



HVVA Tour of New World Dutch Bent Framed Houses in Berkshire County,  
Massachusetts.  
15 September 2012, 11am.

Today we will be looking at three houses, constructed between c.1742 and 1810/37. They share a use of framing strategies typically associated with the New World Dutch of the Hudson Valley, applied to house forms and plan types more usually encountered in New England:

The Michael Hollenbeck (aka Phelps) house, corner of Townhouse Hill Road and Creamery Road, South Egremont (Dendrodated to c.1808/09 with an addition dated to c. 1837)

Truman Wheeler house, 817 South Main Street, Great Barrington (c.1742, with numerous later additions). If you are using a map application, use the address "817 Main Street" in order to find it properly.

Daniel Hand house (aka Andrews house or Shaker Farm), 1431 Dublin Road, Richmond (Tentatively dendrodated to c. 1784?, with additions c.1937).

Directions to the first stop:

From the North:

Get on I-90 going east from points near and north of Albany. Travel east for about 15 miles until you encounter a fork, taking the left, following signs for I-90 East/ Taconic Parkway/Boston. Merge onto I-90 East. After 8.8 miles, take exit B2 for the Taconic Parkway toward NY-295. Travel on the Taconic State Parkway for about 5 miles, taking exit for NY-203 S. Turn right onto NY-203 S and travel on this road for 6.7 miles. Turn right onto NY-22 S; travel for 3.4 miles and then take a slight left onto NY-71 S. After 2.3 miles you will enter Massachusetts. The road becomes MA-71 E (aka Green River Valley Road). Travel on this road going east for an additional 3.9 miles. After passing thru North Egremont village, Creamery Road splits off right from Rte 71 just after the first right (Baldwin Hill Rd); it's a red house on the left at the crest of the hill. There is no street name sign!

From the South:

From the Rhinecliff Bridge, continue east on NY-199 (aka Frank Sottile Boulevard) for 4.2 miles, turning left onto NY-9G north/ NY-199 E. Travel on this road for 1.9 miles, turning right onto NY-199 E (aka W Market Street). Travel 1.8 miles, then turn left onto US 9 going north (aka North Broadway). Follow this road for 14.7 miles. Continue onto NY-9H north/ NY-23 East, traveling for 3.9 miles. Turn right onto NY-23 East. Travel on this road for 15.5 miles, entering Massachusetts. BE CAREFUL with speed in Egremont! They MEAN 25mph...not 27mph. Seriously. Continue on what will now be MA-23 E (aka Hillsdale Road, then called Main Street in the village), for an additional 2.2 miles. When you exit the village Rt 23 bends to the left, and passes a large B+B ("Weathervane Inn") on the right. Immediately afterwards, leave Rt 23 and go STRAIGHT up Creamery Road (no street name sign). At the crest of the hill (about 1 mile), turn right onto Townhouse Hill Road.

Total travel time from each direction about 1 hour and 10 minutes; between 48 and 52 miles.

We'll stay at the Hollenbeck house approximately 1 hour, traveling thereafter to the Truman Wheeler house in Great Barrington. Travel between these two points will take approximately 7 minutes (it's about 4 miles).

Directions from the Hollenbeck house to the Wheeler house:

Travel north on Creamery Road. Turn right onto MA-71 (Egremont Plain Road) and travel on it for about 1.7 miles. Continue onto MA-23 east/MA-41 north (Egremont Road) for 1.6 miles. Turn left onto Main Street, the Wheeler house is on your right, about 190 feet ahead.

Arriving at the Wheeler house at about 12:15, we will stay there for one hour. From the Wheeler house, we'll travel north 9 miles (about 13 minutes) to stop in Stockbridge for lunch, arriving at about 1:30. We will take one hour there.

Leaving at 2:30, we will continue north an additional 15.5 miles (about 25 minutes) to the Daniel Hand (aka Andrews) house, arriving at 2:55.

Directions from the Wheeler house to the Hand house:

Head north on Main Street, toward South Street for just under one mile. Continue onto MA-41 (North Plain Road); stay on this road for 9.5 miles. Turn left onto MA-102 N/ MA-41 N (aka Stockbridge Road) going thru the village of West Stockbridge; stay on this road for 3.8 miles (bear left to stay on the road when it intersects with Swamp Road!). The road winds a bit, and you'll think you're lost—but remember—it's 3.8 miles on this road! Turn right onto Lenox Road. Travel on it for .7 mile, taking the first left onto Dublin Road. The house is on the right, about a half a mile ahead.

The tour ends at this site, but if you haven't had enough, you may be interested in visiting Hancock Shaker Village (or just driving by), to see the meeting house built by Moses Johnson using NWD bent framing. To get there drive north on take Dublin Road north for approximately

7 miles until it terminates with US 20. Turn right onto Route 20, and drive one-quarter mile. The meeting house will be on the left-hand side of the road.

If you get lost while on the tour, or are joining late and want to know where we are, call Wally on his cell phone at 518.596.4093.