass.html>
- 1862 summer Churches have “delightful summer” at farm, with extended visit from Erastus Dow Palmer, Albany sculptor, and wife staying in old farmhouse. (Toole, HLR, 41)
- 1862 October Churches' first child, Herbert Edwin, born.  
By this date a piece of roadway, the cottage driveway, passes by the farm buildings on its way to the Churches' home. Church plants maple trees along drive. (Ibid.)
- 1862 Continues excavation for planned lake, and spreads muck on farmland, especially the hill west and northwest of Cosy Cottage, a section called the park that would eventually become the foreground between the house and the lake. (Ibid., 39-40)
- 1862 Mention of an apricot tree on Church's property that had apparently been part of the original sale. (Ibid., 39, fn 151)
- 1863 February Large quantity of fence posts and rails purchased. (Ibid., 41)
- 1863 April Church to his father: “The grass was fresh and green around the house, The strawberries had commenced throwing out new leaves. Vines and plants were well started [...] peas have been up some little time – about five hundred trees that I have planted and about as many more will be this spring. Mr. Cole purchased for me some time ago a splendid pair of black horses at \$700... I found the air so invigorating there that I think it will be advantageous to take an early start [at moving up river]. (Ibid., 45, fn 187)
- 1863 May Church to father: “The farm looks better than ever before... The peach [,] pear and plum trees are a sight... The apple trees are just beginning to come out... We have a coop of 15 chickens by the house and he [son Herbert] feeds them out of his hand – He is fascinated by the horses – I have a pair of pigeons.” (Ibid., fn 188)

- 1863 May-August Churches in residence at farm. (Ibid, 41) or: Churches in the Catskills. (Rindge, 165) Church actively manages farm. (Howat, 189)
- 1864 First of a “complex series of land purchases that eventually doubled his [Church’s] holdings and provided the landscape needed for the future Olana.” Thirty acres from Bethune was steeply sloped land to west of original parcel, with hillside fronting on Oak Hill-Hudson Road (not suited for farming, did not include future house site, but was foreground for prominent views southwest and west from house site and provided chance to build dramatic approach drive into farm.) (Toole, HLR,43, 96)
- 1864 Painting by Arthur Parton, *Looking Southwest over Church’s Farm*, 1864, “shows scene before ornamental improvements,” including cultivated land on hillside and excavation for lake at bottom of hill. (Ibid., 42)
- 1864 *Chimborazo* completed and sold to William Osborn. (Howat, 189)
- 1864 February Theodore Cole on Bethune purchase: “I suppose road making will be the order of the summer.” (Toole, HLR, 42)
- 1864 spring Tallies his tree planting at “several thousand,” including fruit trees, native deciduous trees (sugar maple, white birch), and native evergreens (pines, spruce, hemlocks). (Ibid., 40)
- 1864 April 7 Three hundred maple trees costing \$24 purchased, as noted in Theodore Cole’s diary. (Ibid., 45, fn 187)
- 1864 April Church exhibits *The Heart of the Andes*, *Niagara*, and *The Andes of Ecuador* at the New York Sanitary Fair, a war relief effort to raise funds for the U. S. Sanitary Commission (forerunner of Red Cross). Frederick Law Olmsted serves as executive secretary of the commission, on leave from directorship of Central Park.
- 1864 May 13 Church clearly envisions his design composition, and writes his father, describing value of Bethune lot in “securing fine openings for the views.” He explains that he could not sell the newly purchased land at the time “...because I should then have no opportunity to make a suitable entrance and roadway into my place.” (Ibid., 43)
- 1864 July Severe drought kills some of Church’s newly planted trees; determines to replace them. (Ibid., 44)
- 1864 October 22 Second child, Emma Frances, born. (Ibid., 45)
- 1864-1865 Construction and first record of Church’s use of studio (24-foot square structure of wood located in hillside park, 150 feet above Cosy Cottage, “topmost boundary,” on Long Hill [Ryan, 90]). (Building removed in 1888.) (Toole, HLR, 46)
- 1864-65 Probable construction date for Bethune Road. Described as a “mountain road” by visitor to farm. (Ibid.)

- 1865 March Churches lose their two children to diphtheria a week apart in New York City. (Heilbrun)
- 1865 spring/summer Travels with wife and friends to Jamaica, mourning children's deaths. Intense sketching campaign—botanical growth and tropical light. (Heilbrun, Howat, 189)
- 1865 July 28 In Jamaica, writes to Theodore Cole re: selling more of excavated muck to neighbor. Requires that neighbor haul equal number of loads for the farm, and that he not take all of the top layer—"the black part"—but rather "make an equal division." (Toole, HLR, 46)
- 1865 July 28 Writes to T. Cole, "I cannot think of the farm...without great longing." (Toole, HLR, 45)
- 1865 autumn Returning from Jamaica, the Churches spend the winter at the farm. (Ibid.)
- 1865 winter Completes *Aurora Borealis*; sold to William T. Blodgett (wealthy merchant, art collector, who would serve on executive committee of Metropolitan Museum when it was founded and broker the museum's first purchase of European old masters in 1871.) (Ryan, 90; Howat, 1865)
- 1865 late Start of more construction activity on studio after mourning period. (Toole, HLR, 46)
- 1865 *Albert Bierstadt builds house on the Hudson at Irvingston; names it Malkasten. Destroyed by fire in 1882. (Phillips, 71)*
- 1865-66 winter Churches in residence at the farm. (Toole, HLR, 47)
- 1866 Sells *Rainy Season in the Tropics* to Marshall O. Roberts, wealthy New York merchant, art patron, and collector. (Howat, 189)
- 1866 summer Churches only spend a two-week period—June 30-July 19—at the farm. (Toole, HLR, 47)
- 1866 September 30 Third child, Frederic Joseph, born to the Churches. (Ibid.)
- 1866 late Churches spend the winter at farm; Church works diligently in his studio. (Ibid.)
- 1867 January Death of Church's younger sister, Charlotte Eliza. (Rindge, 166)
- 1867 Architect Richard Morris Hunt (1828-1895) or staff engaged in developing house plans and elevations for Church. (Ibid., 54)
- 1867 *The Vale of St. Thomas, Jamaica*, sells to Mrs. Elizabeth H. Colt of Hartford, CN, wealthy widow of Samuel Colt, inventor of Colt firearms. (Howat, 189)
- 1867 Feb.-Sept. Churches in residence at farm preparing for upcoming trip to Europe and Near East. Church builds a new barn and remodels old barn; re-roofs ice house. This makes "ten distinct buildings added by Church: Cosy Cottage, cottage outbuilding, studio, new barn, second barn and/or stable, "little building to accommodate a coachman," ice house, and several smaller sheds and specialty buildings. (Toole, HLR, 47)

- 1867 March Writes, “My hands are busy in farm work, hauling muck, &c. It is delightful to see the farm alive again.” (Ibid.)
- 1867 March 26 “I superintend my own hot bed this season and if I plant my seed right side up I may expect to see them sprout in a day or two.” (Ibid., 48)
- 1867 summer Newspaper account includes: “...This residence (Cosy Cottage) is only temporary. He proposes to build on the hill overlooking the river and the grand outline of the Catskills. On this elevation now stands his studio....” (Ibid.)
- 1867 Oct.-’68 Mar. Acquires two lots that he claimed would “make my farm perfect, including the house site—18 acres of mature woodland, and a long narrow strip[Sienghenberg Hill]—a 6 ½ acre pentagonal shaped woodlot near present site of Columbia-Greene Community College campus which would provide access to the north, to the town of Hudson.” (Ibid., 48-49)
- 1867 Nov.-’69 June Pilgrimage with wife, year-old son, and mother-in-law Emma Carnes to Old World, primarily the Holy Land. Europe (Paris and London), the Near East (Beirut, Syria, Palestine, Athens, Corinth, and Petra, Jordan), the Bavarian Alps, Rome. (Heilbrun)
- 1868 Cole’s accounting for the year includes \$150 in miscellaneous expenses such as seeds and bone meal. Total expenses offset by income of \$850 in fruit sales (peaches), and \$150 in hay sales. (Toole, HLR, 50)
- 1868 Obligated by deed restriction to install fencing marking the eastern boundary of the North Road corridor. (Ibid., 48-49; fn 219) Church decides to make fence as minimal as possible, selecting “fence of barbed wire strung through the woods and fixed inconspicuously to rough timber posts and the trunks of trees.” (Toole, HLR, 101; fn 497)
- 1868 Jan. Arrives in Alexandria, Egypt; Suez; then Beirut--attracted to houses and their central courtyards. (Ryan, 90) Settles family in Beirut and leaves on expedition to Jerusalem, the Negev, and Petra. (Howat, 169)
- 1868 May 24 Theodore Cole to Church: “You have the best peach orchard in this part of the country.” (Toole, HLR, 50)
- 1868 late May Brief visits with Isabel to Jerusalem, Damascus, and Baalbel; then travels with family through Greek Islands and western Turkey (Constantinople). Brief residence in Bavarian Alps. (Howat, 189)
- 1868 July 14 Theodore Cole reports “a fine crop of peaches.” (Toole, HLR, 50)
- 1868 July 19 While away, writes William Osborn: “I have got plenty of capital ideas and new ones about house building. As soon as I can afford it, I shall build a modest, substantial house for a permanent home.... I have got the perfect situation and a perfect site on it.” (Ibid., 54)
- 1868 sum./early fall Family travels to Rome via Switzerland and Northern Italy. Winter spent in Rome. (Howat, 189)

- 1868 Sept. 12 Theodore Cole reports to Church: “You are occupying the uplands with trees.” This was part of Church’s process of developing the southeast slope of the hill north of the lake as parkland. (Toole, HLR, 48)
- 1868 Nov. 7 Theodore Cole reports to Church that the farm will be able to pay all expenses for the year. (Ibid., 49)
- 1869 As early as this year, Church is “bothered by rheumatism which quickly disabled him and restricted his painting for the remainder of his life.” (Ibid., 62)
- 1869 Publication in London of *The Fern Garden* by Shirley Hibberd.
- 1869 Church works on *Damascus*. (Howat, 190)
- 1869 Feb. Another son, Theodore Winthrop, born to Isabel and Church in Rome. (Ibid.)
- 1869 Feb. Neighbor is still hauling muck for lake excavation. (Toole, HLR, 47)
- 1869 April Travels to see architectural sites in southern Italy and Greece, especially Athens. (Howat, 190)
- 1869 early May Travels with family from Italy to Paris and London, sailing from London June 19. (Ibid.)
- 1869 July Churches return to farm after almost two years away: “Here I am on my own farm.... About an hour this side of Albany is the Center of the world—I own it.” (Toole, HLR, 50)
- 1869 late sum. Road construction on new entry begins after Church returns from abroad. (Ibid., 49)
- 1869 Aug. 31 Adds two rooms to Cosy Cottage and two rooms to original farmhouse, repairs other farm buildings, roofs root cellar, builds new ice house. Begins to spend winters at farm. (Ibid., 50-51)
- 1869 fall-early win. Church becomes involved in founding of Metropolitan Museum of Art. (Howat, 190)
- 1869 late Construction date of North Road, road that saves a mile in getting to Hudson. “I am constructing a long piece of road to the new House site....” (Toole, HLR, 44, 53)
- 1869 end Financial success not that of 1868, although 20-50 baskets of fruit sent to market daily. (Ibid., 53)
- 1869 end Cole’s duties at farm reduced, but he is still involved in accounts through 1871. (Ibid., 51)
- 1860s Small structure believed to be called tool house and located beside barnyard gate, believed to have been constructed sometime during decade. (Ibid., 108)
- 1869-1870 Hires Calvert Vaux (1824-1895), “kindred spirit in matters of Picturesque design,” to work with him in preparing drawings for his House. Vaux’s involvement continued for two years. (Ibid., 54)
- 1870 Churches spend much of this year at the farm. (Ibid.)

1870 May/June 1870 spring	Vaux and Withers present design proposals for Olana. (Howat, 190) Farm is essentially complete and agricultural operations run smoothly. Turns his attention to the construction of the house and ornamental landscape improvements. (Toole, HLR, 51)
1870 April	Churches have son, Louis Palmer, who would later inherit Olana. (Ibid., 54)
1870 May	Describing the apple trees in the old orchard: “These old patriarchs look like mountains of bridal bouquets.” (Ibid.)
1870 May	Vaux visits site, presumably for the first time, replacing Hunt as consulting architect. Surviving drawing by Vaux pictures circular terrace similar to driveway that Church built. (Ibid., 55)
1870 May	Stable is constructed as first stage in house construction, located to the north of and fifteen feet lower than house site. First used as dormitory and shop for workmen. Defines the service area (areas close to the north wall of the house) and stable yard (outdoor area on east side of stable. Another stable yard on west side existed.) These utility areas linked by “short segments of driveway.” (Ibid., 56 and fn 272)
1870 mid-sum.	Excavation for house cellar begins. (Ibid.)
1870 winter	“Winter scenery here is marvelous.” Skating on the pond, despite its unfinished state. (Ibid., 54)
1879 November 1870	Church clarifies design and construction of house. (Ryan, 90) Census data compared to 1855: 1870—175 acres, valued at \$25,000 (three times assessed value in 1855). Ploughed land reduced from 60 acres (1855) to about 20; open fields increased from 28 acres (1855) to about 50. Oats: 40 acres (1855), to four (1870). Church: A ploughed field “spoils the beauty of the scene somewhat (1871).” Twenty acres being grazed in 1855; only ten in 1870 (not enough for the nine yearlings). Number of farm animals similar to that in 1855, including cows, horses, oxen, and a few beef cattle, no sheep, and occasionally mules and donkeys. Twenty pigs in 1855 reduced to two in 1870. Birds include chickens, pigeons, turkeys, white geese and peacocks. ( Toole, HLR, 51-52)
1871	Completes and sells <i>The Parthenon</i> . (Howat, 190)
1871	Church is a founding Trustee-painter of New York’s Metropolitan Museum. (Heilbrun) His appointment is recommended by Olmsted and Vaux. (Toole, HLR, 54; fn 265)
1871	Olmsted comments on Church’s role as a newly appointed commissioner of Central Park [New York City Parks Department] (design of Olmsted and Calvert Vaux). Church and Olmsted were both from Hartford and were fourth cousins. (Toole, HLR, 29-30; Howat, 190)

- 1871 sum.-fall Churches stay at farm. (Toole, HLR, 57)
- 1871 July Daughter Isabel Charlotte (“Downie”), sixth and last child, born to the Churches.
- 1871 July 21 “I am building a house and am principally my own Architect. I give directions all day and draw plans and working drawings all night.” (Phillips, 85)
- c. 1871 Unidentified local article describes Olana landscape: “How many hundred forest trees have been set out in its parks lately, and above all, how the artist’s beautiful wife has been seen riding across those red-veined hilltops upon a milk-white donkey, brought from the Orient, and—to the open mouthed admiration of the country folks—with her baby slung in the panier.” (Toole, HLR, 56)
- 1872 “Decoration of first-floor rooms begins. Completion of woodwork and painted decoration takes four years.” (Ryan, 90)
- 1872 February *Metropolitan Museum opens doors to public for first time.*
- c. 1872 Paints *Olana from the Southwest*. Grass green used on south lawn versus yellow-green on rest of open parkland planted with young trees. Seems to indicate difference in the mowing/management techniques for the two open spaces. (Trebilcock, 77)
- 1872 August Olana house complete enough for family to move into upper floors. (Howat, 190)
- 1873 Lake at foot of Long Hill complete, according to Ryan (Toole uses 1879, another source 1886). “Edges echo the shape of the Hudson.” (Ryan, 90)
- 1873 Complains of “lame wrist.” (Howat, 190)
- 1873 October Travels to Clarendon Springs, Vermont. (Rindge, 169)
- 1873 onward Develops the Olana landscape as a “landscape composition that combined agricultural acreage, parkland, woods and water into a single unified entity.” Farming becomes ancillary to “sophisticated residential life in the country.” (Toole, HLR, 58)
- 1874 Completes *El Khasné Petra*. (Ryan, 90) Exhibits painting at National Academy Annual Exhibition. (Howat, 190)
- 1874 sum.-fall Travels through Green Mountains, VE with Walter Palmer. (Rindge, 169)
- 1875 Census data lists Church as having 18 acres of ploughed ground—4 of oats, 6 of corn, 6 for potatoes, remainder is kitchen garden. (Toole, HLR, 111)
- 1875 late March Final visit to Niagara Falls. (Howat, 190)
- c. 1875-80 Paints view of Olana looking north from the eastern slope of Quarry Hill, and showing no vegetation along the length of the south façade of the House. (Toole, HLR, figure 19)

- 1870s mid Churches regularly in residence at Olana from summer into autumn, and returning for holidays before spending remainder of winter in New York City. (Ibid., 59)
- c. 1875 Precipitated by the change to the public road in 1875, Church makes changes to North Entrance, creating a more gracious outlet at main entrance with a triangular-shaped open area fronting the public road. (Ibid., 59, 99)
- 1876 House is essentially complete.
- 1876 February 14 Death of Church's father, Joseph. (Ryan, 90)
- 1876 *The Parthenon* and *Chimbarazo* (1864) exhibited at Philadelphia's U. S. Centennial Exhibition; *Chimbarazo* wins bronze medal (Rindge, 169)
- 1876 August Article in *The Art Journal* describes site selection for Olana: "The site for the residence was selected by Mr. Church after a careful study of the river-shores." (Toole, HLR, 36, fn 120)
- 1876 Sept. Visits Mount Katahdin, ME. (Howat, 190)
- c. 1876 Visitor to Olana reports that, "...the grounds are not yet finished in all their details." (Toole, HLR, 59)
- 1877 May 1 Purchases 9-acre parcel at southwest corner of property, "Red Hill lot," including 750 foot frontage on Oak Hill-Hudson Road south of existing entrance. (Ibid., 60)
- 1877 Seeks advice/estimate for steam pump to move water from Lake to cistern built on mound atop hill, north of House, to provide gravity flow to House. (Ibid., 59)
- 1877 "Completes *Morning in the Tropics*, his last major picture." (Ryan, 90)  
Completes *The Aegean Sea*. Another September trip to Mount Katahdin. (Rindge, 170)
- 1878 Buys as campsite four-hundred-acre Stevens Farm on Millinocket Lake, ME, with view of Mount Kahahdin. (Howat,190)
- 1878 Problem of not enough pastureland is alleviated with purchase of 50-acre lot, "so-called north meadow." Includes north end of the hill, and almost 30 acres of open agricultural land, useful for hay production and grazing. Cows, cattle and horses herded from barn area, past Cosy Cottage, down Farm Road to North Road and into fenced fields. (Toole, HLR, 52, 60)
- 1878 William D. Donnelly hired as farmer; would remain in managerial position at Olana for nearly twenty years. (Ibid., 61)
- 1878 Last time to exhibit at National Academy (*Evening on the Sea*). (Howat, 190)
- 1878 May *Scribner's Monthly* reports on trip to Mount Katahdin by Church and friends. Returned to ME in September and October. Complains of "chronic lameness in my right wrist." (Ibid.)

- 1878-1891 Partial receipts survive for vegetable and flower seeds ordered from Peter Henderson & Co. of New Jersey. (Toole, HLR, 53, fn 252)
- 1879 Gentler topography of newest land parcel gives Church opportunity to improve the visual interest and choreography of south entrance and south road. Road construction begins in May. New alignment now includes the lake in the viewshed, making it a feature for both entry and exit sequences. Entrance beside house on Oak Hill-Hudson abandoned, and perhaps house dismantled at this time (Ibid., 60)
- 1879 May 19 Church: “The Lake is overflowing, the birch canoe is ready...” Lake complete after intense work during spring 1879. Equivalent of 8,000 modern dump truck loads of muck removed by hand for lake’s excavation. (Ibid., 59, fn 295)
- 1879 Church relies on Miles Welles Graves of Hartford to manage his personal, financial, and investment concerns. (Howat, 190)
- 1879 The term “Hudson River School” of painters first used. (Toole, HLR, 25)
- 1880 “Olana” adopted as property’s name. Suggested by Mrs. Church, it refers to a place in ancient Persia and means “elevated stronghold overlooking fertile river valley in ancient Persia.” (Ibid., 61)
- 1880 Church says he is building a “two acre garden below and east of the lake.” This is kitchen garden. Previously the land closer to Cosy Cottage and the fenced area east of Cosy Cottage were kitchen gardens, but source of irrigation from lake prompts move. (Ibid, 61)
- 1880 July Churches at Lake George; visit Millinocket Lake and North Carolina that fall. (Ibid., 62)
- 1880 August 1 “Two men blasting rock on the new road.” “One mason building the dam of the lake higher.” (Ibid., 60-61)
- 1881 Completes *Evening in the Tropics*. (Howat, 190)
- 1881 summer Plans to have photographer come to capture property, house and “some of the more interesting views.” (Toole, HLR, 62)
- 1882 Finishes *The Mediterranean Sea* and *El Ayn*. (Howat, 190)
- 1882 Emma Carnes, Isabel’s mother, records in diary daily routine of relaxed recreation, carriage rides on and off Olana property, visiting farmer, touring Kitchen Garden, boating on the lake. (Toole, HLR, 62)
- 1882 May 16 Emma Carnes diary entry: “Gardener putting out plants in bed in rear of house top of hill.” May indicate a cutting garden located at the highest elevation of the hill, screened from house views. (Ibid., 86, fn 459)
- 1882 fall Church and family visit Catskills, Vermont, and Boston. (Howat, 190)
- 1883 Paints *Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta*. (Ibid.)
- 1883 June Trips to Saratoga Springs and Nahant, MA. (Ibid.)
- 1883 July 17 Death of Church’s mother. (Ryan, 90)

- 1883 winter Churches, and later Frederic alone, travel to Mexico seeking a climate more comfortable for his rheumatism. (Toole, HLR, 62-63) Returns early March (1884). (Howat, 190)
- c. 1883 Converts some of the open land of the north meadow to ornamental use as site of ridge road. With the design of this road, Church defines views over much of the northern part of Olana and visually borrows peripheral land beyond his property limits. North view towards Mount Merino was unique. (Toole, HLR, 102)
- 1884 June Susan Hale (1833-1910), painter and author, visits Olana for first time, and writes, “The place is so large I can walk miles without going off of it. It is very pretty, great avenues of trees, a pond, nooks of shade and always the wide open view of the river and mountains.” She describes Church as “very stiff and lame, but lovely.” (Ibid)
- 1884 September 10 Reporter describes south road created by Church: “The approach to Mr. Church’s house on the northern side is along a winding and wooded road, which constitutes a considerable drive in itself. The hill is very precipitous here, and one looks down at times upon this road directly below him in an almost inaccessible gulf. The expenditure of road-building, and in otherwise bringing this huge, wild, steep mass of earth into suitable shape and condition has been immense.... The approach on the southern side is more direct [than the north road] and is more open, the road being lined chiefly by evergreens, shrubbery and sumach.” (Ibid., 97, 100)
- 1884 Oct. 18 Church writes to Erastus Dow Palmer: “Five men [are] building a road....” Ridge road and lake road both built in 1884. Ridge road corridor, former agricultural land, transformed into managed parkland to enhance site views. (Ibid, 63-64)
- 1884 Writes to fellow painter Walter Launt Palmer: “I have made about one and three-quarters miles of roads this season, opening entirely new and beautiful views—I can make more and better landscapes in this way than by tampering with canvas and paint in the Studio.” (Phillips, 87)
- 1884 In August invites Warners to join in trip to Mexico; arrives by train in Mexico City December 24. (Howat, 190)
- 1885 Church builds another ornamental route from the lake to the top of Crown Hill in southeast corner of property. Road begins in woods east of lake, loops around wetland and then ascends into open parkland to the hilltop. Carriage turn-around built at summit (349 ft. elevation). This Crown Hill road provided full view eastward to Taconic Hill, and best possible overview of Farm. Fence of wood posts and Buckthorn barbed wire (produced 1881-1900) located 75 feet down slope from turn-around to

- restrict grazing close to road. This area allowed to grow into foreground vegetation. (Toole, HLR, 64, 103)
- 1885 Discusses buying “brand new hogshead” to water young trees. (Ibid., 64)
- 1885 April Returns from Mexico. (Howat, 190)
- 1885 Oct. 21 Farm activity mentioned in letter: “My [kitchen] garden has been a big success – Mexican corn 16 feet high – my gardener measures but 5 feet and knocks off ears with a club.” (Toole, HLR, 65)
- By 1886 Lake is completed southwest of the house. (Phillips, 87)
- 1886 early Emma Carnes has extended stays at Olana until her death. (Toole, HLR, 62)
- 1886 In Mexico from late January to April. Death of sister Elizabeth Mary Church, and Mrs. Carnes. (Howat, 190)
- 1886 summer Church has remodeled and repaired buildings, and built new ones; “have put my house in order pretty generally.” (Toole, HLR, 65)
- 1886 June Lays out new approach to house; plans to build as soon as men done haying. This new approach road, a modification of south road, is last major road by Church. Led from parkland on slope south of house to site of Church’s studio on east lawn, emerging onto final approach drive with first view of house. New road avoids being close to service area and stable yard north of house, thereby “more ornamental and scenic approach.” Construction delayed as this road not on FJC’s Olana plan. (Ibid.)
- 1886 June 20 “Clearing up underbrush in places and this work requires close supervision.” Also, “raising my farm stable and adjoining building 18 inches, preparatory to putting on a large addition [perhaps wagon house]. I also expect to put an addition to my stable at the souse.” (Ibid., 67)
- 1886 August While at Olana, Church restores *Niagara* for trustees of Corcoran Gallery. (Howat, 190)
- 1886 Sept. Church’s son, Frederic Joseph Church, draws plan of nearly complete Olana landscape. It shows “Summer House” on knoll due south of House, which is not mentioned anywhere else nor shown in photos. Also “North View,” spot at edge of woods at highest elevation of north meadow. Kitchen garden labelled simply “Garden” on plan. Cistern shown north of house service area. Bed in carriage turnaround shows tree, which may explain why Louis later has trouble getting anything to grow in spot once tree removed. (Toole, HLR, 66, 75, 85)
- 1886 October Unable to visit Mount Katahdin, Church takes rooms in New York City. (Howat, 190)
- 1886 November 26 Church: “The cistern is all complete and nice.” At this time a metal cistern either replaced or augmented the cistern. (Toole, HLR, 59 and fn 292)
- After 1886 Construction of “Mingled Garden” on south side of retaining wall that edged final approach driveway. (Toole, HLR, 95)
- 1887 Purchase of equipment for excavation. Church: “I am busy Landscape Architecturing. I have nearly completed a cliff about a hundred feet in

- height.” Perhaps he is clearing and opening views on the escarpment in preparation for construction of studio wing. (Ibid., 69)
- 1887 Because Isabel is ill, unable to travel to Mexico. Church experiencing increasing pain from rheumatism. Son Freddie expelled from Princeton. Visit to Saratoga Springs in May. (Howat, 190)
- 1887 June Grace King describes the Olana arrival experience: “The road wound and twisted its way up through a magnificent Forest—when all of a sudden—a sprint of the horses brought us in an open space [the East Lawn] where is this magnificent house—set in a magnificent scene.” (Toole, HLR,100)
- 1887-1889 Construction period for new approach road. (Ibid., 97)
- 1887-89 Multiple bills for manure delivered to Olana indicate preparation for gardening. Three orders of plants from nurseryman in Hudson include annuals(pansies, chrysanthemum, sweet alyssum, calceolaria, centauria, calendula, heliotrope, vinca, coleus, echeveria, salvia, aster, anthemis, lobelia, begonia, geranium, rose geranium, verbena, lantana) and vines for trellis (cobea, maurandia, nasturtium, clematis), and perennials ordered in 1889 signal probable beginnings of new flower garden, the “mingled garden” below retaining wall. (Ibid., 69, 95)
- 1888 April Active architectural planning for studio wing begins with Church himself as designer. (Ibid., 69) Project includes a connecting corridor, observatory, bedroom, and storage. (Ryan, 91)
- 1888 Church demolishes his first studio at the farm. (Toole, HLR, 46)
- 1888-91 Construction period for studio wing added to Olana house. “Last major creative effort of Church’s life” accomplished with a rheumatic wrist. (Phillips, 87; Toole, HLR, 68)
- 1888 summer New approach road may have been completed at this time. Opened up “extensive views outward,” passing through scenic area of mature white birches planted by Church in 1860s. (Ibid., 67-68)
- 1888 Receipt for seed purchases from Jas. M. Thorburn & Co. of New York City survives. (Ibid., 53)
- 1888 Receives letter from telegraph company executive apologizing for trouble with recent installation of lines and vows “to have changes made to harmonize with your views.” (Ibid., 70)
- 1889 “Church closes his New York City studio that he had rented for thirty years and ships contents to Olana.” (Ryan, 91)
- 1889 In Mexico for winter and spring. (Howat, 190) Completes *Moonrise in Greece*, and *Ruins at Baalbeck*. (Rindge, 171)
- 1889 Churches in residence for season, he continues work on studio wing. Describes joys of daily routine: Mrs. Church “drives out mornings and evenings and enjoys the shade of our woods,” and describes his discovery of a glacial pot-hole in shale bank at base of Red Hill. (Toole, HLR, 71)
- 1889 Continuing financial problems with Freddie. (Howat, 190)
- 1889 Nov. Arrival of 2,087 “young evergreens.” (Toole, HLR, 71)
- 1880-1890 “Church paints and sketches only sporadically. Winters spent in Mexico; summers divided between Olana and Lake Millinocket, Maine.” (Ryan, 90)

- 1890 January 23-April 15 in Mexico. Continues to work on unfinished studio and to struggle with Freddie's debts. (Howat, 190)
- 1890 spring Extensive mail order of flower seeds added to typical order of vegetable seeds. (Toole, HLR, 71)
- 1890 summer *Boston Sunday Herald* reporter describes "the art of the landscape gardener" at Olana, writing that "the multitude of trees planted under Mr. Church's direction a quarter of a century ago now give convincing evidence of his wise foresight...." (Ibid.)
- 1890 July Mrs. Church writes to daughter, referring to "your garden." Perhaps it was daughter Downie who had instigated establishment of the flower garden. (Ibid., 69)
- 1890 Sept. 7 *Boston Sunday Herald* article, "In Summer Time on Olana," quotes Church: "For several seasons after I selected this spot as my home, I thought of hardly anything but planting trees, and had thousands and thousands of them set out on the southern and western slopes." Reporter describes the scene, "The eastern side of the hill is covered by a thick natural growth of oak, hemlock, butternut, chestnut, pine and spruce trees, through which a road from the highway winds up to the hilltop." (Ibid., 40, fn 156; 92, 100)
- 1890 late Studio wing declared "in working order." Photos show Church planted slope south of lawn terraces with trees and shrubs, but these are immature in 1890 and don't block views to or from house. (Ibid., 68, fn, 367)
- 1890 December Churches at Olana for holidays, and Church stays through winter working in new studio. (Ibid, 71)
- 1890s Abandoned section of old south road evolved into a service area, site of the greenhouse. (Ibid., 98)
- 1890s Tennis court installed for use of Church children in north meadow; abandoned after 1900. (Ibid., 163)
- 1890s End of Church's active involvement in the farm. (Ibid., 61)
- 1891 Paints *The Iceburg*. Problems with Freddie continue. (Howat, 190)
- 1891 February 7 Daughter Downie marries Jeremiah Black. Granddaughter born to Downie and Jeremiah November 17. (Rindge, 171)
- 1891 July 17 Correspondence of friend records Church's reluctance to give up control of operations at Olana to either son: "Mr. C. won't let them give an order, or touch anything on the place." (Toole, HLR, 72)
- 1891 October Twenty-one-year-old son Louis Church accepts parents' offer of job as salaried property superintendent. Mrs. Church writes to daughter: "There is much to be looked into at Olana—and Father can not, nor cares to, do it (12/13/1891)." Initially the Churches are reassured to have Louis stay on property when they are away. (Ibid., 72)
- 1891 November Louis' letter to mother mentions fern bed: "Your plants look fairly. William (Donnelly, the long-term Olana farmer) takes good care of them." (Ibid.)
- 1892 Winter and spring in Mexico. (Howat, 190)
- 1892 Louis is building greenhouse (~15 x 30 ft.) east of house on older abandoned south road approach. Isabel describes it to her daughter as "the

- greenhouse that I am to have.” But, Toole says that it seems that Louis had penchant for using exotics in the wider landscape, thus motivating the project. The well near site may have been in place before greenhouse. Later photos show attached potting shed, and nearby pump. (Toole, HLR, fn 393; 74, 87)
- 1892 November Visitor describes travelling the north road: “...then the wonder and beauty of the mile long avenue where we wound up and up around hairpin turns, and the breath-taking sight when we reached the house and looked off and away at the Catskill mountains in the distance and the Hudson river winding its way at their feet.” (Ibid., 100; fn 489)
- 1893 Jan.21-Feb. 27 In Mexico with painter W. Worthington Whittredge (1820-1910). (Rindge, 171)
- 1893 spring Letter from Isabel wintering in the south, thanks Louis for saving the corn crib and ice house, but why they were in peril is not clear. (Toole, HLR, 73)
- 1893 March 7 Granddaughter Isabel born to Isabel and Jeremiah Black. (Rindge, 171)
- 1893 March Twenty-year tenure farmer Donnelly moves out of Cosy Cottage. (Toole, HLR, 73)
- 1893 Mar. 27-Apr. 26 In Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain, TN; then Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania, and New York. (Rindge, 171)
- 1893 April Church writes to Louis giving instructions, sending seeds and offering advice. (Toole, HLR, 73)
- 1893 May Letters from Louis to parents and Sally Good demonstrate enthusiasm for horticultural (not agricultural) topics. (Ibid.)
- 1893 December 16 Departs for Mexico, travelling with architect James Renwick (1818-1895). (Rindge. 171)
- 1894 Doctor orders Isabel and Frederic Church to winter in different climates, specifically that Isabel winter by the sea (she goes to either Florida or Bermuda). Frederic’s colleague Warner says he will winter in Mexico with him. (Howat, 190)
- 1894 February Still in Mexico. (Rindge, 171)
- 1894 winter Louis write that he is “not needed” at Olana and might leave to get real job if Sally Good (his soon to be fiancée) desires. (Toole, HLR, 73)
- 1894 late Louis oversees installation of new pump and piping system to bring water from Lake to House. Pump house added near lake with covered sawmill built as porch on side of this building. (Ibid., 74)
- 1894 December 16 Louis to mother in south: “If you hear of any palms and other tropical plants that can be had cheap it may be as well to buy them. They will look well as a border for the lawn and around the pond.” (Ibid.)
- 1895 January 2 Departs for Mexico with Walter Palmer. (Rindge, 172)
- 1895 Olana gardener William McKenna dies; replaced in spring by “John, the new gardener.” Seeds ordered for both 1895 and 1896, so perhaps more gardening was being done than previously. (Toole, HLR, 74)

- 1895 Continued problems with Freddie. “Bad summer for Isabel.” Frederic paints *Katahdin from Millinocket Camp*, his last dated picture, as Isabel’s birthday gift. (Howat, 190)
- 1895 December Departs for Mexico with author Sylvester Baxter (1850-192) and Graves of Hartford. (Rindge, 172)
- 1896 Church still in Mexico in late February. Summers in U. S. and is back in Mexico by December. (Howat, 190) To Mexico with son Louis and author Charles Dudley Warner (1829-1900). (Rindge, 172)
- 1896 Louis hires new gardener, Swede “Augustus,” described by Louis as “gilt-edged,” and “wouldn’t speak of a pansy except as a Viola.” (Toole, HLR, 74)
- 1896 Rhododendrons and “90 rose bushes” ordered. Sources are Meehan Nurseries, Shady Hill Nurseries, and Mount Hope Nurseries. (Ibid., and fns 413, 414)
- 1896 Louis orders from Mount Hope Nurseries unusual small trees, including Vine Maple, yellowwood, and sweet gum; from Pitcher & Manda Nursery, perennials including *Cosmos sulphureus*, *Iris kaempferi*, *Stachys lanata*, *Veronica*, *Calceolaria*. (Ibid., 75, fn 417)
- 1896 Louis’ brother Frederic Joseph, living in Washington State, ships shrubs and trees to Olana with some being planted on East Lawn. Some of the exotic evergreens known to have been planted (Blue Spruce, Carolina Hemlock, Japanese Black Pine, Carolina Hemlock) may date from this period, although none are native to Pacific Northwest. (Ibid., fn 418, 419)
- 1896 February 16 Louis describes bed in center of carriage turn-around as “that good for nothing round bed where nothing will grow. Plant Clematis jackmani[sic] there and instead of giving them something to grow up on keep them on the ground and peg them down.” Undated photo shows this bed planted with an exotic mix of tropical annuals—elephant ears and castor bean plants, etc., with the rustic railing in the background. Railing survived from Frederic’s lifetime, but plantings probably date to Louis. (Ibid., fn 420)
- 1897 Still in Mexico in late May (since previous December). Isabel winters in Lake Worth, Florida from late December until March. (Howat, 190)
- 1897 Louis develops recreational facilities near house, adding “golf links,” perhaps in the open park. (Toole, HLR, 73)
- 1897 December 19 In Cuernavaca, Mexico with Mr. Graves. (Rindge, 172)
- 1898 In Mexico winter through June. Makes occasional sketches. (Howat, 190)
- 1898 October 1 Granddaughter Louise born to Isabel and Jeremiah Black. (Rindge, 172)
- 1898 December 19 Departs with son Louis to winter in Mexico. (Ibid.)
- 1899 Large cow barn built, connected to east side of older barn. This signals move to develop dairy herd on farm, perhaps because of more reliable rail service in the valley. (Toole, HLR, 75 and fn 422; 119, 159)
- 1899 May 12 Isabel Church dies in New York City. (Ibid) Writes will bequeathing Olana to Louis. (Ryan, 91)
- 1899 September Downie Black collects materials for proposed biography of Church to be written by Warner. (Howat, 190)

- 1899 Son Theodore Winthrop Church, businessman, marries Amelie van der Kieff. Though the couple briefly considers taking over the residence at Olana after his father's death, the idea is soon rejected. (Toole, HLR, 115)
- 1899 December Church travels with Louis to Mexico. (Ibid.; Ryan, 91)
- 1900 William Connelly replaced as farmer by Peter "Van Orshell" (perhaps VanArsdale). (Toole, HLR, 76; fn 423)
- 1900 March Church returns from Mexico in poor health. (Ibid.)
- 1900 April 7 Church dies at age seventy-three in New York City, at home of friend and patron William Osborn, too ill to travel to Olana. (Rindge, 172) Buried next to Isabel in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford, CN. (Ryan, 91)
- 1900 Metropolitan Museum mounts first retrospective of Church's work. (Heilbrun)
- Post-1900 Brick paving added on north side of house; today used as handicap parking area. (Toole, HLR, 148)
- 1901 January 26 Louis Church and Sally Good marry and move to Olana after several months' honeymoon in Europe. (Ryan, 91) They winter in Florida and eventually in 1918 build a cottage there as Olana becomes their summer residence. (Toole, HLR, 115, 118)
- c. 1901-1920 Charles Frier is caretaker of kitchen garden. (Ibid., 119)
- c. 1902 Garage erected between house and stable: small mail-order structure. (Ibid., 116)
- c. 1902-1914 Photos from this period show brick as replacement for the wood apron that had edged stable doors, although it could have been installed earlier than 1902. Brick was to accommodate the transition from fewer horses and need for auto storage. (Ibid., 117)
- 1903 Visitor Susan Hale describes Church's intent in design of north and south roads as "...to make the place seem as large and remote as possible." (Ibid., 100; fn 490)
- 1906 Series of "important photographs" by John Eberle show that six years after Frederic Church's death, a mature landscape remained intact as Church would have known it. (Ibid., 117-118)
- 1910 Louis Church acquires 9 acres to the east. (Ibid., 115)
- c. 1914-15 Louis and Sally Church build elaborate flower garden on east lawn. Mingled garden "apparently abandoned as attention shifted to the new garden." Carriage turn-around is also altered at same time with stone retaining wall raised to parapet height, replacing earlier rustic rail. Jardinières added at ends of this wall and spruce tree added in center circle. Clearing of adjacent forest of underbrush exposes service area north of house and stable yard to views, contrary to Church's intentions. (Ibid., 118, 119, fn 542)
- 1915 Census identifies Olana farmer as William Pectal. (Ibid., 119)
- 1917 Louis and Sally donate over 2,000 pencil and oil sketches by Church at Olana to Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York City. (Ryan, 91)

- 1917 Reuben Wilsey hired and becomes key staff person at Olana, spending fifty years there. Lived in stable after 1923, sometimes called chauffeur, but also general handyman and gardener around house. Eventually “de facto superintendent” by Louis’ death in 1943. (Toole, HLR, 120)
- 1922 Louis Church purchases adjoining parcel of 18.7 acres. (Ibid.)
- c. 1921 Greenhouse is dismantled. (Ibid., 72)
- 1925 Seymour June is hired as farmer; stays in position until after Louis’ death. Shared work with son and other family members. Lived at Cosy Cottage. (Ibid.)
- 1929 Toole cites 1973 “Preliminary Report for the Stable-Coachhouse Complex,” by Aileen Stevenson, for conclusion that brick apron at Stable doors is expanded to cover larger area of the Stable yard at this time. (Ibid., 117, fn 534)
- 1930 Highway from Hudson changed along northern boundary of Olana, requiring a short segment of public road to bring Olana’s west entrance to relocated highway. (Ibid.)
- 1932 Announcement of construction of bridge connecting Catskill and Hudson planned for point opposite Olana. This forced redesign of Olana’s south entrance. Churches purchase ½ acre parcel from neighbor on south and 1/8 acre piece from neighbor to the west to allow driveway extension to new road. (Ibid., 121)
- 1930s Photos from period show woodshed and small garage or carriage shed in area near high point, near cistern and water tower. (Ibid, 86)
- 1933-34 Construction of Rip Van Winkle Bridge increases traffic around Olana, and, more significantly, becomes large intrusion in Olana’s viewshed. (Ibid., 121)
- 1934 Severe storm, perhaps hurricane, causes considerable damage to Olana’s trees, including loss of many of specimen trees in park. These were not replanted. In storm recovery, some areas that Church had kept in woods were cleared, along north shore of lake and below lawn terraces south of house. (Ibid.)
- 1934 Detailed evaluation of property insurance begun; provides important documents for the period, particularly appearance of secondary buildings. (Ibid.)
- 1934 Photos from this date show farm including the original farmhouse, north façade of farm stable, ice house and granary, and perhaps the corn crib, and tool house (adjacent to farm stable). (Ibid., 160)
- Pre-1940 Old apple trees removed from north orchard. Wet ground along southern third of west field returned to second growth before 1940. (Ibid.,162)

- Southeast corner lot abandoned and returned to second growth. (Ibid., 163)
- 1940 Grazing abandoned in north meadow, although the south field was partially open to grazing until 1947. (Ibid.)
- 1942 Aerial photo (USDA, Soil Conservation Service) shows north orchard cleared. (Ibid., 116; fn 522) Photo also shows that “extensive areas—totaling perhaps 1/3 of the open farm acreage in Frederic Church’s lifetime—had been abandoned from farm use before Louis Church’s death,” including the former 20-acre north meadow area, and the removal of all apple trees from north orchard. (Ibid., 122)
- 1943 November 8 Sudden death of Louis Church at age 73 in his bedroom at Olana. Wife Sally goes to Florida as planned, leaving a brother-in-law Charles T. Lark of New York City to manage Olana. (Ibid., 119, 122-123, and Ryan, 91)
- 1943 Follow-up insurance estimate shows all farm outbuildings as recorded in 1934, suggesting stability of farm operations during Seymour June’s tenure as farmer. (Toole, HLR, 122)
- 1944 summer Sally returns to Olana and continues her involvement with managing estate. Indecisive about selling Olana, she nixes ongoing expenditures, causing gradual decline. (Ibid., 123)
- 1944 August 5 Appraisal of Olana excluding household furnishings or collection, set at \$45,000. Describes Olana as “a farm and residential property...made up of three parcels adjoining each other...” Seventy-five acres tillable, “with 4 acres in orchard trees and grapes.” (Ibid., fn 569)
- 1944 (winter)-45 Sally stops all subsidies for Olana farming operation. (Ibid.)
- 1945 March Seymour and Stanley June, last salaried farmers at Olana, leave. Andrew June stays, is given free accommodations in return for delivering milk, vegetables and fruit to the household daily. (Ibid.)
- 1945-1964 Under Charles Lark, Jr., local appraiser Boice serves as superintendent of Olana, supervising grounds work, road maintenance, roofing, painting and tree removal. (Ibid., 124; fn 570)
- 1946 May 30 Andrew June remains at Olana; tenant farmer Otto Koeppe given lease for use of Cosy Cottage and 190 acres of farmland in return for duties such as “help with cutting ice and the supply of vegetables and milk to the household.” (Ibid 123., fn 568)
- 1947 Germantown realtor Lloyd Boice is hired as overseer of Olana property. (Ryan, 91)
- 1950s Small lot north of Olana entrance sold and developed for commercial use as Stack’s Restaurant, catering to auto traffic. (Toole, HLR, 121; fn 558)

- 1953 December David Huntington, 30-year old student working on art history Ph.D., first visits Olana and discovers in house “a nearly complete repository of artifacts from Frederic Church’s lifetime.” (Ibid., 125; fn 581)
- 1954 Boice suggests removal of some farm outbuildings not in use because of disrepair and to gain reduction in tax bills. Structures removed include west wing and kitchen addition to Cosy Cottage, corn crib, ice house, granary and wagon house, including associated sheds. (Ibid., 124)
- 1960 Construction of Route 23 in northern portion of Olana (purchase of 3.7 acres by NYDOT) damages integrity of Olana landscape. (Ibid., 125, 163)
- 1960 February Boice records closing north road for last time. (Ibid., 125)
- 1960s Church’s reputation as an important painter begins to recover. (Heilbrun)
- 1964 August Sally Church dies leaving Olana in jeopardy. Nephew Charles T. Lark, Jr., inherits and immediately plans auction of entire property. Church’s revived reputation “generated a movement to preserve the house and grounds.” (Toole, HLR, 125)
- 1964 September Huntington learns that Olana and its contents are to be auctioned. (Ryan, 91)
- 1964 Current farmer evicted and Thomas family rents Cosy Cottage with no farming obligations. (Toole, HLR, 125)
- 1964 November Non-profit Olana Preservation Inc. founded by David Huntington, now professor at Smith College. His friend Boice assists him in enlisting locals to support preservation of Olana. (Ibid., 126) Alexander Aldrich is first president. (Ryan, 91)
- 1965 “Olana Preservation leases Olana with an agreement to purchase the property for \$470,000.” (Ibid.)
- 1965 June Olana listed as National Historic Landmark. (Ibid.; Toole, HLR, 126)
- 1966 “Huntington’s *The Landscapes of Frederic Church* published. (Ryan, 91)
- 1966 Olana put under auspices of New York State Historic Trust, but the agency does not have infrastructure to operate historic site, so operations and maintenance put under Taconic State Park Commission. Under the “Historic Trust’s semi-autonomous status,” plans to open site to public proceed with Vollmer Ostrower Associates, landscape architects and engineers, involved in design work, including “scraping off the hilltop, removing the water tank and installing the parking lot there.” (43-space parking lot) (Toole, HLR, 128-129)
- 1966 February Huntington and curator Richard Wunder organize exhibition of Church’s work at National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (Ryan, 91)
- 1966 May *Life* magazine article on Olana. (Ibid.)

- 1966 June 22- 27 State of New York purchases Olana under Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Landscape preservation not considered in preservation or purchase; enabling legislation mandates adaptive reuse of landscape, including possible conveyance of parcel for community college. (Toole, HLR, 126-7)
- 1966 July 29 Olana Preservation Inc. purchases Olana. (Ryan, 91)
- 1966 December 13 Olana Preservation conveys title to State of New York (Ibid.) and then disbands. (Toole, HLR, 126-7)
- 1967 March 15 Full topographic survey of property prepared from aerial photos. (Toole, HLR, 7, 77; fn 425; 128)
- 1967 spring Construction begins on site, including new asphalt road system leading to top of hill, “mishmash of new and old alignments.” Church’s sequential experience “fundamentally altered.” Other changes to landscape include demolition of existing facilities on hilltop—cistern on earthen mound, water tank, and garage/storage shed. “Elaborate brick and granite walk” of 400 feet built to link lot to house front door. This walk of angular step-ramp configuration was “built through the woods and out onto the east lawn, widening to a sitting terrace opposite the entrance porch of the house.” Edwardian benches added opposite House entrance. (Ibid., 128-129)
- 1967 June 3 Olana opens for public visits.(Ryan, 91)
- 1968 Planning begins for rehabilitating coachman’s dwelling to serve as visitor center, and stable fitted to provide secure storage. After preliminary study, this proposal dropped; decision-makers became more sensitive to need for “integrated unity of Olana” and “limited modern development in historic outbuildings and on the landscape.” (Toole, HLR, 129-130)
- 1968 summer State guts Cosy Cottage to rehab as residence for site manager; does not complete remodel because intervening study emphasizes building’s importance. (Ibid.)
- 1968 summer Community college estimates that 100 acres will be required for campus. Olana is studied for suitability; determination that much of site too steep and soils too rocky. (Ibid., 131)
- 1968 July 29 Huntington’s “Interpretive Analysis of Olana,” for the Office of State History, New York Historic Trust, includes: “The entire layout of the grounds of Olana constitutes an American adaptation of the English landscape garden of the eighteenth century.” “The site...is a single entity.” (Ibid., 127; fn 592; 132)
- 1968 July Olana’s first professional site director, Richard Slavin III, hired. He urges reconsideration of use of Cosy Cottage. (Ibid., 130)

- 1968 September 9 Historic Trust offers about 40 acres, the low-lying farm acreage in NE corner of north orchard, also parcels east of Olana purchased by Louis and Sally Church after 1900, to community college. (Ibid., 131; fn 619)
- 1968 September 25 Primary landscape project is restoration of 20<sup>th</sup> century flower garden on east lawn. (Ibid., 133)
- 1968 November 4 First meeting of master planning committee for Olana; regular meetings through spring of 1969. (Ibid., 132; fn 622)
- 1968 November 4 Letter from Chief of Historic Site Management, Historic Trust, to David Huntington, criticizes work preparing site for visitation: "...the parking lot will probably remain, but there is some interest in providing a 'better' approach to the house. Rather than 'better', it should be the historic approach that Frederick [sic.] E. Church planned or used." (Ibid., 129; fn 599)
- 1968 December State acquires lands adjacent to south entrance to protect it from uncertain development. Possible site for future visitor center, in ten-year plan. Premises of plan are to accommodate 200 cars and bus visitors to house. State also acquires one-acre lot on opposite side; Stack's restaurant and residence rehabilitated as restoration shop for Taconic Region. Eventual result is eyesores at entrance to Olana. (Ibid., 130-131)
- 1968-69 Consideration of leasing portions of farm for renewal as orchards, operation as fruit farm. Financial realities killed enthusiasm for project. (Ibid., 138)
- 1969 March 27 Master planning committee reports findings: Conclusion is series of recommendations including landscape: "There was agreement that the entire estate should be restored to its condition during Church's lifetime." Visitor center of 12,000 sf is proposed for property west of Route 9G. Committee rejects concept of community college on Olana acreage. (Ibid., 132; fn 623)
- 1969 Archaeological report of work identifying foundations of mail-order garage. (Ibid., 116, fn 531)
- c. 1969 Undated letter following evaluation of farm by historian, describes farm as "exciting project" to develop "a demonstrational living 19<sup>th</sup>-century farm." (Ibid., 138)
- 1969 end of year Slavin describes current state of property as "severely understaffed." Site caretaker at time is Albert R. Fromberger; grounds crew is one full-time and one seasonal helper, totaling three to handle buildings and grounds. (Ibid., 133)
- 1970 Report or memorandum, "Olana: Historic Site Evaluation," describes new asphalt road as "a classic example of what happens when utilities are

- installed at a site before efforts at interpretation are completed.” (Ibid., 129; fn 601)
- 1970 State purchases and resells parcel of 130 acres on NE boundary of Olana to community college, and retains strip along east side of north road corridor as buffer (about 12 acres). (Ibid., 132)
- 1970 March 13 Slavin suggests reopening of overgrown fields and clearing of portions of carriage roads for use as walking and cross-country ski trails to build interest. (Ibid., 133)
- 1970 July 31 Newspaper reports signal beginning of restoration of mingled garden. (Ibid., 135; fn 638)
- 1971 April 6 Slavin’s “Report on Grounds Restoration at Olana states that “only by restoring the grounds, where we know how it was, can we begin to appreciate this facet [landscape gardening] of Church’s genius.” (Ibid., 134)
- 1971 May 28 Friends of Olana, support group for property, formally chartered by New York State Board of Regents. Mission is “To advocate for and support the conservation, preservation, development and improvement of Olana.” (Ibid., 133)
- 1971 September 9 Slavin concludes that 20<sup>th</sup>-century flower garden dates to 1929 and should be removed in favor of restoration of flower garden extant during Church’s lifetime. Replanting is most active in 1973-74 when “Report on the Restoration of the Victorian Garden of Olana” prepared. (Ibid., 135)
- 1971 December First edition of *The Crayon* newsletter. (Ibid.)
- 1970s early State encourages winter sports like cross-country skiing, tobogganing, sledding and skating. (Ibid.)
- 1972 Slavin reports that grounds restoration report is in process of research; requests funds for annuals for restoration of mingled garden, then referred to as Victorian Garden. (Ibid., 135)
- 1972 New York State Historic Trust is abolished and in new year, Olana falls under Division for Historic Preservation, and later Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). (Ibid., 136-37)
- c. 1972 Undated memo from Slavin confirms historic landscape restoration agenda. Document is “most comprehensive and formal written statement of goals and implementation strategy for the Olana landscape.” Although proposals are not based on scholarly research, most of the ideas are obvious and non-controversial. (Ibid., 137-138)
- 1971 May 28 Friends of Olana, support group for property, formally chartered. Mission is “To advocate for and support the conservation, preservation, development and improvement of Olana.” (Ibid., 133)

- 1973 “Preliminary Report for the Stable-Coachhouse Complex,” by Aileen Stevenson [OSHS]. (Ibid., fn 534)
- 1973 “Biological and Physical Survey” of the lake is conducted. (Ibid., 139)
- 1973 Slavin receives approval to remove part of 20<sup>th</sup>-century flower garden which is inconsistent with 19<sup>th</sup>-century restoration period. (Ibid., 140)
- c. 1973 Undated handwritten draft by Aileen Stevenson: “[Olana] Master Plan – Grounds,” suggests restoration of kitchen garden. (Ibid., 138; fn 658)
- 1974 February 5 Slavin implies the need for subjective judgment in restoring Church’s landscape; he insists new tree plantings are vital and should be part of annual regime. At least 14 new trees planted along roads in park. (Ibid.; fn 636)
- 1974-75 Renewed interest in farm restoration, with equipment donations and job description for “Historic farmer.” Fromberger attends “Association of Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums Conference,” April 1975. (Ibid., 138-39)
- 1975 Slavin and Fromberger begin restoration of woodland vegetation along north shore of lake (Louis and Sally removed wooded edge before 1942, replacing with turf shoreline.) Slavin also has overgrown cottage garden and adjacent orchard selectively cleared to free up fruit trees, vineyards and fence lines. These areas are mapped. (Ibid., 134; fn 635)
- 1975 Extensive tree work; State arborist David Spier records and inventories many existing trees. (Ibid., 140)
- 1975 Richard Slavin resigns as site manager after ten years of State stewardship. Replaced by acting manager Linda McLean. (Ibid.)
- 1975 December 2 Report on farm soils prepared with help of USDA Soil Conservation Service. (Ibid., 139; fn 661)
- 1970s mid Mingled garden restored. (Toole, LRP, 52)
- 1975 Early expressions of concern for health of lake because of rampant growth of aquatics, as it is no longer being managed as a fishery. (Ibid., 139)
- After 1975 State budget cuts cause retrenchment; near total focus on house environs rather than site at-large. (Toole, HLR, 134)
- 1976 Another official push for farm renewal at Olana. State funding request for mini-farm with live farm animals and demonstrations of vegetables, farming methods, tools related to agricultural economy of Church’s time. (Ibid., 139)
- 1976 Albert Fromberger resigns from Olana. (Ibid., 140)
- 1976 Budget request by McLean explains Olana’s landscape restoration goals and needs, including hiring of several additional grounds staff, park and parkway foreman, two groundsmen, and grounds security person. Also requests ongoing tree replacement, restoration of greenhouse, study of

- stable for temporary orientation center until visitor center decision made, Cosy Cottage for use as exhibition space for history of estate and farm, lake dredging. Summary statement by McLean: Olana is a “total creation of man, the carefully contrived creation of field, forest, lake, drives and lawns is historically as important as the construction of [the House]...Olana remains today of utmost importance to the study of landscaping in America.” (Ibid., 141)
- 1976 Nation’s Bicentennial celebration.
- 1976 summer Largest crowd ever at Olana--almost 9,000--attend “Victorian Day Picnic.” Becomes annual celebration continuing into 1980s. (Ibid., 135-36)
- 1976 summer Picnic areas with mounted grills laid out on east side of lake, small parking lot built directly beside lake. (Ibid., 136)
- 1976 August 26 Detailed planting plan for mingled garden completed by Ed Lynch. Of 84 plants on list, only lantana, salvia and centauria included in 20 or so perennials discovered later in period receipts. (Ibid., 135; fn 642)
- 1977 Alan E. Dages appointed site manager serving one-year tenure. (Ibid., 141)
- 1977 Elaborate wood boardwalk is installed through wetland on Crown Hill Road; interpretive brochures emphasize native flora and fauna. Site is interpreted as nature preserve with only incidental mention of its role as Church’s home and artistic vision. (Ibid., 136)
- 1978 Prominent viewshed from Olana to SW threatened by construction of nuclear power plant on west side of Inbocht Bay; plan shelved after debate. (Ibid., 141)
- 1978 First proposal to have a Historic Landscape Report prepared for Olana. (Ibid.)
- 1979 James A. Ryan appointed site manager.
- 1979 Small parking lot constructed along lower farm road between site of granary and farm stable; lot near lake removed. (Ibid., 136)
- 1980 Conservation plan prepared in draft form by USDA District Conservationist, but plan not implemented. (Ibid., 141)
- 1980 Undated study shows that lake is almost completely covered with Ulothrix because of shallow depth. Dredging is proposed as only long-term solution. (Ibid., 140)
- 1980-1986 Series of memos document debate over pros and cons of removal of final parts of 20<sup>th</sup>-century flower garden. (Ibid.)
- 1981 Lake excavation project. (Ibid., 163)
- 1981 Gypsy moth caterpillars inflict record amount of damage in northeast U. S., defoliating twice as large an area as previous year. Hudson Valley

- among hardest hit areas. Hemlocks hit hard in Olana woodlands, creating opening in forest cover on east slope.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/1981/08/10/nyregion/gypsy-moth-caused-record-losses-in-81-in-northeastern-us.html>; and FCP, 30)
- 1981 Partial dredging of lake removes 3,500 cubic yards at NE corner of lake. (Toole, HLR, 140)
- 1982-84 James Ryan prepares interpretive narrative on historic landscape and begins a comprehensive master *plan* for the property. This plan confirms the status of the “estate as a single work of art, created and integrated in all its parts—views, landscape, buildings, decorations and furnishings—by a master artist. . . . The purpose of all activity at Olana has been the restoration of the house and estate to its appearance during the lifetime of its creator.” Plan states that “the Olana archives have the documents needed to restore the grounds of Olana to the look intended by Church.” (Ibid., 142)
- 1984 “Olana Master Plan” of this year quotes decision attributed to planning of 1968-1969, but formal declaration not yet found in archives. Declaration is that “the house and grounds should represent only the period of Frederic Church’s occupancy, and not the continuum of the estate’s history.” (Ibid., 132; fn 626)
- 1984 Historic Landscape Report is commissioned by Bureau of Historic Sites, researched and written by Toole, is “yet another preliminary study.” Initiates process that over course of next twelve years results in completion of HLR. (Ibid., 142-43)
- 1985 March Friends of Olana fund two-year research project in Olana archives studying Olana landscape. (Ibid., 143)
- 1986 Landscape Research Report answers some of the critical questions raised in earlier landscape report. (Ibid.)
- 1986 Scenic Hudson conceives and implements plan to protect portion of Olana’s viewshed using conservation easement. (FCP, 50)
- 1987 April Severe flood on the Mohawk River and Catskills. Near record flooding on Schoharie Creek with 10 deaths as a result of the sudden collapse of the New York State Thruway bridge over the Schoharie Creek.  
<http://www.weather.gov/aly/MajorFloods>
- 1987 October 4 Freak snow storm devastates trees still in leaf, topples many trees and mutilates others, leaving woodland devastated. Inadequate staff and funding leads State to use bulldozer to clear debris causing additional damage to woodlands. (Toole, HLR, 143)
- 1988 “Master Landscape Restoration Plan – Mansion Environs,” by Toole and Ellen McClelland Lesser completed. Suggests that rustic-style railing and

- rustic seats of design sketched by Church be reconstructed. (Toole, HLR, 143)
- 1988 First proposals to bury electric lines on property. (HLR, 144)
- 1989 Publication of Gerald Carr's *Olana Landscapes*, which includes many views of the Olana landscape taken in late 1980s. (Toole, HLR, 148)
- 1990 Preliminary maintenance guidelines updated, expanded and revised. (Toole, LRP, 43)
- 1990 Arbor Day celebration initiated at Olana, including replacing some of trees identified in restoration plan of 1988. (Toole, HLR, 143)
- 1990 "Master Restoration Plan – South Park," by Toole and Lesser completed.
- 1991 "Master Restoration Plan – North Road," by Toole and Lesser completed. Addresses severely damaged woodland along north road. (HLR, 144)
- 1991 Stable rehabilitated as visitor center, includes interpretation of property as designed landscape. Friends of Olana sponsor design of brochure interpreting landscape. (Ibid.)
- 1992 (winter)-93 Extensive removal of tall, spindly maple trees on steep grounds below terraces, opening views in the previously screened middle ground. (Ibid., 148)
- 1992 Production of visitor orientation film, "Frederic Church's Olana," with partial funding from National Endowment for the Arts.
- 1992 November State sponsors *Olana Colloquium*. (Ibid., 144)
- 1993 "Preliminary Historic Landscape Study – The Farm," by Toole and Lesser completed.
- 1994-95 Staircase from parking lot is built by Taconic Region restoration crew. (Ibid., 145)
- 1994 Friends of Olana conduct strategic plan.
- 1995 September Colloquium, *Olana in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, co-sponsored by OPRHP and Friends of Olana, results in recommendation that comprehensive plan be prepared.
- 1996 New roof installed on Cosy Cottage. (Toole, HLR, 159)
- 1996 Columbia Land Conservancy completes survey of viewshed to east and southeast authored by Racicot. (FCP, 50)
- 1996 November 25 Question raised re: planting choices in mingled garden as to whether based on documentation from Church's notes or drawings. Slavin responds that "list of plants ordered by Church, as well as 'period plants,' was compiled but that difficulties in supply and the personal preference of staff and volunteers resulted in much substitution over the years." (Toole, HLR, 135; fn 643)
- 1997 fall Ecological reconnaissance of areas to be affected by *Comprehensive Plan* conducted by Hudsonia, Ltd. (FCP,30)

- 1997 Lake deepened due to increasing growth of emergent vegetation, mostly phragmites. (FCP, 31)
- 1997 Plans made between state representatives and Niagara-Mohawk to accomplish underground electrical service at Olana. (Toole, LRP, 36)
- 1998 First installment of 700 trees planned for the park planted. (Toole, Ibid., 52)
- 1998 Surveys of rare plants and birds conducted. Work results in reports Barbour 1998 a and b, Mihocko, 1998. (FCP, 30)
- 1998 Study by Ward Associates says that it is feasible to return north road and other carriage drives to original width (10-12 feet) and composition (shale). (FCP, 53)
- 1999 “Landscape Restoration Plan” recommends replanting of selected woodland areas. (Toole, LRP, 47)
- 2000 Friends of Olana becomes The Olana Partnership (TOP). (Ryan, 92)
- 2001 fall Follow-up survey of rare plants and birds.
- 2002 “Final Landscape Restoration Plan for Olana,” completed by the Office of R. M. Toole. Recommends selective restoration of historic landscape. Includes maintenance guidelines for Olana’s historic landscape. (Toole, LRP, 43)
- 2002 May “Final Comprehensive Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement” completed; intent is to “guide the development and operation of Olana State Historic Site during the period 2002-2006, and to set a course for Olana for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” Adopted May 1 by TOP and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP). (Ryan, 92)
- 2004 TOP and NYSOPRHP complete multi-year project to restore exterior of Olana house, including repointing of stonework, conservation of original brick surfaces, reconstruction of bluestone terraces and stairs, and complete reconstruction of studio tower and eleven chimneys. (Ryan, 92)
- 2006 August Rehabilitation of Cosy Cottage completed for use by TOP as administrative offices. (Ibid.)
- 2007 May Main house reopened after 18-month closure for installation of fire-suppression and climate control systems. \$2.2 million project funded by National Endowment for the Humanities grant and matching funds from NYSOPRHP. (Ibid.)
- 2008 May TOP restores historic farm stable building and reconstructs shed and wagon house demolished in 1940s. These new buildings house first year-round education facility at Olana. (Ibid.)  
All utility lines and poles removed from the landscape with TOP funding. (Ibid.)

- 2009 TOP creates new Evelyn and Maurice Sharp Gallery in main house. (Ibid.)
- 2010 April Fully restored second-floor bedroom suite of Frederic and Isabel Church open to public for first time.
- Olana's first landscape curator position created. (Ibid.)
- 2012 Short film segment of Olana landscape preservation project produced for orientation by Olana Partnership.