This detailed map from 1884 shows the peak of romantic tourism in the Catskills.
This redrawn 1884 map of the forest clearings in the area show how little natural forest remained. Much of the land was cleared for agriculture, grazing, and for the timber and tanning industry prior to the rise of recreational tourism.
The mountains were marked with several points of interest such as boulders, viewpoints and geologic formations. Tourists were given itineraries and schedules to experience these attractions at the ideal times of day and season.
As the Catskills grew in fashion due to the popularity of the Hudson River School and romantic writing, hotel owners partnered with rail and boat companies to install a complex transportation network. The landscape was soon criss-crossed with roads, trains and trails.
The site today is heavily forested after a conservation effort in the early and mid 1900’s. Most of the buildings, roads, rails from the 1800’s have been removed. The area now has parking lots, campground for outdoor recreation, and modest network of hiking trails.
STORYTELLING THROUGH NAMING

ROCKS PERSONIFIED
Alligator Rock
Druid Rocks
Dramatic Rock
Pulpit Rock
Turtle Rock
Sunset Rock
Prospect Rock
Artist’s Rock
Moses’ Rock
Anvil Rock
Eagle Rock
Sphinx
Star Rock
High Rock
Dripping Rock
Profile Rock
Shelving Rock
Point Of Rocks

LEDGE’S PERSONIFIED
Black Ledge
White Ledge
Harley’s Ledge
Church’s Ledge
Newman’s Ledge
Rip Van Winkle Ledge

LEGER’S PERSONIFIED
Black Ledge
White Ledge
Harley’s Ledge
Church’s Ledge
Newman’s Ledge
Rip Van Winkle Ledge

FAUNA
Bear’s Den
Fawn’s Leap

GEOLOGIC
Puddingstone Hall
Glacial Polishes
Red Hill

HUMOROUS
Lemon Squeezer
Little Pink Orchard
Fat Man’s Delight
Dominie’s Nose

OMINOUS
Devil’s Tombstone
Burnt District
Dead Wood

DRAMATIC
The Amphitheater
The Chasm
The Gulf

ROMANTIC
Inspiration Point
Artist's Grotto
Lover’s Retreat
Fairy Spring
Elfin Pass

Romantic tourism called for the promotion of specific natural features on the site through imaginative naming, encouraging tourists to get lost in the fantasy of curated wilderness.
RUSK'S
Illustrated Guide
TO THE
Catskill Mountains;
WITH
MAPS AND PLANS.

SAMUEL E. RUSK, PUBLISHER,
CATSKILL, N. Y.

Price, complete, without the above Map, 25 Cts.
Price, with Prof. A. Guyot's Map of the Cateskills, 75 Cts.
al: Recent deposits - generally confined to floodplains within a valley, oxidized, non-calcareous, fine sand to gravel, in larger valleys may be overlain by silt, subject to frequent flooding, thickness 1-10 meters

df: Alluvial fan - Fan shaped accumulations, poorly stratified silt, sand and boulders, at the foot of steep slopes, generally permeable.

k: Kame deposits - includes kames, eskers, kame terraces, kame deltas, coarse to fine gravel and/or sand, deposition adjacent to ice, lateral variability in sorting, coarseness and thickness, locally firmly cemented with calcareous cement, thickness variable (10-30m)

ld: Lacustrine delta - coarse to fine gravel and sand, stratified, generally well sorted, deposited at a lake shoreline, thickness 3-15m

ls: Lacustrine sand - sand deposits associated with large bodies of water, generally a near-shore deposit or near a sand source, well sorted, stratified, generally quartz sand, 2-20m

r: Bedrock - exposed or generally within 1 meter of surface

t: Till - variable texture (e.g. clay, silt-clay, boulder clay), usually poorly sorted diamict, deposition beneath glacier ice, relatively impermeable (loamy matrix), variable clast content - ranging from abundant well-rounded diverse lithologies in valley tills to relatively angular, more limited lithologies in upland tills, tends to be sandy in areas underlain by gneiss or sandstone, potential land instability on steep slopes, 1-50m

tm: Till moraine - more variably sorted than till, generally more permeable than till, deposition adjacent to ice, 10-30m

og: Outwash sand and gravel - coarse to fine gravel with sand, proglacial fluvial deposition, well rounded and stratified, generally finer texture away from ice border 2-20m
Hamilton Group, 520-850m, Middle Devonian


Dgo: Oneonta formation - shale, sandstone, conglomerate. Genessee Group, 370-460m, Middle-upper Devonian.

Ohpt: Platekill formation - shale, sandstone.

Ohm: Undifferentiated lower Hamilton group - shale, sandstone.

Ohmo: Moscow Formation - shale and sandstone.

Dou: Onondaga limestone, Onondaga Limestone and Ulster Group, 30-150m, Lower-Middle Devonian.