



The Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

August – October 2009

Newsletter

Vol. 12, No. 8-10

The Society for the Preservation of
**Hudson Valley
Vernacular Architecture**
is a not-for-profit corporation formed
to study and preserve vernacular
architecture and material culture.

Peter Sinclair – *Founder*
West Hurley, Ulster County, NY

John Stevens – *President*
Sr. Architectural Historian
Greenlawn, Suffolk County, NY
(631) 239-5044
dutchjam@optonline.net

Bob Hedges – *Vice President*
Pine Plains, Dutchess County, NY
(518) 398-7773 rmhedges@taconic.net

Maggie MacDowell – *Secretary*
Gardiner, Ulster County, NY
(845) 255-2282
mmacdowell@hvc.rr.com

Robert Sweeney – *Treasurer*
Kingston, Ulster County, NY
(845) 336-0232
gallusguy@msn.com

Jim Decker – *Past President*
Hurley, Ulster County, NY
(845) 338-8558
jdeck8@frontiernet.net

Dennis Tierney – *Trustee*
Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County, NY
(914) 489-5262

Joyce Berry – *HVVA.org Webmaster*
St. Johnsville, Montgomery County, NY
ajberry@frontiernet.net

Conrad Fingado – *Trustee*
Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, NY
(845) 635-2714
M_Nordenholt@yahoo.com

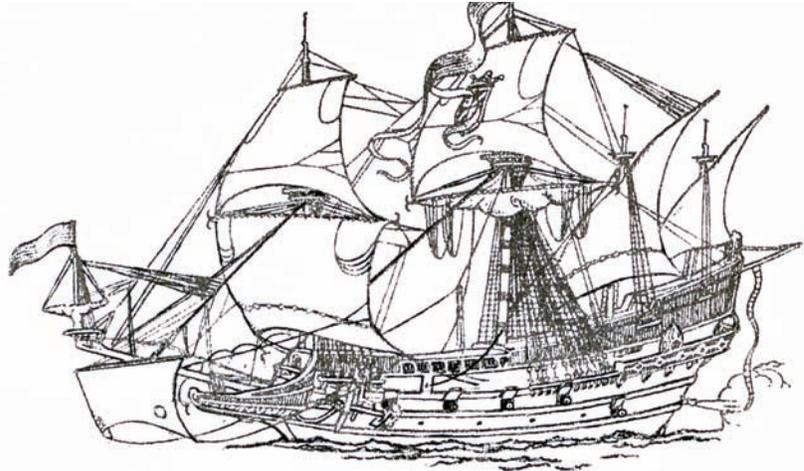
William McMillen – *Trustee*
Glenmont, Albany County, NY
(518) 462-1264
judytb@aol.com

Walter Wheeler – *Trustee*
Troy, Rensselaer County, NY
(518) 270-9430
wtheb@aol.com

Karen Markisenis – *Trustee*
Lake Katrine, Ulster County, NY
(845) 382-1788
kmarkisenis@hvc.rr.com

Tom Colluci – *Trustee*
High Falls, Ulster County, NY
(845) 532-6838
tcolucciconstruction@gmail.com

Sam Scoggins – *Trustee*
Hurley, Ulster County, NY
(845) 339-4041
s_scoggins@yahoo.co.uk



President's Letter – Summer 2009

Greetings fellow HVVA members...

To celebrate the Dutch Quadricentennial, HVVA was an active participant in two days of activities in Kingston in June. On the first day, at the Persen house, a lecture series was inaugurated by the writer who gave a slide talk on Dutch-American buildings. This event was well attended, and followed by questions that evinced a high level of interest in our early buildings of Dutch heritage.

At the Senate House, there were costumed participants – including a number of enthusiastic youngsters – who demonstrated colonial cooking and cheese making, Dutch folk dancing, the household use of block and tackle, and a demonstration of early military firearms (matchlock musket). There was also an interesting demonstration of wampum making as was done by neighboring Indians in the colonial period.

In the evening, a formal dinner of Dutch inspiration – chaired by Ken Barricklo of the Holland Society – was followed by speeches. The Executive Director of the Netherlands Consulate in New York, Harry Verweij, graciously accepted HVVA's gift of *Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America 1640-1830*, presented by its author.

On the second and final day, additional lectures were given on Dutch gardens, Dutch food and our Wally Wheeler spoke on Dutch tiles found in the Hudson Valley. All lectures were well attended and followed by questions and answers.

The celebration concluded with an outdoor reception. HVVA's multi-talented Rob Sweeney deserves kudos for the many ways he helped with this event – planning, decorating, participating, etc.

Two weeks later, another anniversary took place when the 60th annual Stone House Day was held in Hurley. Last year HVVA's past-President, Jim Decker acquired the c. 1710 Elmendorf house in Hurley, and had it on view as purchased. Since then, Jim has removed most of the 20th century additions from the first floor, providing interesting and wonderful surprises. Details of these discoveries and reports of further progress will be given in a subsequent Newsletter.

Respectfully,

John R. Stevens

Editor's note: Your President is himself having an anniversary this year. Sixty years ago, in September, his first book appeared in print. *An Account of the Construction and Embellishment of Old Time Ships*, written when he was 19, is still consulted by marine authorities in Europe and America. Now it sells for \$400.

Coming Events

Van Deusen House



Hasbrouck Barn



Bevier House



VanDermark House



Victoria St. John Gilligan House



Photographs by Manuela Michailescu

WHAT'S DUTCH

21st Annual Country Seats Tour

Saturday, October 3 & Sunday, October 4, 2009

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Hudson River Heritage  Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

Present

Dutch American Rural Architecture from Hurley to High Falls, NY

Celebrate the Quadricentennial and Discover the Hudson Valley's Dutch Legacy!

In celebration of Henry Hudson's voyage of 1609, the **2009 Country Seats Tour** will explore the architectural legacy of the Dutch in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Hudson, an Englishman by nationality, was employed by the Dutch to find the famed northwest passage to the orient; instead, he claimed the greatest river valley in North America for the United Provinces. The Netherlandish influence is still widely enjoyed in this region today. The greatest monuments to the Dutch presence are the many houses and barns built by their descendants. The highest concentration of extant New World Dutch Architecture is found in Ulster County, New York.

Therefore it is with no surprise that the valley's most prestigious house tour – held annually for over twenty years – has chosen to showcase homes in Ulster County during this historic Quadricentennial year. The Country Seats Tour organized with the combined efforts of *Hudson*

River Heritage and *Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture* will open 12 private homes between Hurley and High Falls over the weekend of October 3 and 4.

Although no homes on the tour are from the Dutch colonial period, which ended in 1664, many do date to the first decade of the 18th century and have been inhabited for over three hundred years. These sturdy houses hold as much charm as they do history. Surviving the changes of time, taste, and technologies, each reveal the continuity of Dutch design. From exposed beams, to divided doors, pad hinges to *vlechtegen*, jambless fireplaces to casement windows, all features that express the Dutch influence in early homes on this year's tour, which is titled "WHAT'S DUTCH?." Knowledgeable guides will swing open wide the doors to history and allow visitors a glance into the past. Continue to discover Henry Hudson's valley, 400 years later by attending the tour.

Tickets for the **2009 Country Seats Tour** are **\$45 per day** for HVVA members.

For information and tickets, follow the *What's Dutch* link at www.HVVA.org call 845-876-2474 or send a check made payable to Hudson River Heritage to: HVVA, P.O. Box 287, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Space is limited.**Reserve tickets early.**

Letter to the Editor

Homan House – Yaphank, Long Island

In the Feb.-Apr., 2009 (Vol.12, No. 4) issue of the newsletter, I found the information given from a newspaper article announcing that Nassau County was closing down Old Bethpage Village Restoration quite a blow, as I had long term plans to spend a weekend in Long Island at the end of June. I had incorporated into those plans to spend an afternoon at Old Bethpage. I am pleased to report that on June 26, the village was open along with half of the buildings in its collection, each with its own guide on staff. It truly turned out to be a delightful afternoon. There are some real treasures on site, both the buildings themselves and the artifacts they hold inside.

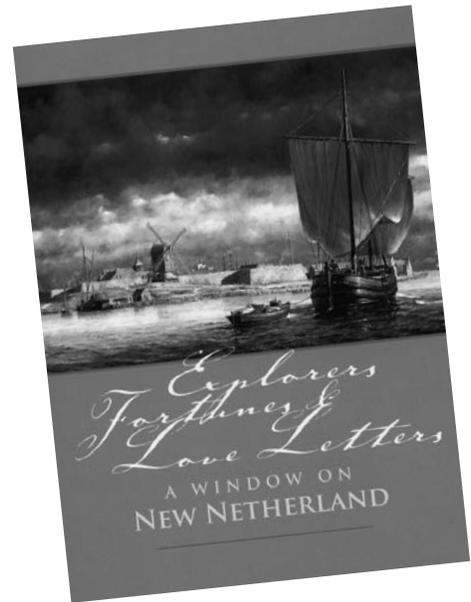
Although my friend and I were not the only ones there, attendance that afternoon was conspicuously low. It is my belief that the best way to support such endeavors is for the public to visit them. If admission numbers increase, it is less likely the county will consider closing it when the next budget time comes around. Spreading the word that Old Bethpage Village is still operating is the first step.

While on the island, I had also come across a house quite possibly nearing the end of its existence if help is not forthcoming soon. Slightly less than thirty miles to the east just off the Long Island Expressway in Yaphank stands the Homan House (circa 1758). Where Yaphank Avenue now crosses over the Carmans River, in 1736, the Town of Brookhaven gave John Homan permission to dam the river for the construction of a saw mill. In 1771, Daniel Homan added grist and bolting mills on the site. During those years the town was known as Millville. The name was changed to Yaphank in 1846. The mills are gone, but the house still stands, although vacant for several years. The doors and windows are boarded up, and the structure is looking very tired from years of neglect. The property is now parkland as part of the Carmans River Nature Trail & Sanctuary – a joint effort of the Suffolk County Historic Services and The Yaphank Historical Society – but it does not look like they have placed any recent efforts into saving the house. If one wishes to seek more information, they can contact the Yaphank Historical Society at 631-924-3401

Ken Walton – HVVA Member



Book Review



Explorers, Fortunes and Love Letters: A Window on New Netherland

In 1609 the sailors aboard Henry Hudson's ship the Half Moon laid their eyes upon the entrance to what would come to be known as the Hudson River and the shores of a land that still remained mostly a mystery to European explorers. Within fifteen years the Dutch began to settle this newly discovered land, creating the colony of New Netherland and bringing with them not only their belongings but also their culture and customs, their hopes and dreams.

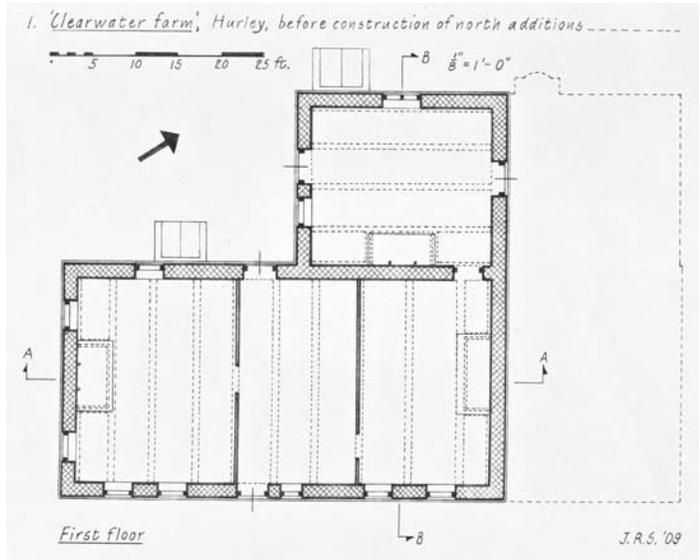
Today, four hundred years later, the influence of the Dutch still remains in America. This book presents the fascinating story of this diverse and enterprising colony and its enduring cultural impact. The twelve essays in the book cover a wide array of topics and historical perspectives, immersing the reader in the day-to-day life of the settlers and tracing the influence of the Dutch from the seventeenth century to the present. These topics range from Henry Hudson's navigational methods, the pursuit of fortune in the New World, child-rearing practices, and the love letters of Kiliaen van Rensselaer to the interactions between Dutch settlers and the Mohawks, Jews, and barber-surgeons in New Netherland. Other essays cover the transformation of St. Nicholas into Santa Claus, the significance of bread baking, New York factional politics, and why New Netherland matters today.

Readers will find this compilation brimming with fresh and varied perspectives on the origins of American culture and society, opening many truly new windows on the colony of New Netherland.

Cornelius Cool House / Clearwater Farm

By John R. Stevens

This stone house, situated on the west side of Old Route 209 with its façade facing the road came to our attention in 2009 when it was put up for sale. HVVA member Jim Decker was able to inspect its interior, including the attic. Jim discovered that the original north gable (Stage III) and now within an addition of the second half of the 18th cen-



ture (Stage IV) was built with parapets, the edges of which are made with *vlechtingen* – triangles of brick arranged so that the brick ends formed the edge of the parapet. These brick triangles are a feature of the Netherlands, but are also found in eastern England where they are called *tumbling*. Looking at the south gable, Jim noticed their corners peeking out under the wide Victorian verge boards, the tips of some of the *vlechtingen* elements.

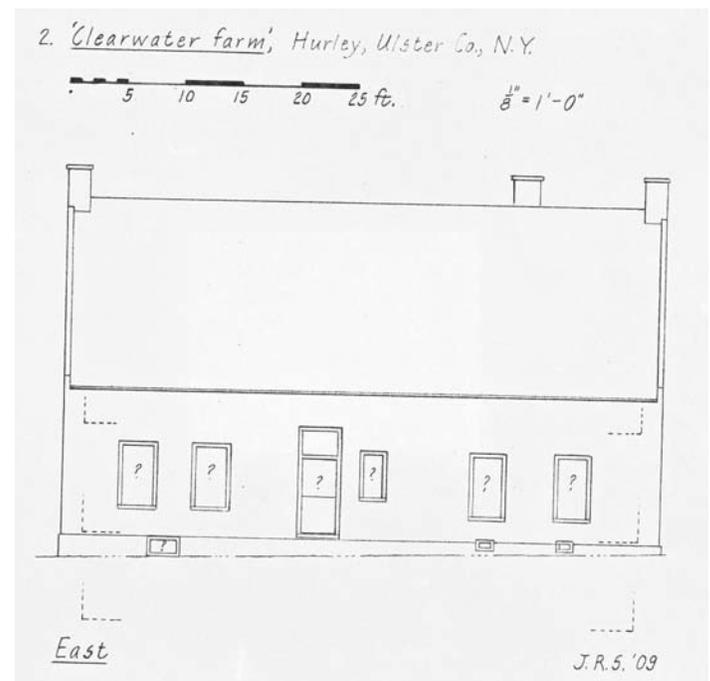
This was an exciting discovery! There are a number of brick and brick veneer houses, particularly in Albany and Columbia Counties that have *vlechtingen*, but only one stone house has been known to have brick *vlechtinge* – Fort Frey (1739) at Palatine Bridge in Montgomery County. An example exists, in Fort Klock at St. Johnsville, Montgomery County, of stone *vlechtingen* used with stone walling. There used to be another example like this last, Fort Ehle at Nelliston, also in Montgomery County. It was photographed for the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930's when it was in a ruinous state.

The Cool house was constructed in at least five building campaigns. A structure of unknown size and building materials (Stage I) predated the existing structure. Its roof ridge ran north and south. Its south wall aligned with the north wall of Stage II, and the north wall of Stage III abutted it. It was demolished when Stage IV was constructed.

Stage II. The oldest surviving element of the Cornelius Cool house is the west wing, which dates to the early 18th century. It may have been a one-room house measuring 21'6" east-west, and 24'8" north-south. But what exists today may only be part of the original construction. It may have extended to the east as a two-room house. If this was the case, its mid-wall would now be part of the west wall of Stage III. The south wall has a door frame with a transom opening that formerly had a mullion and leaded lights. The mullion was removed in the mid-18th century, and the sash that replaced the leaded glass is still in place. The window unit to the east of the door is a replacement of an earlier window. In the middle of the west wall is an original *bolkozijn* frame from which the mullion was removed at the same time that the door transom was modified. The existing double-hung sash in this frame date from the time of the modification.

There had been a jambless fireplace centered on the east wall which seems to have been discarded at an early date. The pintle-like irons for a form of crane survive from this, quite high up on the wall. This type of crane support has been seen the deClark-deWint house (1700) at Tappan, Rockland County, and in the Teunis Slingerland house (1762) at Feura Bush, Albany County. The original steeply-pitched roof was replaced in Stage V.

Stage III. Towards the middle of the 18th century (circa 1735?) a large addition was constructed that may, as noted have replaced part of the Stage II part. Its north wall





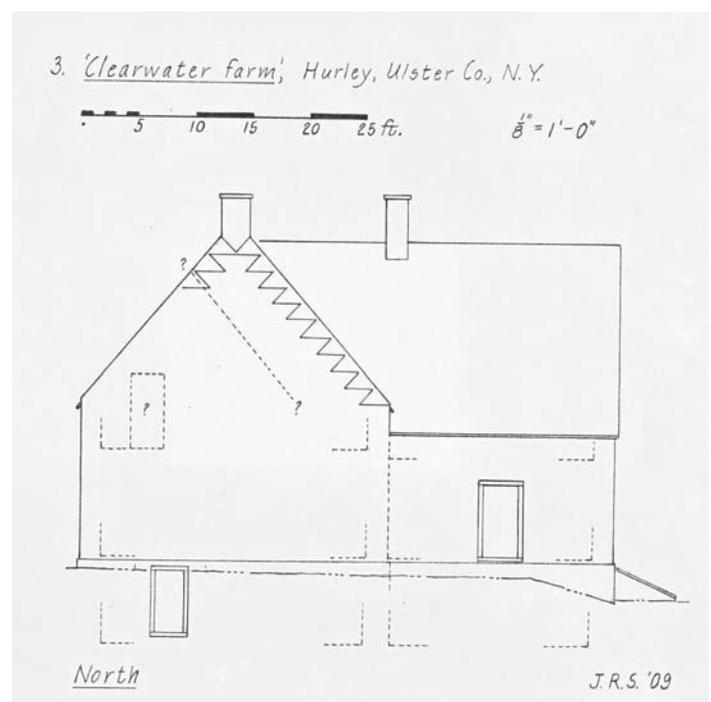
Clearwater Farm showing the East facade

Photograph by Manuela Michailescu

aligns with the Stage II element and partly covered the end wall of the Stage I structure. The ghost of this early structure survives in the form of a roof edge impression in the mortar of the north wall, and the unfinished pointing of the masonry where this early structure had been. It appears that the early structure covered about 19 feet of the east side of the Stage III wall. Its roof pitch was quite steep, and in fact almost the same as the roof pitch of Stage III. As noted at the beginning of this article, the Stage III gables were parapeted, but the parapets were broken off in the mid-19th century Victorian 'improvements' to the roof. The parapet edges were constructed with *vlechtingen* except within the end wall space of Stage I (see drawing).

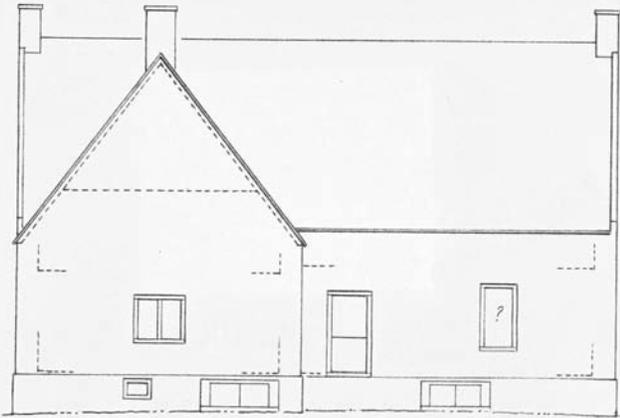
Stage III measures 52 ft. in length, north-south, and 27'2" in width, east-west. The interior of Stage III was divided into three rooms, the largest being that at the south end, which is 18'6" north-south. The middle room, – hallway, with doorways in the east (front) and rear walls – was about 14 feet north-south, and the north room about 15'4" north-south. The north and south rooms originally had jambless fireplaces. A crane support iron can be seen within the chimney cupboard at the east side of the south fireplace. A doorway of traditional 'Dutch' design connects the north room with the Stage II room.

About 1760-70, the interior of Stage III was done over in the English taste. The wall between the north and middle



4. 'Clearwater farm', Hurley, Ulster Co., N.Y.

5 10 15 20 25 ft. $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



West

J.R.S.'09

rooms was rebuilt about 2'6" to the south, enlarging the north room and creating a more typical hall space. The writer suspects that the windows and the front door frame were changed at this phase, too, from Dutch casements to double-hung sash. The original west door frame survives, at least in part, with its molded cornice cut off, but leaving the end profiles. The jambless fireplaces were replaced with English jambed ones, and lath-and-plaster ceilings were installed. All that survives today of the woodwork of this phase, is the overmantel paneling in the north room, and a corner cupboard located on the west side of the

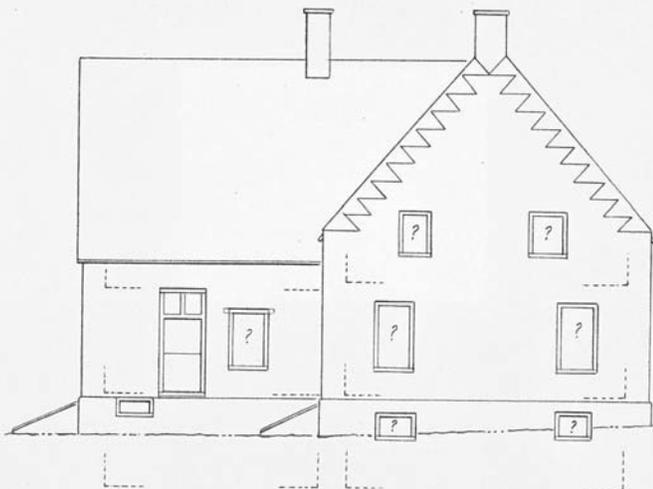
chimney breast in this room. There are also some 18th century paneled doors re-used within the house – mostly on the second floor. And the front doorway and door do survive from the remodeling phase. This door, on its upper portion, has a knocker-latch of exceptional design.

In the 'Victorian' phase of the mid-19th century, most of the interior woodwork was replaced in the current fashion, and the stair brought up-to-date. More recently, the lath-and-plaster ceilings were removed, exposing the beams.

Stage IV. An addition was erected the north end of Stage III, it would seem prior to the Anglicizing of the interior of Stage III – maybe c. 1750? This dating of its construction is suggested by the fact that the doorway between Stages III and IV is of a traditional Dutch style, like the adjacent doorway from Stages III to II. This new construction caused the removal of the Stage I structure. It also involved the removal of the Stage III north wall parapet (which was broken off, but leaving most of the *vlechtingen*) so the roof could be continuous. The levels of the basement and the first floor were each built a step higher than those in the existing part of the house. This new space had a jambless fireplace and exposed second floor beams which were never covered up under lath-and-plaster. The hood of the jambless fireplace seems to have been removed in the mid-19th century when the north gable was modified. Originally, it was stone up to the collar tie, but for some reason the stone was taken down to the level of the wall plates and the whole gable covered with weatherboards. The brick smoke hood of the jambless fireplace engaged this masonry. The interior space of Stage IV is the most original appearing in the house.

5. 'Clearwater farm', Hurley, Ulster Co., N.Y.

5 10 15 20 25 ft. $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

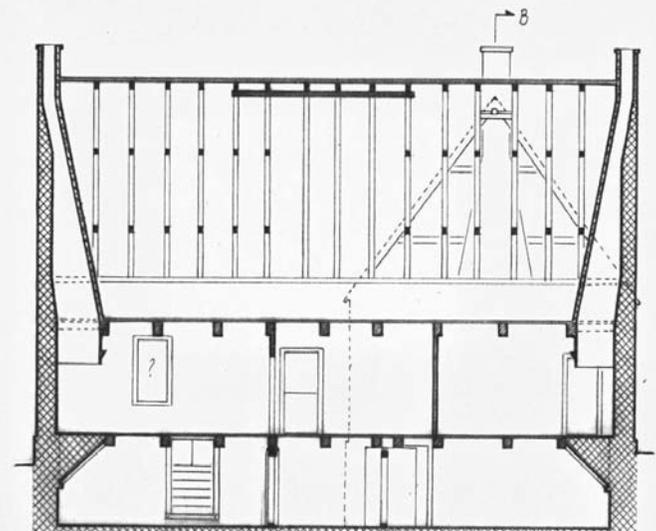


South

J.R.S.'09

6. 'Clearwater farm', Hurley, Ulster Co., N.Y.

5 10 15 20 25 ft. $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$



Section A-A

J.R.S.'09



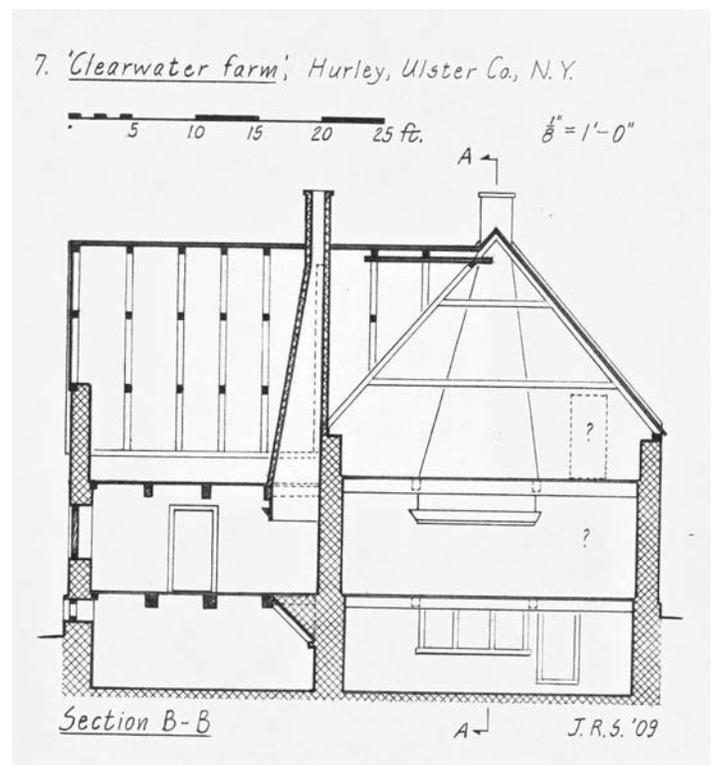
Clearwater Farm showing South gable end.

Photograph by Manuela Michailescu

Stage V. To the west of the Stage IV addition, and against the north wall of Stage II a final enlargement of the house was made in the early 19th century. The construction of this space caused the removal of the original Stage II roof, and the construction of a broad, lower-pitched roof covering Stages II and V. The floor of the new room was two steps lower than Stage IV, and one step lower than Stage II. It was accessed by a doorway in the west wall of Stage IV, near its north end and by an early (originally exterior) doorway in the north wall of Stage II. On its west wall, the new room had a large cooking fireplace, and on its south side a bake oven, the dome of which shows on the exterior of the wall. This room from the first had a lath-and-plaster ceiling.

In conclusion:

Victorian changes to the house have been referred to, and largely survive, like the façade gable, and the heavy eaves treatment. The south gable parapets had probably survived up to this stage. The *vlechtingen* are mostly covered by the wide verge boards, but a few corners of them peek out! Questions remain about the early development of the house, as for example the original size of Stage II. A construction change in the middle of the Stage III roof is puzzling. The middle third of this roof is constructed with a ridge beam. The house is in excellent structural condition and the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Scoggins are using part of it as a Bed-and-Breakfast. It is their expressed intention to restore the interior of Stage IV with a recreation of the missing jambless fireplace. ■



Around the Neighborhood

By Ken Walton

Shuart-Van Orden House



I guess the best way to start a new column is to introduce myself; being new to the neighborhood. Now I have lived all but the first four years of my life in the Mid-Hudson Valley, but hadn't paid much attention to what surrounds my backyard. While I have always had an interest in local history, it really did not take hold as a more serious study of local historic houses until last year.

In recent years, I started to visit the local public historic sites on the weekends to enjoy the area's treasures of the past, becoming familiar with such pioneering stone houses such as Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, Knox's Headquarters, the Huguenot houses at New Paltz, etc. This led to attending tours like the Hurley Stone House Day. Then one day last summer at the local library, I saw a title that peaked my interest enough to take it home to read – one I'm sure you are all familiar with: *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley before 1776* by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds. I was intrigued by how many she listed and curious to know how many would still be around now with the modern ever-expanding development that has taken hold of the region in the past eighty years since the book was written. I started to seek out the ones she mentioned in her book. To my surprise, most were still around and I became fascinated to personally experience the unique character of each and every one. Shortly into this quest, I discovered there are several others still standing that were not mentioned in the book and this got me wondering just how many are out there in all. Of course, this meant searching for more than just Dutch stone houses. So the quest developed to seek out all that is colonial up to

and surrounding the birth of our nation and to catalog them (more on this later). This led to my introduction with the HVVA during the open house of the Persen House in Kingston last fall. The idea of a group of people going around touring the very buildings I seek just boggled my mind. I promptly started my membership.

In about a year's time there have been approximately 350 entries already made. It started to become apparent that within this project is the foundation of a column which could benefit the newsletter and the membership. It is my hope that this column becomes a collection pool of information to be gathered into the most comprehensive and accessible preservation archive obtained in the Hudson Valley region. Naturally, for such a pool to collect, there needs to be several streams of information to feed it. The format to start will be a mention of a place I have discovered something about in hopes the readership may find it of interest. It is not the intention to come up with a place no one else knows about, but, to the contrary, coax what others know about it to the surface. Each place has a unique story to tell and I see this column as my job to start it off with, "Once upon a time..." and let the collective readership fill in the rest. It is my hope that the houses mentioned here will bring an influx of facts, comments, traditions and lore from several sources that will continue to fuel this column with a wealth of knowledge not found anywhere else. The second part of the column will be a place I have come across that seems to be of the period but which I know nothing about in hopes of achieving the same results. So without further ado...

In the Neighborhood

If you were able to join the August tour of homes situated south of the village of New Paltz, then you may wonder what else may be around in the “burbs” of the Paltz. It may surprise you to find out there are several more in this neighborhood. Of the more obscure houses is the Shuart-Van Orden House at 41 Allhusen Road. Traveling south on Route 32, this road is about a mile south of the Terwilliger house at Locust Lawn (open to the public) and crosses over to South Ohioville Road. This is the same road the renowned Adair Vineyards is on. Before reaching the vineyard one will see on the north side of the road, a vintage Dutch house and yet unlike all others in the area. It was built around 1773 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995, as a highly stylized version of a Hudson Valley Dutch house of the third quarter of the 18th century, although its construction reflects the influences of the northern New Jersey region. The builder was Johannes Shuart, an early settler from New Jersey who acquired 500 acres of the 1728 Spratt (John Jr.) and Marshall (Andries Marschalk) Patent in 1772. He sold the house and land to Peter Van Orden in 1799.

Van Orden opened up a store on the property opposite the house, where he also operated a distillery, as was common practice at the time for the region. In 1886, it became the property of his heirs with the name Hasbrouck, who in turn sold it to George Rhinehart in 1928. His family owned it, continuing its agricultural uses, until selling it to its present owners in 1980.

The one-and-a-half story, five bay, center hall, rectangular dwelling is constructed of stone with brick front facade and gables. The entry is composed of a Dutch door. The building is covered with a gambrel roof. A veranda with a shed profile is found on the rear. Over the years, the house has been altered several times. In 1980, the present owners renovated it extensively to restore its original historical appearance and discovered some previously hidden aspects of the house in the process. In 1982-83, the west side single room stone wing was added to house the furnace and other modern mechanicals, leaving the cellar kitchen of the main house as period as possible. The addition was built from the remains of a stone dwelling on the Dusenberry-Black property in nearby hamlet of Modena.

Inside, the center hall retains its original wainscoting, chair rail and stairway. Much of the original red paint is preserved. The handrail on the stairway is original and remarkably similar in overall configuration and molding to the one in the Terwilliger house (1738) at nearby Locust Lawn.

Other structures on the property at the rear of the house include several late nineteenth / early twentieth century outbuildings. These “non-contributing” resources include a recently moved (in 1991/1992) Dutch barn. A circa 1800 stone granary located on the property is classified as a contributing resource.

The house on Patura Road

Also of quick mention before moving on is the Thaddeus Hait Farm, just a little farther east down the road and is home to the owners of the Adair Vineyards. It, too, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The main house is a Federal style home built around 1825 from a mix of wood and stone and there are many outbuildings of interest – one being of stone construction but attributed to the same time period. Between the two vintage houses, but on the south side of the road is New World Dutch Barn which is also part of the Hait Farm property and is older than the house. Adair uses it for their wine tasting, so feel free to drop by, take a gander and taste some wine.

The Nosy Neighbor

The next house is one I know next to nothing about. In fact, I did not know of its existence until last year when I started this quest even though I have lived only about a mile from it for twenty years. Situated on Patura Road, where the back country lane takes a ninety degree bend from a southerly direction towards the east to cross a nearby creek, is a stone house of typical one-and-a-half story Dutch proportions. From the road the east gable and back of the house can be viewed. On the west end, a “modern” 2 story wood frame wing was added. One would need to proceed up the driveway to view the front of the house which is comprised of a full width veranda with a bell curved shaped roof. I know nothing of the origin of the house or even when it was built. The only bit of information I have to offer just turned up in preparation for this article is that the F.W. Beers map of Ulster County in 1875, shows the property belonging to one of the many Hasbroucks in the area.

Anyone that can add more information to any of mentioned houses and has any other comments they wish to send, please drop me a line. I can be contacted by email at kaw9862@optonline.net or by snail mail: Ken Walton, 12 Orchard Drive, 2nd Floor, Gardiner, NY 12525. On the subject line of the email, please include ‘HVVA,’ so I can expedite a response. ■



DuBois House

Old Route 209, Hurley, Ulster Co., N.Y.

By John R. Stevens

The earliest houses of the settlers in Ulster County – and in other parts of the New Netherland were almost exclusively timber-framed. That is our understanding on the basis of contracts that survive from the pre-1664 Dutch period. Archaeologists in New

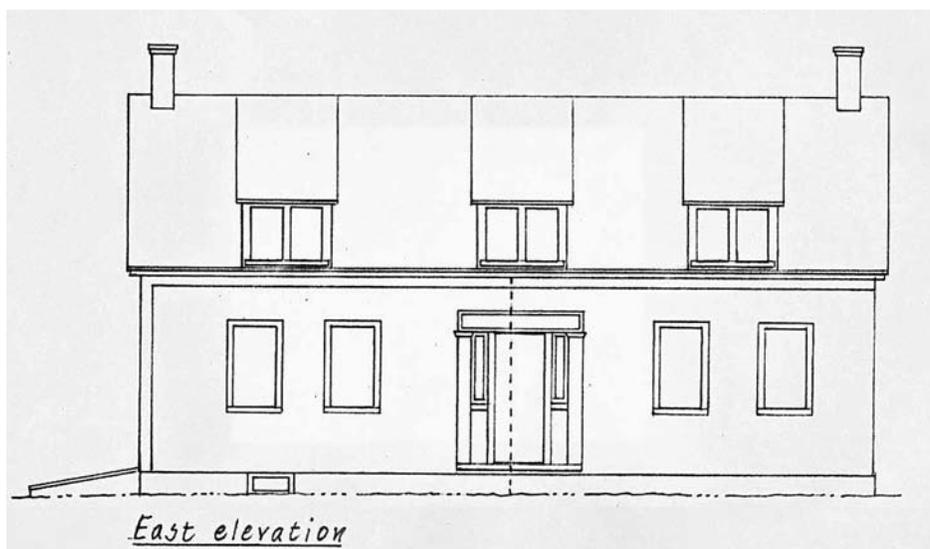
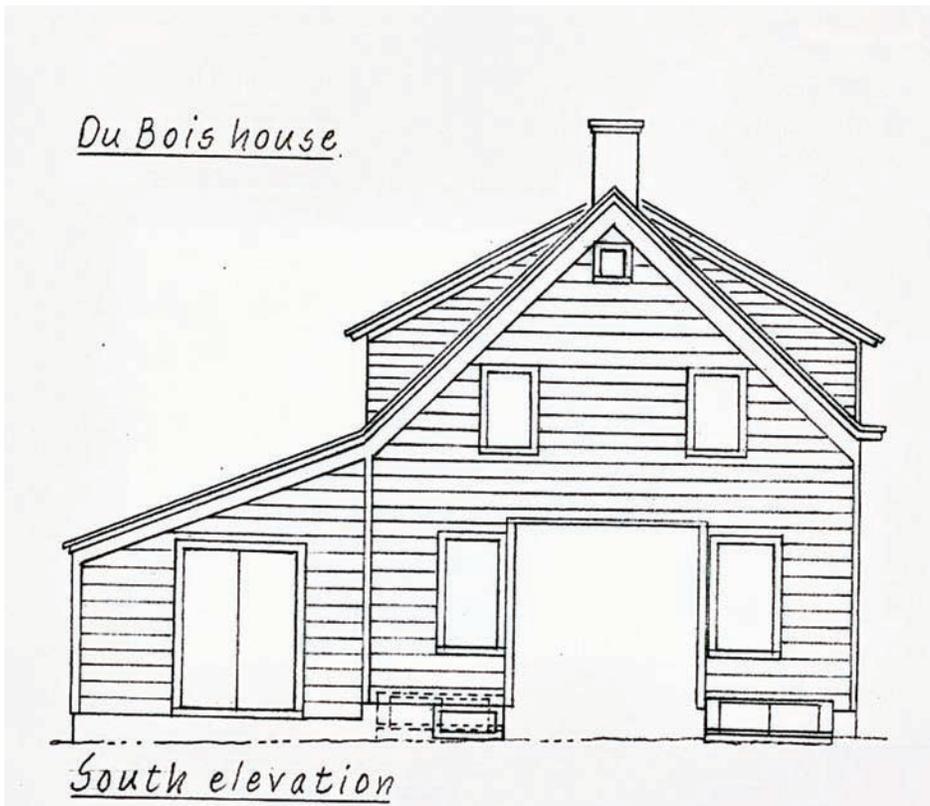
Paltz have uncovered evidence of 'earth-fast' buildings (post in the ground). There are a few surviving earth-fast buildings in the United States, all of which have French antecedents. One of these, the Badin-Roque house is in Natchitoches,

Louisiana, and there are several at Ste. Genevieve in Missouri. These all date to the end of the 18th century.

The oldest house with a verified date (from dendrochronology) that exists in what had been New Netherland is the timber-framed John Bowne house (1661) at Flushing in Queens County. HVVA produced a monograph on the development of this house in October, 2003. The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff house in Brooklyn could be of a similar age. There are very few building survivals from the 17th century, and relatively few from the first quarter of the 18th.

In Ulster County, early timber-framed buildings are practically non-existent. There seemed to be little prospect of finding any until about a year ago when one was identified in the Village of Stone Ridge. This is the middle unit of an extended stone house. Originally it had been gable fronted, but after the additions were built – as we have seen in a number of other examples – the roof was re-oriented. The opportunity has not yet occurred to do an in-depth study of this house. Earlier this year, HVVA member Sam Scoggins told us about a timber-framed house that had turned up on Old Route 209, not far north of his Cornelius Cool house. We were invited by its owners, to have a look at it, and the writer with Messrs. Decker, Scoggins and Sweeney took the opportunity to measure and photograph this 'find,' identified as the duBois house.

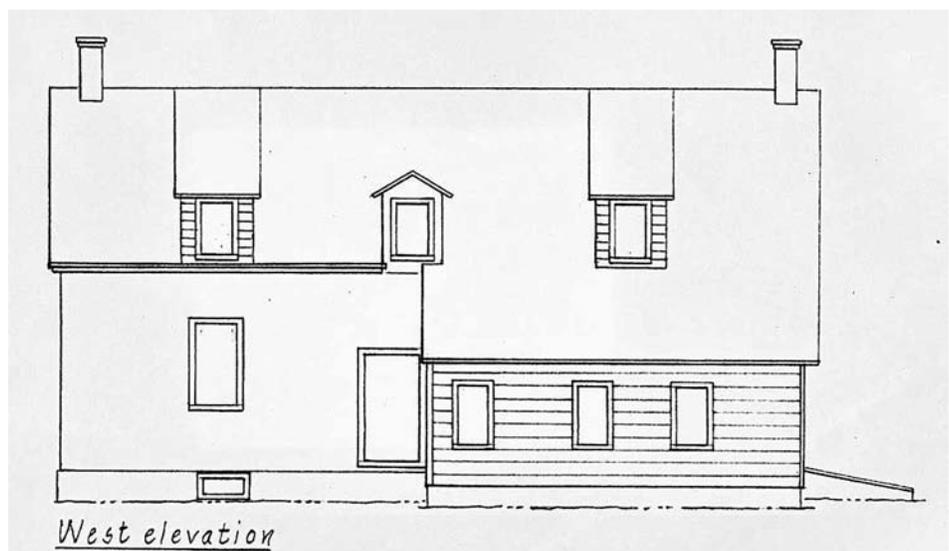
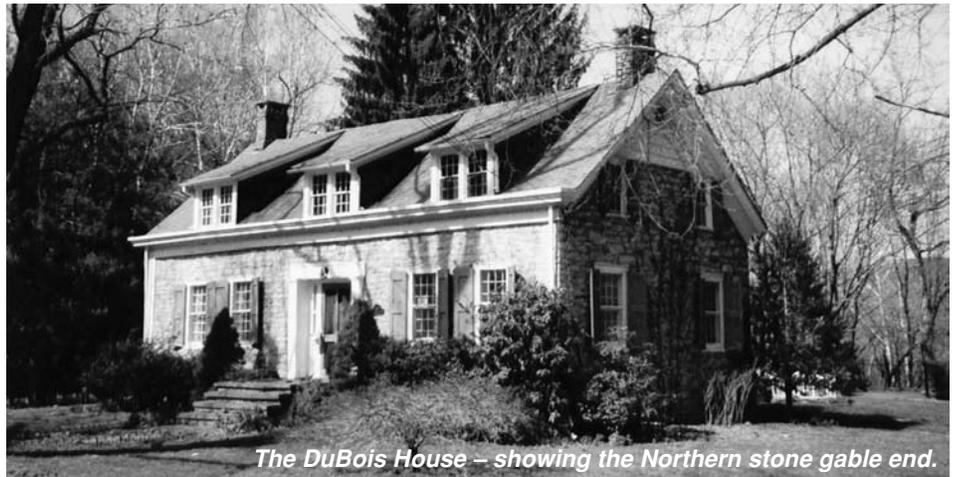
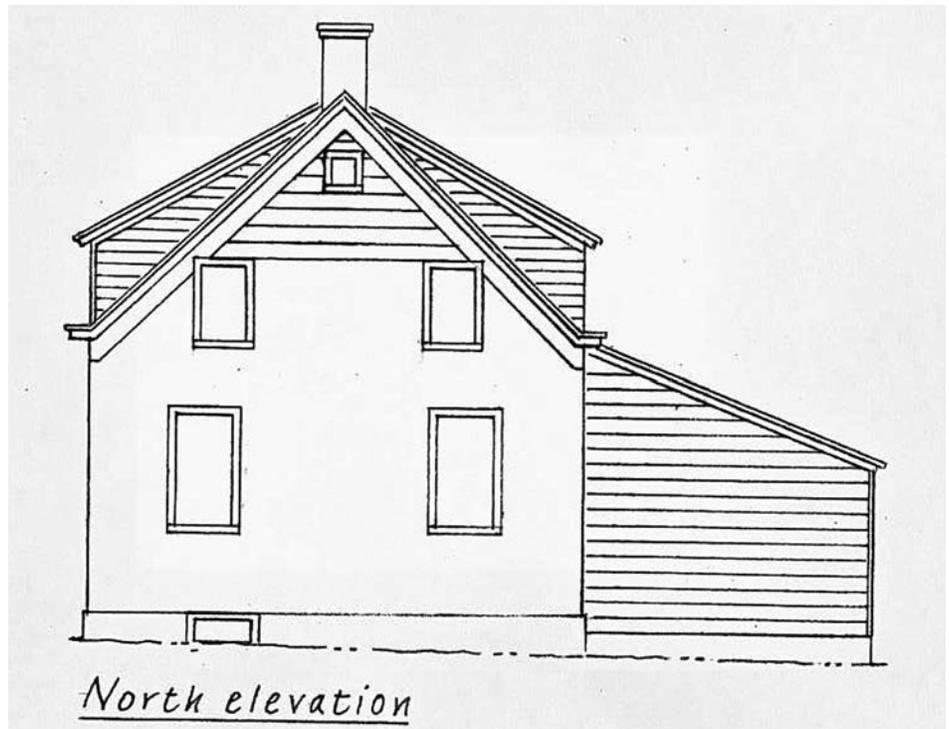
From the street, the duBois house appears like a fairly typical example of a later Ulster County stone house. It faces east towards the road, and is five bays with a central doorway. The windows are 12 over 12 with 7" x 9" glass. The window frames are obviously 18th century – heavy jambs,

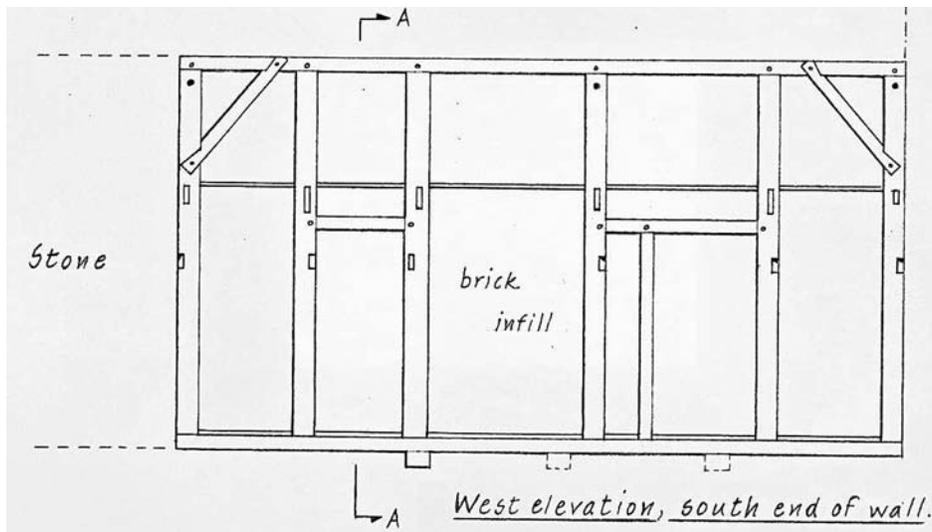


head and sill with pinned mortise-and-tenon corner joints. The doorway with pediment and side lights is an improvement from the 1840-50 period. It measures 45 feet, north-south, and 22 feet east-west. It has a medium-pitch gable roof. A clue that it is more than a typical stone house which we seem hitherto have missed is that the south end wall is covered with weatherboards except for the stone fireplace panel.

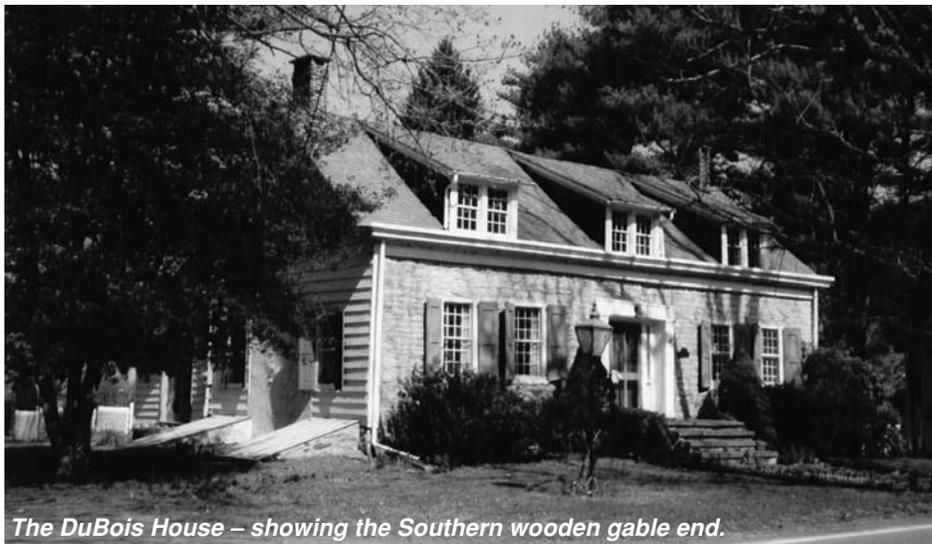
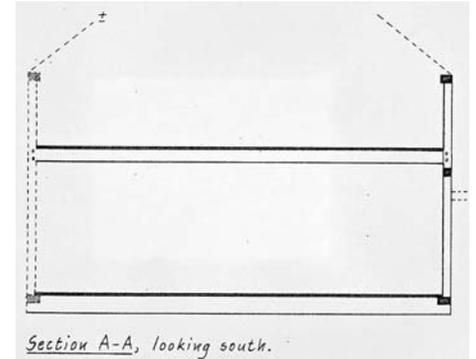
Across the back of the house and covering 23 feet of its west wall is a wooden lean-to. When we entered the lean-to on our February visit, we were surprised to see a complete timber-framed wall fully exposed from sill to plate, and from corner post to corner post. Outside to outside measurement over the corner posts is 22'-9", and the height from the underside of the sill to the top of the plate is 12'-3". There are six H-bents, irregularly spaced. Corner braces at the top end corners are installed with lap-dovetail joints. Two doorways had been located between bents (*see top drawing on page 12*) and the wall is infilled with brick nogging. Gains in the sides of the posts indicated the early, if not original existence of the lean-to. An interesting structural feature is the way that the sill sits in notches cut in the ends of the floor beams so that the ends of the beams are flush with the outside face of the sill. In the lean-to area several re-used timbers that have been identified as hay barrack roof plates have been found.

The original timber-framed structure of unascertained date and possibly mid-18th century, 22'-9" north-south and 22 feet east-west may have had a lean-to, 13 feet wide, on its west side either from the time it was built, or added at an early date (?). About 1780 (?) the main wooden structure had a 22 foot addition in stone made to it on its north end, and at the same time the wooden east wall of the original part was reconstructed in stone. The opportunity was taken to increase the ceiling height in the original part by about a foot. The tenons on their



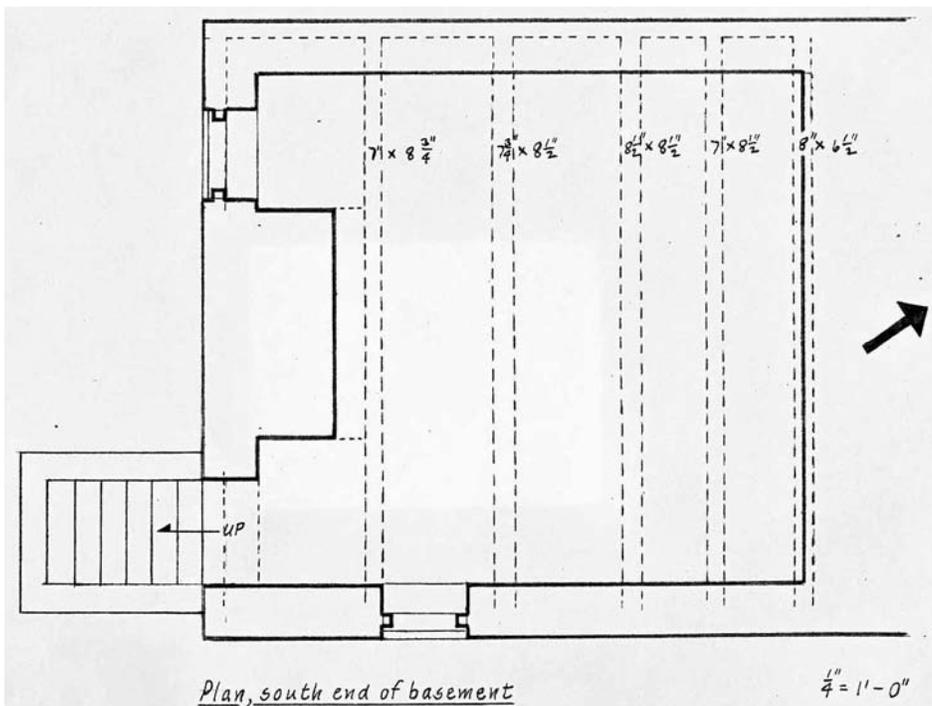


west ends were cut off, and the second floor joists were set higher up, supported in the new stone wall at their east ends, and in the brick noggin at the west ends. A ledger strip was also nailed to the outside of the wall posts to partially support the joists.



Conclusions:

Prior to 'discovering' the house in Stone Ridge and the duBois house, the early existence of timber-frame houses in Ulster County was to be found in literary references and the occasional finding, in stone buildings, or re-used timber elements. A good example of this is in the Abraham Hasbrouck house on Huguenot Street in New Paltz, which has in its southern section at the top of the front (west) wall, a re-used wall plate from an earlier timber-framed building. I hope more re-used elements like this will be recorded, and the possibility exists that a complete timber-framed structure from the early period may yet be found, encapsulated within a later stone building. ■



Elmendorf Barn – Spectacle of a unique structure

Route 213, High Falls, Ulster Co., N.Y.

By Gregory D. Huber



Exterior view of three-aisle Elmendorf barn is seen with all regular features of classic barn which include main wagon doors with four door leaves, overhead pentice and corner animal doors. All windows on the gable wall may be original except the two widows at the right side.

Photograph by Manuela Michailescu

One very peculiar three-aisle four-bay barn appears in High Falls in Ulster County, namely the mid-nineteenth century James Henry Elmendorf barn. Actually it might well appear near the very top of the list of very unusual barns in the Dutch-American realm. This barn has so many unique traits. Where does an author begin?

Mention of two categories constitutes the beginning of the discussion of this very special barn. First are some dimensions of the barn. The second among other aspects is a number of un-paralleled traits seen in the interior of the barn. Before that, however, is some brief information on the Elmendorf homestead and the historic buildings (minus the barn).

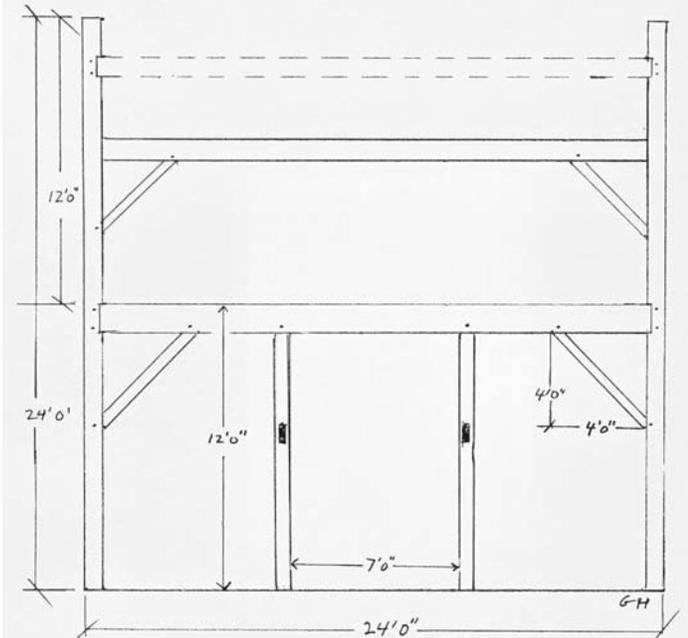
This report on the Elmendorf barn may stimulate a memory in some readers. It should as a discussion of the barn was included in an article by the author – “True U-Barns of Ulster County (Part 2)” in the September-October 2007 HVVA Newsletter. This article will greatly expand on many details of design, style, construction and fabric seen in the exceptional Elmendorf barn.

The Elmendorf Homestead

The Elmendorf homestead is located in Ulster County in the High Falls area of Rosendale Township at its extreme western edge. It is on the southern side of Route 213 on a slight curve of the road about a quarter mile east of Mohonk Road. The homestead now owned by Martin Tully and his wife was first bought by

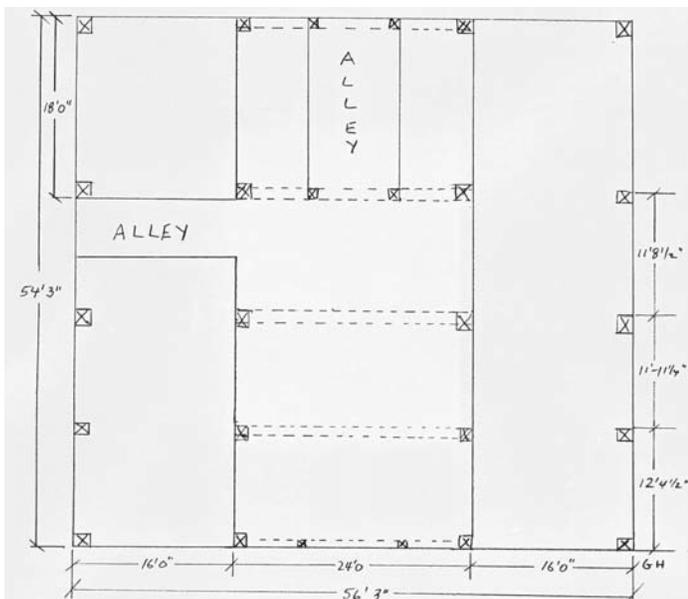
Martin's parents in 1930. Martin grew up in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn and the family spent summers at the old farm. The Tully family, of Irish origin, bought about 65 acres where the property with the historic house and barn has been whittled down to 36 acres. Fifteen acres appears on the north side of the main road and the remainder on the south side where the barn appears. Martin's sister owns 30 acres on the hill. Martin and his wife Janine have lived at the old farm since 1959.

James Henry Elmendorf, who built both the main frame house and the Dutch-American three-aisle barn, was born in 1804 and died in July 1885. It is not known who owned the land prior to the ownership of the Elmendorf family. Soon after James Henry died, the plantation lands that consisted of about 200 acres passed into the hands of James Henry Van der Mark. It was this second James Henry who built the tenant house about 1890 that the Tully family now rents. Then, yet a third James Henry with the last name of Phillips bought the land from the Van der Mark family. On the front door of the main house a knocker is seen with the words “Phillips Manor.” Later, the wife of Phillips was remarried to a man named Cashin who was head of the New York State National Guard during World War I. Thus just four families have owned the homestead for more than 200 years. It should be mentioned that, remarkably, Martin's father's name was also James Henry. It might be some kind of record – as in unique in the Hudson River Valley – where four successive land owners at the same homestead had the first two names James Henry.



Last inner bent of Elmendorf barn originally had three tie beams – a very rare trait. Seen here are the regularly placed anchor-beam and end braces. A now gone upper tie appeared about one foot below the tops of the posts. About 7 ½ feet above the anchor-beam is another tie with end braces. Below anchor-beam are two evenly spaced posts that frame the opening of the centered alley in far end bay.

Floor plan of Elmendorf barn that includes three aisles. This barn has just one end wall with wide wagon doors. The far end bay is the most interesting and unusual aspect of the barn. In the middle aisle is a unique centered alley that runs the full width of the last bay that leads to a small door in the far end wall. At the left side aisle in last inner bay is another unique alley that includes side wall door to exterior and door to basement.



Two-story Greek Revival frame house circa 1850 sits about 200 feet from Elmendorf three-aisle barn. The triangular pediment at top and the four fluted support columns dominate the structure as defining elements of the house type. Single story wing at the left is original. Most of narrow horizontal exterior weather-boards are original.

Homestead Buildings

The homestead consists of a few historic buildings. Others have been most likely lost in the past two centuries including an apparent stone house on the property. One observer believed that part of the foundation of the frame house began its life as a stone house.

The frame house that sits 92 feet south of the main road is seen on the left side (east) of the driveway and consists of two historic sections – the original part with one story wing that was built around the year 1850 and a very small late nineteenth century frame section. The main section is two stories in height and Greek-Revival in type. The tenant house at the right side of the driveway has already been mentioned.

Three-Bay One-Aisle Accessory Barn

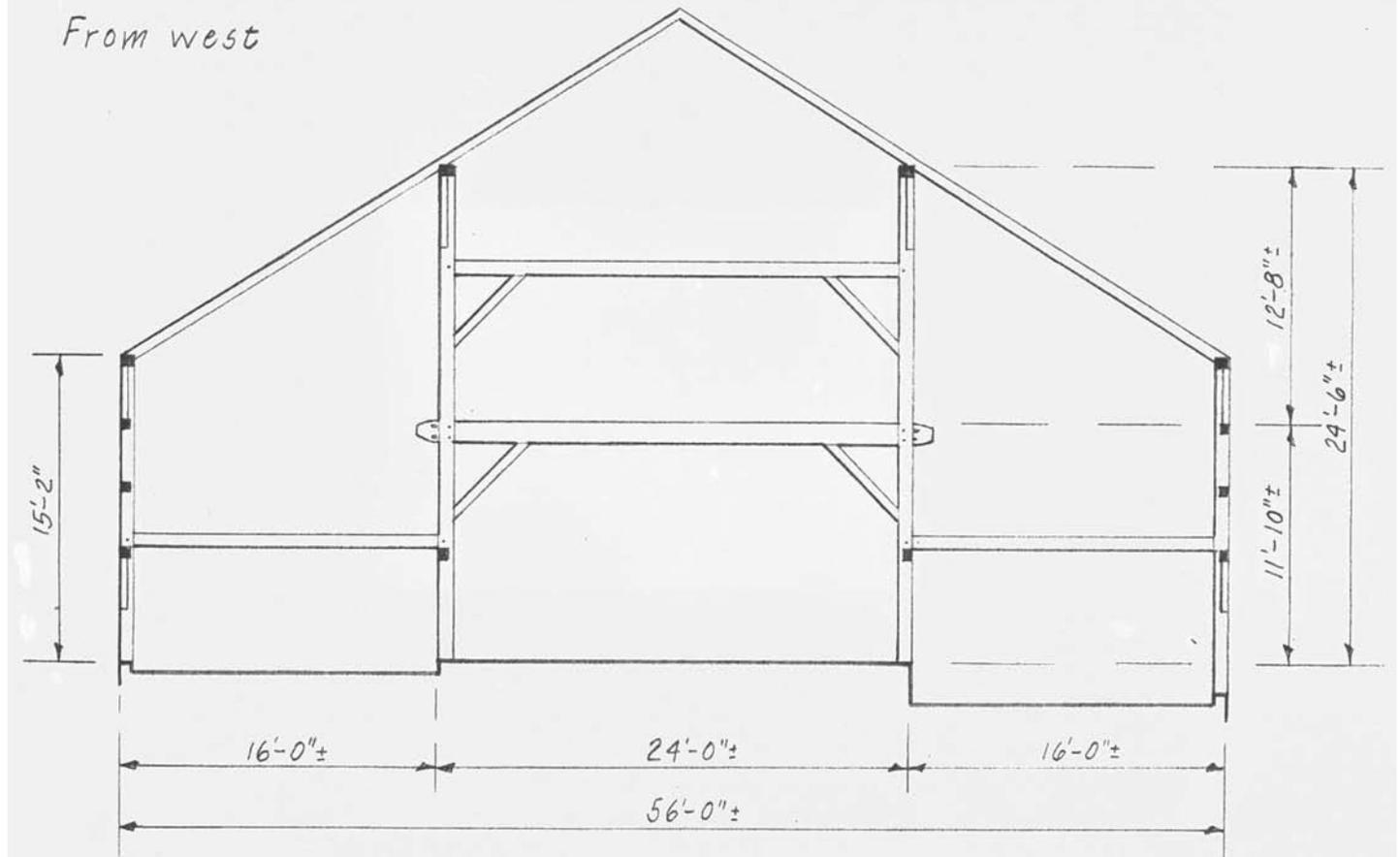
The main barn of three-aisle form that sits about 205 feet south and west of the house at the extreme far end of the driveway is the main topic of this article. However, there is a frame “one-aisle” barn a little less than six feet north of the main barn that is now used as a garage. This smaller barn is 24½ feet wide by 42½ feet long. Side wall height is 16 feet and roof peak height is about 24 feet. The barn is of three-bay construction. Rafters are mostly round poles but a few are hewn, including those at the end walls. Martin says that the upper loft of this barn was once used as a granary. The barn consists of mortise and tenon joinery and posts and tie beams are hewn. All posts have raising holes. One bay at one side wall has brick noggin that is likely not original. At the “lower level” ceiling joists are hewn and an original longitudinal beam is seen that looks like a summer beam. This barn may be contemporary with the aisled barn.

Unique Three-Aisle Elmendorf Barn

One of the most unusual three-aisle barns of Dutch-American type to appear anywhere in either New York or New Jersey is the Elmendorf barn in High Falls, New York. It most likely was constructed several decades after a considerably earlier three-aisle barn that first apparently (*see below*) appeared on the land. This earlier barn would have probably accompanied the stone house that likely existed at one time.

1850 Elmendorf barn, High Falls, Ulster Co., N.Y.

From west



The barn is an original condition classic three-aisle barn with a partial basement at the far end that corresponds to the wide far end bay in its basic dimensions. Only at the west end wall does a wagon door entry appear that is centered on the wall. The main wagon doors face 20 degrees south of west (nominally-west). The barn is built into a slope of ground. The stone foundation wall at the north side wall is a little shy of six feet high at its midpoint. The ground then slopes to a fair degree for about 20 to 25 feet and then drops off markedly beyond that point. Positioning on such a slope of ground is rare or almost unique for a three-aisle barn.

Positioning of Barn

Possessing a number of either unique or very unusual traits, including even the exact physical location on the homestead property, the barn is singularly remarkable. The rear wall of this imposing building sits almost on the edge of a fairly severe drop off of land east of the barn. An elementary awareness of the internal structure (see below) provides the most simple and straight forward understanding for the positioning of the barn. No farm animals exited out the far end wall except possibly at the basement level of the barn. At least in part, among other possible reasons, James Henry Elmendorf wanted to take full advantage of the lay of the land and "backing" his barn up against the edge of a slope of ground permitted him to waste not a tiny bit of land. In certain other ways it also might have allowed James Henry access to the meadow east of the barn. In any event, a simple walk-around examination of the barn and the immediate land it is situated on, and a comparison of a number of exact locations of

other three-aisle barns at other homesteads reveal that the farmer at the Elmendorf farm had some very specific intent for placing his barn where he did. Recall that so many other classic barns at other farms are located on basically flat land. Some exceptions to this are seen.

Exterior Dimensions of Barn

The Elmendorf barn is one of the largest three-aisle structures. It measures 56'3" wide at each end wall (gable wall) and 54'3" long at each eave or side wall. The end wall length is un-surpassed in any barn that has been looked at or examined since the appearance of John Fitchen's *New World Dutch Barn* book in 1968. Only a small hand full of barns have end walls 50 feet wide or greater and a very few are at 52 feet wide. The Zabriskie barn in Bergen County, New Jersey is 53 feet wide. It appears likely that the enormous timbered non-extant four-bay Dutch-Anglo (converted roof) barn in Holmdel – Monmouth County, New Jersey – originally had 57 foot wide end walls.

Each side wall in the Elmendorf barn that is a few inches over 54 feet long is quite long but several barns are about 60 feet long. Two or three barns are about 65 feet long including the massive and unique double-decker (three floor levels) on the west side of Van Wagenen Lane in Marbletown. At the very top of the list is the Civil War era eight-bay Schoonmaker barn (see Huber article in May-July 2008 HVVA Newsletter) in Accord, that is 80 feet long. The square footage of the Elmendorf barn is a tad over 3,050 feet. Any barn with over 2,500 sq. ft. should be considered large.



Close-up of supposed date of construction 1851 and name of homestead owner J.H. Elmendorf of the barn that appears on the west end wall of the structure.

Each side wall is 16'4" inches in height which is rather high. Any barn with a side wall height of about 14 to 15 ft. is quite high. The height of the roof peak is about 34 ft. which is medium to high.

Some Exterior Aspects

Overhanging eaves appear on all four barn walls and the overhangs are each about 15 to 18 inches wide. Horizontal siding appears on all four walls except for part of the north wall. On the south and east walls novelty siding appears and boards are secured with cut nails. Siding on the west end wall is regular and vary 7½ to 8½ inches in width with cut nails and is likely original. Siding on north wall is very unusual and is vertically oriented with cut nails but about 80% of the way up the siding becomes horizontally oriented. It can not be said if this siding is definitely original.

Boldly appearing on the west end wall just under the peak is the apparent (?) date of construction 1851 and the name of J. H. Elmendorf. If original, this is one of the very latest if not the latest date seen affixed on a three-aisle barn.

Barn Doors

The width of the main wagon doors on the west end wall is about 11 feet. Each door half consists of upper and lower halves. Thus there are four half door leaves. The doors pivot outwardly on metal hinges. Most original wagon doors on three-aisle barns in New York State (except the southern most reaches) swing inwardly on wooden hinges at least those barns built before about 1810 or so. Each door leaf has two horizontal battens plus a diagonal batten. All door battens are secured through-out with wrought (rose headed) nails.

On the west end wall are three smaller doors. An original human door appears to the immediate left of the main wagon doors. Such placed doors are seen occasionally in three-aisle barns. In addition doors for animal ingress and egress appear very close to each corner. The southwest corner door with its "extra" battens is unique to the writer (*see photo*). On the south side wall is a small door about one third over from the southwest corner. On the north side wall is a small door about one third of the way over from the northeast corner. On the east end wall a centered door is located that appears at the end of the passage-way or alley in the middle aisle at the far end of the wall. All the doors are original except for the northwest corner door on the west end wall and the south wall door.

Windows

Seven windows appear at the west end wall five of which may be original. In pre 1825 barns exterior wall windows are extremely rare. The circa 1760 three-aisle Wemple barn near Schenectady is an exception where a single window appears just under the peak at each end wall. In the Elmendorf barn at its west end wall are three windows triangularly arranged (or one over two) above the level of the main wagon doors and two small windows at each side of the wagon doors. Non-original windows appear above the door at the southwest corner. On the south side wall nine windows appear at the top of the wall and each window is separated by about three feet. These windows were likely placed as an accommodation for the habitation of chickens after about 1930 in the upper loft area of the south side aisle. In addition, two windows of dissimilar size appear at each side of the door. On the north side wall six modern windows appear to the west of the door. Then, at the east end wall, five windows appear – three triangularly arranged in the upper half of the wall in line with the middle aisle and one at each upper corner of the centered door.

Very rarely does any Dutch-related barn ever attains the number of windows seen in the Elmendorf barn. All the windows both original and non-original were purposely placed to allow for light to penetrate the barn interior to permit the proper functioning of various activities. As the years and decades proceeded along from pioneer times into the 19th century, windows and resultant

Southwest corner animal door is original and the appearance of rear door face battens is unique to the writer. Diagonal batten upper left to lower right is fairly often seen but the other diagonal (partial) battens and middle partial horizontal battens are very rare.



sunlight was considered more and more important in both houses and barns. That is why the average structure built in 1850 has more and bigger windows than buildings constructed 75 years prior to that time. Pronounced cultural dynamics are at play and an in-depth discussion remains beyond the scope of this article.

Interior Aspects of the Barn

Rafters

Nineteen pairs of rafters appear in the barn and in sum they have a nearly unique disposition. All rafters except those that abut the end walls are round poles. Each rafter in a pair except those at the end walls and those above the middle bent actually consists of two rafter sections or lengths. There is an upper rafter section that extends from the roof peak to the purlin plate and then a lower rafter section that variously extends from a few inches to two feet above the purlin plate down to the wall plate. Thus each rafter pair actually consists of four rafter sections – two uppers and two lowers. The lowers are all flat edged on the wall plates. The end wall rafters and the middle or tenth rafter pair consist of rafters in single lengths of timber. This full-length rafter condition is seen very likely for extra strength. End wall rafters have a mixture of hewn surfaces and surfaces left in the round. Rafters both hewn and round pole in the DeWitt barn (Fitchen Barn No 23) have a similar ordering. It may be said that the great width of the Elmendorf barn dictated the appearance of two rafter sections per roof slope per rafter pair. Rafters appear to be mostly pine. Roofers (wood shake nailers) in the barn are likely original.

With a 54 foot 3 inch length the barn should be considered to be quite long. As such both purlin plates and wall plates are spliced and this condition is often found in barns of post 1825 vintage and occasionally before that time. The Nieuwkirk-Kaufman barn and the Hoornbeck-Grace barn both in Ulster County and each built in 1766 had spliced purlins. In the Elmendorf barn each purlin at each barn side consists of two sections. Single length sections at each barn side of each purlin have empty and unused mortises. This very likely signifies that the two timbers (one per barn side) were re-cycled from an earlier barn.

Interior Dimensions

The positioning of the main transverse bents' internalized posts dictates the following interior dimensions. Each side aisle is 16 feet wide. These widths are the widest found in any Dutch related barn. The widest side aisle width normally seen in a three-aisle Dutch-American barn is about 12 to 12½ feet. In abnormal conditions due to certain accommodations a few barns may have greater widths. But as a regular situation the widths seen in the side aisles of Elmendorf barn are un-surpassed. The middle aisle or nave is very close to 24 feet wide which in the overall context is medium in width. This width is not at all unusual in post 1830 barns. The earliest barns or pre 1790 ones most often have the widest naves at 28 to 30 feet. The most narrow nave width is 12 feet and the widest is 32 feet.

Widths of Bays

The widths of the bays measured lay-out face to lay-out face (see *Fitchen, Huber second edition*) are the following – running near end bay to far end bay: 12 feet 4½ inches, 11 feet 11¼ inches, 11 feet 8½ inches and 18 feet 1 inch.

The long last bay is not at all un-common for a number of post-1825 barns. These are considered to be special use barns and are basically a direct result of the Industrial Revolution (see *Huber article – "Ninety-Degree Roof Rotations in New Jersey*

Dutch Barns" in Spring 1999 issue of Material Culture).

These barns often have 16 to as much as 20 feet long far end bays. The large Work barn near Walkill has such a long end bay. The Elmendorf barn is no exception. It would appear that the designation of the barn as a variant U-barn would be basically acceptable.

It appears that few if any original wagon floor planks are intact in the barn. Most or the entire wagon floor in the first three bays is concrete.

H-Frames

Since the barn has four bays there are five main framing units or H-frames. The *verdiepingh* is 12 feet. All anchor-beam to post junctures are square shouldered and in four bents there are no tenon extensions. The very ends of the tenons are chamfered. However, the middle bent has pronounced and distinctive projections of both tenons. In all bents the anchor-beam to post junctures are double pegged. Most timbers of the bents are oak except the two H-frame posts of the middle bent which are pine.

Middle Bent

The anchor-beam of the middle bent is quite unusual in that it was re-cycled (and flipped over) from an earlier Dutch-American barn. This is known from two aspects of the beam. Four empty mortises are found on the soffit of the beam. The existence of the mortises is indicative of the fact that the beam was an end bent in a barn where the mortises were for the placement of end wall studs that appeared above the anchor-beam. In addition, an empty mortise appears on the top surface of the beam a few feet from the extended tenon that was for the former placement of an H-frame brace. The tenon at the north end of the beam extends 19 inches and is double wedged. The tenon form is such that a wide side-ways v was formed. This form is very unusual and the tenon actually has the appearance of several of the tenons in the dated 1766 non-extant Hoornbeck-Grace five-bay barn in Accord.

Middle bent has the greatest depth of any anchor-beam in the Elmendorf barn at 13½ inches. It is 10¼ inches wide.

All the bents have upper tie beams where each tie appears about a foot below the purlins. Such a condition is very infrequently seen in pre 1800 barns but is seen to a fair degree in post 1820 barns. The middle bent and the last inner bent in the Elmendorf barn are different than the others in that there are three ties – the normally placed anchor-beam – one tie about 7½ feet above the anchor-beam and the very high upper tie (without end braces) about one foot below the tops of the posts that is now gone. The situation of two ties above the normal anchor-beam in a bent is extremely unusual and may be unique in the Dutch related barn realm. The upper ties in three bents have end braces.

Last Inner Bent and Far End Bay

The last inner bent is modified somewhat from what would be considered a normal appearance. Two vertical posts each about 7 inches by 7 inches are each positioned just over 7 feet away from the H-frame posts such that the two posts are about seven feet apart (see *sketch*) from each other. End braces are attached to the anchor-beam and posts of the bent – 4 feet by 4 feet. The H-frame posts average 9½ inches by 8½ inches in cross section.

Longitudinal beams that join to the inner placed posts 7 feet above the floor extend over to the east end wall. These beams delimit a longitudinally placed alley that spans the entire length of the last bay or 18 feet. The inner posts are attachment points for longitudinal walls that are formed by 6 to 12 inch wide horizontal



Rear walls of the three-aisle barn at the left and the one-aisle barn at the right are seen in context with the positioning of both structures to the lay

of the land. Property drops off considerably to the east of the classic barn that affords a partial basement at east end of the barn.

boards secured with cut nails. Such an alley so oriented in a last bay is unprecedented in a Dutch-type barn.

In the middle of the alley on each wall are slanted or angled box like boarded elements that are three feet high. There are doors at each side that appear to have been opened for possible depositing of farm crop as food for animals below in the basement. Doors are four feet wide. An opening is seen on each side eight feet long. These slanted openings are original as hewn oak beams frame them.

No doors appear at the alley way opening between the vertical posts as seen in the Bogart barn (See Huber article – “True U-Barns” – in HVVA Newsletter, Feb.- March 2007). There is however an original door at the east end wall in line with the alley.

Side Aisles

A Transverse Side Aisle Alley

Another design element never seen in another three-aisle barn that appears in the north side aisle is a transverse alley. It appears at the back of the last inner bay. It provides access to the exterior of the barn and also a staircase to the basement. The alley is 5½ feet wide and it runs the full width of the aisle. Walls of the alley are formed with original horizontal boards secured with cut nails. The ceiling is seven feet above the floor formed by boards that are original.

The exterior door of the alley is 3 feet 7 inches wide and 5½ feet high. The door is original and has battens secured with wrought nails. Battens are beaded along their long edges. At the west wall of the alley adjacent to the barn side wall is a door close to the side wall door for access into the front three bays of the side aisle.

The door leading to the basement appears on the east wall of the alley and next to the H- frame post of the last inner bent. The door is just over three feet wide and just shy of six feet high. An original looking latch of Norfolk type appears on the door and it is vintage circa 1850. The door leads to a staircase that has an angled ceiling that is framed with two angled hewn beams

and thus this staircase is original. A board at the top of one wall has a signature: Josephus Elmendorf. It is not known who this Elmendorf family member was, or what his important dates are.

Other Elements in Side Aisles

Both side aisles are quite nondescript insofar as any remaining originality is concerned. The north side aisle has a quite typical loft floor that was added likely in the early part of the twentieth century. Stables for horses appeared here on ground level in that era. The ceiling is 7 feet 9 inches high. The floor of the north side aisle is concrete for about the first 12 feet and then beyond that both dirt and concrete are seen.

The south side aisle is dirt on the floor level for about the first 22 feet. Then a step up appears after which the floor is concrete back to the far end of the last inner bay. The ceiling is 9 feet high to floor boards above. Joists of floor lofts above in both side aisles are modern dimensional wood. In the south side aisle the very long (nearly 16 feet) lower transverse ties are seen. In no other barn are side aisle ties so impressive and appealing to the eye. They vary a bit in size and one is 9 by 7 inches. They actually vie in size with anchor-beams seen in a few other three-aisle barns. No upper transverse ties are seen in the Elmendorf barn which is not an uncommon feature in certain other barns. In the loft above chickens were raised in the middle third of the twentieth century. Some interesting elements incidental to the production of eggs in the industry can be seen.

Basement

It is not certain if the staircase to the basement is original. A solid transverse stone wall appears under the last inner bent across the full width of the barn. This wall forms one side of the open basement area that occupies the equivalent area of the far end bay. This area was a dug out section of earth. No other basement area exists.

The ceiling joists are large round logs that are tenoned into a mortised and spliced sill that sits atop the inner transverse stone wall. The ceiling is eight feet high to the floor boards above. The

end wall of this dug out area is of solid stone except a quite large wall opening at its half south end that is about 23 feet long and 4 feet in height where four modern windows are seen. Below the wall opening is solid stone 2 to 2½ feet down to the ground.

The south end of the basement is mostly open wall – that is, no stone wall appears except at the corner – and it likely allowed for simple access to the basement.

No evidence exists where farm animals were stabled in the basement if they were stabled at all. Animals may have roamed the fields beyond the barn and may have wandered into the basement to feed occasionally. The basement may have provided for a general storage area in the barn and also as an area for the transport of farm crop to the exterior of the barn. Such basements in three-aisle barns are very rare.

Summary and Date of Construction

It is fortunate that a late date barn such as that found at the Elmendorf homestead in High Falls has survived. It is very likely that considerably more information has been generated on Dutch type barns in the 1790 to 1830 era in the past few decades than late date barns. Thus an extensive examination of the Elmendorf barn and several other such late era barns has allowed us to better know in certain ways more of the structural components of particular barn building traditions that held sway in the second quarter of the nineteenth century – the era of the basic start of the Industrial Revolution.

So much that is seen in the Elmendorf barn reflects a late date of construction. In general its large size is indicative of a post 1830 construction time. The roof edge overhangs on its four walls as original features are almost never seen in pre 1820 barns. Its original exterior end wall windows are also very rare in first quarter of the nineteenth century barns and before. The timbering is strictly of the square rule era. The first two inner bents have double milled braces per side and this is always a late date characteristic. Even the rafters are almost all of late era round pole type. Little or nothing in the barn hints of a pre 1825 era of construction. The date of 1851 seen at the west end wall may be the construction date of the barn but it can not be said that the date is the actual original erection time of the barn. No elements of construction or fabric in the barn runs counter to the date of 1851 or close to this date.

In the Elmendorf barn in the overall context of construction features superlatives abound. The width of the barn and the widths of the side aisles are unexcelled. Its great width and long side walls offer an exceptionally cavernous interior. Even the date on the wall in and of itself let alone its prominent size is never seen in such a late barn. Other unique features are also seen. The configuration of the far end bay with its centered alley with its in line end door as an obvious adaptation to late date farming practices is seen nowhere else. The north side-aisle alley and the inclusion of an entry to the basement are similarly exceptional. The dug out ground area below the far end bay although of an inscrutable origin is almost totally lacking anywhere else.

Although the barn has been explained in many of its construction features with many dimensions given details of its functional aspects still need to be illuminated. Since virtually no comparisons can be made with other barns more in-depth explanations await future efforts by observers and scholars to complete the total story of the mindsets of the homestead farmer and the builder who constructed this “unique-est” of barns in the middle of Ulster County in the middle of the 19th century. The fact that the actual physical address of the homestead barn is One Dutch Barn Drive in High Falls bears further witness to its special status. ■



ABOVE: Middle bent is seen at its north end with anchor-beam to post juncture with prominent 19 inch long tenon extension with double wedges. Anchor-beam is oak while the post is pine.

BELOW: Two partial H-frames are seen at their north ends. First inner H-frame is without an extended tenon. Note double side-by-side braces of bent. Beyond is middle bent with long extended tenon. To the rear of middle bent is last inner bent with no extended tenon. Above are seen round pole rafters of softwood likely pine.



The far end bay in the middle aisle has the unique centered alley that stretches the full width of bay to the far end wall. The alley is framed by posts at each side and south wall of alley consisting of original horizontal boards is seen. Old farm implements are seen in the alley.



Membership info

If you have been receiving this newsletter, but your membership is not current and you wish to continue to receive the HVVA newsletter and participate in the many house-study tours offered each year, **please send in your dues.**

Membership currently pays all the HVVA bills and to keep us operating in the black. **Each of us must contribute a little.**

Membership dues remains at a low \$20 per year (\$15 for Students). So if you haven't sent in your dues or given a tax deductible donation to the HVVA mission, **please consider doing so now.**



Yes, I would like to renew my membership in the amount of \$.....

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible contribution to help the effort of preserving the Hudson Valley's Architectural Heritage. Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of \$.....

Name

Address

.....

City.....

State Zip

Phone

E-mail

Please mail checks to:

HVVA
P.O. Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491

A look back



*Sadly this majestic barn met its demise when a reported storm weakened the structure beyond repair this past August. Known locally as the **McSpirit Barn**, it was located on the Sawkill Road in the Town of Ulster, New York.*

Calendar

Country Seats Tour Docent Training

Sat., Sept. 19, 2009 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Training to be held in the fellowship hall of the Hurley Reformed Church, located on Main Street, Hurley NY. All members wishing to volunteer should attend this meeting. House assignments will be given out on this day. Refreshments provided.

Country Seats Tour

Sat., Oct. 3, 2009 – 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sun., Oct. 4, 2009 – 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
The combined effort of HVVA and Hudson River Heritage present the 21st annual "Country Seats Tour" Exploring *What's Dutch*. For tickets please follow the link on HVVA.org or call (845) 876-2474.

New World Dutch Architecture of the Hudson Valley

Tuesday, November 10, 2009, 7:00pm
Presented by Walter Wheeler.

Sand Lake Historical Society,
Sand Lake Baptist Church, 2960 NY 43,
Averill Park, NY.

To Ghent we go again!

Sat., Nov. 21, 2009 – 10:30 AM
Meeting at the Home of HVVA Members,

Sheldon Evans and Martha McMaster,
342 Legget Road, Ghent NY 12075. Join us as we explore un-tapped roots of 18th Century architecture In Columbia County.

Holiday Tour

Sat., Dec. 12, 2009 – 10:00 AM

We'll gather in the parking lot behind the Kingston School District administrative offices on Green St. (the first right off North Front Street if you are coming via Washington Ave.) This event is by far the most fun tour of the year. Here we visit houses, have a great lunch and then processed to the Friends of Historic Kingston's Gallery to view recent drawings created by our own Peter Sinclair. Cost of the lunch is \$20, payable on the day of the tour. RSVP is a must to attend this outing! Contact Rob at 845-336-0232 or e-mail to gallusguy@msn.com

HVVA Annual Meeting

Sat., Jan. 16, 2010 – 10:00 AM

Our annual meeting will be held in the Marletown Fire House, located just off on Route 209, north of Stone Ridge. Election of officers and planning for 2010 will be the topic of the day. All members are welcome. Bring something to "show and tell" – it's a tradition! Coffee & doughnuts will be provided! Lunch to follow.