

HMVA Tour of Pittstown, Hoosick and Buskirk

19 October 2024

Host: Wally Wheeler, with many thanks to Connie Kheel who provided much of the following text, photographs and background research.

11 am: Meet at 1892 Buskirk-West Hoosick Road.

Parking is between 32 Joslin Lane and 1892 Buskirk-West Hoosick Road, across the street from 1892, in a field off of a farm road. A Honda Fit will be located in the spot near where you should park!

The earliest owners so far identified were the Joslins, a family that also owned the Guiden Barn and house, and a lot of other acreage in the area. The house was later owned by a wealthy family in the early 1900s. Perrin Cornell and his wife purchased it in the 1930s and owned it for 40 years. He was a chicken and sheep farmer.





Cornell Horse Barn

One of the barns was moved from Vermont, or so it has been reported. It has painted marriage marks and is flanked by two little additions. Connie Kheel, the present owner, calls it the Sheep Barn.



The house was reputedly built by Melvin Quackenbush who was apparently a popular builder in the area in the mid-late 1800s. He did slate work and other work at the Sherman Farm in Pittstown as detailed in Charles Sherman's diaries (the earliest mention was in 1888) for \$1 a day. Today many of his houses can be identified by his use of a sunburst in their gable end walls.

12:00 pm: walk to the Guiden shop barn at 1854 Buskirk-West Hoosick Road, not too far from 1892 Buskirk-West Hoosick Road.

Built on its original site next to a stream and was part of the property which includes the house next door (which is now owned separately). That house looks like a bungalow, but in fact is an older, timber framed building. The barn (55 ft 8 in. X 30 ft. 2 in) is an early, steep roofed timber framed barn with an impressively large swing beam, hewn rafters, siding groove, still some original pegged floorboards. But it was rehabbed by an architect in 1980 who sistered the hewn rafters and put plates on various joints. There's a nice wood silo next to the barn. The earliest deed that's been found shows it belonging to the Joslin family (which also owned the Sunburst House next door, perhaps built by Joslin children of the owners of the Guiden barn).



If there's time: The Moseley barn is located at 709 Nickmush Road. It is located on the north side of Nickmush Road and it a little way past a very run down farmhouse located on the corner of Nickmush Road and the Buskirk/West Hoosick Road. It stands alone and there's room to park in the field to the right of the barn on Nickmush Road.

A particularly intact early barn 28 x 40 feet in size. Three bay, hewn rafters, built in ladders, especially thick splined floorboards in one section, siding grooves. No deed research has been done on this property which only includes the barn. It most likely belonged to the run-down house next door, but is older than the house. The owner of the house is a recluse, but will no doubt be watching everyone. The HVVA and DBPS visited this barn in 2015.



1 pm: Lunch at Brown's Brewing Company, 50 Factory Hill Road, North Hoosick 12133 (alternatively identified as in Hoosick Falls).

On your way to the afternoon's buildings, you'll pass over Buskirk's Bridge. The New York State Covered Bridge Society describes it as

...originally constructed in 1857 by Peter O. Osterhauth, Charles Newman and James B. Roberts (Primary firm) & Charles F. Ingalls (sub-contractor).... this 158-foot-long, single span structure incorporates the Howe truss design patented in 1840, and improved in 1850, by William Howe of Springfield, Massachusetts. It is one of only three Howe truss bridges in New York State.... It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as of March 8, 1978....Rehabilitated in 2005([Buskirk | New York State Covered Bridge Society \(nycoveredbridges.org\)](http://Buskirk | New York State Covered Bridge Society (nycoveredbridges.org))).

It is the only inter-county covered bridge in New York State, and connects the two halves of Buskirk, divided by the Hoosick River.



2:15 pm: The Ziehm Sunburst House, 208 Schweningen Road, Buskirk (Washington County)

The Ziehm Sunburst House is owned by the Ziehm family who are nearby neighbors and big-time dairy farmers. They purchased the land because of its proximity to their farm from Tom Lanni who had lived in the house. It resembles in multiple features Connie Kheel's Sunburst House, but it is much smaller and has an interesting feature ... two stairways to the 2nd floor, but the rooms on the 2nd floor do not connect between the two stairways. It is believed to have been owned by the Schweningen family (hence the name of the road) who had three silos clustered together. The New World Dutch barn that we are visiting next is located on the same property as the house.

The Ziehm house on Schweningen Road and another house on County Route 103 appear to have also been built by Melvin Quackenbush based on several details. He may also have built the Carriage barn next to the Sunburst House. The steel framing support on the 2nd floor replicates what was used in a barn I own that was reputedly built by Quackenbush.



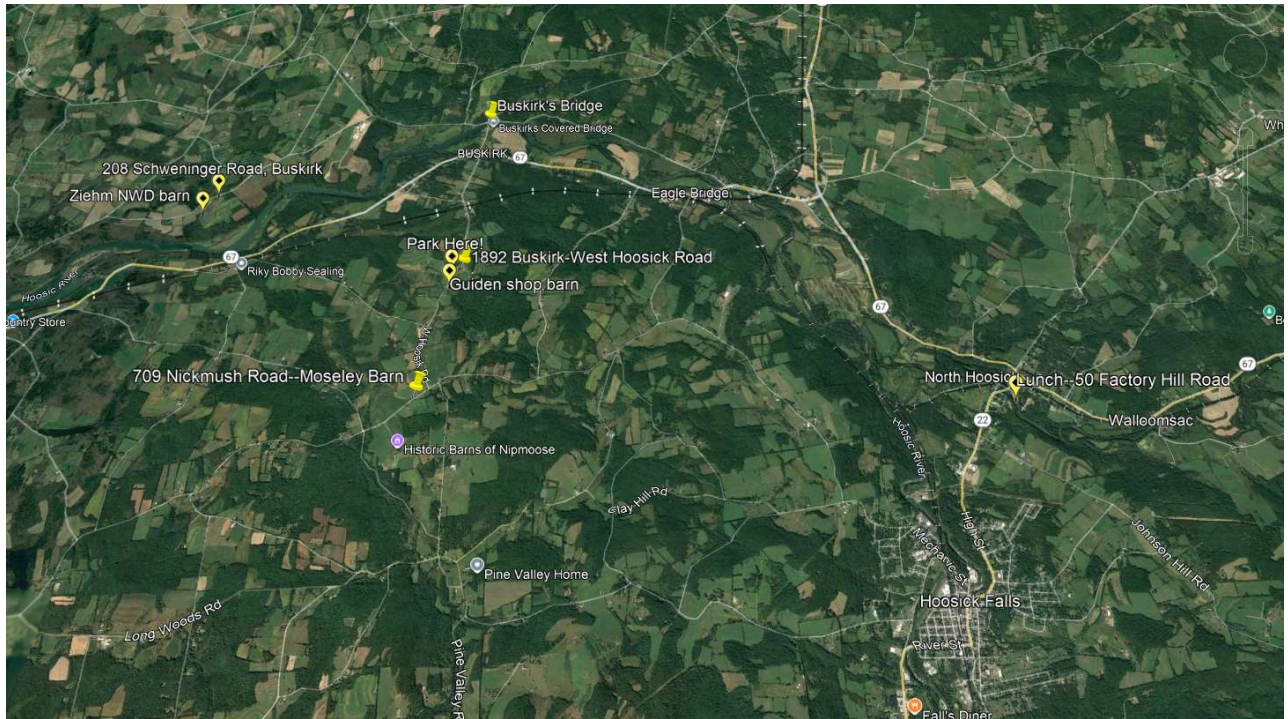
3 pm: The Ziehm Dutch barn is about a one eighth of a mile west of the house. It doesn't have a number, but it's very visible, although it does have a long driveway. It's on the same side of the road as the house.

The Dutch Barn was moved from the Frederick's farm in Stone Arabia, Montgomery County by Tom Lanni who had planned to convert it into a dwelling. Skip Barsheid told Tom that it was probably built before the Revolution by the Krems family, and that their name was later changed to Gremps. That family used the barn as late as the 1940s for their sheep. Tom sold the property before the work was completed on the barn.



In 2010





Orientation map. Hoosick Falls is in lower right-hand corner.

--Connie Kheel and W. R. Wheeler, 17 October 2024