

# DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2007

VOL. 20, ISSUE 1

## New World Dutch Barns of Bergen County, New Jersey (Part one)

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This is the first part of a two-part series of articles on New World Dutch barns in Bergen County, New Jersey. Since the inception of this newsletter almost 20 years ago little has been written on any of the barns in that state. The present article will provide some background information on locations of this barn type and where they occur in the various counties of New Jersey. Following this, an outline of the locations in the “four corners” in the northern half of the state where

barns occur and a breakdown of the number of barns in each county will be presented. Several historians and observers who have been responsible for identifying the barns in both the state as a whole and specifically Bergen County are discussed. Other topics such as types of documented Dutch barns, untapped sources of information and various traits seen in the barns form the remainder of the article.

The second article in the series will appear in the Fall 2007 Newsletter. It will discuss a number of specific traits seen in several of the more important and interesting barns in Bergen County and will present comparisons to barns in both New York State and other parts of New Jersey. Included will be a discus-



Photo 1. The extant c.1760 (dendro-dated) classic three-bay Wortendyke Dutch barn. Now a museum in Park Ridge, New Jersey, this barn features the lowest side walls—measuring six feet in height—of any known classic Dutch barn in North America. The barn measures 45 feet wide at its gable ends and 37 feet along its side walls. Many of the H-frames are comprised of tulip wood timbers.

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sion of the cultural dynamics and regionalisms that helped to determine the appearance of barns in Bergen County.

## Introduction

Bergen County, one of the areas extensively settled by the Dutch and other groups such as French Huguenots and Palatine Germans, is located in the extreme northeast corner of New Jersey. The county abuts New York State where it is adjacent to culturally similar Rockland County at the extreme southeast corner of that state, west of the Hudson River. Bergen County is one of ten counties in the northern half of New Jersey where New World Dutch and related barns have been identified by various observers principally in the last 35 years or so.<sup>1</sup> These counties include Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Monmouth, Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex.

It is near certain that Dutch barns were also erected in Essex and Hudson Counties (next to the Hudson River just below Bergen County) as it is known that Dutch settlements occurred in these areas. Thus it appears that every county north of Trenton on the Delaware River in a line with Asbury Park on the Atlantic Ocean, with the possible exception of heavily English-settled Union County (across from Staten Island), likely included Dutch barns in at least their pre-1830 cultural landscapes.<sup>2</sup>

## Locations of Dutch Barns in Northern New Jersey

The extent of the geographic area where Dutch barns have been identified in northern New Jersey is marked by four barns: at the northwest corner a barn stands in Wantage in Sussex County within about a mile of the New York State line; at the northeast corner of the state, a barn stands in Rockleigh in Bergen County less than a mile from the New York State line; in the southwest a barn (now disassembled) stood in East Windsor in Mercer County a few miles east of Trenton, and in the southeast a barn was observed (disassembled in Fall 1991) in Freehold in Monmouth County. These four barns or barn sites demark an area measuring 72 miles at its greatest north to south extent and about 40 miles wide at its greatest width, containing about 2,500 square miles. Other barn sites exist in Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex counties. Thus, the “squared off area” plus these three western counties likely amounts to about 5,000 square miles where barns were erected in New Jersey. Dutch barns were not distributed evenly throughout this extensive area. Until the last third of the 19th century, when

construction of this type of barn was phased out many thousands of Dutch barns and their derivatives were likely constructed in this circumscribed area of the state where Dutch settlements were established. Of course, within this area in English settlements, for example, Dutch barns could have been constructed.

The author has identified and documented approximately 140 New Jersey barns since 1975. These include original three aisle or classic barns, Dutch-Anglo barns, Anglicized Dutch barns, and certain remnants of barns.<sup>3</sup> A number of these barns and their locations were brought to light by historians including Gail Hunton working in Monmouth County and Ursula Brecknell in Somerset County. An additional 15 to 20 barns have been identified by the New Jersey Barn Company since about 1980, resulting in approximately 160 known barns in the state.<sup>4</sup>

When Rosalie Fellows Bailey (author of *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*) did her research in the early 1930s she likely encountered many Dutch barns which subsequently disappeared before the early 1970s when concentrated research on the subject first began. Many of these were apparently never documented.<sup>5</sup> A few images of Dutch barns appear in her book.

John Fitchen in his seminal work *The New World Dutch Barn*, published in 1968, cited just three Dutch barns in New Jersey—all in Somerset County—only one of which was partially documented (the Van Doren barn in Millstone). Fitchen cited the travels of Peter Kalm who traveled between Trenton and New Brunswick in central New Jersey in the late 1740s and who described the basic appearance of the barn type in that region.

Another of the earliest published discussions of the Dutch barn in New Jersey appeared in a paper by Rutgers University cultural geographer Peter O. Wacker in the early 1970s.<sup>6</sup> In that article he included a map of the distribution of Dutch barns extant between 1749 and 1782, based on newspaper advertisements placed during this 34-year period. Two barns in the southern Bergen County area and a number of barns in the central section of the state especially Somerset County were identified by his research.

The following numbers give a close approximation of the relative incidence of Dutch barns in the 10 Dutch-settled counties in the state actually seen by all

observers: Bergen (30), Passaic (1), Morris (1), Monmouth (20), Somerset (70), Middlesex (3), Mercer (4), Hunterdon (26), Warren (2) and Sussex (3).<sup>7</sup> Thus four counties have at least 20 barns with Somerset County as the most populous county by far. By comparison, it is estimated that New York State is home to approximately 525 identified Dutch barns of various types (including some that no longer stand), of which the author has documented about 460 in approximately twenty counties. Together with other barns that have not yet been identified or recorded there are likely nearly 800 extant barns and remnants of barns scattered in certain areas in New York and New Jersey and other states where barns or parts of barns have been relocated.

### Observers of Dutch Barns in Bergen County

Essentially only four observers have reported on the presence of Dutch barns in Bergen County since the 1970s: the late county historian Claire Tholl, historic restoration builders George Turrell and Timothy Adriance, and the author. Claire Tholl authored an unpublished three-page paper in February 1990 (later updated in July 1990) in which she listed and mapped out the locations of 34 barns. Included were five extant classic Dutch barns, seven Anglicized Dutch barns, five barns that had “been lost in recent years” and 17 barns that she identified from photographs, HABS documentation, survey maps and other sources. In addition, she provided a map of Bergen County with locations of four categories of Dutch-type barns that she had come across. These are currently identified as extant Dutch (classic) (Photo 1), non-extant Dutch (classic), extant Anglicized Dutch (Photo 2), and non-extant Dutch-Anglo.

It may be said that Claire Tholl’s principal interest was the study and documentation of the 200-plus Dutch stone houses in Bergen County along with 120 or more stone houses in Rockland County. Her contributions in this regard are noteworthy. Her interest in Dutch barns in the county was quite marginal and therefore any documentation that she undertook was negligible. Still, Claire was responsible for identifying the locations of a significant number of barns in the county.

Timothy Adriance of Bergenfield can be credited with identifying the Duffy Dutch-Anglo barn in Haworth in March 1992, which was later dismantled and re-erected in Texas. There was actually another Dutch barn of quite small size adjacent to the main barn on the site. Tim also erected two new Dutch



Photo 2. The now-raised Ackerman-Dewsnap Anglicized Dutch barn in Saddle River, New Jersey. This was originally a classic barn that was converted into a side wall entrance barn and only two of the original bays were retained. The barn was removed from its site about 1993 and its timbers were placed in storage.

barns in the 1990s in Paramus and Norwood (together with a four-post hay barrack), which were modeled after classic examples. Besides photographically documenting a number of Bergen County barns in the past twenty years he has an extensive knowledge of many of the stone houses of the county.

George Turrell of Achter Col, a resident of Piermont in Rockland County in the summer of 1993, found an excellent remnant of an earlier barn (a recycled H-frame post of pre-1800 date) in the mid- to late-19th-century side entrance Hopper family barn in Upper Saddle River. Turrell also identified the one-aisle Auryanson barn in Closter.

All of the barns known to have been extant in the county in the 1990s were documented with the single exception of the three-bay Anglicized Dutch Mabie-Lockwood barn on Prospect Avenue in Park Ridge, the interior of which was only briefly seen by the author in the early 1990s. The barn was removed from its site in early 2006.

For sake of comparison, 11 barns of Dutch type in nearby Rockland County, New York have been documented since the late 1990s. Several other county barns have been identified in photographs and archival sources by the author, Claire Tholl and George Turrell. This two-part series of articles will thus serve to complement the 1999 article “Dutch Barns in the Stony Lands of Rockland County,” which featured the 11 identified barns from that county.<sup>8</sup>

### Untapped Sources of Information

It was estimated by Claire Tholl that approximately 600 Dutch farms or residential sites in Bergen County were established by the second quarter of the 19th

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Photo 3. The extant c.1790 classic three bay Bartholf Dutch barn in Mahwah, New Jersey. This barn features nine foot high side walls. It measures 36 feet at its gable wall and 30 feet along its side walls. Exterior siding and gable doors are not original.

century. Ostensibly many or most of those farms or sites included a Dutch barn. With documentation of about 50 homesteads taken from archival sources and site visits, it would be fair to ask if we can have any sense of the typical appearance of Bergen County barns. If the 1798 Direct Federal Tax for Bergen County townships survived, information on general appearances of Dutch-type barns at certain sites might be obtained. As it is, tax lists of only seven townships are extant for New Jersey.

Some road returns or road surveys that were done more than 150 years ago of certain towns in Bergen County contain fairly distinct depictions of barns that were apparently of classic Dutch type. Most often these images are small—about one quarter inch in size—but still large enough to discern that they were of Dutch type. In addition, the 1872 county atlas map contains a few farm scenes that include depictions of Dutch barns. Not all of these references have been thoroughly checked, so it can be said that relatively few contributions from archival sources have been incorporated into our knowledge of Bergen County barns to date.

A number of photographs, sketches and paintings of the exteriors of barns from various sources are available, but these can lend only a general sense of the appearance of these basically classic-type barns. If a photograph or sketch of a barn at a New World Dutch homestead is seen that has a side entrance, so prevalent in strictly English barns, it can not be assumed that the barn is an Anglicized Dutch barn, since it could also have been a Dutch-Anglo barn. Thus, only classic barns that have the unmistakable end wall wagon entry and high peak aspect can render any



Photo 4. A second view of the Bartholf barn. The barn has an added bay at the northwest gable wall. Oak (and possibly chestnut) timbers comprise the H-frames. Anchorbeam tenons extend only about two inches with no wedges.

general sense of the proportions of the classic Dutch barns constructed in the county (Photo 3). These exterior depictions can lend only a general sense of certain interior details such as post extensions above anchorbeams (*verdiepingh*) but little else of the interior features of these barns (Photo 4).

### Types of Documented or Visited Dutch Barns

Despite the small number of barns that survived long enough to be documented thoroughly, quite an array of barn forms in Bergen County with fairly widely differing proportions and details of construction features have been identified. It can only be imagined what information the original population of barns in pre-Civil War times would have indicated.

Twenty-four historic barns have been seen and visited by the author in Bergen County since 1975. Twenty-one of those barns have been documented to varying degrees. The remaining three barns—one classic and two Anglicized Dutch barns—were not documented. In one instance a barn was not documented at its original location but was later recorded at a subsequent spot where it became part of a new house. Nine categories of barns by type as found constitute the twenty-one barns.<sup>9</sup> Fourteen traits seen in the barns were recorded for inclusion in this article. Not all of the traits in every barn were documented as full accessibility was not always possible.

Nine distinct types of barns have been identified by this study: five classic barns, six Anglicized Dutch barns (Photo 5), one barn converted from an Anglicized Dutch barn to a classic barn, one Dutch-Anglo barn, a classic barn which had only its center



Photo 5. The extant c.1840 three-bay Anglicized Dutch barn in Montvale. In its original classic form the width of the nave was 18'-1" and the original side wall length was 30'-3".

aisle intact, one classic barn which certain timbers were recycled into part of a new house, an original condition single aisle barn, one unique barn originally of *dekbalk* construction that was converted to a Anglicized Dutch type, three remnants of barns with varying degrees of recycled Dutch barn timbers and a very unusual diminutive two-bay barn that retained only its center aisle and one side aisle from its original three-aisle configuration.<sup>10</sup>

### Various Traits Seen in Barns

The 14 traits selected for discussion in this article are a subset of what amounts to dozens of traits encountered in Dutch barns, which give the best general sense of various dimensions and types of details that were incorporated into the barns by their builders. Following the explanations of each trait recorded are two tables that are included for ease of comparison of the characteristics. Spaces that have a question mark indicate the traits could not be seen or recorded. The designation "N/A" is used if a particular feature or dimension is not applicable in a particular barn.

### Exterior Aspects

**1. Exterior Dimensions.** These measurements were taken across one of the gable or end walls corner to corner as the first given number and then measured along one of the side walls corner to corner as the second number. Dimensions are in feet (nearest whole number). Most Bergen County Dutch barns are rather small in overall size when compared to barns in New York State and central New Jersey.

**2. Height of Peak.** This measurement was taken from the bottom surface of the sill to the peak of the roof at the end wall. In some cases this dimension was ex-

trapolated from measurements taken from the exterior siding of the gable end wall. Many barns in New York and New Jersey have roof peaks of 30 to 35 feet while a few have peaks from 35 to 40 feet in height.

**3. Height of Eave Wall.** This measurement was taken at the side or eave wall in both classic Dutch and Anglicized Dutch barns from the bottom of the floor sill to the top of the wall plate. A number of classic Dutch barns in central New Jersey and in New York State have side walls over 15 feet in height. Certain Anglicized Dutch barns have side walls close to 20 feet high.

**4. Directional Orientation.** This is the direction that the entrance wall faces. The main end wall was determined from consideration of the lay-out faces of the various H-frames (exclusive of one of the end wall H-frames). In almost all barns lay-out faces of various H-frames in a given barn, where anchorbeams, H-frame posts and end braces are all flush in a given bent, face the same direction. This characteristic of flushness of timbers was used by timber framers to facilitate the assembling of the components of a bent. It is thought that timber framers often oriented the lay-out face of frames in the direction of the house, and that this was done for aesthetic reasons. There are definite exceptions to this general rule.

In many Dutch barns of Bergen County and elsewhere in New Jersey and in adjacent Rockland County the main end walls of the barns faced the southeast quadrant, apparently to take advantage of the sun where both farm animals and farmers often entered and exited the barns. In a 1991 study of 30 Somerset County classic barns (two were Dutch-Anglo barns), 19 were found to either face or closely face the southeast quadrant.<sup>11</sup> One of the examples presented here—the Wortendyke barn—faces ten degrees west of south. The relationship of these barns to their houses has not yet been studied, and so it remains unclear whether or not their layout faces are oriented toward them.

### Interior Aspects

**5. Nave Width.** This measurement was taken from the outer edge of one H-frame post to the outer edge of the other post in the same frame. As seen in the tables, the naves in most Bergen County barns are rather narrow. The range of nave dimensions encountered in New York and New Jersey vary tremendously, from a 12 foot wide example in Columbia County, New York, to an example measuring 32 feet wide in Monmouth

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## **New World Dutch Barns** (continued from page 5)

County, New Jersey. However, most naves vary from about 22 to 26 feet. Many pre-1780 barns have 28 to 30-foot wide naves.

**6. Width of Side Aisles.** The width of each side aisle was taken from the outer edge of the H-frame post to the outer edge of the side wall post opposite the H-frame post. The outer edges of the wall posts are considered the lay-out faces of the side wall bents. Each of the side walls were erected as units, likely exclusive of the sills. The average range of widths of side aisles is 10 to 12 feet, but their widths can range from six to 14 feet or more. Side aisles are not always of equal width in a given barn; a no longer extant barn in Olive, Ulster County, New York, had side aisles that differed in width by five feet.

**7. Width of Side Bays.** This measurement concerns widths of each of the side bays in barns that were converted from the classic style form to an Anglicized Dutch barn. Briefly, Anglicized Dutch barns of this type were brought about by the removal of the roof and rafters. In most cases the side aisles were removed and replaced by the construction of new side bays. A new roof superstructure, the ridge of which was oriented perpendicular to the original roof orientation, was constructed over the H-frames and new side bays. Sometimes the new side bays were the same or close to the widths of the original side aisles of the classic barn. This type of barn conversion was far more common in New Jersey than in New York (Photo 6).



Photo 6. The extant c.1840 Yeoman-Abma three-bay converted "Dutch-Anglo" barn in Wyckoff. In its original classic form the width of the nave was 20'-6" and the original side wall length was 34 feet. Homestead is currently a fruit and vegetable farm.

The width of each side bay (at either side of the original central aisle or nave) was taken from the outer edge of the H-frame post to the outer edge of the side wall post opposite of the H-frame post. Here, too, the outer edges of the side wall posts are considered the lay-out faces of the side wall bents.

### **H -Frame Aspects**

**8. Dimensions of Anchorbeams.** This measurement is the height of the anchorbeam at its vertical face and the thickness of the anchorbeam at its horizontal face. These measurements are taken at the midpoint of an anchorbeam of an interior H-frame, that is, not at an end wall bent. End bent anchorbeams are frequently two to five inches shorter in height than interior anchorbeams. The reason for this disparity of heights is due to the fact that end bents bear only half the weight that the interior bents carry. In addition, end bent beams get additional support from the threshing door posts. Heights of anchorbeams in Bergen County barns rarely exceed about 14 inches. Heights of anchorbeams in barns in New York and New Jersey vary from as little as nine or 10 inches to as much as 25 inches, in the case of a Monmouth County, New Jersey barn. An average range of heights is about 14 to 18 inches.

The normal range of thickness of anchorbeams is eight to 12 inches. The thickness of one inner anchorbeam in a classic circa 1830 barn on Route 11 in Columbia County, New York is a remarkable 16 inches.

### **9. Anchorbeam Tenon Extension.**

This measurement was taken from the outer edge of an H-frame post of an interior bent, to the outer tip of the anchorbeam tenon. End bents were not typically measured as there are innumerable barns that have end-bent anchorbeams without tenon extensions. In those cases the tenons are "through tenons," and are contained within the widths of the posts. Interior tenon extensions can vary quite a bit in a given barn, both as far as the same anchorbeam is concerned and among the various interior anchorbeams in the same barn. As it is, tenon extensions in Bergen County barns (with only a few exceptions) are quite slight—two to six inches—compared to barns of the same era in both central New



Photo 7. An interior photograph of the Yeoman-Abma barn. Prominent in this view is a 13" anchorbeam tenon extension with double wedges. The purlin braces that extend below the anchorbeam are quite typical of Bergen County barns. Note the H-frame braces with lapped half-dovetail joinery.

Jersey and much of New York State. The average range of tenon extensions in pre-1820 barns is about eight to 12 inches. Two foot tenon extensions appear in two New York barns (Photo 7).

**10. Presence of Two-Foot Scribe Marks.** Barns that predate 1815 often have two-foot scribe marks on their anchorbeams. Use of these marks normally denotes the scribe rule era as opposed to the square rule era (post-1815), where two-foot scribe marks are not used. These marks are vertical scribe lines on the vertical faces of anchorbeams, inscribed on their lay-out faces, and placed two feet from the outer edge of H-frame posts. These marks are often difficult to see because of dust and dirt, and are quite often seen to be associated with intersecting full circles or half circles. There are many variations, too numerous to mention here. Suffice to say, these marks were scribed to facilitate the production of H-frames that had a uniformity of length in a given barn, as well as for other considerations. A number of scribe-rule era barns in Montgomery and Schoharie Counties, New York as well as (curiously) a number of pre-1780 barns lack these marks.

**11. Anchorbeam to H-Frame Post Junctions.** This is simply the type of joint between the anchorbeam and H-frame post.<sup>12</sup> There are basically two kinds of joints. The first and earlier of the two is called diminished haunch (shoulder). This term refers to the tapered cut where an anchorbeam enters into a post that is cut with a corresponding taper. These joints are most often found on pre-1790 barns. Early frame and brick New World Dutch houses of pre-1770 vintage have without exception the first type of joint.

The second and later of the two is called "square-shouldered." This form of joint makes use of a shelf cut on the H-frame post which supports the anchorbeam, and forms square outlines at its top edge and bottom corners or edges. These joints are most often found in post-1810 barns. A mixture of joint forms is encountered in certain barns of the 1790-1820 period.

A third type of joint combines the two types; it makes use of a tapered cut as seen in the diminished haunch joint variety but the top edge of the post has a square outline as seen in the square shoulder joint variety. The third joint variety does not appear in Bergen County barns.

**12. Verdiepingh.** The *verdiepingh* is the extension of an H-frame post above the anchorbeam to the soffit of the purlin plate.<sup>13</sup> In most cases the post extensions of an individual barn vary only by an inch or two. In some special cases—such as the U-barns in Ulster County—this rule does not apply. As a whole, post extensions in Bergen County barns (and in Rockland County barns) are shorter than those in any other region of either New York or New Jersey.

A rule of thumb (with some exceptions) is that the shorter the *verdiepingh* is, the earlier the barn was constructed. In the case of barns of Bergen and Rockland Counties this is skewed as even the most recent classic Dutch barns have post extensions less than 4'-8" in length. Many barns in the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys in New York State have post extensions 10 to 12 feet in length and sometimes more. The no-longer extant unique seven-bay Wagner Barn (near Troy, Rensselaer County), of probable post-1810 vintage, had a post extension of 18 feet.

**13. Presence of Raising Holes.** This designation refers to the one to two-inch diameter holes in the *verdiepingh* of the H-frame posts. The holes were transversely placed (side to side) and wooden pins were inserted to facilitate the attachment of ropes while the H-frames were still resting on the work floor.<sup>14</sup> These ropes in turn were connected to gin poles that hoisted the bents from a horizontal position to their standing, vertical, position. There is great variability in both the form and placement of raising holes in the hundreds of documented Dutch barns. One barn in Montvale, Bergen County had longitudinally-placed raising holes. The majority of barns have a single hole for each H-frame post but several dozen barns have double holes. A few barns have three holes on each post.

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TABLE A

Barn, Category & Location	Characteristics						
	Exterior Dimensions	Peak Height	Orientation	Nave Width	Side Aisle Width	Side Bay Width	Eave Wall Height
Wortendyke Classic Park Ridge	45'-0" x 37'-0"	25'-0"	10° west of south	25'-0"	10'-3"	NA	6'-0"
DeGray Classic Franklin Lakes	38'-0" x 32'-0"	24'-0"	1° north of east	18'-0"	10'-0"	NA	10'-6"
Bartholf Classic Mahwah	36'-0" x 30'-0"	22'-6"	37° south of east	16'-6"	9'-9"	NA	9'-0"
Zabriskie Classic Paramus	53'-0" x 49'-0"	27'-0"	4° west of east	29'-6"	11'-0"	NA	6'-6"
Haring Classic Rockleigh	40'-0" x 36'-0"	25'-0"	5° east of south	20'-0"	10'-0"	NA Not original	12'-6"
Abma Anglicized Dutch	34'-0" (Original Wyckoff side wall)	26'-9"	9° west of south	20'-6"	NA	10'-3"	15'-6"
Durie - Anglicized Dutch	37'-4" (Original Haworth side wall)	32'-3"	10° west of south	23'-0"	NA	11'-2"	17'-6"
Bishop Anglicized Dutch (Partial) Saddle River	27'-2" (two bays only)	24'-0"	14° west of south	22'-0"	NA	?	14'-0"
(no name) Anglicized Dutch Montvale	30'-3" (Original side wall)	28'-0"	Due south	18'-0"	NA	10'-0"	16'-0"
Demarest Americanized Dutch	28'-0" (Original Hillsdale side wall)	27'-6"	40° west of south	16'-0"	NA	9'-6"	17'-0"
Chestnut Ridge Road Anglicized Dutch Saddle River	(Remnant Barn)	?	?	?	NA	?	?
Tice Anglicized Dutch to Classic U. Saddle River	44'-8" x 36'-6"	24'-0"	About South	20'-2"	12'-0" (not original)	NA	7'-9" not original
Duffy Dutch -Anglo Woodcliff Lake	46'-3" x 36'-4"	31'-0"	13° west of south	20'-1"	NA	14'-2" and 12'-0" (uneven)	17'-6"
Terhune center aisle only Ho-ho-kus	48'-0" side wall	?	?	26'-6"	NA	? (side aisles removed)	NA
Van Buskirk (remnant timbers in new house) Saddle River	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Auryanson One aisle survives Closter	21'-4" x 30'-4"	?	?	21'-4"	NA	NA	14'-0"
Weiss Dekbalk style Harrington Park	?	?	?	26'-9" middle aisle	NA	?	?
Hopper (Remnant – H-Fr. post) U. Saddle River	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Demaree (Remnant) Demarest	?	?	?	About 21'-0"	?	?	?
Ackerman (Probable remnant- recycled timbers) Franklin Lakes	32'-0" side wall (in original configuration)	?	?	?	?	?	?
Duffy Remnant 2 aisles (3 aisles- original) Woodcliff Lake	22'-0" Center & side aisle 17'-0" side wall	17'-0"	?	16'-0"	6'-0"	NA	11'-0"



**TABLE B**

Barn, Category & Location	Characteristics						
	Anchorbeam Dimensions	Anchorbeam Tenon Ext.	Two-Foot Marks	Anchorbeam to Post Juncture	Verdiepingh Length	Raising Holes	Purlin Brace Attachment
Wortendyke Classic Park Ridge	14" x 10½"	2" to 6"	No	Diminished haunch	20" to 22"	No	- 24"
DeGray Classic Franklin Lakes	12½" x 9½"	Almost flush	Yes	Square shouldered	55"	No	3"
Bartholf Classic Mahwah	11" x 10"	2" to 3"	Yes	Diminished haunch	49"	No	2½"
Zabriskie Classic Paramus	12"(?) x 9"	8"	?	Diminished haunch	?	?	- 14" (Approx)
Haring Classic Rockleigh	14" x 9"	7" to 8"	Yes	Square shouldered	41"	No	- 14"
Abma Anglicized Dutch Wyckoff	11½" x 10"	13"	No	Square shouldered	26"	No	- 13"
Durie Anglicized Dutch Haworth	14 ½" x 10¾"	8½"	Yes	Square shouldered	42"	Yes	- 12"
Bishop Anglicized Dutch Saddle River	11" x 9½"	10"	Yes	Diminished haunch	35½"	No	- 19"
(no name) Anglicized Dutch Montvale	9½" x 9¾"	4" to 8"	?	Square shouldered	49½"	Yes	?
Demarest Americanized Dutch Hillsdale	9½" x 7½"	1½" to 2"	Yes	Diminished haunch	54"	(Longitudinally oriented) No	- 12"
Chestnut Ridge Road Anglicized Dutch (gone) Saddle River	About 10" in height	1" to 2"	?	?	About 32"	No	- ? inches
Tice Anglicized Dutch to Classic U.Saddle River	10½" x 9¾"	6"	Yes	Square shouldered	42"	Yes	- 13"
Duffy Dutch-Anglo Woodcliff Lake	12" x 9½"	Flush (?)	No	Square shouldered	?	No (?)	?
Terhune Center aisle only Ho-Ho-Kus	16½" to 18" x 11½" (varies)	8"	No-Orig Yes-Altered	Square shouldered	About 29"	No	- ? inches
Van Buskirk (remnant timbers in new house) Saddle River	15" in height	2¾"	No-Orig Yes-Altered	Square shouldered	55" (?)	?	- ? inches
Auryanson 1 aisle only Closter	10" x 6½"	Flush	Yes	?	57¾"	Yes	?
Weiss Dekbalk form (of necessity) Harrington Pk	15" x 12¾" - (Dekbalk)	NA	None	NA	NA	NA	- 36" or more
Hopper (Remnant – H-Fr. post only) Up. Saddle River	12½" in height	?	?	Diminished haunch	30½"	?	- about 18"
Demaree (Remnant) Demarest	12½" x 10¾"	?	?	?	?	?	?
Ackerman (Recycled timbers) Franklin Lakes (if original)	11½" in height	?	?	Square shouldered	40"	No	- 10"
Duffy remnant 2 of 3 bays survive) Woodcliff Lake	8½" x 7"	3½"	Yes	Square shouldered	43"	No	?

## **New World Dutch Barns** (continued from page 7)

A large number of barns have no raising holes at all. In Bergen County only four barns have been observed to have these holes. It may be that barns without raising holes had their H-frames hoisted by means of ropes tied around the anchorbeam to their joints with the posts. Dutch barns are by no means the only vernacular barns that have raising holes.

**14. Purlin Brace Attachment.** This measurement was taken from the bottom face of the purlin plate to the bottom edge of the purlin brace as it enters the H-frame post. Because the *verdiepingh* in Bergen County barns are so short, purlin braces of necessity join to posts either just above or just below the anchorbeams. As a whole, purlin brace attachments in Bergen County barns (and Rockland County barns) are consistently attached lower than in any other region of New York or New Jersey. Numbers given in the tables are the measurement from the bottom of the braces to the top of the anchorbeam, with measurements for braces located below the anchorbeam rendered as negative numbers.

**Number of Bays.** This trait is not entered into the tables. All but two Bergen County barns of classic Dutch and Dutch-Anglo varieties are of three-bay construction. The Zabriskie barn in Paramus and the remnant of the Terhune barn in Ho-Ho-Kus are the only extant barns of four bays. A classic Dutch barn at the William De Clark homestead in Closter, removed in the mid-to late-1960s, apparently had four bays. The two-aisle remnant of the Duffy barn in Woodcliff Lake was originally comprised of three aisles and two bays.

The collective average range of widths of individual bays in Bergen County barns is nine to 11 feet. Bay widths in classic barns in the New World Dutch cultural area vary fairly considerably but an average range of 10 to 12 feet is seen in most barns. Something approaching the upper limit of bay widths in standard form barns (excluding for example, certain varieties of U-barns in Ulster County) is seen in the four-bay Wemple barn in Schenectady, whose bay widths are 14 feet. In the three-bay barn at Philipsburg Manor north of Tarrytown in Westchester County, New York, bay widths are 16½ feet.

The above outlined traits (except bay numbers) are presented below in two tables: Table A for traits 1 to 7 and Table B for traits 8 to 14. In the extreme left hand

columns of each table are the names of barns, barn category, and locations that have been documented in Bergen County. Designations of the 14 traits are seen in the top rows of each table.

### **Note**

The **Tice/Hopper barn**, originally on West Saddle River Road in Upper Saddle River, was an Anglicized Dutch barn converted from a classic Dutch barn at some undetermined time, likely in the last half of the 19th century. In June 1989 the barn was disassembled and its H-frames, purlin plates and purlin braces were moved to the Hopper/Goetschuis house museum site on East Saddle River Road in Upper Saddle River where a "new" classic barn was erected in August 1990. This twice-converted barn is unique in the county. Numbers in the table reflect construction details of the new classic barn.

### **Summary**

From the information contained in the previous tables it is seen that there is considerable diversity among the 21 barns that have been documented to date. All of the traits of these barns and the subsequent changes they underwent reflect the wishes and needs of a series of owners and builders active at the various homesteads through the last 150 to 250 years.

Wherever New World Dutch barns appear, distinguishing qualities and details of architectural expressions define different regions. All the barns in the 30-plus counties where Dutch barns appear contribute to our overall understanding of the various local cultural forces and individual intentions that created the barns and influenced their construction and subsequent alterations by both farmers and builders in different eras. It will be up to readers and scholars to interpret the significance in each of them as they see fit. The final story of barns in Bergen County or in any county in the New World Dutch cultural area is far from being fully told.

A closer look at many of the characteristics of the barns discussed here, including the estimated age of many of the 21 study barns, will be presented in the second article of this two-part series. A location map for the barns will also be offered.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the balance of this article the phrase “Dutch barn” will be used in place of the more accurate term “New World Dutch barn.” See a series of articles published by the author in *Barn Field Survey* (published by the New World Dutch Barn Survey 2000), “Classification of Dutch-American Barns,” 2: 6 (June 2002); “Classic Form of Dutch-American Barns,” 2: 8 (August 2002); “Dutch-Anglo Form of Dutch-American Barns,” 2: 10 (October 2002); “The Dutch Related Barn with Possible Germanic Connections,” 2: 12 (December 2002); “The Dutch Related Barn with Possible Germanic Connections—Part Two,” 3: 2 (February 2003); “The One-Aisle Dutch-American Barn,” 3: 6 (June 2003); “Dutch-American Derivative Barns,” 3: 10 (October 2003) and “Miscellaneous Elements of Dutch-American Barns,” 3: 12 (December 2003).

<sup>2</sup> William Frolich, of Elizabeth, Union County New Jersey. Conversation with the author on 25 November 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Ninety-Degree Roof Rotations in New Jersey Dutch Barns.” *Material Culture* 31 (Spring 1999): 1-20.

<sup>4</sup> Ursula Brecknell. “Dutch Barns in Somerset County, New Jersey.” *Dutch Barn Preservation Society Newsletter* 1: 2 (Fall 1988): 3.

<sup>5</sup> Rosalie Fellows Bailey. *Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York*. New York: Dover Publications, 1968.

<sup>6</sup> Peter O. Wacker. “New Jersey’s Cultural Landscape before 1800,” in *Papers Presented at the Second Annual New Jersey History Symposium Held December 5th, 1970, at the State Museum, Trenton under the Auspices of the New Jersey Historical Commission* (Newark, NJ: New Jersey Historical Society, 1971), 35-62.

<sup>7</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Where are Dutch Barns?” *Dutch Barn Research Journal* 1 and 2 (1991 and 1992): 69-77.

<sup>8</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Dutch Barns in the Stony Lands in Rockland County.” *South of the Mountains* (October-December, 1999): 3-19.

<sup>9</sup> John Fitchen and Gregory D. Huber. *The New World Dutch Barn: The Evolution, Forms, and Structure of a Disappearing Icon*. 2nd Edition. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001.

<sup>10</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Two New Forms of Dutch-American Barns.” *Dutch Barn Preservation Society Newsletter* 17:1 (Spring 2004): 1-6, 8.

<sup>11</sup> Ursula Brecknell and Gregory D. Huber. *Farmstead Siting of Dutch Barns – A Study of Somerset County Original Barns*. New Jersey Historical Commission Mini-grant, 1991.

<sup>12</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Anchorbeam to Post Connections in Three-Aisle Dutch-American Barns.” *Barn Field Survey* 5: 6 (June 2005).

<sup>13</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Framing Techniques as Clues to Dating in Certain Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Barns: Major and Minor Rafter Systems, Lapped Dovetail Joinery, *Verdiepinghs* and Other Traits.” *Material Culture* 29 (Summer 1997): 1-41.

<sup>14</sup> Gregory D. Huber. “Raising Holes in Barns,” a five-part series published in *Barn Field Survey* 4: 8 (August 2004), 4: 10 (October 2004), 4: 12 (December 2004), 5: 2 (February 2005) and 5: 4 (April 2005).

## The Dutch Barn of Maple Ridge Farm in the Switzkill Valley Near Berne, N.Y.<sup>1</sup> (UTM 18 05 69 523 E; 47 16 736 N)

By Allan F. Deitz

### The Origin of Maple Ridge Farm

There is evidence that in 1744, Johan Hendrick Dietz (1722-1785), a German Palatine emigrant, homesteaded a parcel of land on Switzkill Road, two miles south of Berne. A large portion of this land later became known as Maple Ridge Farm. Schoharie Reformed Church records show that on November 25, 1745, Johan married a Switzkill neighbor, (Maria) Elisabetha Ecker. Johan's son Adam Dietz Jr. (1746-1826) inherited the 159-acre homestead, requiring him to enter into a lease for the land with Albany patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer III on December 18, 1790.<sup>2</sup>

A deed shows that the northern 95 acres that became Maple Ridge Farm was conveyed by Adam Jr. to his son, John Bellinger Dietz (1772-1856) on April 4, 1812. Another deed shows this parcel was purchased

from John on May 9, 1850 by Robert Ball (1809-1893) who had married John's daughter, Anna Barbara Dietz (1815-1897) on September 5, 1833 (Photo 1). It was later purchased on Oct. 3, 1899 by Robert's son Charles Ball (1856-1951) of Knox who moved onto the farm in 1900 (Photo 2). It then passed to Charles' son Clyde Ball (1888-1991), and in the mid-1950s, to the Raymond Wright family, which included Clyde's daughter Alberta. It is still in that family today.

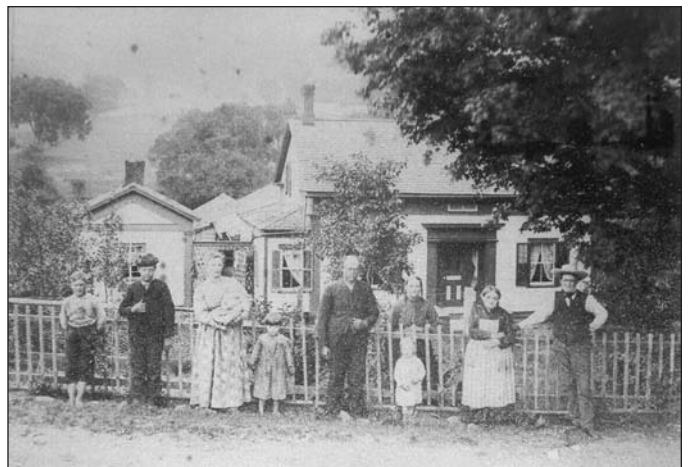


Photo 1. Robert Ball farmhouse (c.1860s) with members of the Ball and Dietz families. Collection of the Berne Historical Society.

(continued on page 12)



## The Dutch Barn of Maple Ridge Farm *(continued from page 11)*

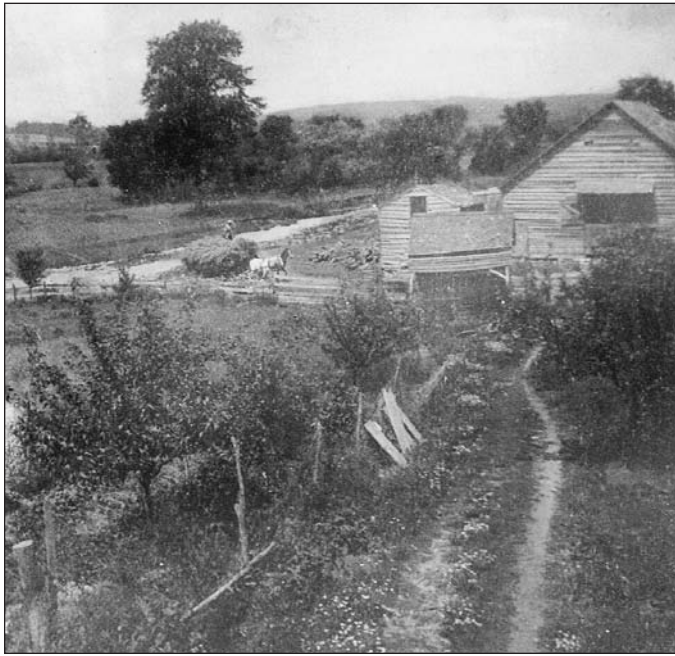


Photo 2. Charles Ball (on the wagon) is seen in this hand-colored view taken from the summer kitchen of the Robert Ball farmhouse, from about 1900. Collection Alberta Ball Wright.

Robert Ball moved to the farm in 1846, according to a note by Clyde Ball in the William H. Ball family Bible.<sup>3</sup> One of the rent ledgers used by Walter Church and now at the Berne Historical Society contains a page showing the indebtedness of Robert Ball to the former Van Rensselaer West Manor for the years 1855 and 1856. Walter Church had purchased the land-lease rights for Albany County farms from the Van Rensselaer family in 1853. The farm is located on grid #538 of the Beers map of the Town of Berne.

### The Dutch Barn

I spent my summer vacations from school and college during the 1950s, from the age of 14 to 19, living with my grandparents, Clyde and Alta Sholtes Ball, on

Maple Ridge Farm. To save money for college I worked at harvesting crops of hay, wheat, and oats. I also helped with the milking, and the feeding of cattle, sheep, and chickens, among other chores.

The center for all this farming activity was the three-aisle Dutch-style barn located on the rich dirt bank of the east side of the Switzkill (Photos 4 thru 6). In the 1950s, I was told that the barn was over 100 years old. I believe the Dutch barn was built around 1790 by Adam Dietz Jr. The 1784 will of John Henry, Adam's father, stated that "Adam, my son, should build a barn, and my beloved wife should pay one half of the charges out of the land I have given them." I believe that Adam, already married 15 years, had his own house on the west bank of the Switzkill behind the later-built Robert Ball farmhouse, but shared his father's barn across from the Drezlo farmhouse nearby where John Henry lived. Clyde Ball told Alberta that this site on the Switzkill was the original homestead of Maple Ridge Farm and she discovered pots and plates there as a child. The unrecorded deed from 1812 that transferred the 95 acres of the Adam Dietz Jr. premises to son John Bellinger required John to pay his share of Van Rensselaer rent. The annual rent for the entire 159-acre Adam Dietz Jr. farm was 18 bushels of wheat, four fat fowls, and one day's labor (with horse and wagon).

At age 14, the first task I learned was to drive the tractor that had replaced the teams of horses as the main power source for pulling hay wagons, mowing machines, hay loaders, and later balers, combines and other machinery through the farm fields and to the Dutch barn. As I became skilled at driving the tractor, I was given the responsibility of backing wagons full of loose hay onto the second-floor roof-covered ramp that ran through the first hay barn, over the sheep pen and horse stables, and into the back bay of the Dutch barn's second-floor hayloft. Here the hay was pitched



Photo 3. Panoramic view created from two photos taken by Gertrude Ball Deitz, June 1934. Originals in the collection of the author.



Photo 4. Exterior view of the barn by Erin Willsey, 1990.

off with hayforks onto the loft and spread out. I remember the coughing caused by hay dust while pitching loose hay off the wagons.

In earlier years, one could drive the horse-drawn hay wagons up the ramp and straight into the side of the barn's second floor, unload it, and continue west out the other side of the Dutch barn and down a ramp that touched ground about 50 yards from the Switzkill. The west ramp had been removed by the time I began working on the farm; it may have become unsafe from repeated flooding of the Switzkill, or from other causes. Soon after I began, the ridge-line of the Dutch barn was equipped with a steel rail track and pulleys from which a rope was attached to a large two-pronged hayfork, and to the tractor. The fork was set deep into the loose hay on the wagon and locked. The fork and hay were pulled up out of the wagon by the tractor I drove south from the barnyard up the lane toward the house. I stopped when I heard the signal from the barn, or the relay by one of my cousins from the barnyard. When the fork load of hay was over the area for storage on the barn floor, the fork was tripped by my uncle up in the loft by pulling on a second rope attached to the fork, and the hay dropped to the desired location to be spread out.

The next change in this process came when tractor power take-off-operated hay-balers became popular. We then unloaded hay by throwing hay bales, held together with twine, from the wagon, and packed them carefully to allow air to circulate among them. Several people would pass the bales through to fill the large hayloft. The hay was used for cattle feed and for sale.

On one occasion I backed a full wagonload of baled hay into the side of the east hay barn at the entrance of the long ramp and had to pull out and try again. It took skill and signals from others to back loaded wagons through that long ramp to reach the storage area in the Dutch barn. When the hayloft in the first two bays was full, hay or straw was stored on the ramp floor in the third bay. A door near the back gable peak provided access to fill the third bay. An elevator was used for baled hay; the large hayfork was used for loose hay.

The east ramp entrance was located off a single-lane dirt road that came down a steep hill from Switzkill Road, past the barn, and through the barnyard to the Switzkill where it was shallow enough to cross with hay wagons to reach the large fields west of the creek. Backing a wagon loaded with hay or straw halfway up the hill onto the ramp was difficult. The earlier design, with two side hay-wagon entrances onto the second floor of the barn, allowed the horses to pull the wagons into the barn from either direction, and drive through. With the west entrance ramp removed, we had to back in or back out as described earlier.

This second floor hay-wagon entrance makes this either a Dutch-Anglo or an Anglicized Dutch barn, as opposed to those barns with wagon entrances only through the first floor front and back gable-ends. Consideration has to be given to the possibility that the original Dutch barn was later modified by adding



Photo 5. General interior view by Erin Willsey, 1990.

*(continued on page 14)*



## The Dutch Barn of Maple Ridge Farm *(continued from page 13)*



Photo 6. Interior photo showing anchor beams by Erin Willsey, 1990.

the east hay storage barn and the connecting ramp to the second floor of the Dutch barn's third bay. I believe this modification was made (making this an Anglicized Dutch barn), because the back gable wagon doors were sealed. I never saw a wagon enter the first floor front or back gable doors in my day. Such alterations to New York Dutch barns were not uncommon, according to Gregory Huber.<sup>4</sup>

The benefit derived from this alteration was additional hay and straw storage room on the first floor where wagons once moved through. Whether Adam Jr. or John B. Dietz made the additions is not known. Barn building was not recorded in deeds or newspapers. Because of their importance to the family they were probably built before a permanent house was constructed. A nearby relative or neighbor sometimes housed a family while the barn was being built. In this case, Adam Jr. had probably built his house while his family lived with his parents, before he built his own barn and shared his father's barn.

On the first floor of the Maple Ridge Dutch barn were two rows of stanchions (devices that fit loosely around a cow's neck to limit forward and backward movement) for the secure stabling of milk cows that

faced the center of the barn. They were located on opposite sides of the large wood planked threshing floor, and near the outside barn walls where animal doors allowed cows to enter. I remember an old threshing machine on that floor. But in the 1950s, I spent many August days riding the back of a combine tying off full bags of wheat or oats with twine, and setting them on the ground while the next bag was filling. During my time working on the farm, steel stanchions replaced wooden ones, and concrete floors replaced wooden floors, mangers, and gutters for the cattle.

A large hinged door in two leaves in the center of the barn's front gable wall, an original hay wagon entrance, provided an entrance for the storage of hay, bedding straw, equipment and pens for animals. One of the leaves of the front and back gable wagon doors was a Dutch door, meaning it was divided in half horizontally so that the bottom half could remain closed while the upper half could be opened. This controlled the wind flow through the barn, important during early grain threshing methods, according to DBPS member Everett Rau. By the 1950s, however, the rear gable wagon doors had been sealed shut. Water pipes and individual steel water bowls allowed the cows to drink water pumped from the Switzkill while in their stanchions. We carried large pails of water from the creek to the barn for calves and for cleaning milking machines.

Underneath the long covered ramp from the road to the Dutch barn were sheep pens and horse stables. Entrance to these areas was from the barnyard. A granary room with several grain bins was located in the northeast rear side aisle of the Dutch barn with access to both the cows and the horses. A small outside door through the back gable wall gave access for filling the granary bins. I remember being shown the wooden pegs that held the Dutch barn beams together. No nails were used in the frame when it was built, I was told. A silo was added to the barn in the 1950s.

The richest dirt on the farm was in the field behind the barn. Located next to the Switzkill, this field often flooded in the spring. Across the creek, the flat 10-acre field also flooded in earlier years providing rich nutrients and resulting in good crops of hay, oats or corn. Much of the Switzkill valley contains rich land. This was a major factor in the early settlement of the Ball, Dietz, Becker, Sholtes, Ecker, Engle and other families along the Switzkill and the Foxenkill in the 1740s and 1750s.

*(continued on page 16)*



# From the Editor

## Dutch-Anglo or Anglicized Dutch?

Some of our readers may not be familiar with these terms. Others will be unhappy with them. It became clear during the course of discussing Greg's article with him that we needed a standard way of describing the various cultural operations that have given form to what we generically call "Dutch barns." While the term "New World Dutch" works well as a generic descriptor, we need more refined terms as our work with these resources reaches maturity.

The term "Dutch-Anglo" has previously been applied to a number of buildings that present what might be called a hybrid cultural patrimony (also called creole), and of course this type of label could be extended to other cultural combinations. In the past, however, it has been used interchangeably to refer both to structures that present a hybrid appearance as an original condition, and to those which do so as the result of later alterations. A further differentiation was needed.

For our purposes here then, the term "Dutch-Anglo" will refer to a cultural expression (a structure, dialect, tradition, etc.) which in its original form reflects aspects of both Dutch and English cultural traditions melded together. An example might be a barn with an H-bent frame which was constructed with a side wall wagon entrance.

The term "Anglicized Dutch" will be used to describe a Dutch cultural tradition or resource which has come down to us having been modified in the intervening years since its first creation by a reinterpretation that has clear English cultural associations. A barn of this type might have had its roof rotated, side aisles removed, and new end bays constructed, while retaining the original H-bent frame. You will find these terms used in both Greg's and Allan's articles in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

One could argue that use of such terms could become ridiculous—imagine a New World Dutch Barn that as initially constructed included Germanic influences, and which was later Anglicized—well, that would be an Anglicized Dutch-German barn, wouldn't it? I have confidence that such examples are rare enough that we will be able to make sense of things when we are faced with such situations. In the next issue I will attempt to disentangle the terms "Dutch-American" and "Americanized Dutch."

Future issues of the *Newsletter* will include a new feature, "From the Survey," presenting a short monograph on a newly-discovered barn or other cultural resource which has been recorded as part of our Survey of New World Dutch Cultural Resources.

The Survey is being conducted under the aegis of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society and Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture. The Fall 2007 issue of the *Newsletter* will include a report on the first full year of field work.

Additional changes to the newsletter are still in the queue; the DBPS has never been known to change things too abruptly!

As always, articles and ideas are greatly appreciated. Please send them to me at [wwheeler@hartgen.com](mailto:wwheeler@hartgen.com) or to PO Box 1413, Troy, New York 12181-1413. Standards for submissions will soon be published on our website, and will also be available via mail for those who don't have internet access.

*Walter R. Wheeler*

## The Dutch Barn of Maple Ridge Farm *(continued from page 14)*

The Dutch barn described in this article is no longer at Maple Ridge Farm. It was sold in 1990, was carefully taken down by Bill Willis, and each piece of the frame marked to be re-assembled at a private home on Martha's Vineyard by the new owner, Harry Lasker. It has not yet been re-assembled. My measurement of the stone foundation showed the barn to be about 40 feet wide by about 42 feet long. I have fond memories of that barn and the activities of farm life in the 1950s when many Dutch barns in the Berne-Beaverdam area were still the center of the family farm.

<sup>1</sup> This article was originally published in the newsletter of the Berne Historical Society (Fall 2005). It is reproduced here, in modified form, with their permission.

<sup>2</sup> Information from Van Rensselaer Manor lease papers courtesy of Harold Miller.

<sup>3</sup> Family bibles, deeds and mortgages in the author's collection, family oral history, interviews by the author with Alberta Ball Wright, and [www.Bernehistory.org](http://www.Bernehistory.org) website.

<sup>4</sup> John Fitchen. *The New World Dutch Barn: The Evolution, Forms and Structure of a Disappearing Icon*. 2nd edition edited and with additions by Gregory D. Huber (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001), xxx, 31.

### DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is printed by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, a non-profit organization incorporated by the Regents of the State of New York.

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