The Society for the Preservation of
Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

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Harmon Vanderzee House & Barn, Feura Bush. Photo by Roberta Jeracka.

As we begin to complete our tour season for 2013, it is time to reflect on the fascinating places we have visited, and encourage members who have not taken advantage of this (free!) benefit to participate.

- In February Conrad Fingado led a tour of notable 18th-century properties in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, which included a private home, the John Jones Homestead, St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the Van Cortlandt Manor House.
- The March outing ventured into New Jersey for a tour of properties along the Passaic River in Bergen County
- An invitation from an enthusiastic new owner of an undocumented 18th-century house in the Town of Poughkeepsie resulted in a spontaneous tour in April. It was associated with the Kimlin Cider Mill, a community preservation project. Afterwards, the group spent the sunny afternoon on a walking tour of New Hamburg, a remarkable surviving 19th-century Hudson River landing led by a local history group.
- Doris Soldner organized a tour of houses and barns around Palatine Bridge in the Mohawk Valley in May. The Mohawk River is a tributary of the Hudson.
- In June we visited Richmond Town on Staten Island with Bill McMillen.
- The July slot on the events schedule has traditionally been reserved for Hurley Stone House Day where HVVA maintains an information table and recruits new members. However, perhaps the best reason to reserve the day comes afterwards when trustee Jim Decker hosts the HVVA annual picnic.
- Greene County was the destination for August's house tour, which was led by Don Hanzl.
- Historic houses in and around the Saratoga Battlefield were the attractions of a tour in Saratoga County conducted by HVVA president Wally Wheeler.

And that brings us up-to-date on what has proven to be another busy and successful event season for this little volunteer organization. Our sincere thanks to all those who have organized and participated in tours.

This year's tour schedule concludes in October with a trip to the Town of Yorktown in Westchester County with buildings selected by new member J-F DeLaperouse, who also has an article in this issue of the newsletter. A trip to the Brooklyn Museum is planned for November, with the annual HVVA Holiday Tour and Luncheon to happen in Kingston in December. Check the calendar on the back page and the HVVA web site for details.

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

A Local Landmark Lost: The David Knapp House Yorktown, Westchester County, New York

By J-F De Laperouse

Intriguing history and construction details can lurk behind the most unprepossessing facades in the Hudson Valley. A case in point was provided by the Knapp house that stood for over two hundred years on Old Crompond Road in Yorktown, New York *(Fig.1)*. Sheathed in aluminum siding and subjected to disfiguring alterations, this house stood unappreciated for many years until it was demolished in 2012 for a commercial development project.

In his History of Westchester County, J.T. Scharf notes that David Knapp was a descendant of Nicholas Knapp who emigrated from England to Massachusetts in 1630. He purchased the land where the house stood in 1762. Sheltered by uplands on all sides except the south and traversed by Hunter's Brook, a significant tributary to the Croton River, the site was an ideal spot for a homestead, but it is not known if a dwelling already existed on the property at the time of this purchase as the original deed has not been found. A farmer by profession, David Knapp was a member of the local militia during the Revolutionary War and a deacon of Yorktown's First Presbyterian Church before his death in 1804. In a contemporary journal that was published and annotated by E. W. Warren Roebling and J. G. Leach in 1903, the pastor Silas Constant records church-related meetings and functions that took place at David Knapp's house.

The home remained in the Knapp family until the early 20th century when it was bought by the popular entertainer Anna Held (1872-1918), a former wife of Florenz Ziegfeld, who is often credited as being the inspiration behind the Ziegfeld Follies. Anna Held, who grew up in extremely impoverished circumstances in Poland and France, bought numerous properties with the wealth her fame provided. Being a free-spirited person for her time, she was fond of driving her automobile through the countryside, which may be how she discovered the Knapp house *(Fig. 2)*. Although it is unlikely that she spent much time at the house before her premature death in 1918, afterwards, her only child, Liane Carrera, turned the house into a country inn and museum dedicated to the memory of her mother's career *(Fig. 3)*. The newly completed Bronx Parkway Extension – now the Taconic Parkway – provided easy access to the inn from New York City. Indeed this establishment had a standing ad in *The New Yorker* magazine in the 1930s and hosted dance bands, an art exhibition, benefits for actors struggling through the Depression and even a ping pong tournament.

A 1931 *Westchester County Times* article indicates that Ms. Carrera found the 1796 will of Moses Knapp in the attic

Fig. 1 – View of house from southeast, 2009.
Photo by Sullivan Architecture, Thornwood NY.

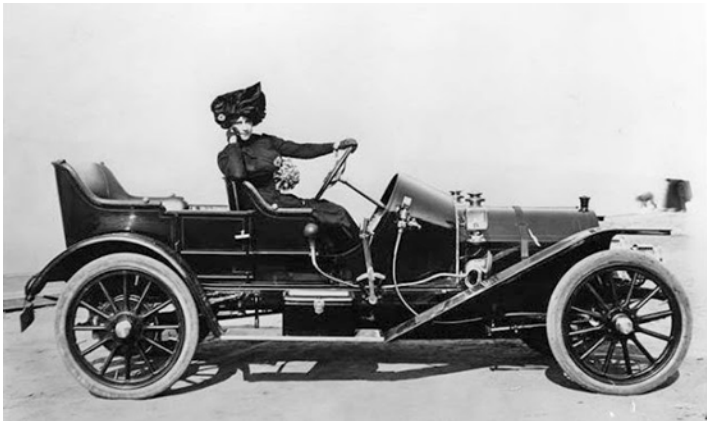

Fig. 2 – Anna Held driving her automobile, c.1910.
From http://myloveofoldhollywood.blogspot.com

Fig. 3 – Advertisement for opening of Anna Held Tavern, 1931.
Westchester County Times.

GALA OPENING

Anna Held Tavern

The Anna Held Tavern, on Crompond Road, in Yorktown, east of Peekskill, opens to the public for the first time on Saturday, May 23rd.

A special Hawaiian Orchestra from New York City has been engaged for Music and Dancing.

There is on view a permanent exhibit of personal effects and belongings used by the internationally famous actress, the late Anna Held.

Reservations Now -:- $2.50 per person
Regular Dinners, Week Days and Sundays - $1.50
Tel. Peekskill 3040

which referred to the “old house.” This article further states that the house had ”the traditional Dutch oven, the warming closet and other landmarks which add to its Colonial charm.” However, a sepia-toned photograph taken around this time (and kindly sent by Anna Held’s granddaughter, Antoinette Martensen) shows a story-and-a-half house with a five-bay front façade and center entrance designed in the Greek Revival style more typical of the second quarter of the 19th century *(Fig. 4)*. An addition on the eastern end contained a one-story kitchen wing probably added near the turn of the 20th century and a second-story sleeping porch, probably added by the Helds along with Colonial Revival-style shutters.

Later Carrera expanded the basement level that had been exposed at grade on the west end of the house for a restaurant and added stone walls and a wide terrace for dining and dancing *(Fig. 5)*. Carrera and her husband, J. Dodd Martensen, created a residence in a post and beam barn behind the house, which also was used as a roller skating venue and bar. (The barn stood in altered form until it, too, was recently demolished.) Built into the hillside to the west of the barn was a root cellar with stone walls and a ceiling supported with massive wooden logs *(Fig. 6)*. Photos dating to the 1960s provided by later owners indicate that the house and the surrounding pastoral landscape remained largely unchanged until the area was redeveloped commercially in the following decades, at which time the house was divided into three separate apartments and all of the surviving interior historic detail was stripped out and discarded.

Although included in an inventory of historic properties compiled in 2006 by Larson Fisher Associates as part of the Town of Yorktown’s Comprehensive Plan, this house was not locally landmarked and neither the developer nor the town responded positively to efforts to preserve it, even though it occupied what is now only the corner of a parking lot. Unfortunately, full access to the house was not provided until the days following Hurricane Sandy in the fall of 2012, and it was demolished soon thereafter. Unable to get an experienced person to come and examine the house during that difficult period and well aware of my own lack of knowledge about early framing, I tried to uncover and photograph as much as I could on my own.

Outwardly, the house appeared to be a typical early 19th-century farmhouse in the local vernacular style with a story-and-a-half, gable-roof form and a center hall plan with one large front room and a smaller rear room on either side. A kitchen occupied the west end of the basement, which was exposed at grade, which also was a common feature of farmhouses in this area. By the early 19th century, houses of this type often contained one large chamber centered under the roof ridge on one end of the attic and two rooms under the eaves and divided along the ridge on the other. It was unusual that the house had two

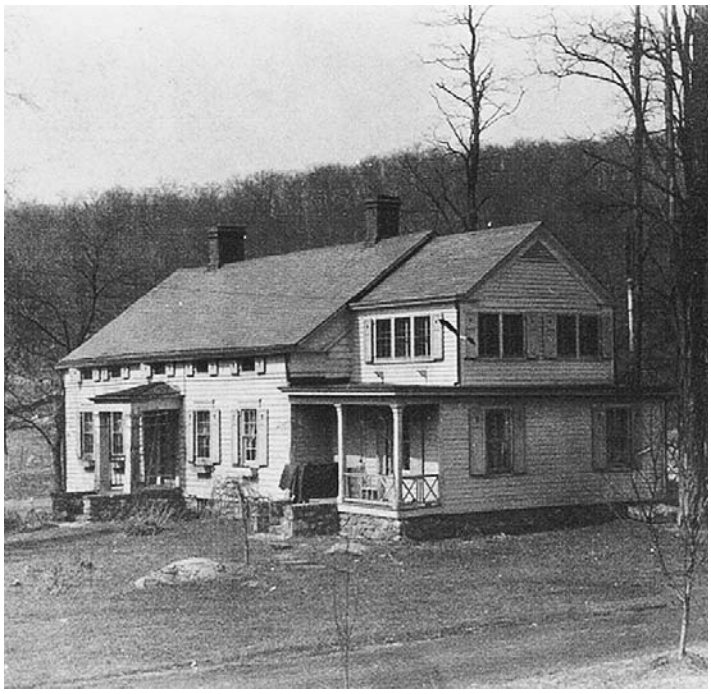

Fig. 4 – View of house from southeast, c.1930. Photo courtesy of Antoinette Martensen.

Fig. 5 – View of house from southwest, 2009. Photo by Sullivan Architecture, Thornwood NY.

Fig. 6 – Interior of root cellar, 2012. Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

Fig. 7 – View of front facade from south with siding removed, 2012. Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

Fig. 8 – Detail of H-bent joint on east side of front façade, 2012. Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

chimneys positioned internally in the plan, between the rooms on either side of the center hall, rather at the ends. This placement may have affected the plan of rooms on the attic level.

Numerous details such as the asymmetrical spacing of the windows on the front façade, the tall frieze windows, the absence of substantial corner boards and the awkward return of the frieze boards on the sides of the house indicated that this structure might not have originated as a Greek Revival-period house. Indeed, when the aluminum and clapboard siding was removed from the front wall, it was revealed that the house was built using two framing systems *(Fig. 7)*. To the right- or east-side of the central doorway the house was constructed with Dutch H-bent construction with roughly hewn main posts spaced 4 feet apart and intermediary studs installed as nailers for the plaster lath. The 9-inch tall, smoothly planed and painted tie beams joined to the posts with through tenons were held in place with two pegs *(Fig. 8)*. Windows had been inserted between the main posts but facing notches on the inside faces of central two posts suggest the former presence of a doorway. The bottoms of the posts were all cut off at some point, presumably due to rot, and replaced above the sill beam which appeared to be a minimally flattened log.

The front room on this side of the house was blocked off and a request for permission to remove at least part of the ceiling to see if the tie beams had been cut down or if there was any evidence of a jambless fireplace was ignored by the owner. The existing fireplace in that room had been rebuilt on top of a base of mortared granite base in the basement and the joists supporting the first floor on this side of the house were hand-hewn with mortises suggesting the former presence of partition walls.

On the west side of the house, however, framing typical of the 19th-century was employed using hewn principal timbers and sawn studs and braces *(Fig. 9)*. The braces in the two upper corners featured through joins with diminished housing and all of the joins were scribe-marked with deeply chiseled numerals. The large hearth with the beehive oven mentioned in the 1931 article was found behind a false wall on the basement level and beneath fireplaces that served both rooms above *(Fig. 10)*. While the large hearth had been refaced with modern bricks, old bricks laid a very weak lime mortar were found in the beehive section and in the fireplaces above. Although the chimney flues above the first floor had been rebuilt, the fireboxes on the first floor were in danger of collapse.

The roof structure consisted of long sawn rafters, placed 4 feet on center that were supported midway along their run by purlins mounted on braced posts in the upper story. All of the rafters were scribe marked and pegged and it appeared that the roof across the entire length of the house was built with the addition. With an entrance in the

Fig. 9 – Detail of framing on west side of front façade, 2012.
Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

front and a fireplace in the rear, the original section may have had a front-gable roof. Regrettably, I did not have the opportunity to examine more of the structure of the house although some items including the front doorway and frieze windows were saved for the Yorktown Historical Society.

How can one explain this composite structure? It is conceivable that a small tenant structure already existed at this desirable site when it was purchased by David Knapp in 1762. Given that the land originally formed part of the of the Van Cortlandt patent, it would not be surprising if such an early structure had been erected according to the Dutch framing tradition. Yet, alternatively, the house could have been built in the same fashion by David Knapp after he purchased the homestead. The house was enlarged, formalized and updated decoratively in the early 19th century, probably by Moses Knapp IV, who died in 1839, or his son, David W. Knapp, whose name appears on the 1868 Beers Atlas map of Yorktown. This renovation was made after house framing was modified to include sawn secondary members, but early enough that fireplaces had yet to be replaced by stoves for heating and cooking. The large and presumably costly central doorway featuring side and transom lights and dentil molding symbolized the Knapps' prestige as one of the earliest families of Yorktown. Unfortunately, with all of the evidence now destroyed, a full understanding of the evolution of this house will never been known *(Fig. 11)*. Nevertheless it provided a window into a transitional period in Hudson Valley vernacular architecture in which small traditional 18th-century dwellings were enlarged and transformed using standardized construction materials and methods and updated to reflect modern tastes and lifestyles.

Although the house was lost, this case helped to spur the reformation of Yorktown's Landmark Preservation Commission and the Preservation Subcommittee of the Yorktown Historical Society.

Thanks to William Krattinger, Neil Larson and Walter Wheeler for their advice and assistance in the documentation and interpretation of this house.

Fig. 10 – View of fireplace in front room on first story, 2012.
Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

Fig. 11 – View of house being demolished, 2012.
Photo by J-F De Laperouse.

Monmouth County, New Jersey and Its Three-Aisle Barns – Hendrickson Barn

By Greg Huber

Fig. 1 – The Hendrickson three-aisle barn, Crawford Corners Road, Holmdel NJ, c. 1790.
Note deterioration of eave wall on the right. Photo by Gail Hunton, 1981.

Three barns have been described thus far in the series of articles on the three-aisle barns in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Distinctive traits define each of them. These variations among corresponding features in each building, together with their own particular locations and settings, lend a distinctive character and aura to each barn. The Hendrickson barn in Holmdel, the focus of this article, is no exception. As it is, no other early style three-aisle barn has survived in the county. It should be realized that at one time, dozens of these classic buildings dotted the cultural landscape in the county. Sadly, only a few token barns existed into the late twentieth century.

The barn occupied a tract of land that was settled by Richard Stout as early as 1690. Nearly one hundred years later the Hendrickson family occupied the property. The history of the homestead is provided on page 410 of Rosalie Fellows Bailey's Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York (1936). Bailey wrote that Denise Hendrickson probably bought the homestead from the Stout family shortly after his marriage to Anne Schenck in December 1786. She asserted that Hendrickson likely built the main section of the two-section frame house (plus lean-to) about 1790. This date seems to be closely aligned with the construction date of the three-aisle barn.

The property stayed in the Hendrickson family until it was sold in the late nineteenth century to Patrick Kelly. After much effort to save the house, it was dismantled in 2006. A Historic American Building Survey (HABS) team documented the house in 1940, but not the barn, stating only that the homestead contained "a fine collection of outbuildings – barns and sheds."

Located about 400 hundred feet northeast of Crawford Corners Road in the Pleasant Valley area of Holmdel near Hop Creek, the Hendrickson barn was an excellent example of a late-eighteenth-century three-aisle barn *(Fig. 1)*. The author visited the barn in 1991 with Gail Hunton,

a historian working for the Monmouth County Parks Department, and it was the topic of a detailed article that appeared in the second Dutch Barn Research Journal, edited and published by the author in 1995.

The structure was in rough shape; it must have been in a poor state of repair for a number of years. Fortunately, in 1981 Gail took several photos of the venerable structure, both exterior and interior. Ten years later, a great deal of vegetation surrounded the barn that then prevented good photographs to be taken. On July 1st 1992 word came from Clifford Zink, a central New Jersey architectural historian, that the barn roof had collapsed. A visit was made three days later and several hours were spent recording its many features. Mary Darby, who bought the place with her husband Richard around 1965, granted permission for entry into the barn. Part of the roof actually survived over a section of one of the side aisles. This permitted a clear view of the disposition of the rafters. However, much of the middle aisle was filled with "stuff" accumulated through the years.

Exterior Features

The four-bay barn stood 334 feet in direct alignment to the northeast (rear) side of the house. This distance is unusually long. Most house and barn separations at homesteads in central New Jersey range from about 150 to 250 feet. It may have been that the Hendrickson barn was moved from its original location at the farm. The roof ridge-lines of the house and barn were not exactly parallel to each other but were off-set by about twelve degrees. The end wall of the barn (that faced the road) was oriented 22 degrees west of south. This is consistent with findings for 18th-century barns, which were often oriented in response to environmental considerations, such as weather, terrain and exposure to sun. After about 1810, order and "good taste" had become a factor in farm landscapes and we recognize that the ridgelines of many buildings were oriented to be either parallel or perpendicular to each other to create the appearance of neatness.

Exterior dimensions of the barn could not be determined exactly as the one side aisle was mostly gone. Assuming the side aisles were the same dimensions, the overall width of the barn (each end wall) was close to 50 feet and the length (each eave wall) was 48 feet 4 inches. Sidewall height was close to 12 feet. An estimate of the roof peak height is about 25 feet.

The house side end wall of the barn originally had horizontal weatherboards but the sidewalls curiously enough appeared to have had vertical siding. This last feature occasionally occurred on three-aisle barns in both New York and New Jersey. Hunton's 1981 photo shows that swinging type wagon doors were affixed at the front end wall *(Fig. 1)*.

Interior Features

Virtually all timbers in the Hendrickson barn were oak. Not all the barns in the county were constructed with oak timbers; a few were made of tulip wood. Thirteen pairs of hewn rafters constituted the Hendrickson roof structure *(Fig. 2)*. The tapered rafters measured 6 by 4½ inches in cross section (cs) at the top and about 8 by 6 inches (cs) at the bottom. The bottoms were bird's mouthed on to the wall plates *(Fig. 3)*. An iron spike (10½ inches long) secured one rafter to the plate, which likely was the case at other rafter to plate unions. Notches were cut about mid-way to be received onto the purlin plates. The author has no record of how the tops of the rafters were joined, but probably with a pegged fork-and-tongue joint.

Amazingly, many original wood roof shingles were found secured to lath with wrought nails *(Fig. 4)*. Several retained

Fig. 2 – View of rafters remaining over one side aisle; sections above the purlin having collapsed onto floor of barn. View includes two H-frame posts with their attendant purlin braces. Photo by Greg Huber, 1992.

Fig. 3 – View of underside of roof showing rafters, wood shingles and oak lath. Note bottom ends of rafters are fish-mouthed onto wall plates. Photo by Greg Huber, 1992.

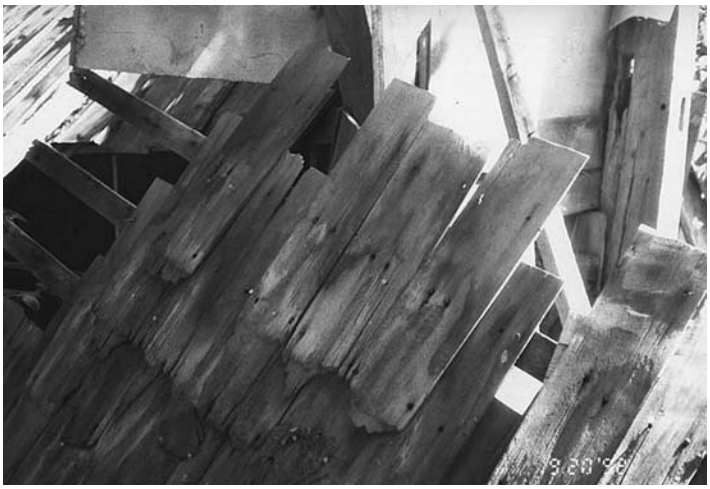

Fig. 4 – View of original roof shingles with sections exposed to weather reduced to nubs. The shingles were secured to roof lath with wrought nails. Section of roof covering shown here had fallen to ground. Photo by Greg Huber, 1992.

their full original 32-inch lengths with widths varying from 6½ to 8 inches. About 10 inches of the shingle was exposed to the weather. A layer of asbestos shingles overlaid the wood shingles, probably added in about 1950, and unless there was an undetected or previously discarded layer of roofing in between, the wood shingles would have been in service for about 160 years. The author attempted to have the species of wood of the shingles identified but, unfortunately, two authorities came up with two different tree species, both common in the western United States. The whole story is a very convoluted but fascinating one and merits detailed attention in a future article.

The one remaining purlin plate was a single length of timber 7½ by 10½ inches (cs). The purlin was notched to receive the notch cut into the rafters. All eight hewn purlin braces were intact at the one side of the barn. Braces were 6½ by 4¼ inches (cs). They joined the posts just 20½ inches above the anchor-beams, and this quite low position on the H-frame posts is consistent with late 18th-century methods of construction.

The center aisle was 26 feet 2 inches wide. (Bear in mind that this measurement was taken when the H-frames were not plumb and its timbers tight in their original positions.) The one intact side aisle was 12 feet in width. Each of the four bays was 11 feet 8 inches wide.

H-frame posts were 19 feet 3 inches in height and the *verdiepingh* was a short 6 feet 4 inches. At a point about 4½ feet above the floor level, each post measured between 11½ and 13½ inches wide and 10 inches thick. None of the posts had raising holes. Several of the posts toward their bottoms had two sizable notches of varying types at their outer lateral faces for attachment of planks or other wooden elements for containment of animals in the side aisles. Certain notches in posts in the one side aisle in the Hendrickson barn seemed to indicate that a special pen for animals (sheep?) was set aside beyond the common inclusion of cows and horses seen in many barns.

The heights of each inner anchor-beam were greater at their midpoints – 18½ to 20 inches – than at their joints with the posts – about 16 to 18 inches. Through tenons extended 10 to 12 inches beyond the posts and were square in profile, which is standard for oak anchor-beams. The tenons were double pinned and double wedged *(Fig. 5)*. One wedge was 18 inches long. Anchor-beam joints had diminished haunch or angled connections. Braces were hewn. Inner braces averaged about 8 by 5 inches (cs) and were double pegged at each end; it appears that these braces were single pegged at one end wall.

Strangely, no marriage marks were seen at the anchor-beam to H-frame post connections. Marks were visible at other unions of the H-frames and also in the side aisles. At the northwest end of the H-frames were one-inch chisel marks and at the opposite end were two-inch chisel marks. This differential arrangement of marks is not unusual in other three-aisle barns. At the rafter peak, marks were also seen.

The reference or lay-out face (the side where all bent components are flush in the same plane) of each inner H-frame was oriented towards the end of the barn facing the house. This is the case (as opposed to lay-out faces facing away from the house) in a good majority of Dutch-American homesteads. This condition at the Hendrickson farm may also lend some credence to the idea that the barn was on its original site. No two-foot scribe marks were found on any of the anchor-beams. On the vertical face of one inner anchor-beam in lampblack the name of John S. Hendrickson appeared *(Fig. 6)*.

Fig. 5 – View of interior showing joint sections of two H-frames and part of one side aisle. Note distinct square profile of anchor-beam tenon extensions. H-frame braces secured at each end with double pegs. Photo by Gail Hunton, 1981.

The one intact end wall anchor-beam (at the house side) was about five inches shorter in height near its mid-point than the inner anchor-beams *(Fig. 7)*. The end bent anchor-beam had its mittelmanse hole in plain view. This hole was on the soffit in the middle of an end wall anchor-beam for insertion of a vertical pole or mittelmanse that held the two wagon doors in place when either or both were in a closed position. The two doorposts on which the wagon doors were hinged were original and were separated by 10½ feet. Each post had three recesses or batten gains for each wagon door half. The end wall bent had an upper tie beam 4 feet 10 inches above the anchor beam. It had long braces at the ends; such braces were not always used.

Other wood elements complete the basic picture of the barn. Because of the short verdiepingh, only lower transverse side aisle ties appeared in the barn. Head height ties (between adjacent H-frame posts in one post range) in the last two bays were two feet higher from the floor than the ties in the front two bays, a distinct aberration. The opposite side of the barn had ties with heights that matched the last two bays on the intact side aisle side. Eave walls had posts in line with the H-frame posts. One post was 8¾ by 6¼ inches (cs) in dimension. The posts were braced, a feature not always seen on eave walls in Dutch-American barns. Only part of one eave wall plate survived. Only a few original wagon floor planks remained. One plank was 1¾ inches thick. Parallel saw marks were seen, a feature such planks do not always possess.

Summary

One of the best three-aisle barns in New Jersey met its demise in the early 1990s. It was as finely crafted a barn as any in the entire state. Despite the fact that significant portions of the barn structure were gone at the time of the documentation, a good record of its basic features could be made. Consequently, a comparison of many of the construction components may be made with the four three-aisle barns that survived into the early 1990s. It is not known if any of the Hendrickson timbers were saved. The verdiepingh, low positioned purlin braces and low eave walls generally indicate a construction date of about 1790.

It is curious that all four of the recorded Monmouth County three-aisle barns were eighteenth century examples and all were four-bay plans. On average, the timbers in the four barns, especially the anchor-beams and H-frame posts, are among the largest ones compared with timbers in many barns in other New Jersey counties. They also compare favorably with many timbers in barns in most areas of New York.

Two Other Three-Aisle Barns

Two other barns of three-aisle form have been noted in Monmouth County. This author saw a barn in October 1991 at the Gibson place along Route 33 in Freehold Township. The transverse bents were essentially of H-frame type

Fig. 6 – View of the name of John S. Hendrickson painted on the vertical side of an inner anchor beam. Photo by Gail Hunton, 1981.

Fig. 7 – View of house-side end wall showing anchor-beam with square through-tenon and anchor beam brace at its right end. Above anchor beam is an upper tie beam and brace positioned near the top of the post. Photo by Greg Huber, 1992.

but most or all of the timbers were milled which suggests a probable post 1850 era of construction. The posts had raising holes. Despite its late construction date, the barn on its exterior had classic proportions. It is not known if this barn has survived.

The other barn of three-aisle type and of probable late or possible mid-eighteenth century date was a structure that Don McTiernan of Dutchess County, New York photographed about 1975. It was a very broad barn (over fifty feet in width), and it had quite low eave walls. Nothing of its interior construction is known. However, the barn had to have had a quite short verdiepingh. This barn disappeared many years ago, likely in the later part of the 70s or the 80s. The barn was located in Manalapan near the northwest boundary of the county a few miles west of Freehold.

Note – The author would like to thank Gail Hunton of Monmouth County for introducing him to the Hendrickson barn and supplying him with three of the photographs used in this article.

From Carl's Scrapbook: Two Northern Columbia County Houses

by Walter Richard Wheeler

Fig. 1 – View of House #1 believed to be looking north-northwest (all photos and drawings by Carl Erickson, 1956 unless otherwise indicated).

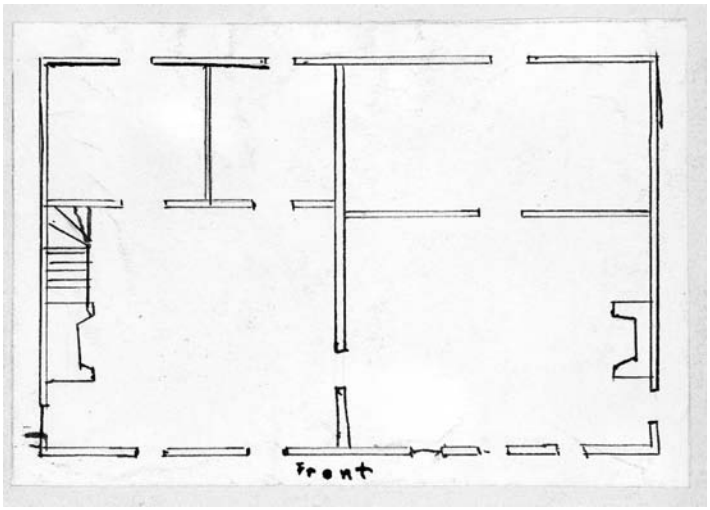

Fig. 2 – House #1, first floor plan.

Fig. 3 – View of House #1 enlarged.

Among the photographs and sketches of floor plans put together by Carl Erickson in the late 1950s when he traveled with his parents through the mid-Hudson valley, are two buildings which are not identified. Both were visited in early 1956. In speaking with Carl recently, he believes them to have been located in northern Columbia County.

My guess is that House #1 was located on or near Route 9 in Chatham or Ghent – I'd like to hear from anyone who can identify it for me. It was a story-and-half wood-frame house *(Fig. 1)*. From Carl's plan we can guess that the lean-to seen to extend across the back of the house was integral to its initial construction *(Fig. 2)*. The cross wall, extending from front to back of the house, may be an indication that it was constructed in two phases or for two dwellings or uses; a stair to the second story was located in the room on the left. Neither the photograph nor the floor plan allows us to definitively identify the arrangement of doors and windows on the front elevation, but it seems that there may have been more than one door on the road-side elevation *(Fig. 3)*.

Another exterior door is located near the corner on what I am taking to be the south side. (I'm basing this on the long shadow of the telephone pole seen in the photograph, suggesting a visit about mid-morning). The house had single chimneys in its end walls – the rooms occupying the lean-to appear to have gone unheated initially. A pair of small windows lit the second floor on the south elevation; there were six windows on second floor of the road façade. There may have been a basement kitchen on the south side, as the house is located on a banked site, apparently close to a stream, and a full story is exposed on all or part of the west side.

The door on the south end wall is seen in a photograph of the interior that I've created by joining Carl's three interior photos into a composite image *(Fig. 4)*. This image depicts what I presume to be the south and west walls of the first floor of the south room. The door – of the simplest board and batten type – is partially seen at the left side of the image. The shallow and narrow firebox, constructed with Flemish bond brickwork, retained the supports for a crane in its left-side jamb. That this fireplace was later supplanted by a stove is indicated by the presence of thimbles in the wall above the mantle and in the wall between the front and rear rooms.

Immediately to the right of the fireplace was a closet, the door of which was missing by the time Carl visited. Adjacent to that was a stair, all but the bottom tread of which was enclosed by a simple board and batten door.


Fig. 4


Fig. 5

Fig. 4 – House #1, interior view looking south to southwest. (composite of three photographs assembled by W. Wheeler)

Fig. 5 – House #1, view of exterior doorway, probably on the road facade.

Fig. 6 – View of House #2 looking southeast.

Fig. 7 – Aerial view looking in the same direction (Google maps, 2012).

Fig. 8 – View of an early stone house in the vicinity of Ghent, adjacent to either the Boston & Albany or the New York Central & Harlem River Railroad tracks, c.1905. (unidentified photographer).


Fig. 6

The walls within the enclosed stair were finished with vertical planks. A chair rail extended from behind this door along the west wall. The form of the house and details used suggest a construction date of c.1790-1820 or so. Carl took an additional photograph of what must have been one of the doors on the road facade *(Fig. 5)*. It depicts a six-panel door with finely detailed mouldings, in keeping with that period.

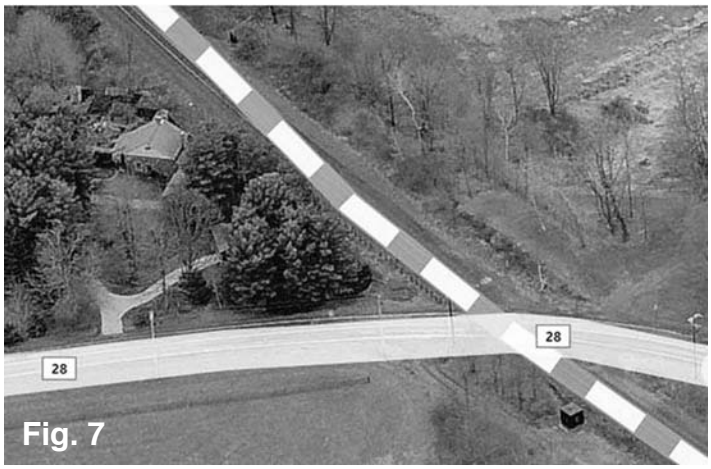

Fig. 7

The second building photographed by Carl is a small stone dwelling *(Fig. 6)*. House #2 was apparently inhabited at the time of Carl's visit, hence there is no interior documentation. It appears to be adjacent to a railroad depot, and I believe this to be the same building as the house that still exists south of County Route 28 west of Chatham Center and adjacent to the Boston & Albany Railroad right of way *(Fig. 7)*. The 1873 Atlas of Columbia County shows two buildings comprising the depot at that time, and it is likely that this house was pressed into service as a residence for the stationmaster or for an office. The name of the family who originally constructed it is so far unknown to me.


Fig. 8

The situation of House #2 brings to mind another stone house, now long gone, located adjacent to a rail line in the Town of Ghent, to the south *(Fig. 8)*. The caption accompanying the photograph says that the house burned in April 1905, and that "before the Civil War the cellar of this building was used as a place of detention for slaves." If anyone has additional information on either of these stone houses – please send it along!

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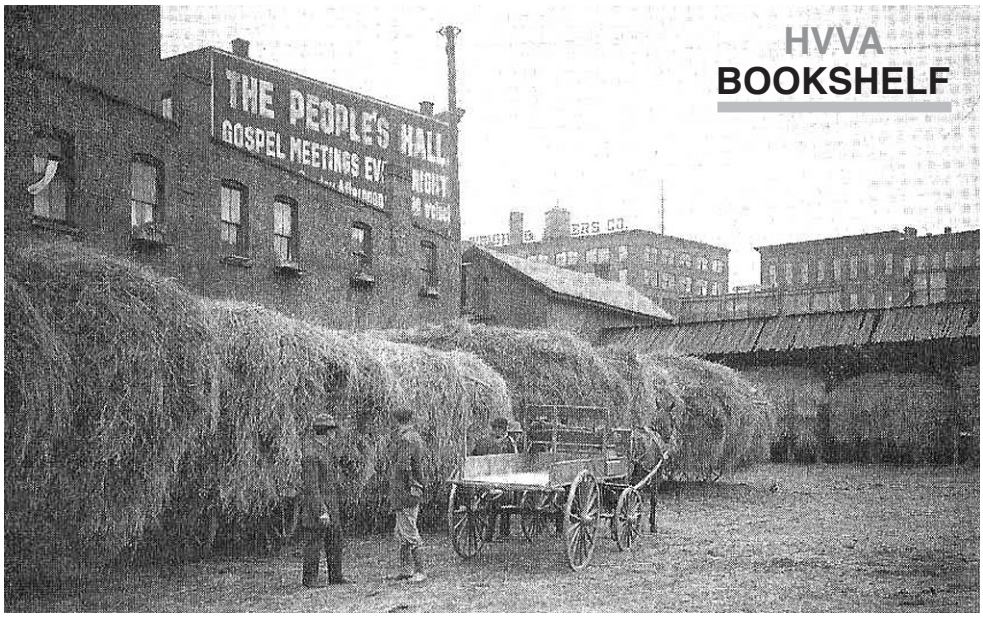

HVVA BOOKSHELF

Hay Market, Rochester NY, c. 1920. From McShane & Tarr, *The Horse in the City* (2007)

Clay McShane & Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), 181 pages.

In 1900 the horse population in Manhattan numbered around 130,000 or one horse for every 26.4 humans. According to the authors, the horse was a living machine that powered commerce and industry, as well as every kind of transportation vehicle. They had a tremendous impact on urban architecture—livery and private stables, blacksmith shops, wagon and carriage manufactories, hay and feed stores and rendering plants—as well as urban activities, sanitation and animal protection. Many thousands of people were employed to work with and care for horses, including in rural areas upstate where they were bred and raised and their feed was grown. Tons and tons of manure were disposed of in market gardens in Brooklyn where farming persisted in part because of this relationship (see below). Using information gleaned from varied primary sources, the authors provide a detailed and rich history of the horse's pivotal role in urban development.

Marc Linder & Lawrence S. Zacharias, *Of Cabbages and Kings County: Agriculture and the Formation of Modern Brooklyn* (Iowa City: Iowa University Press: 1999), 199 pages.

One of the credits cited on the book reads as follows. "This is an outstanding book. It provides revealing detail on how urbanization overtook a rich truck-farming in Kings County, New York. It is a local study that has national significance. This is probably the best study in existence on the interaction between urbanization and farming." The book represents exhaustive research in local sources and presents a valuable picture of the agricultural history of Brooklyn and the Dutch and English cultural backgrounds of its 19th-century landowners. It was a geography defined by farms with historic houses and barns populated by old farm families and a significant African American population, both enslaved and free. Joy Holland, librarian of the Brooklyn Collection in the Brooklyn Public Library pronounced this very readable history "A corrective to the tides of nostalgia that overwhelm many writers on Brooklyn… and sets a new standard in the regions historiography."

Read any good books lately about vernacular architecture, local history or cultural history? Please share them with our readers. A brief summary or review with the publication information would be helpful.

Calendar of Upcoming HVVA Events

October 19	Tour in Westchester County conducted by J-F De Laperouse
November 9	Bus trip to Brooklyn Museum
December 14	Holiday Tour and Luncheon in Kingston

For more information, please check www.HVVA.org