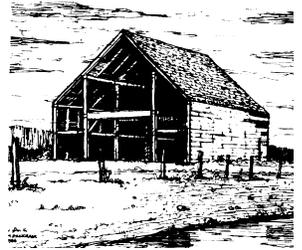


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Hay Barracks in Newfoundland, with notes on the Canadian context

Dale Gilbert Jarvis

Hay barracks are a vanished piece of Newfoundland's history, a very specific type of vernacular agricultural architecture that is no longer seen in the cultivated fields of the province. This article is an attempt to present what is known about hay barracks in Newfoundland, to give a sense of their origin, history, diffusion and use, and to document their decline and eventual disappearance from the cultural landscape of the province.

What is a Hay Barrack?

The *Dictionary of Newfoundland English* defines a hay barrack as a "structure consisting of four posts and a movable roof, designed to protect hay from rain and snow" (see, as an example, Figure 1).¹ It goes on to note that such a structure "is composed of a square

base of crisscrossed poles, to keep the hay from the ground, and at each corner a large upright pole. In each pole there are holes through which a large bolt can be passed. Resting on four large bolts, one in each pole, is a four-faced cone-shaped roof. These barracks are usually boarded in for about four feet from the ground."

"There's a lot of people don't know what a hay barrack is," reminisced Goulds-area farmer Leonard Ruby, as part of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador's "Seeds to Supper" folklife festival in 2011.

I don't know if they were used anywhere but the idea was brought over from the old country. Holland they say they originated. But you had those hay barracks in your fields and it made a lot less work. You could bring in the hay and stack it until you'd use it in the winter - move it from the hay barracks to the barns - and it kept in perfect condition if you...just had the knowledge of what to do.... They were pretty simple: four poles in the air with a pyramid shaped cover. You rose up this cover and as you filled it with hay you let it down, let it down, and the hay compressed and then you trimmed the outside, which sort of sheds water, any moisture, and the hay would be good in probably five or ten years.²

Leonard Ruby's description of a basic hay barrack is fairly representative of those found in Newfoundland and elsewhere. Usually constructed with four (sometimes five) poles, with a roof that raised and lowered, hay barracks saw some local and regional variations depending upon the whims, needs, and construction skills of the farmers and laborers who created them. While the number of poles could vary, the defining feature of the barrack was its movable roof:

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Figure 1. Hay Barrack in field. The Rooms Provincial Archives Division, VA 6-6 / Betty W. Brooks and Stanley Truman Brooks [between 1934 and 1938], Newfoundland Tourist Development Board photograph collection.

Hay Barracks in Newfoundland (continued from page 1)

Once a common sight in the Hudson Valley, farmers in New England and Pennsylvania also built hay barracks. Usually the support poles, which were drilled with holes at regular intervals, extended through the roof. Because the roof only rested on a set of removable wooden pegs, it could then be raised or lowered to accommodate the height of the stack with the aid of a ratcheting jack. The support pegs were then replaced at the required level.³

A letter dated the 13th of November, 1787, and written by Mrs. Mary Capner from Hunterdon County, New Jersey, to relatives in England, includes this descriptive note about hay barracks:

Barracks are a building I have not described to you, tho I noticed them at the first coming into the country. Tommy has made one for his Bro. [It has] four poles fixed in the ground at the distance of fifteen feet in square. The poles are squared fifteen feet or more at top and five feet at bottom unsquared. This is all above ground. In the square part of the poles there are holes bored thro at the distance of twelve inches big enough for a strong iron pin to be put thro to suport [sic] four wall plates which are tennanted [sic] at the ends, then some light spars are put upon the wall plates and thatch upon them. When it was only five feet from the ground, the room can be raised at pleasure 21 feet or any distance from the ground between that and five feet. These are to put hay or any kind of grain under and the roof is always ready to shelter from hasty rains which is common hear [sic] in summer. Those that only have two cows have the bottom



Figure 3. Four-pole *hooiberg* with pulleys at Franschepad, Blaricum, Netherlands. Photo Courtesy Gerard Grootveld.

part boarded at the sides and a floor laid over and the hay at top and the cow stable under.⁴

Origins and Etymology of Hay Barrack

St. John's farmer Leonard Ruby's assertion that the hay barrack originated in Holland may be correct. In Netherlands, the structure was primarily known as a *hooiberg*, or hay mountain though many other regional names exist (Figure 2).⁵ Some of the earliest archaeological examples, with three and five posts, were excavated as part of a late Bronze Age farm at Zwolle-Ittersumerbroek, Netherlands.⁶ Noble notes that, "hay barracks have been employed in the Netherlands for a very long time. Deeds from the late 13th century mention bergs but without any description. Flemish painters frequently incorporated hay barracks in rural scenes from the 15th century onwards." Rembrandt even made an etching of one in 1650. *Hooiberg*-like structures spread throughout the Netherlands and beyond, even as far as the Ukraine, possibly introduced by Dutch or German Mennonites.⁷ Local historian Gerard Grootveld has documented a number of *hooiberg* structures in and around the community of Blaricum, Netherlands, including three-pole, four-pole, and five-pole variants (see Figure 3).

In Flanders, there are numerous terms to describe similar hay storage structures. Hilde Schoefs, conservator at the Domein Bokrijk open air museum, notes,

The word *hooimijt* (see Figure 4) is both similar to *hooiberg* (literal translation: hay mountain) as well as different from it: *hooimijt* is more common in Flemish than in



Figure 2. A circa 1930s four-pole *hooiberg* at Eemnesserweg, Blaricum, Netherlands. Photo courtesy Gerard Grootveld.



Figure 4. A *hooimijt* at Domein Bokrijk, Belgium, 2008. Photo courtesy Hilde Schoefs.

Dutch; a *hooiberg* denotes in Flanders rather a large heap of hay, while a *hooimijt* designates a somehow more limited amount of hay/straw/grains, arranged/stacked in a practical and conical way, sometimes around a wooden pole; and a *hooiberg* in Holland denotes different regional varieties of a wooden pole structure meant to stack hay.... The meaning and use of both words is not that straightforward, I am afraid. Apart from that there are more words competing for parts of the same meaning, for eg. *hooistapel* (literal translation: staple of hay) which is still a common word, but also the more archaic *hooischelf*. In the local dialects there are even more words for more or less the same idea—‘a heap of hay’—to be reaped, but that is another story.⁸

As an aside, other British terms like hay rick or wheat rick may sound similar to barrack, but may have different etymological origins, with *rick* meaning *stack*, or *stook*, and being a cognate to the Dutch *rook* rather than the Dutch *berg*.

In Newfoundland, the term for such structures was most often “hay barrack” though the same roofed structure was sometimes called a “stack” in the Codroy Valley. The term “barrack” varied in other regions: “No shed owner in Kansas that I have talked to has ever heard the term ‘hay barrack’” writes Hoy. Instead, Kansas farmers predominantly used the term hay roof, though some used hay shed, pole shed, alfalfa shed, or hay cover. Farmer John Lies of Andale, Kansas, referred to his hay barrack as the “lily pad”, “because it floats up and down and because it is cool”.⁹ In the British Islands, similar structures were known as “helms” but were also possibly known as “hovels” or “belfrys”, and, in one English seventeenth-century nod to possible origins, a “Dutch barne”.¹⁰ The phrase “Dutch barn” continues in the British farming tradition, to refer to a barn with a roof and open sides, sometimes called a pole barn, though generally with a fixed roof.

This article, out of deference to the vernacular usage of the term in Newfoundland, uses the phrase “hay barrack” consistently, regardless of the use of the structure for other grains or as storage for equipment. Hay barracks, aside from some colloquial references to them as a “stack” in the Codroy Valley, are consistently referred to as such in local speech and in the archival record, and the word “barrack” is never used as a generic term for such structures. Secondly, the etymology of the word (deriving from *hooiberg*) favours the inclusion of the word “hay.” Barrack is an interesting word in English in that it has two distinct etymologies. “Barrack” as in a soldier’s barracks, is of late 17th century origin, from French *baraque*, from Italian *baracca* or Spanish *barraca* meaning “soldier’s tent.” “Barrack” in the “hay barrack” context is from the Dutch *berg* meaning mountain. Linguistically, the words “iceberg” and “hay barrack” are closer in origin than the words “barrack” and “hay barrack.”

By 1698, at a time when the use of similar structures in the British Isles may have already been in decline, Dutch pioneers were headed west across the Atlantic.¹¹ The Dutch introduced hay barracks to New Jersey in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. By 1730, Dutch hay barracks had been adopted by other ethnic groups in New Jersey and New York, and the technology soon spread.¹² In the Pennsylvania Dutch area, the local term *shutt-sheier* has been documented as early as 1756.¹³ From there, the humble hay barrack spread to Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, Prince Edward Island, and southeastern Manitoba.¹⁴ Hay barracks also spread to certain areas of Kansas, perhaps introduced by Mennonite and German Catholic farmers.¹⁵

Advantages of the Hay Barrack

It has been argued that the popularity of the structure was probably due to the fact that a barrack could be built “quickly, cheaply, and easily, and could be used to house both stock and grain or hay. In short, it was an ideal structure for the pioneer agriculturalist”.¹⁶

A structure which combined both simple construction and an extended life for hay made it popular with farmers. In an interview with farmer Marcellus Englebrecht of Andale, Kansas, researcher James Hoy noted that Englebrecht, “says that a hay roof is the cheapest possible shelter for a hundred tons of hay, and he showed me some bales that had been in his shed for ten years, the hay still bright.”¹⁷

Hay Barracks in Canada

The use of hay barracks in Canada seems to have been a predominantly Atlantic-coast agricultural tradition, and were in use in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, by end of the 18th century. Stephen Hornsby notes that in

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Hay Barracks in Newfoundland (continued from page 3)

"1800 the settlement at Sydney Mines consisted of two log barracks or cookhouses, half a dozen log and sod huts, a frame-house, a couple of sheds and stables, and a hay barrack."¹⁸

There are scattered historical reports of hay barracks existing as far west as Ontario by the latter half of the 19th century. The sessional papers for the Legislature of the Province of Ontario note a hay barrack as being part of the holdings of the Moreton Lodge Farm, of Guelph, Ontario, owned by Frederick W. Stone in 1872.¹⁹ In 1873, author Henry Scadding included the following tantalizing reference to a hay barrack in his book *Toronto of Old*:

Northward, a little beyond where Grosvenor Street leads into what was Elmsley Villa, and is now Knox College, was a solitary green field with a screen of lofty trees on three of its sides. In its midst was a Dutch barn, or hay-barrack, with movable top. The sward on the northern side of the building was ever eyed by the passer-by with a degree of awe. It was the exact spot where a fatal duel had been fought.²⁰

Hay barracks or Dutch barns remained more common on the Atlantic coast, and were used in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and, notably, on the Magdalene Islands, where they survived long after the practice faded in other areas. In a 2005 editorial for the *Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Newsletter*, Peter Sinclair noted that the "presence of barracks in eastern Canada has been attributed to the large forced migration of New York and New Jersey loyalists after The Revolution. These farmers also brought the New World Dutch barn to Ontario." He went on to write,

No barracks survive on Prince Edward Island but John [Stevens] got word that there were still some on the Magdalene Island in Quebec. After some exchanges of e-mails, John and Marion were on their way to this small remote place where trees are few and hay barracks are still in use. They spent four days hunting down barracks and meeting natives. The Magdalene are a group of Islands northeast of Maine with a native population of 10,000, 60,000 in the summer. The barracks are no longer used on the English speaking islands but survive on the French speaking ones. They have adopted a standing rigging, block-and-tackle, to raise and lower the roof. This is easily explained by the profusion of ship wrecks that have supplied the island with wood and metal for many generations.²¹

Today, the Magdalene Islands are one of the few places in Atlantic Canada with extant hay barracks. The remarkable stained-glass east window in the Holy Trinity church, Grosse-Île, depicts Jesus, "calling the first disciples, but with modern Magdalen Islands touches.



Figure 5. A view of the Codroy Valley. Photo courtesy Kevin Aucoin.

Jesus is wearing rubber boots and a sherman's wool sweater, and is holding an old-style gaff, which lobstermen used to haul in traps. Behind him are a couple of lobster traps and a hay barrack once characteristic to the islands".²²

Hay Barracks in Newfoundland

Newfoundland and Labrador is the easternmost province of Canada. Situated in the country's Atlantic region, it incorporates the island of Newfoundland and mainland Labrador to the northwest. It has a combined area of 156,453 square miles, with a population of just over 514,000. Most of the population is concentrated on the eastern portion of the island of Newfoundland.

It is a province with a rich cultural heritage, with both native aboriginal populations, and a settler population of predominantly English and Irish ancestry. The island of Newfoundland has a long history associated with the North Atlantic cod fishery, and much of its local culture and flavor evolved in small fishing villages scattered along the island's long coastline.

At some point, the concept of this practical and inexpensive structure hopped the Gulf of St. Lawrence and was introduced into the vernacular architecture of Newfoundland. It was a firm part of regional agricultural traditions surrounding St. John's on the east coast of the island, and in the Codroy Valley on the west, by the middle of the nineteenth century.

In the Codroy Valley of Newfoundland's west coast, farmers found that the hay barrack was cheap and easy to build, and as late as 1983, there were at least ten hay barracks still in use in the region.

An advantage of the barrack is that it can be left for the winter in difficult to reach hay fields. The farmer is able to situate a barrack on the fertile, low



Figure 6. An undated photo of Haymarket Square, Duckworth Street, St John's, showing hay wagons, probably late 1890s or early 1900s. City of St. John's Archives photograph 01-13-035.

intervale land along the rivers, and even on the small islands in the rivers. The hay in barracks is sometimes hauled in winter over the snow and ice to the barn. Farmers who don't have a hay barn find the hay barrack a useful and inexpensive replacement for a large hay barn. An unassisted farmer, with materials readily available on his farm can easily build it.²³

Codroy Valley Hay Barracks

The Codroy Valley is a glacial valley formed in the Anquille Mountains, a sub-range of the Long Range Mountains which run along Newfoundland's southwest coast



Figure 7. The last Killbride hay barrack. Photo by David Courtney, MUNFLA photograph P72 69-009A.

(see Figure 5). A particularly fertile area for agriculture, European settlers had begun to farm the area by the early 1800s. Many Codroy Valley settlers were of Scottish origin, arriving in Newfoundland via earlier settlements in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. They brought with them knowledge of farming culture, and of hay barracks, which were used extensively in Cape Breton Island, particularly in the Margaree River district.²⁴

Kevin Aucoin's family provides a good example of this transfer of Cape Breton agricultural knowledge into Newfoundland. Aucoin was born in 1941, and grew up in the Codroy Valley in the small community of Tompkins. The son of William and Dorothy Aucoin, his grandfather William came from Cape Breton to Newfoundland in approximately 1880 at the age of

16. Like other farmers in the valley, the Aucoins made use of hay barracks.

"In our region everybody had a farm—we all grew up on farms in the community and I would say pretty well every farm family had one of these—very very common process at that time," notes Aucoin in a 2011 interview. "We're now talking in my own lifetime, the 40s and 50s and families ahead of me would have had those, so we're going back to the early part of the 20th century, I suspect...of common use."

"Traditionally in that region most people had vegetable crops, a few cattle; everybody kept a few sheep and cattle," says Aucoin. "They milked their own cattle and that's why they had forage land. So you had vegetable crops and forage land was very much the common pattern."

Aucoin uses the phrases "hay barrack" and "hay stack" interchangeably to refer to the same type of structure: "four large corner poles probably 25-30 feet in height, a wooden structure around the base, probably fairly open. But a fence-like structure, about 6 feet high, very, very heavy peaked roof attached to the four poles, and holes drilled in the four corner poles with stakes, and you could lift the roof as you needed to while you were storing hay. And I have to tell you from experience that roof was bloody-well heavy. Took four sons at least to lift it!"

Aucoin notes the barrack preceded the hayloft in the Codroy Valley, and also served as a secondary storage facility:

Many people had their outbuildings and their barns for cattle and hay and that kind of thing and some would have stored hay in the barns anyway, so this may have been a secondary system for storage or if you were growing oats. Many people did,

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Figure 8. Cape Anguille hay barrack, early 1990s. Photo courtesy John Pratt.

you tended to store the oats outside, or other grains, and the straw that way. You probably would have put your better hay in the barn and you probably would have put straw, oats and whatnot in the outside stack. So it had kind of a diverse use.

The Aucoin hay stacks or barracks were 20 foot square, with hay stacked up 10 to 12 feet. This would give the farmer 4,800 cubic feet of stored hay. Such a barrack would preserve hay into the next spring, depending on hay quality and weather.

You had a wooden structure underneath to allow aeration and to prevent everything going down into, you know, moisture problems. So you had to try and select dry land, allow for drainage underneath and prevent any mould or problems. So I'm guessing the fence structure would have been 4-6 feet high all around on a wooden base structure, and your very heavy corner poles helping to support the whole system, keeping it all together.²⁵

St. John's Area Hay Barracks

A number of hay barracks were the farms around St. John's, on the east coast of Newfoundland. "Haymaking was a 'must' job on all the farms in the St. John's area, for hay was the mainstay of the cows' and horses' diet" writes Hilda Chaulk Murray.²⁶ Hay was important, even in urban centres like St. John's, where cart horses were an integral part of everyday life, well into the twentieth century (Figure 6).

Hay barracks were certainly in place by 1880, when one on what is now known as Mundy Pond Road was destroyed by fire. The St. John's newspaper *The Evening Telegram* ran a short notice on December 4th, noting, "A HAY barrack on the Monday Pond Road, belonging to Mr. John Wills was partially destroyed by fire this morning. About eleven tons of hay, valued at something like £60, was consumed".²⁷

On August 7, 1893, the same newspaper ran a notice for the public auction of the property of the P. Summers Estate, "beautifully situated on Topsail Road, only three miles from Cross Roads at Riverhead. The Farm contains 10 acres, 8 ½ of which are under cultivation, with a substantial Cottage, 2 Barns, and Hay Barracks thereon."²⁸ Similarly, in a will dated the 1st of May, 1869, one William Quigley bequeathed to his son Peter Quigley and his daughters Catherine, Judy and Ann the joint use of his old farm at "Study Water," [possibly Steady Water] on Topsail Road, and, along with bedding, furniture, utensils, and horse-related gear, the "Hay Barrack."²⁹

Just as in the Codroy Valley, St. John's-area farmers used a combination of hay barracks and barns, storing hay in different locations. Ease of

access was one consideration, though one St. John's farmer, Kevin Kenny, told Murray that "My father never liked to have too much hay in the hayloft near the house because he was always afraid of fire."³⁰ Murray notes that some farmers stored a great deal of hay outside of the barns in barracks; Leonard Ruby had three hay barns supplemented by six hay barracks. Murray writes, "Barracks at Westvale Farm were located in the field across the road from the barnyard. Leonard Ruby pointed out that they used hay from the barn and from the barracks concurrently. 'It all depended on the weather. The barracks could be 20 feet high. Dangerous in windy weather'".³¹

In areas of greater agricultural production, this pattern of barns partnered with barracks seems to have been standard. In smaller communities, barracks were less common, or even unknown. Hay making was still important, but smaller purpose-built hay sheds or loft spaces within stables were the norm.³² As an example, the small community of Tilting, Fogo Island, had at one point no fewer than five "hay houses," one story buildings with an area of ten by twelve feet or twelve by fourteen feet, with flat or low pitch roofs, and no windows.³³

Decline in Use

By the 1970s, hay barracks had started to vanish from the Newfoundland landscape. Researcher David Courtney noted circa 1969 that as a child, the primary use of hay barracks for people of his generation was to "get in to play or shelter from the rain." Of a hay barrack he photographed in Killbride (see Figure 7), Courtney stated, "this was the last of the hay barracks. As kids, we used to play cowboys, cards, and older kids used it for courting. I can remember getting put out of it many times by our grandmother."³⁴ In 1976, though most hay barracks had vanished from the St. John's area,

they were still enough in the public memory to have been included in a teacher's guide for studying local community resources.³⁵ One of the last documented hay barracks on the west coast of the island was that at Cape Anguille, photographed in its final days in the early 1990s (Figure 8).

Today it is difficult, if not impossible, to find any hay barracks in Newfoundland, victims of changing agricultural practice and easy prey to the elements. Richard MacKinnon in 2002 described the hay barrack as "a once popular impermanent structure that is now uncommon in most North American farm districts".³⁶ This impermanence of design has certainly been a factor in their gradual disappearance from the cultural landscape of Newfoundland. Like fishing stages and flakes for drying fish, barracks were never constructed to be permanent structures, and once the use for them faded, the elements quickly took their toll. In Kansas, "wind is the major enemy of the hay roof" wrote James Hoy in 1990, echoing Newfoundland farmer Leonard Ruby's concern about barracks and windy weather.³⁷ Constructed as barracks were with high poles, standing in the middle of a farmer's field, lightning was also a common threat, as evidenced in this 1919 report from New Brunswick, New Jersey: "A large hay barrack belonging to the Walker-Gordon Farms on the Cranbury Neck Road was struck by lightning recently and completely destroyed. The barrack was filled with alfalfa".³⁸

Peter Wacker notes that barracks "have proved to be far more transient features on the cultural landscape of New Jersey than have the Dutch barns".³⁹ In their 1995 field guide to North American barns, Noble and Cleek noted that hay barracks are "now very rare".⁴⁰

"As farms declined, when we go through the 60s and 70s, many families were self-sustaining: large families, large farms, livestock and everything. As the evolution of the farm industry changed so those practices changed," states Kevin Aucoin. "So I think it changed with respect to fewer people around to sustain the farm, fewer animals—no need for the facility. Unfortunately it parallels the old root cellar in many ways....They are very unique facilities and they were very much part of the landscape but unfortunately no longer exist."⁴¹

Conclusions

As Aucoin notes in relation to root cellars, the demise of the hay barrack tradition is a story that is repeated across Canada with vernacular buildings: corn cribs, tobacco kilns, equipment sheds, even outhouses. They have rarely been seen as "historic" properties in their own right, and have been protected generally where they exist as part of a historic cluster. Under most rubrics for heritage designation, they are not buildings which would ever be considered worthy of official recognition, though collectively, they are an incredible (and rapidly vanishing) resource.

Where buildings like this are invaluable is in how they demonstrate the link between built heritage and our intangible cultural heritage. Simple working buildings provide us a focal point for studying how traditional

and informal knowledge is passed along, adapted, and sometimes abandoned as culture and society shifts. A study of hay barracks, as only one example, allows us to examine how ideas are spread and shared across time and place, and also allows us to gain a better understanding of how people interact with the environment. It also gives us a starting point for oral histories, giving a point of reference for interviewer and interviewee that can lead to deeper discussions about agricultural history, subsistence, economy and change.

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A note on the author:

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New World Dutch Barns in Popular Culture

by Walter Richard Wheeler

Increasing awareness of our agricultural heritage has inspired the creation of "collectibles" with American barn types as a theme. Among these the Historic Providence Mint issued a set of twelve plates with illustrations by artist Harris Hien, entitled "The Vanishing American Barn" in 1983. Each plate in the series depicts a different type of barn; the "Hudson River Barn" and the "Forebay Barn" from this series are of particular interest.

The Hudson River barn (Figure 1) is unmistakably a modeled on the Teller-Schermerhorn barn, formerly in Rotterdam, Schenectady County, NY, and not on the Hudson River (Figure 2). The text accompanying the plate unfortunately adds additional misinformation in its description of the structure depicted on the plate:

The decidedly Dutch influence of early settlers along New York's Hudson River Valley is seen in a tall, nearly "A" frame structure with steeply pitched roof. Most often built on the highest point of land to avoid spring floods, the Hudson River Barn of-



Figure 1. The "Hudson River Barn" plate, 1983.



Figure 2. The Teller-Schermerhorn barn, Historic American Buildings Survey photograph.



Figure 3. The "Forebay Barn" plate, 1983.

ten became a rambling structure as additional sheds and rooms were added to the main structure over the years. Sawmills were common along the Hudson and the planked siding was commonly available.¹

The "Forebay Barn" from the series is clearly not a Pennsylvania barn as the name would suggest. Rather, it appears to have been modeled on the barn now at Mount Gullian, in Beacon, Dutchess County, NY, moved from the Verplanck farm in nearby Hopewell Junction in 1975 (Figures 3 and 4).² The accompanying text erroneously suggests that the barn type was "popular in the Ohio River Valley."³ The stone masonry side walls would seem to derive from Pennsylvania barns.

In 1996, BAND Creations, Inc. of Lake Forest, IL, issued their "Dutch Barn," advertised as part of their "America's Country Barns" collection, the "first collection of authentic barn sculptures dedicated to our nation's beloved rural past" which ultimately included at least five different barn types (Figure 5). The polyresin sculpture of the Dutch barn repli-

(continued on page 10)

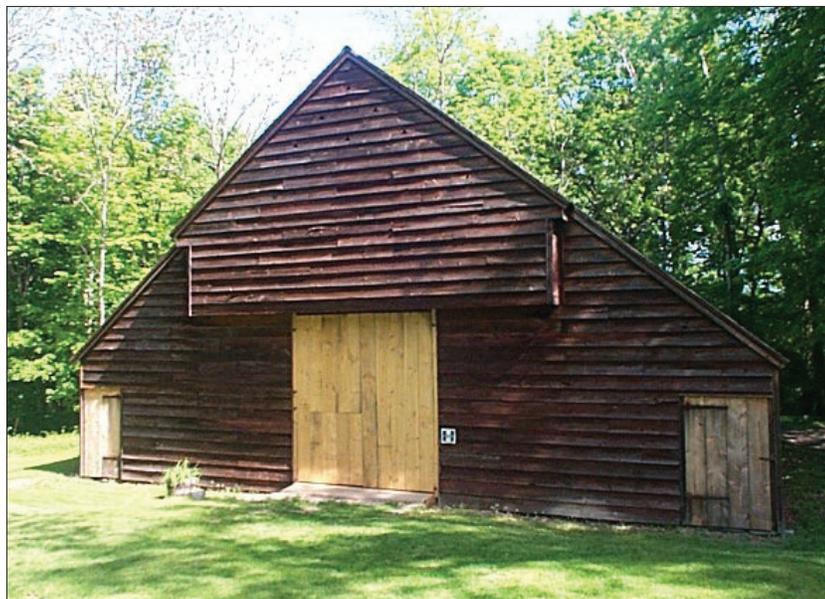


Figure 4. Verplanck barn, now at Mount Gulian (photographer unidentified).



Figure 5. The “Dutch Barn” sculpture, 1996.

cates in a general way the Teller-Schermerhorn barn, the inspiration apparently having been the Historic American Buildings Survey view of this now-lost structure (Figure 2). A windowed cupola and leanto were presumably added to increase visual appeal to the collector.

While we can be glad for the interest in barns as subjects of popular attention, and should keep in mind artistic license and view these pieces with a sense of

humor, these collectibles also demonstrate that there remains work to do in the way of public education with respect to the New World Dutch barn.

- ¹ Quote from unattributed text included in a pamphlet accompanying the plate, as issued, in 1983
- ² <http://www.mountgulian.org/barn.html> accessed 3 November 2016.
- ³ Quote from unattributed text included in a pamphlet accompanying the plate, as issued, in 1983.

For Sale, A Valuable Farm: Advertisements for Farmsteads in upper Hudson and Mohawk Valleys from New York Newspapers, 1800-1825.

Walter Richard Wheeler

This is the fourth installment of a compilation of advertisements for farmsteads which mention New World Dutch barns as part of the property description. Previous installments have appeared in the Fall 2009, Fall 2011 and Spring 2013 issues of the *Newsletter*. This issue compiles a small group of ads for properties located in Albany, Sche-

nectady, Montgomery, and Rensselaer counties, and published in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The use of the term “Dutch barn” as a descriptor generally fell out of use in the newspapers of that region after this period.

The majority of the following eight advertisements mention Dutch barns specifically; three give

dimensions of barns which were square, or close to it, and thus likely also New World Dutch barns. These include the Andrew Finck barn in Stone Arabia (40 by 45 feet) and the Christian Klock barn in Palatine (45 feet square), both in Montgomery County, and the Cornelius Schermerhorn barn (50 feet square) in Greenbush, Rensselaer County.

(See advertisements on pages 11 and 12.)

FOR SALE,

and Possession given soon, if not immediately,
A FARM, situated and lying on the north side of the Mohawk River, about 20 miles above Schenectady—well situated for a tavern or store,—with a Large two Story **HOUSE**, a Dutch Barn, and about thirty bearing Apple Trees.—The price will be low—the payments easy, and an indisputable title given.—For further particulars apply to the subscriber in the Town of Florida, or **JOHN E. WAMPLE**, near the premises.

Cornelius Wample.

Florida, March 18, 1800. 1393ep400

1. Albany Gazette, 31 March 1800, page 2.

About 80 acres of LAND,

Situate opposite to Half-Moon, in the town of Schaghticoke, with a Dwelling House, and large Dutch barn, 47 by 56, and a large orchard of bearing apple trees, &c. in good order, standing thereon, together with a Ferry, across the Hudson, with boats, scows, &c.—To any person or company desirous of forming an extensive and lucrative establishment for trade, perhaps no one on the Hudson offers more advantages or is better situated, being only 7 miles north of Lansingburgh, and having several excellent landing places for boats and lumber coming down the river; and a back country of great extent, rich in almost all the productions of nature, especially wheat and other grain, lumber, &c. &c.

The terms of sale, and time of payment, will be made to suit purchasers. Title-deeds, warranty and indisputable, will be executed, and possession given on the day of sale, by the subscriber, living in the town of Watervliet, 8 miles north of Albany, opposite the village of Troy.

Lavinus Vandenbergb.

December 6, 1799.

6m

2. Albany Gazette, 17 March 1800, page 3.

**FOR SALE,
A FARM**

CONTAINING two hundred and twenty-five acres of Land, about 50 acres of which is intervale, the rest upland, about 50 acres of which is under good improvement. Said FARM is situate in the town of Palatine, about three miles above the Church, in Montgomery county. There are on the premises, a frame house of three rooms; a Barn of 45 feet square; a good stable and shed; and a never failing spring before the house. It is one of the best stands for business on the Mohawk river; the Turnpike Road runs by the house. For further particulars, enquire of the subscriber on the premises. **CHRISTIAN KLOCK.**

Albany; Dec. 20, 1802.

12m45

3. Albany Register, 15 February 1803, page 4.

FOR SALE,

A Very Valuable FARM, in the town of Guilderland, through which the Great Western Turnpike runs 5-1/4ths of a mile. It is well adapted for either store or tavern, or both, as a road leading from Coeymans, Bethlehem, Rensselaerville, &c. communicating with Schenectady and Ballstown springs, runs thro' nearly the centre of it. For a stand for either of the above branches of business it is not exceeded by any between Albany and Cooperstown. On the premises is a good Dutch barn and a tolerably good country house and kitchen, together with a thriving orchard

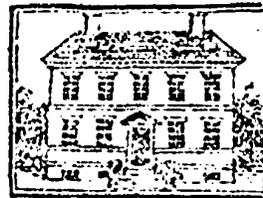
For particulars enquire of the printers of the Albany Gazette.

Guilderland, 17th March, 1804. '07ep

4. Albany Gazette, 9 April 1804, page 4.

FOR SALE,

THAT VALUABLE FARM,



SITUATE at Stone Arabia, in the county of Montgomery, containing 265 acres of land, whereof 100 acres are wood land, and the rest in a state of high cultivation,

with a valuable Brick House, two stories high, with a frame Kitchen, 30 feet by 22, a considerable Orchard, with excellent kitchen Gardens, two frame Barns, one of 40 feet by 45, the other 38 feet by 30; which will be sold altogether, or in smaller parcels, as will best suit the purchasers. It is one of the best stands for a Merchant in the vicinity, and as there is no Merchant in the village, it is worthy the attention of any person who wishes to commence business in a very flourishing settlement.

N. B. If the above premises are not sold before the 15th of April next, they will then be leased.

ALSO, 200 acres of LAND, in the town of Mindeu, and county aforesaid, 3 miles south of Oothoudt's Mills, about 100 acres cleared. ALSO, 175 acres of LAND, in the town of Manlius, in the county of Onondaga, about a quarter of a mile west of the deep spring, joining the farm of Wilm Sales, on the Gt. Genesee Turnpike Road, about 25 acres cleared, with a large log House of two rooms. The terms will be made easy to the purchaser, and a good title given by the subscriber.

ALSO for Sale, the FARM of Arent Brower, containing 120 acres, whereof 75 acres are clear, and adjoining the Farm of the subscriber in Stone-Arabia. (98ep) **ANDREW FINCK.** Jan. 21.

5. Albany Gazette, 9 April 1804, page 4.

For Sale, A Valuable Farm

(continued from page 11)

FOR SALE,

A Valuable FARM,

SITUATED and lying in the town of Florida and county of Montgomery, two miles east of Fort Hunter, and bounding on the Mohawk river, containing two hundred and fifty acres of land—About 120 acres under good improvement, of which 65 acres are interval. There are on the premises a good dwelling house, 24 feet by 30—; a stone kitchen and smoke house; a Dutch barn 50 feet by 70; a waggon house 24 feet by 35; about 150 apple trees, the greater part have borne apples. An indisputable title can be given for the same. For terms apply to John E. Wemple, on the premises, or the subscriber, in the town of Schenectady, on the state road.

W. E. WEMPLE,

November 11, 1865.

1890cp

6. Albany Gazette, 30 December 1805, page 4.

7. Poughkeepsie Journal,
8 April 1806, page 4.

FOR SALE,

A very valuable Farm,

IN the town of Greenbush, in the county of Rensselaer, within one mile and an half of the city of Albany, containing nearly three hundred acres of very choice land, with a good farm house and large barn, fifty feet square, an apple orchard of about one hundred and fifty large bearing trees, and also a variety of other fruit, such as pears, different kinds of plumbs, quinces, currants, goose berries, &c. About one half of the land is under good improvement, the remainder is covered with choice timber (and a great quantity of it) such as white, black and rock oak, hickory, white and pitch pine; the land is free from stone and generally level (excepting a small ridge of about five or six acres, which contains an inexhaustible quantity of building stone) it is well watered by living springs, and has a small but never failing stream running thro the middle; any quantity of hay may be cut on it—four bushels of clover and timothy seed, have been sowed on it last spring; the Rensselaer, and Columbia turnpike road runs through it, which is one of the greatest avenues leading to the seat of government. This farm is sufficiently large for two, and is advantageously situated to be divided; a very large crop of grain is sowed, which will be sold with or without it, as may be agreed on. For terms of sale, apply to

CORNELIUS SCHERMERHORN, jun.
on the premises.

Town of Greenbush, Feb. 3, 1806. 75 cf.

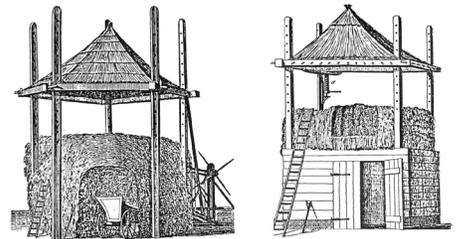
Valuable Property For Sale.

THE subscriber offers for sale a farm whereon he now resides, in the town of Rotterdam, Schenectady county, situate about two miles from the city of Schenectady, on the south side of the Mohawk river, and within half a mile of the Erie canal; containing about seventy five acres. Thirty acres of it is covered with a fine young growth of hickory, and about ten acres of it is a valuable land. On said farm is a large frame house with two rooms on the lower floor, and a large kitchen annexed; a large Dutch barn, together with out houses; a large orchard of apple trees, principally grafted, together with cherry and peach trees. Said farm is one of the handsomest situations in the town of Rotterdam, having a full view of the city, and the Erie Canal, across the flats; every boat that passes and repasses can be seen. A further description is unnecessary.

N. B. Any person wishing said farm will do well, by calling soon, as the subscriber wishes to sell cheap for cash, and give a good title.

AARON A. SCHERMERHORN.
Rotterdam, Oct. 21, 1825.

8. The Cabinet (Schenectady), 27 January 1824, page 3.



DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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