



HVVA is a not-for-profit corporation formed to study and preserve the vernacular architecture and material culture of the Hudson Valley

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# The Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

April – June 2012

## Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 4-6



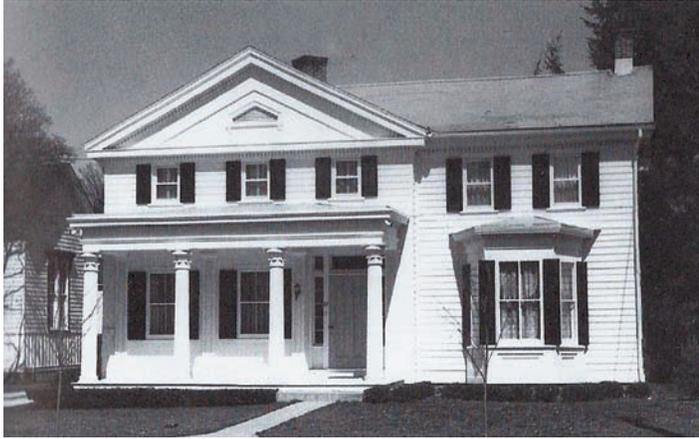
*Restoration blacksmith Jonathan Nedbor giving a demonstration at his forge during the April tour in the Town of Rochester, Ulster County. (Photo by Wally Wheeler)*

## HVVA Tours

The HVVA spring tour schedule was a busy one beginning with visits Neil Larson arranged to historic farmsteads in the Town of Rochester, Ulster County in April, which included a stop at Jonathan Nedbor's Canal Forge in Alligerville. In May Wally Wheeler led the group to the northern part of the region to see historic houses and barns in northern Rensselaer and southern Washington counties. The June excursion took us to Rokeby, an elegant (not too vernacular) historic country house in Red Hook to hear a presentation on 18th-century maps of the town, which is celebrating its bicentennial. July saw the group participating in the annual Hurley Stone House Day and member Jim Decker hosting the HVVA Picnic at the old stone house he has been studying and restoring there. Later that month, John Stevens, gave a tour of Dutch architecture in East Haven, Connecticut. By the time you receive this tardy newsletter, we will be getting ready to make a tour of Rhinebeck houses selected by Nancy Kelly.

HVVA tours are always interesting, educational and a lot of fun. As added benefits you get out in the fresh air, see how other people live in old houses, and enjoy the company of kindred historic architecture buffs. We should have a lot more members signing up for these tours, so please put one on your personal calendars and see for yourself.

The field documentation workshop scheduled for June has been postponed until October. Members wanting to learn or hone their skills in measuring buildings and drafting floor plans are encouraged to sign up. John Stevens and Wally Wheeler have volunteered their experience and time, so let's take advantage of this opportunity. It will give members new ways of seeing and understanding the construction of historic buildings. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for details.



Saturday, August 18, 2012 10:00 AM  
**Rhinebeck Revisited - Study Tour**

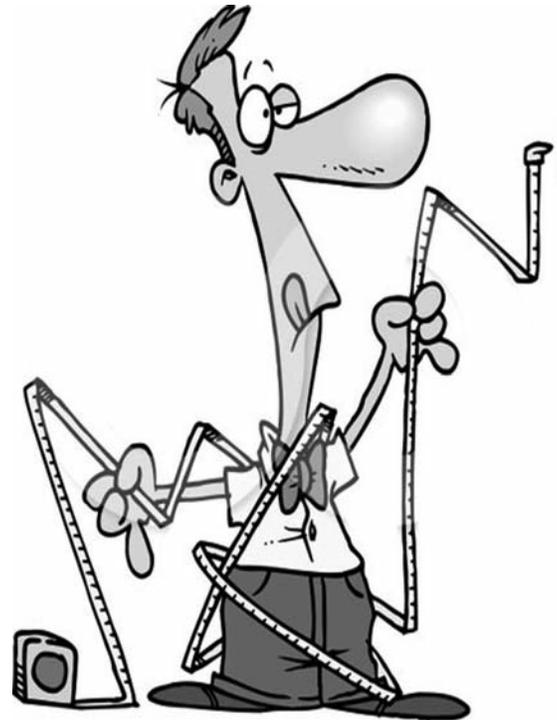
This study tour will begin at 10:00 AM at "The Greenhouse at Rhinebeck", 41 Pitcher Lane, Rhinebeck NY. We'll be hosted by Nancy Kelly – Town Historian, and we'll explore several structures found on the 1798 map of Rhinebeck. The website [thegreenhouseatrhonebeck.com](http://thegreenhouseatrhonebeck.com) includes a map of our 10:00 AM starting point. It is south of the bridge, just off Route 9G on Pitcher Lane (a left turn as you are going south).

*Hill House, 87 East Market St., Rhinebeck, c. 1845. Photo by Tom Daly. From Nancy V. Kelly, Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture (2009), 79.*

October 13 & 14, 2012

**Field Documentation and Drafting for Beginners**

John Stevens & Wally Wheeler will present a two-day course on the basic techniques of field documentation and drawing. Included will be the basics of what comprises a field pack, types of measuring, what & why things are measured, drawing techniques & types, and "industry standards" for standard documentation packages like that used by the Historic American Building's Survey. The intent of this class is to develop among our group a larger body of folks who are able to conduct field documentation to a reliable standard (necessary if the documentation is to have long-term usefulness), and to increase the pool of folks who are able to contribute materials to the newsletter. Class to be held with a min. of 4 / max. of 10. Workshop site to be announced at a later time, check website. To sign up to attend, must contact Ken Walton by Sept. 15. A deposit of \$50 is required to commit to the workshop; the full deposit will be refunded following completion of the course.



Phone: 845-883-0132 kaw9862@optonline.net



**Query**

Wally Wheeler is compiling an inventory of detached kitchens, or what are often called summer kitchens, although in the latter case, they are not always detached from the house. Detached kitchens are typically small one-room buildings with a cooking fireplace within. They can be constructed of wood, stone or brick and are generally located a short distance behind the house. Please inform Wally of any detached kitchens you may know about with their location. Please include a photograph if you have one. E-mail your responses to [wtheb@aol.com](mailto:wtheb@aol.com). Thanks.

*Summer Kitchen, Vrooman House, Schenectady NY. HABS photo.*

# Revisioning the Ulster County Cultural Landscape from the 1798 Federal Direct Tax

By Thomas R. Ryan, Ph.D.

*This article is a shortened version of a chapter written for a collection of studies on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax from different states, this one focusing on the few manuscript records surviving in New York State. This book project has stalled, so we feel free to publish a portion of it here. Tom Ryan is a Kingston native, and as a graduate student at the University of Delaware undertook a number of fieldwork studies in Ulster County. Tom Ryan is now president of **LancasterHistory.org**, the historical society of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.*

In 1798 the U.S. Congress levied the first Federal tax on American landholders to be a percentage of assessed real estate value. States were directed to provide an aggregate value on which to determine their share of the tax, and in that year assessors fanned out across the countryside compiling an inventory of the dwellings, farm, industrial and commercial buildings, and land of every inhabitant. Only a very few of the assessment rolls survive for New York towns, and all but one are fragmentary. Most of them represent towns in Ulster County: Kingston, Hurley, Marbletown and New Paltz. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists for Ulster County provide a clear and unfiltered image of the 18th-century landscape of one of the Hudson Valley's oldest culture hearths.<sup>1</sup>

An individual's property was recorded and itemized on one or more of three schedules.

Schedule A listed and described the physical characteristics of dwelling houses valued at \$100 or above \$100. Those houses account for roughly half of all dwellings in these towns.<sup>2</sup>

Schedule B contained descriptions of dwelling houses valued under \$100, as well as agricultural buildings, mills, shops and other permanent structures. Land holdings also were itemized on his schedule.

Schedule C listed the names of slaveholders and the number, gender and age of slaves in their possession.

Of the four Ulster County towns for which these records exist, only New Paltz has the benefit of having all three schedules intact. Kingston, Hurley and Marbletown are represented by Schedule A only, and any conclusions derived from them provide only a partial view of the eighteenth-century landscape and are necessarily biased toward the best houses. Nonetheless, these A lists offer

essential information on an entire class of housing in these towns, and since almost all surviving eighteenth-century buildings are from this class of best houses, the Direct Tax provides a valuable context for these buildings. The complete set of New Paltz lists allow for a comprehensive appraisal of that community's built environment and represent a sample of the broader architectural context of Ulster County.

With scores of publications on Hudson Valley architecture, both popular and academic, two assumptions about vernacular architecture in the Ulster County – and the region in general – are steadfastly preserved along with the buildings on the landscape. The first assumption is that the region was dominated by one common house type, built of stone, one-story in scale, linear in plan, with two or three rooms built in phases, and best described as "Dutch."<sup>3</sup> The second assumption is that surviving houses represent what was most common in the eighteenth-century.<sup>4</sup> The accuracy of these claims can be measured against the documentary evidence of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax and the artifactual evidence of recent fieldwork in the county.

## Case Study I: Architectural Diversity in 1798, The Marbletown A List

In considering the first assumption, that stone houses in Ulster County are an iconographic architectural and cultural type representing the unique characteristics of Dutch settlement in the New World, an analysis of the 1798 Direct Tax assessments of A-list dwelling houses in the Town of Marbletown will be informative. Settled for 130 years in 1798, Marbletown had a population of 2,847 comprising 400 families residing in 336 houses. Living and working throughout this agricultural landscape of 290 farms were 363 African-American slaves and 81 free people of color.<sup>5</sup> Of Marbletown's families, roughly half (176) lived in houses valued over \$100 and 85 percent of these families owned the house in which they resided. What was the general appearance of these best houses?

Cornelius Wynkoop owned the most highly valued house in Marbletown, a two-story, 13-room stone mansion prominently situated on the road to Kingston and assessed at \$2,100 (*Fig. 1*). Thomas Jansen lived in a much smaller three-room stone house, far from the center of town on the rich Hurley Flats. Jansen's house was assessed at \$345, representing the median value of all houses on the A list (*Fig. 2*). Adam Yapple lived in the least-valued dwelling, a two-room log house located on the remote rocky slopes of the Shawangunk Mountains with a \$151.50 assessment (*Fig. 3*).



**Fig. 1** – Cornelius Wynkoop house, 1766, Rt. 209, Stone Ridge.  
Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974



**Fig. 2** – Thomas Jansen house, c. 1790, Hurley Mountain Rd., Hurley.  
Photo by T. Ryan.

**Fig. 3** – Adam Yeaple house, ca. 1770, Mohonk Mountain Rd., Aligerville.  
Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974.



Taken in total, 97 percent of dwellings on the A list were a single story in height, three of every four houses were built of stone, and, of the rest, 33 were wood frame and nine were log. One-third of Marbletown houses were determined to be in good condition in 1798. An unusually high number (62) of houses were listed as “new” or “not finished,” which associates many of Marbletown’s best houses with the post-Revolutionary War period. Alternatively, only 21 houses valued at \$100 or more were considered to be “old.” The conditions of nearly a quarter of the houses listed were characterized as “bad,” “out of repair,” or “wants repair.” Ten percent were in middling condition, and the remaining three percent were unclassified.

The building descriptions provided by the assessors in 1798 also identify two types of annexes that augmented the plan of the traditional two- or three-room house: kitchens and outlets. One or the other of these adjuncts was recorded with almost a third of the A-list houses; none had both. Eighteen percent of the houses had kitchens, that is, one story sections, usually of a diminished scale, attached to rear or end walls (*Fig. 2*). One-half of all kitchens were built of stone, while log and frame kitchens account for about 25 percent each. Although people who added kitchens were as likely to choose wood as they were stone for their new kitchen, 90 percent of them lived in houses made of stone. Field survey has revealed that the vast majority of kitchens are additions. The utilitarian character of kitchens when compared to the principal rooms of these dwellings has led many observers to conclude that they are earlier houses; however, this is seldom borne out by strict physical analysis. Although kitchens were added later in the construction sequence, it was not long after the house was built.

Kitchens were usually square or nearly square ranging in size from 14 feet by 14 feet (196 square feet) to 29 feet by 24 feet (696 square feet). The median kitchen size was 300 square feet. The median value of a house with kitchen addition was \$420, considerably higher than the median value of \$345 for all A-list houses. Kitchens were added to both expensive and inexpensive houses on the A list. Marbletown’s most highly valued house, Cornelius Wynkoop’s house, had the town’s largest kitchen, a 29 ft. by 24 ft. stone annex roughly equal in size to the median A-list house. (This kitchen was an addition even though many sources consider it an earlier house.) William McGinnis, a weaver living in an “old & bad” stone house assessed at \$165, or only eight percent of the value of the Wynkoop’s house, had a substantial log kitchen measuring 320 square feet.

Outlets were the other type of addition documented on the A list. Outlet is an Anglicized version of the Dutch word *uit-laiyt*, found in seventeenth-century building contracts for both townhouses and barns and translated as “side aisle.”<sup>6</sup> In seventeenth-century townhouses in Amsterdam, New

Amsterdam, and Albany, the *uitlajyt* was a place of egress, often containing built-in beds and sometimes even a stove, as well as a door to the outside.<sup>7</sup> By the end of the eighteenth century, the Direct Tax assessors in Ulster County employed the Anglicized term “outlet” to refer to a rectangular aisle appended to the rear of the house under an extension of the roof creating a low rear wall and a single-story salt box effect (*Fig. 4*). The Direct Tax assessors recorded 22 Marbletown houses with outlets, or 13 percent of the A-list houses.<sup>8</sup> Equipped with an exterior door, the outlet was probably given over to a host of ancillary functions like pantries, dairies, food storage areas, kitchens, or sleeping quarters, perhaps even for slaves.<sup>9</sup>

**Fig. 4** – Gerrit Van Wagenen house and outlet, mid-18th century, Berme Rd., Marbletown. Photo by T. Ryan.



More than three of every four outlets were built of stone; the rest were timber frame. Just as most outlets were built of stone, three fourths of houses with outlets were built of stone. However, in 31 percent of the cases, the building material used for the outlet did not match that of the main house. Outlet size varied greatly. Thomas Van der Mark's dwelling had a 90 square foot frame outlet, the smallest in the town. The house of Jacob Hasbrouck, Marbletown's fifth wealthiest citizen, incorporated the largest outlet, measuring 624 square feet.<sup>10</sup> The median outlet size was 170 square feet, about half the size of the median kitchen addition of 300 square feet. Houses with outlets had assessed values from \$157 to \$1,950 with a median value of \$450, higher than the median value of \$420 for a house with a kitchen, and still higher than the median house value of \$345. Although few houses had outlets, those that did were part of an elite group of stone dwellings that were in better condition and more highly valued.

In summary, according to the Direct Tax, the majority of Marbletown residents with houses valued over \$100 were owner occupants living in a one-story stone house ranging in size from 575-900 square feet. The typical house was in good condition, located near a principal road or waterway, and valued between \$300 and \$600. A select group of

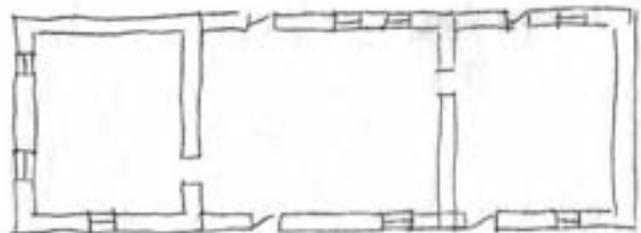
almost one in three homeowners had kitchen or outlet additions and lived in stone houses that were 20 percent larger and valued 20 percent higher than the median A-list dwelling. And, the owners of dwellings with kitchen additions or outlets were three times more likely to own slaves than the average Marbletown resident, strongly suggesting that these annexes were designed with slave accommodation in mind.

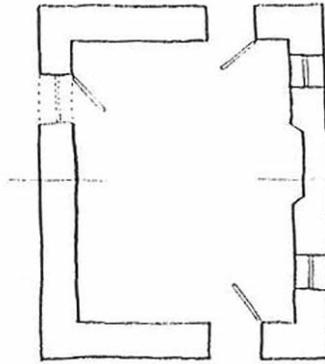
#### What the Direct tax assessment rolls don't tell us

The Direct Tax list provides a new context for Marbletown's surviving late eighteenth-century architecture. At the same time, the evidence of buildings lets us make more effective use of the Direct Tax as an index to eighteenth-century housing standards. Used in combination with other documentary sources from the period and applied in the context of the surviving architecture, the Direct Tax provides new avenues for analysis and interpretation. Subtle, yet significant variations in building design, overlooked by the Direct Tax assessors, are highlighted through field study. Aspects of domestic architecture such as the floor plan, spatial relationships between rooms, levels of decorative finish, and evidence of alterations and change over time suggest patterns of conformity as well as of individual choice within the community. Furthermore, in an architectural landscape commonly characterized as uniform, a more detailed study of Marbletown's surviving houses reveals great architectural variety and dispels the myth of a common "Dutch" house type in the Hudson Valley.

Andries DeWitt, a fourth generation descendent of a Huguenot refugee, owned and occupied a large farm along the banks of the Esopus Creek on the Hurley Flats at

**Fig. 5** – Andries DeWitt house, mid-18th-century, Hurley Mountain Rd., Lamontville. Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.



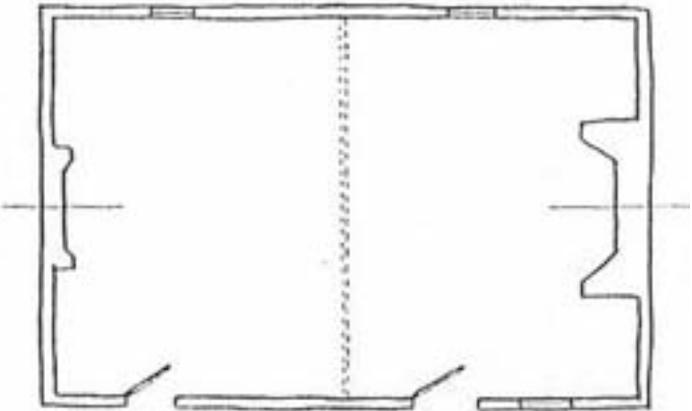
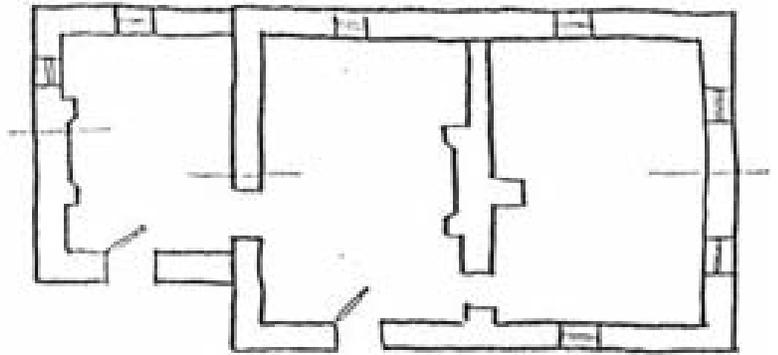


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**Fig. 6** – John Keator house, c. 1765, Binnewater Road, Rosendale. Photo by T. Ryan. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

BELOW:

**Fig. 7** – Broadhead-Smith house, mid-18th century, Cottekill Rd., Cottekill. Photo by T. Ryan. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

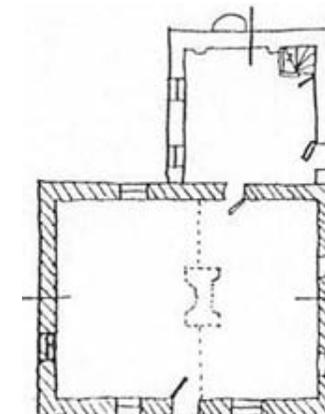


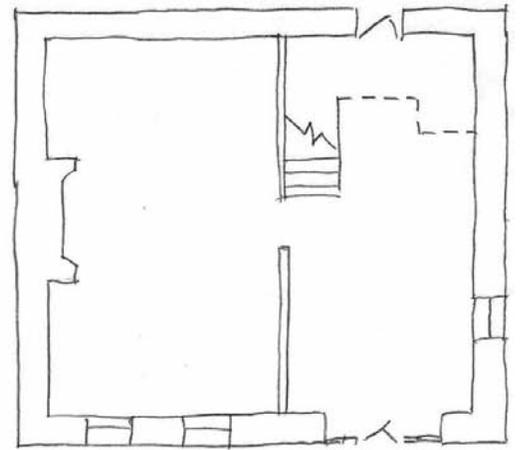
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**Fig. 8** – Adam Yeaple house, ca. 1770, Mohonk Mountain Rd., Aligerville. Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County, 1974*. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

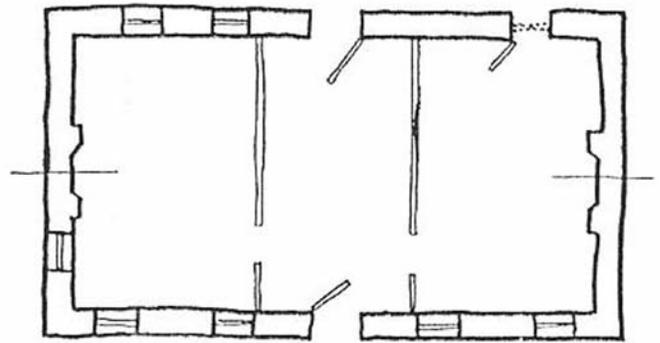
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**Fig. 9** – Snyder-Wedderwax house, c. 1765, Cottekill Rd., Cottekill. Photo by N. Larson. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.



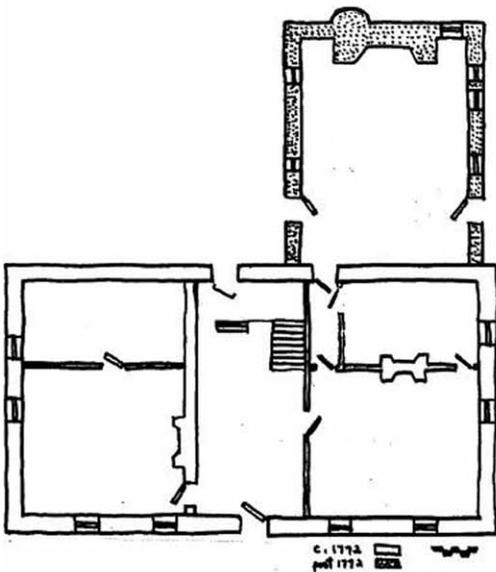


**Fig. 10** – John Lounsbury house, c. 1790, Rt. 209, Stone Ridge. Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.



**Fig. 11** – John Brodhead house, 1791, Rt. 209, Marletown. Photo by N. Larson. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

**Fig. 12** – Cornelius Wynkoop House, 1766, Rt. 209, Stone Ridge. Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.



southern limits of the town. It is an example of the classic Dutch stone house (*Fig. 5*). In 1798 the assessors recorded DeWitt's stone house as a single story in height, 26 feet wide and 73 feet long, or 1,898 square feet, making it the fourth largest house on the Marbletown A list and much larger than the median A-list house size of 800 square feet.<sup>11</sup> As would be expected, the house was assessed at \$810 placing the DeWitt house in the top five percent of all A-list houses. The size and stone material, as well as its "good" condition all contributed to its value. The overall value of DeWitt's fertile floodplain farm is unknown because the schedule containing the assessments of his farm buildings and lands were recorded on the now-lost Marbletown B list.

However, while considering this historic data pertaining to Andries DeWitt's house, we might ask: How many rooms were there and how were they laid out? Where were chimneys, windows, and doors located? What choices did the DeWitts make about decorative finish? Were the exterior walls made of finely cut and dressed stone or were they used rough as found in the fields? Was DeWitt's house built in a single phase or were there additions and alterations? Did DeWitt or his builder draw on European architectural traditions when designing the house? The 1798 tax list must be augmented by other documentary and visual sources to provide the evidence needed to answer these questions.

A field survey of Marbletown, designed to identify all surviving 1798 structures, revealed a landscape rich with eighteenth-century houses.<sup>12</sup> Modern topographical maps identifying every standing structure in the town were cross-referenced with two previous architectural surveys and a 1797 map depicting 97 houses on the principal roads and waterways of the town.<sup>13</sup> Using these maps with the descriptions of the geographic "situation" recorded in the Direct Tax, ninety 18th-century buildings, or more than half of the houses on Marbletown's A list, were found to be extant. The following analysis is based on field measurement and documentation of 50 of the 90 houses.<sup>14</sup>

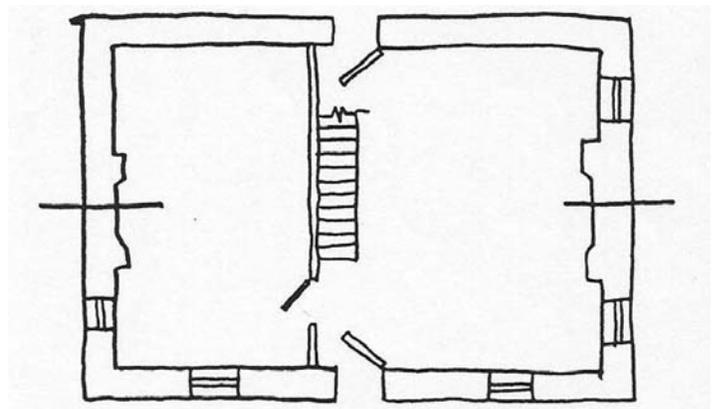
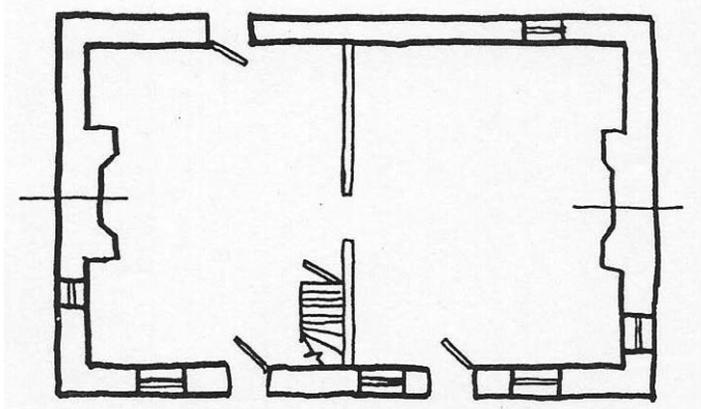
The field survey identified seven distinct house types that appear to survive from the eighteenth century in Marbletown.

1. The first is a single story, one-room house with opposed entries and a large fireplace on one gable wall, like the small stone house built in 1770 by Huguenot descendant John Keator, a farmer on the Whiteport Road (*Fig. 6*).
2. A second type is a single-story, two-room plan with either two gable-end chimneys or a center chimney, like that built on the Greenkill Road about 1700 by Charles Broadhead, of English ancestry (*Fig. 7*).

3. Third is a two-story bank house with entrances on each level and a kitchen in the basement, such as the log house built in 1798 on the remote rocky slopes of the Shawangunk Mountains by weaver Adam Yapple, of Germanic heritage (*Fig. 8*).
4. A fourth house type is a German *flurkuchenhaus* plan distinguished by a rectangular hall/kitchen with opposed entries, a square stube or parlor in the front, an unheated rear bedchamber, and a slightly off-center chimney. First generation German-Americans Jacob Snyder and Elizabeth Wedderwax built a version of this plan in 1760 (*Fig. 9*).
5. The familiar town house plan constitutes the fifth type. It is a two-story town house with unheated side-passage and a chimney on the opposite side gable wall, like one built on the Road to Kingston by John Lounsbury, a merchant and farmer of Welsh ancestry, and listed as "new and not finished" in 1798 (*Fig. 10*).
6. Next is a one-story, two-room plan with wide unheated central passage, opposed entries, and chimneys in each gable end, like the one John Broadhead built in 1791 about one mile north of the merchant Lounsbury on the Road to Kingston (*Fig. 11*).
7. The last type is a two-story, double pile, center passage plan, with opposed entries and two chimneys either in the gable ends or centrally placed to serve both the front and rear rooms, like the Cornelius Wynkoop completed in 1766 on the Road to Kingston (*Fig. 12*).

The survival in Marbletown of at least seven house types, built by representatives of five cultural traditions, certainly challenges the myth of a single common Dutch house type dominating the eighteenth-century Hudson Valley landscape. The town's buildings were marked by a diversity of form, plan, material, size, and construction technique.<sup>15</sup> Some, like Charles Broadhead and Adam Yapple, built houses that show the persistence of traditional English and northern European building practices, others, such as Cornelius Wynkoop and John Lounsbury displayed their emerging interests in fashionable architectural designs.

A first-hand look at the houses also cautions against drawing conclusions about architecture based only on the information from the Direct Tax. Houses that appear similar on the tax list may in fact be very different when studied in the field. John A. DeWitt, son of Andries DeWitt, and principal assessor James Oliver, owned tenant houses with virtually identical descriptions on the tax list. DeWitt's house was 25 feet wide by 40 feet long containing 1,000 square feet and Oliver's house was 25 feet wide by 39 feet long, or



**Fig. 13** – James Oliver tenant house (Davis Tavern), early 18th century, Rt. 209, Marletown. Photo from *Early Architecture in Ulster County*, 1974. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

**Fig. 14** – John A. DeWitt tenant house, mid-18th century, North Marletown Rd., Marletown. Photo by N. Larson. First floor plan, measured and sketched by T. Ryan.

975 square feet. DeWitt's house had four windows while Oliver's had five. Both were single-story, stone houses located on the Kingston Road. Both were identified by the assessors as "old" houses in "bad condition," and both were similarly assessed, with DeWitt's at \$165 and Oliver's at \$195.

The buildings themselves, however, reveal important differences of both texture and form (Figs.13 &14). The facade of the DeWitt house has a three bay, bilaterally symmetrical arrangement, with carefully cut rectangular stones laid up in regular courses. The Oliver facade has five irregularly spaced openings consisting of three windows and two doors with stone walls of uncut or roughly cut fieldstone laid up in a random fashion. Inside, John DeWitt's two-room house has a centrally located open stair and opposed entries. On the other hand, Oliver's dwelling has a two-room plan with an outside entry into each room and an enclosed winder stair in the corner of one room.

The differences between the DeWitt and Oliver houses suggest two distinct traditions and perhaps competing world views. The Oliver house, reputedly built in the final decades of the seventeenth century, with its steep roofline,

irregular fenestration and two-room plan, appears linked to vernacular houses in The Netherlands, Belgium, and the Artois region of France, all staging grounds for seventeenth- and eighteenth-century immigrants to the Hudson Valley.<sup>16</sup> It was, even in 1798, a house from the past, one that recreated in a New World the familiar forms of the Old. On the other hand, DeWitt's house, with its bilaterally symmetrical exterior and centrally placed door, reflected a vernacular interpretation of Renaissance architecture. Its public facade suggested a fashionable center-passage house. And, though lacking the privacy of a distinct center passage, its open stair, turned balusters, and opposed entries provided a more refined entrance than the Oliver house.

#### Four Town Comparison

An extension of the analysis of A lists beyond Marletown to include the towns of Kingston, Hurley, and New Paltz, provides a broader portrait of the architectural and social landscape of middling and affluent farmers, merchants, and artisans of the mid-Hudson Valley. By the time of the Direct Tax, Kingston boasted twice as many inhabitants as Marletown or New Paltz and four times that of Hurley. Their combined population of 11,876 accounted for almost half of Ulster County's inhabitants in 1800.<sup>17</sup>

Half of all households from the communities of Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown lived in houses valued over \$100.<sup>18</sup> What was the level of architectural variety among these best houses within the four towns? A visitor to Ulster County in the eighteenth century would no doubt have commented on the prominence of one-story structures. In fact, the feature most common to A-list houses in Ulster County was their single-story height. In the more rural Hurley, Marbletown, and New Paltz, 97 percent of A-list houses were one story. In slightly more urban Kingston, with 365 A-list houses, single-story dwellings made up 91 percent of the housing stock.

Ulster County's renown for early stone houses is well-supported by the Direct Tax lists. Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown residents with A-list houses built three of every four houses out of stone. On the other hand, New Paltz, a town frequently singled out by architectural historians for its well-preserved stone houses, actually possessed more timber frame dwellings (52 percent) than stone dwellings (47 percent) on its A list.<sup>19</sup> Helen Reynolds, writing in the 1920s, contended that in "Ulster [County], frame houses were almost unknown before the Revolution and became common there only in more recent years."<sup>20</sup> Yet, twenty years after the Revolution, New Paltz had many frame houses, one third of which were listed as either in "bad repair" or "old."<sup>21</sup> Reynolds's point was that stone houses were the norm and this conclusion was based on what she observed in the field in the early twentieth century. The Direct Tax, however, provides conclusive evidence that 25 percent of houses on three Ulster County A lists, and half the houses on the New Paltz A list, were wood frame houses. Log houses rarely appear on the A list. Marbletown had the most with eight log houses, Kingston had five, New Paltz one, and Hurley listed none. Compared to other settlements in the region, however, Ulster County was home to a disproportionately high number of stone houses. In neighboring Orange County, Direct Tax assessors for the Town of Minisink identified only thirteen stone houses among the 144 dwellings inventoried on its A list.<sup>22</sup>

The Ulster County assessors carefully noted outhouses and additions as they surveyed the county's structures.<sup>23</sup> The most frequently occurring "outhouse" was the kitchen. In Hurley, the smallest of the four communities, one fourth of all "A" list houses had a kitchen. In Kingston, like Marbletown, kitchen additions were found on just under a fifth of all A-list dwellings. New Paltz assessors listed only one kitchen under "outhouses" but made special note of 17 "additions," the dimensions of which bear a close resemblance to kitchen dimensions found elsewhere in the county. If we assume that these additions were attached kitchens then 10 percent of New Paltz A-list residents had kitchen ells.<sup>24</sup> The second most common type of "outhouse" was the "outlet" or "linter," a lean-to structure attached to the rear of the house. Hurley, for all of its kitchens, listed but one "linter" while in Marbletown, Kingston, and New

Paltz, 13 percent, 11 percent, and 6 percent, respectively, of houses having outlets or linters.<sup>25</sup> New Paltz assessors placed their notations about "linters" not under "outhouses" but alongside the dimensions of the main house.

The A lists provide a glimpse into the condition and age of the housing stock in the four communities. In New Paltz, Marbletown, and Kingston, where condition is listed for at least 70 percent of houses, between two-thirds and three-fourths are listed as either "good" or "new and not finished." In Hurley, of the 58 percent of houses with a condition listed, only 40 percent were in good condition, the remainder languished in "bad repair." The rate of owner occupancy of A list houses is consistently high with Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown having nearly 9 of every 10 A-list dwellings owner occupied. Only New Paltz has a slightly higher level of tenanted houses on the A list with an owner-occupancy rate of four in every five residences. The value of A-list houses is also consistent across the four lists with median values ranging between \$325 and \$375. Median house size was 817 square feet and the median assessed value was \$350. If one considers the eighteenth-century architecture of Ulster County based solely on the evidence offered by local architectural histories, surviving buildings, and the Direct Tax A lists, it is reasonable to conclude that this was an architectural environment dominated by elite stone houses. However, with an analysis of the New Paltz B list, a sharply different landscape emerges.

### **Case Study II: B-List Buildings in New Paltz and their effect on the image of the 18th-century landscape**

Information from the Hudson Valley's only surviving B list provides insight into the characteristics of lesser valued houses. The information on 184 dwelling houses valued under \$100, numerous agricultural and industrial buildings, and land ownership patterns in the town of New Paltz, challenge several longstanding assumptions about architecture and culture in the region. According to Helen Reynolds the vernacular landscape of the Hudson Valley was dominated by a stone-house culture.<sup>26</sup> This characterization was adopted by Hugh Morrison in *Early American Architecture* where he writes, "in Ulster and Dutchess counties, stone... was the primary building material and remained so throughout the eighteenth century."<sup>27</sup> However, when the B list is taken into account the popular image of a landscape of commodious stone houses valued around \$350 and measuring 800 square feet in area, is dramatically altered.

The B list reveals that the majority of houses in New Paltz in 1798 were built of wood. Although the 86 stone houses enumerated constituted 47 percent of New Paltz's A-list houses – a substantially lower percentage than in the other three Ulster County towns – only two stone houses appear on the B list. When combined, the A and B lists reveal that less than one quarter of New Paltz houses were made of stone. The overwhelming majority, 78 percent, were con-



**Fig. 15** – Representative example of middling late-18th-century wood frame dwelling. Postcard view c. 1900, collection of N. Larson.



**Fig. 16** – Representative example of late-18th-century log dwelling. Postcard view c. 1900, collection of N. Larson.

structed with wood. Three of every four houses on the B list, 39 percent of houses overall, were constructed of log, a material Helen Reynolds associated with periods of initial settlement.<sup>28</sup> Rather than a stone-house culture, this was clearly an architectural culture dominated by wood, with much of it in the form of log. Although a good deal has been written about stone house construction, plans, decorative details, etc., we know virtually nothing about frame and log building traditions in the Hudson Valley. With only a handful of surviving frame and log houses to study, most of these from the higher valued A lists, there is little material evidence available to help visualize their presence on the eighteenth-century landscape (*Figs. 15 & 16*). Thus, the New Paltz B list is a crucial document since it fills a gap in the material evidence and challenges any conclusions about domestic architecture based solely on the A list. Whether or not log houses were a familiar feature in the Hudson Valley during initial European settlement, the Direct Tax demonstrates that they were extremely common, and were being newly built, 150 years after settlement.<sup>29</sup>

Comparisons between the A and B lists for New Paltz reveal important features of the architectural and social dimensions of the landscape. For example, the combined owner occupancy rate for A and B lists in New Paltz in 1798 stood at 63 percent. Yet, this figure obscures significant differences between the lists. Less than half of B-list houses (44 percent) were occupied by their owners, compared to a 79 percent owner-occupancy rate on the A list. In broad terms this suggests a sharp distinction between an elite landed class and a poorer tenant class in New Paltz. The brisk trade in agricultural products to the burgeoning metropolis further down the Hudson River brought prosperity to many farmers with land and labor enough to work it. By the end of the eighteenth century, opportunities for land ownership and economic independence for the small farmer in Ulster County were beginning to shrink. Smaller landowners, or those too poor to acquire arable land, were

restricted to subsistence farming on small plots, often not their own, or hired to work the land of a wealthy neighbor.<sup>30</sup>

Since the assessed value of one's house served as the basis for determining on which list it would appear, one naturally expects very different house values on the two lists. However, the difference between the median value of houses on the two lists is enormous with a median value of \$350 for A-list houses and \$15-20 for houses on the B list. Even more singular is the realization that the median value for log houses was a meager \$10. Ninety-one percent of all B-list houses were valued at \$50 or less and 70 percent carried a value of \$30 or less. New Paltz's most expensive B-list house was the 15 foot square, frame house of H. Benjamin Deyo, valued at \$80. The least expensive house in the community, a log house owned by Daniel Lefever and rented to Robert Leroy, measured 17 feet long by 15 feet wide and carried a value of 50 cents. Thus, we must add to the owner/renter distinction discussed above, the architectural distinction between spacious, expensive, stone and frame houses of successful farmers, and single-room, inexpensive, log houses of the renting-poor.

The B list also affords insight into the commercial, industrial, and agricultural landscape of New Paltz. The 357 non-domestic buildings that stood in the town were classified by assessors into 20 building types. Barns accounted for 60 percent of these. The Direct Tax assessors used carefully chosen language to describe the 210 barns in New Paltz. Based on these descriptions barns may be grouped into three principal categories: Dutch barn, barn, and log barn. Forty percent were listed as Dutch barn, another 40 percent were listed as just barn, and 12 percent were designated log barns.<sup>31</sup> When analyzed according to their size and the ethnicity of their owners, barns reveal significant patterns within the community. The twenty percent of barns designated as "log barns" were small rectangular buildings ranging in size from 240 to 840 square feet with a median size of 352 square feet. The owners of log barn were just



Fig. 17 – New York English barn, c. 1795.  
Photo from berkshirebarns.com.

as likely to be of English ancestry as of northern European lineage (French, Dutch, & German).

The term barn, without a modifier, was used by the assessors to describe a class of barns distinct from those made of logs. These barns ranged in area from 360 to 2,250 square feet and had a median size of 875 square feet, more than twice the size of the median log barn. At least two of every three of these large, rectangular buildings were owned by people with British surnames such as Perkins, Halstead, Jackson, Jenkins, or Trent. In all likelihood these were barns built in the English tradition consisting of three bays with a side entrance into the central threshing bay and two roughly equal size bays on either side (Fig. 17). Its post and beam frame was typically clad with vertical planks, had few if any window openings, and contained ventilation openings at the top of each gable wall.<sup>32</sup>

Dutch barns, on the other hand, were voluminous front-gable, aisled buildings that were almost exclusively identified with owners of Huguenot and Dutch descent (Fig. 18). The smallest Dutch barn was 30 feet by 30 feet or 900 square feet. Jacob Hasbrouck, Jr. owned the town's largest Dutch barn, an impressive 60 by 50 foot building of 3,000 square feet. The median area for Dutch barns was 2,000 square feet, more than twice that of the median "barn," and almost six times the area of the median log barn. A remarkable nine of every ten Dutch barns were owned by people with Huguenot or Dutch surnames.

Beyond their more obvious economic functions, Dutch barns in New Paltz performed an important symbolic function. On a landscape of low lying single-story stone houses and one-room log and frame houses, Dutch barns loomed as the largest structures in the Hudson Valley. Together with well-situated landholdings and expensive stone houses, they were conspicuous signposts of wealth and social status. Most importantly, as "Dutch" barns, they were the most obvious cultural marker constructed by a group with roots reaching deep into the town's past and secure in its



Fig. 18 – Jansen Dutch barn, mid-18th-century, Napanoch.  
Photo by N. Larson.

networks of power and control in the present. What surfaces from the data on barns in New Paltz is a portrait of a stratified agricultural landscape where barn type, size, and material were important indicators of economic standing, social position, and ethnic allegiance. Almost 150 years after the Dutch lost political control of the Hudson Valley, their descendants continued to exert a cultural presence, both architecturally through their stone houses and peculiar barns, and linguistically, in their use of terms like "outlet" and "Dutch" barn.

The remaining 147 structures served a variety of functions. They included 20 blacksmith shops, five unspecified shops, and one shop each for a weaver, hatter, cooper, and carpenter. Four wharves located along the Hudson suggest the active river trade. Along numerous streams and creeks in the interior 15 gristmills, 14 sawmills, and one fulling mill produced flour, finished lumber, and thickened cloth for local and regional markets. Smaller processing buildings and structures included three potash houses, three cider houses, six large smoke houses, a lime kiln, a bark house, and a currying house. Most of the remaining non-domestic buildings were devoted to agriculture. There were 48 hay houses, five corn cribs, five sheds, three stores, five stables, and one granary.

The New Paltz Direct Tax lists provide a material perspective on the community's origins and its unique form of government. The first European settlers in New Paltz were all Huguenots who left northern France in the face of religious persecution. After a brief respite in the German Palatinate they made their way to the Hudson Valley and settled briefly in the town of Hurley. In 1687 they petitioned Governor Edmund Andros for a patent and established a settlement along the Walkill River. Twelve families were signatories to the patent that established the town, their surnames being: Bevier, Crispel, Deyo, DuBois, Freer, Hasbrouck, and Lefevre.<sup>33</sup> From 1687 until the early nineteenth century the civic, economic, and religious affairs of the village were run almost exclusively by either the

original patentees or their descendants through a unique form of government known as the Dusine, from the French for dozen.<sup>34</sup>

At the time of the 1798 Direct Tax one in four property "owners" identified on the lists had a "patentee" surname linking them to one of the Dusine families. As one might expect, this quarter of property owners controlled a disproportionate amount of wealth in the community. For instance, stone houses, clear indicators of wealth and status in New Paltz, were disproportionately owned by descendants of the Huguenot patentees. Of the 88 stone houses in New Paltz, almost 60 percent were owned by families with surnames matching those of the patentees. This same group owned 25 percent of all frame houses on the A list and 41 percent of all houses on the A list. The latter represented an assessed value of \$26,290, or nearly half of the total A list values of \$55,591. Families with Huguenot surnames owned 53 percent of all land in the town and controlled 52 percent of the total dollar value ascribed to buildings and land on the B list. Dutch barns, other key indicators of wealth in New Paltz, were almost exclusively owned by patentee descendants. And, the descendants of the Dusine held a disproportionately large number of African American slaves.<sup>35</sup>

This case study of New Paltz highlights the value of bringing together the artifactual evidence of buildings and documentary records of the Direct Tax. By introducing data from the B list we recover subtle aspects of form and texture in the landscape. Many more log and timber frame buildings take their place along side the standing stone houses of the town. House values reveals patterns of economic inequality with the median stone house (\$350) valued at more than 20 times the value of the median log house (\$15). The variety of barn types – Dutch, English and log – serve as indicators of cultural identity and agricultural complexity. Finally, the B-list reveals the important link between kinship and economic prosperity with one-quarter of the town's population--all descendants of the twelve founding families--controlling more than half of the town's acreage and more than half of its assessed property value at the close of the eighteenth century.

### Conclusions

The Direct Tax provides a sound context for understanding surviving buildings, buildings that do not accurately represent the full range of 18th-century architectural expression. While this is not necessarily a new finding, its importance in the Hudson Valley is particularly evident in the case of building materials.<sup>36</sup> The Direct Tax reveals the long-revered stone houses of the Hudson Valley to be the best architecture of the period, rather than typical eighteenth-century houses. At the end of the eighteenth century, stone houses were a relatively elite expression within a larger and more diverse landscape shared by small, inexpensive, often tenanted, log buildings that have virtually disappeared from the landscape. Likewise, timber frame construction reasserts

its presence in the region as a building material spanning the economic divide between stone and log houses. As an architectural middle ground, frame houses point to a more nuanced range of economic and social distinctions within the community. Frame-house owners, based on the value of their dwellings and property holdings, were less affluent farmers who held comparatively smaller plots of land than did their neighbors who lived in stone houses.

Important patterns for understanding and reconstructing historical communities are teased out of the Direct Tax lists. For example, patterns of land ownership reveal powerful kinship networks among the descendants of the New Paltz patentees more than a century after initial settlement. Furthermore, the concentration of certain classes of buildings like stone houses or log dwellings serves as an indicator of economic well being. Dutch barns, with their unique aisle floor plan and H-bent framing system, bear witness to the persistence of traditional building forms and construction techniques.

By linking findings in the field to evidence from the documentary record, we create a more detailed understanding of the past. While the Direct Tax suggests measurable patterns of location, size, materials, ownership, and value, it does not differentiate among the subtle diversities of house form and plan that characterize the architecture of the region. Field evidence still yields important findings, as in the case of Marbletown, where the myth of one common "Dutch" house type belies an architectural variety embodying both ethnic traditions and new regional building practices.

Ultimately, the rediscovery of the 1798 Direct Tax lists for Ulster County brings an opportunity to reinterpret the surviving vernacular buildings of the Hudson Valley, not only as objects to be studied and antiquities to be preserved, but, more importantly, as a means to better understand the lived worlds of people in the past.

<sup>1</sup> The 1798 Federal Direct Tax A schedules for Kingston, Hurley, and Marbletown, are in the New-York Historical Society Library, Manuscript Collection. The New Paltz schedules are in the New Paltz Town Records in the archives of the Huguenot Historical Society in New Paltz.

Databases of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax schedules for Kingston, Hurley, Marbletown, and New Paltz, New York, are on file in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Project in the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD), University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

<sup>2</sup> These A list dwellings were classified by their dimensions, number of stories, number and size of windows, construction material, age, condition, assessed value, and whether occupied by owners or tenants; appendages, such as kitchens, outlets, and linters were also recorded.

<sup>3</sup> The authors most responsible for the myth of a common Dutch house type are Helen Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley* (1928; rpt. NY: Dover Publications, 1965) and Hugh Morrison, *Early American Architecture: From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period* (1952; rpt. NY: Dover Publications, 1987), 115-116.

<sup>4</sup> Reynolds, 4, 22-23.

<sup>5</sup> Population figures are taken from the "United States Census Schedule of Population for 1800," Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz. The number of farms in Marbletown is derived

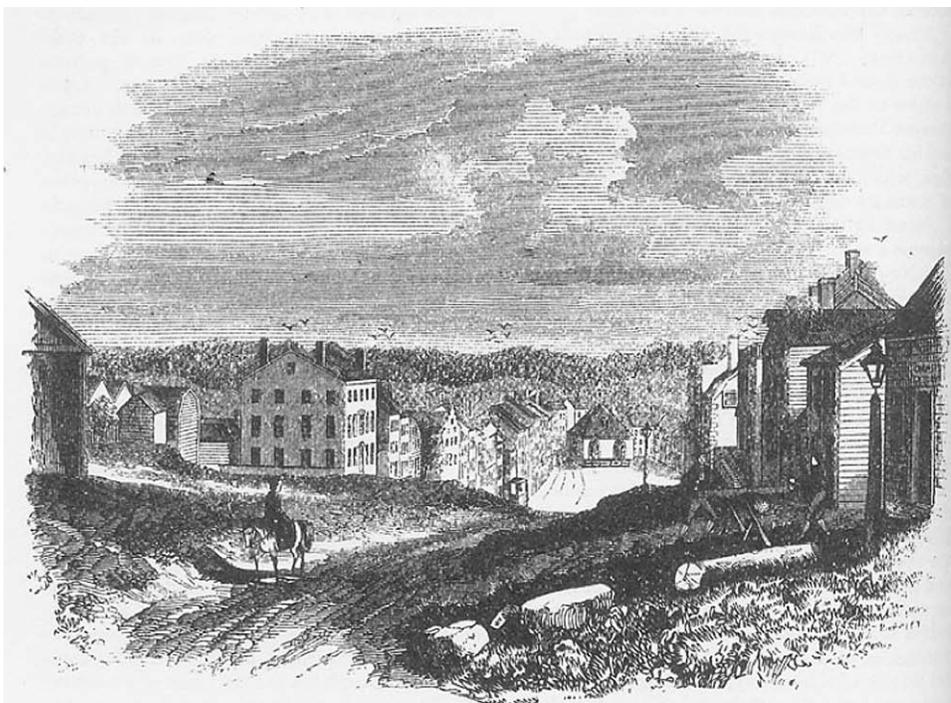
- from the "Assessment Roll of the Real and Personal Estates in the Town of Marbletown, 1800," The New-York Historical Society.
- <sup>6</sup> The author is grateful to Hudson Valley historian Ruth Piwonka for identifying the connection between the Dutch term "*uitlajt*" and the English word "outlet." See Dingman Versteeg, trans. *New York Historical Manuscripts, Dutch Records of Kingston* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1976), 739-740 for Tjerck Claessen DeWitt's 1673 building contract calling for an outlet or "usual means of exit (*doorgaende uitlaedinge*) on the one side."
- <sup>7</sup> The 1673 DeWitt contract mentions a "projection (*uitlaedinge*) to be portioned off; with a stove and a pipe up to the chimney and a cross bar window in the gable of the projection." In northern France and Belgium the outlet is a common feature on eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century rural farm houses and functions both domestically and agriculturally. For more on outlets see Henk Zantkuyl "Reconstructie Van Enkele Nederlandse Huizen In Nieuw-Nederland Uit De Zeventiende Eeuw" *Bulletin Knob Jarange* 84, nummer 2/3 (1985), 166-179.
- <sup>8</sup> Of the 22 outlets on the Marbletown Direct Tax, three were square and five were close to square (10' x 9'; 11' x 9.5'; 12' x 15'; and two at 10' x 8'). The remaining 14 outlets were long, narrow rectangles. The term *outlet*, when applied to additions with square dimensions, raises the possibility that the outlet form was more broadly conceived in the eighteenth century than it was in the seventeenth-century contracts or that the five assessors had diverse understandings of what constituted an outlet.
- <sup>9</sup> The Gerrit Van Wageningen house on Berme Road (Fig. 4) has a chimney stack in the outlet and the 1673 DeWitt contract called for a stove in the outlet.
- <sup>10</sup> Jacob Hasbrouck's relative wealth was calculated using the "Marbletown Assessment, 1800."
- <sup>11</sup> The numbers used to calculate house square footage are those provided by the 1798 tax assessors. These measurements represent the exterior dimensions of houses and do not account for wall thickness. This results in a somewhat inflated idea of interior living space especially in the case of stone houses where exterior wall thickness is from one and one-half to two feet and where additions often result in an interior wall of similar thickness.
- <sup>12</sup> The field survey was conducted in the summer of 1992 by Thomas R. Ryan and M. Jeffrey Hardwick.
- <sup>13</sup> The two previous field surveys consulted were the Junior League of Kingston's Ulster County stone house survey conducted between 1964-1968 and Ruth Piwonka's 1989 "Reconnaissance Level Survey of the Town of Marbletown," both of which are on file in the Stone Ridge Library.
- <sup>14</sup> Thomas R. Ryan, "Old World Traditions and Modern Sensibilities: Late Eighteenth-Century Domestic Architecture in Marbletown, New York," Masters Thesis, Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, University of Delaware, 1994.
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 38-80.
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 86, 100. See Alan Gowans, *Images of American Living, Four Centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1964), Allen G. Noble Wood, *Brick & Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 1: Houses* (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1984), and Thomas J. Wertenbaker *The Founding of American Civilization, the Middle Colonies* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1949).
- <sup>17</sup> "United States Census Schedules of Population for 1800." Population statistics from the Federal Census of 1800, only two years after the Direct Tax census, reveal a total of 24,855 individuals residing in 3,629 households in the county. The four communities in this study included 1,669 households and account for more than half the county's inhabitants.
- <sup>18</sup> This figure is based on the total number of households in these communities as derived from the "United States Census Schedules of Population for 1800."
- <sup>19</sup> Morrison, 115.
- <sup>20</sup> Reynolds, 22.
- <sup>21</sup> The remaining data on condition and age of frame houses in New Paltz is as follows: 31 percent were in "good" condition, 19 percent were "not finished," four percent were "new," and one percent were in "middling" condition.
- <sup>22</sup> 1798 Direct Tax Schedules for Minisink, New York, are on file in the Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.
- <sup>23</sup> The term "outhouses," a formal category on the printed forms sent by the Federal government to local assessors in Ulster County, does not appear to mean a separate or detached building, at least not as was used by Ulster County's assessors. In fact, fieldwork shows that kitchens and outlets listed on the Direct Tax under the heading "outhouses" were, in all documented cases, attached to the main block of the house.
- <sup>24</sup> The all-too common assumption that kitchens represent the earliest phase of a house was not verified by fieldwork.
- <sup>25</sup> It is difficult to ascertain whether the difference between "outlets" and "linters" is a formal or a structural distinction. An analysis of the dimensions, construction materials, and the types of houses to which these "outhouses" are appended, revealed no clear patterns. It is possible that the distinction reflects the linguistic preferences of the particular assessors.
- <sup>26</sup> Reynolds, 22.
- <sup>27</sup> Morrison, 114.
- <sup>28</sup> Helen Reynolds claimed that log houses were a seventeenth-century phenomenon. See Reynolds, 17. Clifford Zink, although not directly addressing the question of log houses, claims that timber constituted the most prevalent building material in Dutch American architecture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Clifford W. Zink, "Dutch Framed Houses in New York and New Jersey," in *Winterthur Portfolio* 22, no. 4 (1987).
- <sup>29</sup> Of the fourteen log houses on the Ulster County "A" lists, three were listed as "new," three were in "middling" condition, and eight were in "good" condition. No log house was listed as being "old" or "out of repair."
- <sup>30</sup> For a discussion of the development of alternative agricultural and labor strategies in southeastern Pennsylvania during this period see Paul G. E. Clemens and Lucy Simler, "Rural Labor and the Farm Household in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1750-1820" in *Work and Labor in Early America*, ed. Stephen Innes (Chapel Hill: Univ. Of North Carolina Press, 1988).
- <sup>31</sup> Of the remaining 16 New Paltz barns, half were "frame barns" and half were made up of two "Crotch" barns, two "Proof" barns, and one each of "Stone barn," "Board roof barn," "Bare frame of barn," and "English barn."
- <sup>32</sup> See Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: Univ. of Georgia, 1986); Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, (Hanover, New Hampshire: Univ. Press of New England, 1984), 52-55; Allen G. Noble, *Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Vol. 2 Barns and Farm Structures*, (Amherst: Univ. Of Massachusetts Press, 1984), 16-18.
- <sup>33</sup> Only seven surnames are listed since several families shared the same surname.
- <sup>34</sup> See Ralph Lefevre, *History of New Paltz, New York and Its Old Families* (1903; rpt. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1992).
- <sup>35</sup> This association between stone houses, Dutch barns and slaves has been explored by Neil Larson in "Dutch Barns in the Town of New Paltz, 1798." *DBPS Newsletter* (Spring 1997) Rensselaer, NY: Dutch Barn Preservation Society.
- <sup>36</sup> Others who have used the 1798 Federal Direct Tax to provide a context for surviving buildings include: Michael Steinitz, "Rethinking Geographical Approaches to the Common House: The Evidence from Eighteenth-Century Massachusetts," in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, III*, eds. Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman (Columbia, MO: Univ. of Missouri Press, 1989), Gabrielle Lanier, "'Samuel Wilson's Working World: Builders and Buildings in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1780-1827,'" in *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, IV*, eds. Thomas Carter and Bernard L. Herman (Columbia, MO: Univ. of Missouri Press, 1991), and J. Ritchie Garrison, *Landscape and Material Life in Franklin County, Massachusetts, 1770-1860* (Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1991).

## Albany Fifty Years Ago

The intrepid Ken Walton found a reprint on-line of an article with this title that had been written by historian Benson J. Lossing in the March, 1857 edition of Harper's New Monthly Magazine. In the manner of Washington Irving, Lossing chose an old "Albany Knickerbocker" for his narrator and relates some interesting reminiscences of Albany. Using a number of wood engravings made from James Eights's popular watercolors depicting Albany at the turn of the 19th century, the narrative provides a rare window for us to view into early era of the city. This digital version was

scanned from Collections on the History of Albany: From Its Discovery to the Present Time; with Notices of Its Public Institutions, and Biographical Sketches of Citizens Deceased, Vol. II, published in Albany by J. Munsell in 1867.

It can be found on the Internet at the URL given at the bottom of this page. Ken downloaded and cleaned up the scanned version, and we will be providing images and excerpts here from time to time. Below is View No. II and the accompanying narrative.



No. II is a view of State Street in 1805. We are supposed to be standing near the head of the street, in front of St. Peter's Church, and on the site of old Fort Frederick, a strong quadrangular fortification, with a bastion at each corner, which stood upon a high hill there. The altitude of its heavy stone walls was equal to that of the roof of St. Peter's at the present day. It was built when Cornelius Schuyler was mayor of Albany, before the French and Indian war. Its northeastern bastion occupied the site of St. Peter's, a portion of which is seen on the extreme left of the picture. We are looking eastward, down the then rough and irregular, but now smooth and broad street, and see the old Dutch Church at the intersection of Broadway. Beyond the Hudson river are seen the hills of Greenbush, which form a portion of the Van Rensselaer manor.

St. Peter's, known in earlier times as The English Church, stood in the middle of State Street, opposite Barrack (now Chapel) Street, as represented in the engraving No. II. It was built of stone, and was erected in 1715. The tower was wanting when Peter Kalm, the Swedish naturalist, visited Albany, in 1749. Peter, by the way, had a very poor opinion of the Albanians at that time. He says they fleeced strangers unmercifully... In my good old cocked-hat times they were different, but I will not vouch for them in these degenerate days. I remember the church, with a tower which my father told me was built in 1750. The next year a fine bell was cast in England, and sent over and hung in the tower. The road, since my recollection, passed up the hill on the south side of the church and fort, and in the rear of the latter it passed over Pinkster hill, on which the State Capitol now stands.

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Drawing by Peter Sinclair

**HVVA is excited to announce our new medium to improve communications with our membership.** Through Mailchimp email service, we are now able to provide a more dynamic means to reach out to you with up-to-date information that cannot be provided in the newsletter or our website. We hope you will look forward to this added service.



### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- August 18** Tour in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County led by Nancy Kelly.
- September 15** Tour of Dutch frame houses in Great Barrington, Massachusetts led by Wally Wheeler.
- October 20** Tour in Feura Bush, Albany County led by Roberta Jeracka.
- November 17** Tour of Colonial and Federal period houses in Gardiner and Plattekill, Ulster County, led by Maggie McDowell.
- December 15** Holiday tour and luncheon in Kingston hosted by Rob Sweeney.

**For more information, please check [www.HVVA.org](http://www.HVVA.org)**