DBPS Announces Survey Project

The DBPS has begun a Survey of Dutch-influenced Farms and Farm Buildings in the former New Netherland Colony, with a target to finish by 2009, the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's journey up the "North River."

This survey project will record all surviving farm and rural "Dutch-influenced" buildings in the former New Netherland. The information gathered will be entered into a computer database that will be available to the public at our library, and portions will be available on our website.

Two important keys to the project are the use of volunteers and student interns. Volunteers will come from three main sources, our members, and members of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture, a not-for-profit with similar historical interests.

Additionally, we will work with volunteers from local and county historical societies. The locals, with the assistance of our Volunteer Coordinator, will recruit junior high and high school student volunteers. Students will participate in research and mapping as part of their history curriculum and as individual special projects. Students in technology classes will produce AutoCAD drawings of select buildings.

DBPS receives Grant from Kellogg Foundation

The Society has received a grant of $25,000 from the Kellogg Foundation to further our Survey project. A particular interest of the Kellogg Foundation is the involvement of youth, and our grant application reads in part:

The Society wishes to engage youth in a living history project, building on rural community resources in New

York and New Jersey, to assist in the recording and preservation of an important (albeit not well recognized) national rural resource, New World Dutch Barns and Farmhouses. High school and junior high school students will work outside the classroom with volunteers and international student interns. Volunteers will include senior citizens, Dutch Barn Society members, members of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture and local and county historical societies.

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We are requesting applications for a Project Coordinator to work with interns and high school students.
This is a part-time, paid position through January 2007.
For more information contact Keith Cramer 518-438-8352

A successful Barn and Dutch house Tour, held Saturday, March 11, 2006.

The DBPS sponsored a tour of two houses and a barn in Cohoes and Waterford, attended by about 50 members of the DBPS and HVVA. The tour was organized by Keith Cramer and Ned Pratt. We began at the Douw Fonda House in Cohoes. It is a timber frame house with a brick veneer; the center section has a gambrel roof. Several anchor beams with corbels are visible in the living room. The owners very generously gave us the run of the place, and members poked about in every nook and cranny. The house is listed on the National Register as 1724, but some felt, based on architectural details, that a 1750-1760 date was perhaps more likely.

Next we visited a Dutch Barn in Waterford, previously known to only a few members, which dates to the 1760-1790 period. Built by the Fry family, the barn was featured as the January photograph in this year's DBPS Barn Calendar. It is owned by Dr. William Grattan, a pediatrician and preservationist. Dr. Grattan acquired the property about 25 years ago, and knew it was a Dutch Barn due to his correspondence with Dr. James Fitchen, who had planned to visit, but passed away before he was able to. The barn roof has a steeply pitched roof, and the very long sway braces extend well below the anchor beams.

After a very pleasant lunch in Cohoes, we went to the Van Schaick Mansion on Van Schaick Island, 1735-1755, built by Anthony Van Schaick. An an early brick Gambrel roofed structure, it is now owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution. See their website for more detail www. http://www.vanschaickmansion.org. The tour was followed by a DBPS Board Meeting.