

MID-HUDSON CHAPTER of the DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

October, 1999

Newsletter

volume 1, number 6

from the Editor...The unofficial Mid Hudson Chapter now has 51 members and \$140 in the bank, according to the written records, which, along with the drawings, we must always view with some skepticism. Our mailing list grows but annual dues remain only \$10 and assure you of future issues of this newsletter and perhaps notice of exiting up-coming events.

Not much has happened at the chapter's temporary headquarters at the Oliver barn in Marletown. The two priority actions are still to bring in electric power and remove the large Black Walnut tree that hangs over the roof. Two professional tree people were called in and each gave a \$500 price to take it down. We may yet find another solution but at an informal meeting of the directors the Chapter established a Barn Restoration Fund which presently contains \$50 and welcomes contributions.

If you read about the Winne/Creble house (Bet-1) Albany County in the last newsletter forget my "Side view, Front view and Reconstruction." They are incorrect. The group returned with John Stevens and his wife Marrion. They have been visiting and documenting old building together for many years and it is always an education to tour a house or barn with them.

John saw immediately the front door and window change and evidence that the transom window was leaded. In changing the door, its lintel and crown molding had been moved up in the door frame. Originally the 23' 7" long molded beam had served as the lintel for both the transom window and the cross-bar window to its right.

The measurements of the original cross-bar window frame of the Winne/Creble house match almost exactly those of the Bevier/Elting house in New Paltz that John discovered recently. In the cellar of the stone addition an original mid-eighteenth century four-light window sash with wide wooden muntins has survived indicating the house and its addition were a wonderful example of window style transition.

Other than the stench, that has increased three-fold, the holes in the roof and the clutter of garbage that is growing, not much has changed at the site. John can imagine the missing mantle and wall of paneling in the stone addition but it was missing when we were there last. Now an original two part exterior door with pad hinges is gone, also the ladder.

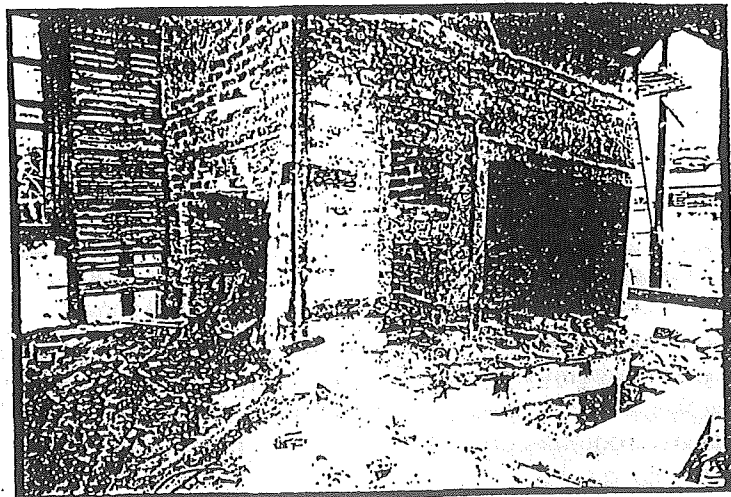
We opened the front interior wall in the north/east corner to better understand the front wall construction and the height of the original knee wall that measures 33-inches. The post has a hole for a rain gutter support. An opening in the south interior wall exposed an infill of sun dried bricks. John took more measurements and we took a tracing of a corbel arch on the wood frame. It was discovered that one corbel in each room was a replacement. Originally they had been left out to accommodate wall beds.

The original gable end was likely of brick with parapet gables. The present brick is in remarkable condition with original "rake lines" in the mortar. The end-wall anchor irons in the original house that are fastened to the corner posts are of a slightly different design from the later ones on the end-wall of the addition that are fastened to the trimmers. The original house may date 1720 or before and the addition 1750.

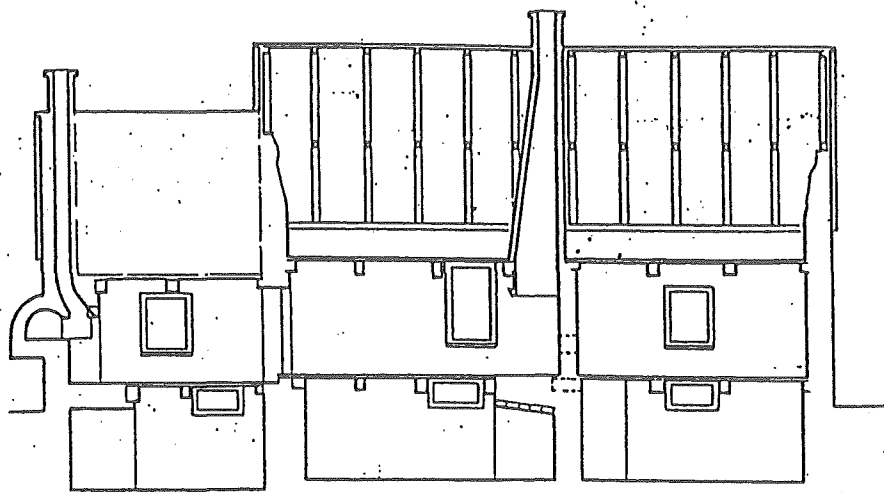
(continued on page 8.)

Thursday August 5, 1999 with Michael Carr, Alvin Schaffer, Todd & Roger in Columbia County, visited ___/Ackerman (Hil-1) a house in Hillsdale undergoing reconstruction by Jerit Hobart from Massachusetts. The frame is exposed and is a Dutch H-bent house, Roger thought 1790-1800, with a later frame addition. The original house had an internal support wall. The chimney at one end served a fireplace with a side oven and a second smaller fireplace on the left side served the side room. The sides and lintel of the fireplaces are formed with full cut stones, a regional style. Michael will do a report on the house for The Traditional Timberframe group (TTRAG) of the Guild..

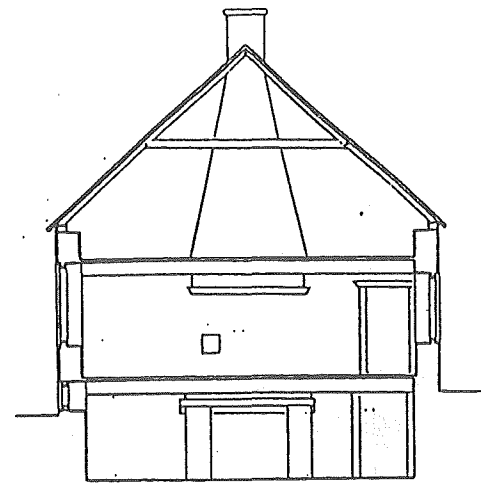
We visited the Cooperstown/Chapen Dutch barn (Cla-1) which I speculated on in Letter from the Editor, (number 4., page 6.). On second viewing we saw a lot we hadn't before. The raising holes are only longitudinal in the end bents.



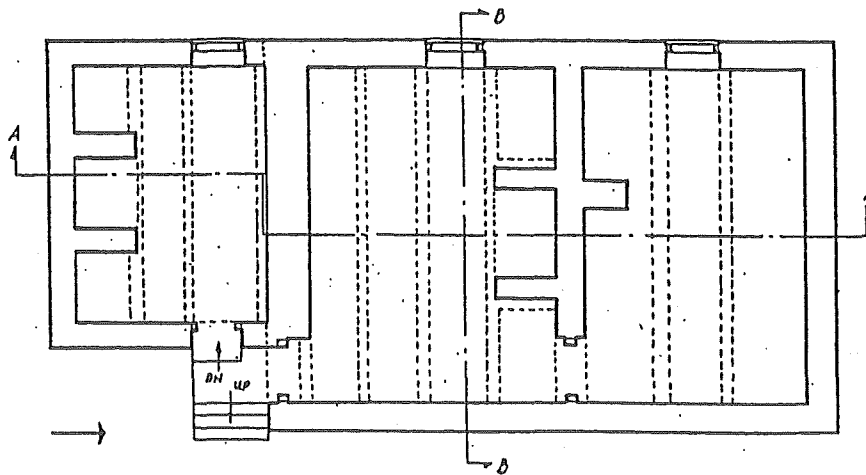
**Exposed Fireplaces and Oven
___/Ackerman (Hil-1) House
with Dutch Timber Frame
Hillsdale, Columbia County, NY**



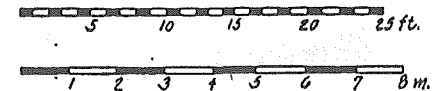
Section A-A



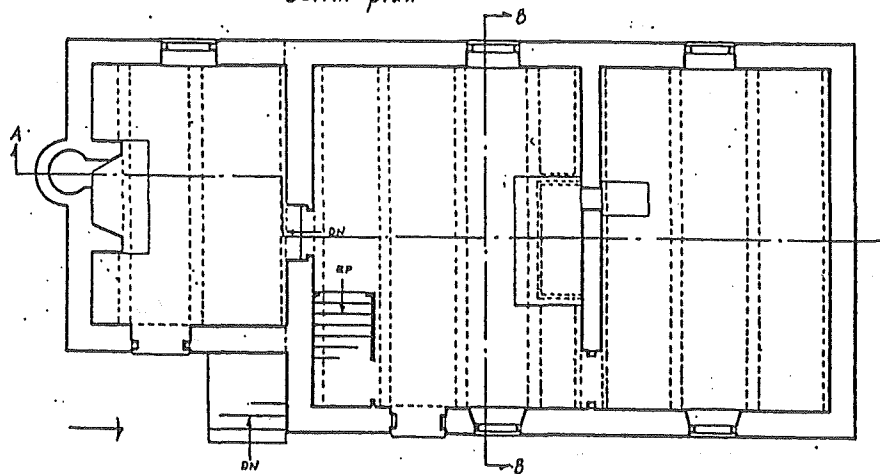
Section B-B



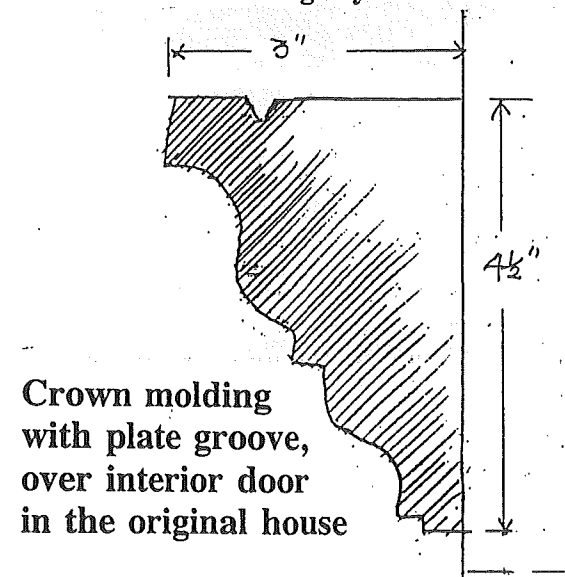
Cellar plan



**Brodhead/Moritz Two-room
Stone House (Ma-20)
circa 1750
with 1790-1800 added kitchen
Cottkill, Marbletown,
Ulster County, NY
Measured Drawings by John Stevens**



First floor plan



**Crown molding
with plate groove,
over interior door
in the original house**

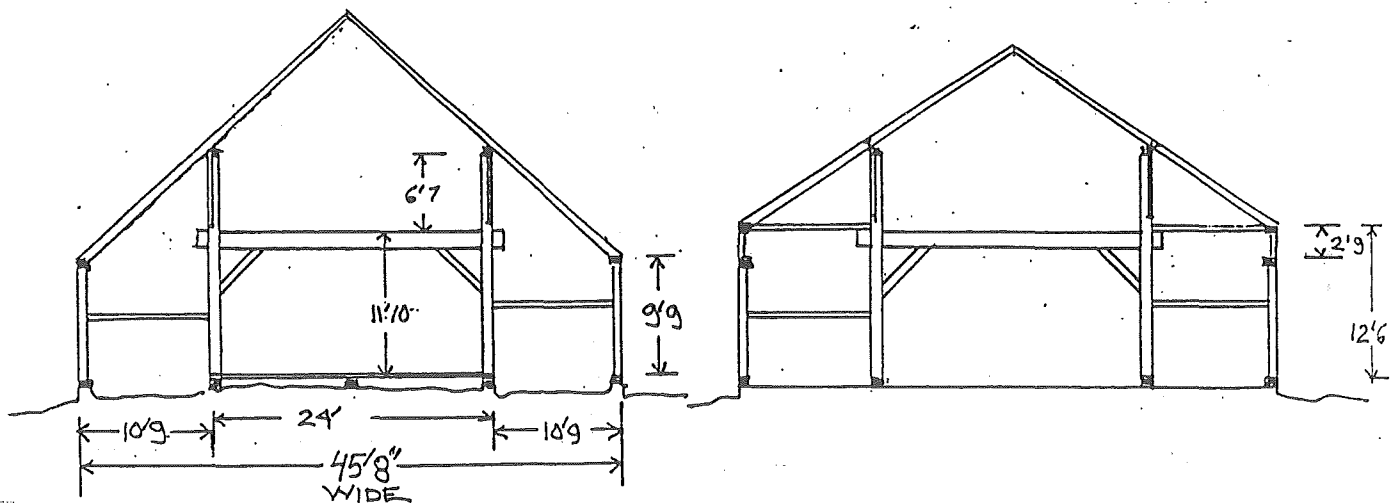
Monday August 2, 1999 with Mike Jermyn, Roger & Todd Scheff, visited the Brodhead/Moritz stone house (Ma-20) in Cottkill and met with the owner Marion Moritz. The house was recently owned by Steve Levine and was worked on by Sam Phelps. The reconstructed jambless fireplace was done in 1979 by Dan Hopping. The house was then owned by Weber, according to John Stevens who did a measured drawing of it at that time. He feels it is a circa 1750 house with a 1790-1800 addition and rebuilding. It has an original two room section and an added kitchen. The cellar of the original house now has a two column cradle to support the jambed fireplace that replaced the original Dutch fireplace that may have had a more simple hearth cradle resting against the hearth beam which has two trimmer beams to the wall as does the hood beam on the first floor.

On the other side of the cellar wall there is a stone stove-support that indicates the house was originally designed for a 5-plate iron stove that was attached to the back of the Dutch fireplace as is found in three of the early Huguenot Society stone houses in New Paltz.

Sunday, August 15, 1999 with Roger, Jim Decker and Bob Eurich We did some measurements and observations of a three-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn, ___/McKay (Sha-6) in Shawangunk, Ulster County.

The barn measures 45'8" wide and 44'8" long, a subtle but frequent Dutch proportion of wider-than-long. This is a late 1700s barn by the looks of its oak frame. All braces are hewn and pegged, anchorbeams are joined to columns with two pegs, shoulders are square and the tenons extend but are not wedged. Two curious dove-tail slots were found in an original wall-plate in the center bay and long German-like braces were found in the end-wall aisle framing.

A mid nineteenth-century alteration was made that changed the proportions and orientation of this true-form Dutch barn. The 9'9" side-walls were raised 33-inches with a new plate leaving the original plate bellow. This lowered the pitch of the roof and necessitated the refitting and shortening of the 15 pairs of hewn rafters. On the new roof the rafters no longer join with fork-and-tongue at the peak but are butted and nailed. A practice begun after 1840.



**Original internal bent circa 1780-1790
and bent after raising side-walls after 1840
___/McKay (Sha-6) 3-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn
Shawangunk, Ulster County, NY**

It is hard to understand why they went to so much trouble raising the side-walls and rebuilding the roof to gain so little extra space. It was done primarily to allow for side entrance wagon doors, essentially Anglicizing the barn. Two other Dutch barns in Shawangunk were built originally with side entrances. I hope to visit them on the October 24 tour.

Sunday, August 22, 1999 With Roger met with Todd and Jim Decker and Randal Evans and his wife Carrie Feder at the Albertus Van Loon stone house (Ath-1) in Athens, Greene County, NY. Helen Reynolds in her classic book of pre-Revolutionary Hudson Valley Dutch houses describes the Van Loon house (page 163, plate 46) as "one of the earliest dated gambrels." She did not realize the changes the house had gone through.

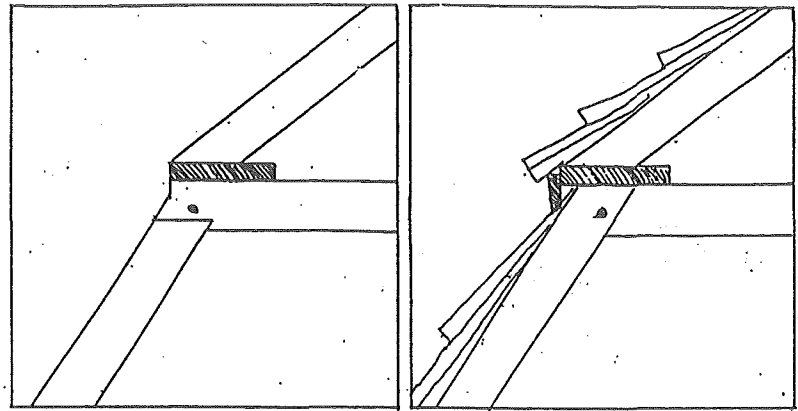
The exterior dimensions of the Original one room 1722 house are 22-feet long and 26-wide, brick size 1 3/4 x 3 1/2 x 7 1/2-inches. The house was extended with center hall and second room circa 1760's. Extended later in the early 19th century.

The original four-bay room now has a plastered ceiling so that the beams are not exposed. Some felt that from the evidence of the cellar beams that this one-room house originally had a front-end entrance facing the river and a jambless fireplace on the back-end wall facing what is now the road. The direction of the beams in the cellar suggest the ridge of the present roof was rotated 90-degrees from the original. The lay-out and roof change in the 1722 VanLoon house are complex and need more study.

In the original cellar of the Van Loon house the hearth beam is missing, a common situation as they often become rotten. There is no evidence of a hearth base nor corbel-stone in the cellar wall but there are possible filled in holes that could have held cradle beams. Normally the hearth beam is the most massive in the house as it may have been in the 1722 VanLoon house.

A center two-bay hall and second four-bay room were added circa 1760. No evidence of trimmers could be seen on the back of the 16-inch hood beam and the present jambed fireplace, is integral with the stone wall and is probably original.

The present gambrel roof that covers the center hall house shows no difference from the outside but the framing of the section over the 1722 room and the 1760 addition are done differently as if at separate times. The gambrel roof on the addition perhaps built before its extension over the original house.



A. B.

Unmeasured drawings

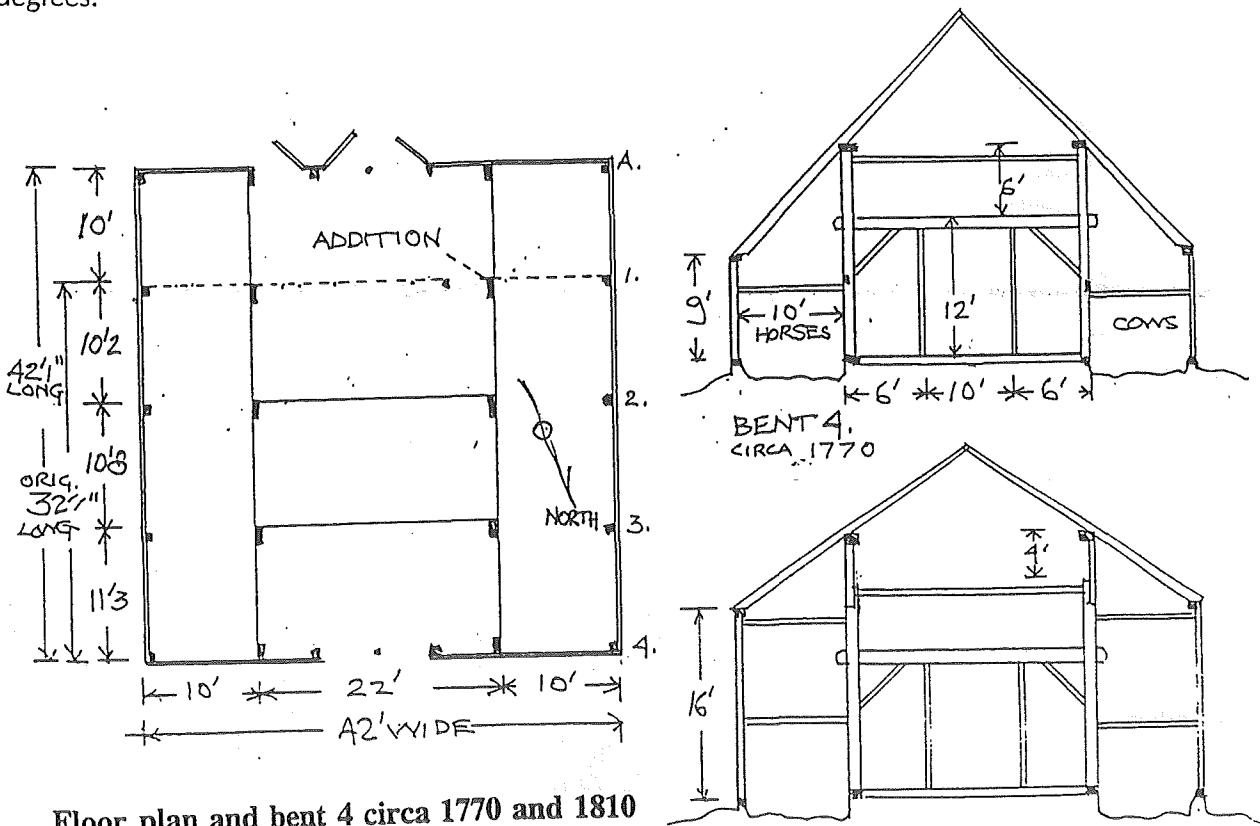
framing system for the gambrel roof above

A. the circa 1760 addition and B. the original 1722 house

Van Loon/Evans Stone house (Ath-1) in Athens, Greene County, NY

Friday, September 2, 1999 with Roger and Todd measured the ___/Beebee Roy 3-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn with 1-bay extension (Rhi-18) on Slate Quarry Road.

There is evidence on the front bent (4) of original har-hung wagon doors and on the added bent (A) of key-hinge wagon doors. The doors of the original external bent (1) are hard to understand there may have been a transom to make them lower than the front doors. There is a mix of rafters showing two styles of joining to the wall plate. Those re used have tenons. The new ones have a bird's mouth. Some roof boards are reused siding from the original barn and show evidence of classic martin holes. One piece on the east side shows the top of a center martin hole and the pitch of the original roof, about 45-degrees.



Floor plan and bent 4 circa 1770 and 1810
 ___/Beebee/Roy 3-bay scribe-rule
 Dutch barn with 1-bay extension (Rhi-18)
 Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY

BENT 4. CIRCA 1810

Sunday, 9-26-99 In the morning with Todd and Roger, measured the circa 1790-1810 ___/Parker Academy 3-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn (RH-10), Turkey Hill Road at Cokertown, Red Hook, Dutchess County, with a 1-bay extension and partial basement.

The Turkey Hill Barn Tour. About 15 people met at the Quitman house, the late-eighteenth century Lutheran Parsonage in Rhinebeck. A tour of the center-hall frame house was lead by Marilyn Hatch who gave background information on the church and its minister. The group did a short visit to the nearby circa 1820-1840 Rosedale square-rule 5-bay Dutch barn (Rhi-8) with partial basement. The barn is no longer being used and is in a deteriorating state.

The group next visited the **Feller/Thetford farm (RH-11)**, We measured the 1820-1840 square-rule 5-bay Dutch barn and examined the 1746 wood frame house that is incorporated into an 1840 enlargement. Larry has an extensive collection of local and Native American material culture and a number of outbuildings that include a tavern and a blacksmiths shop.

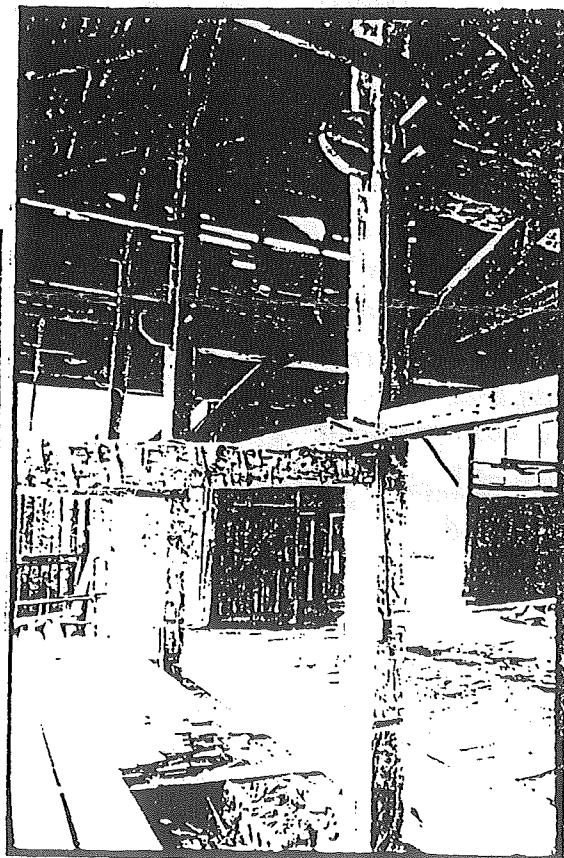
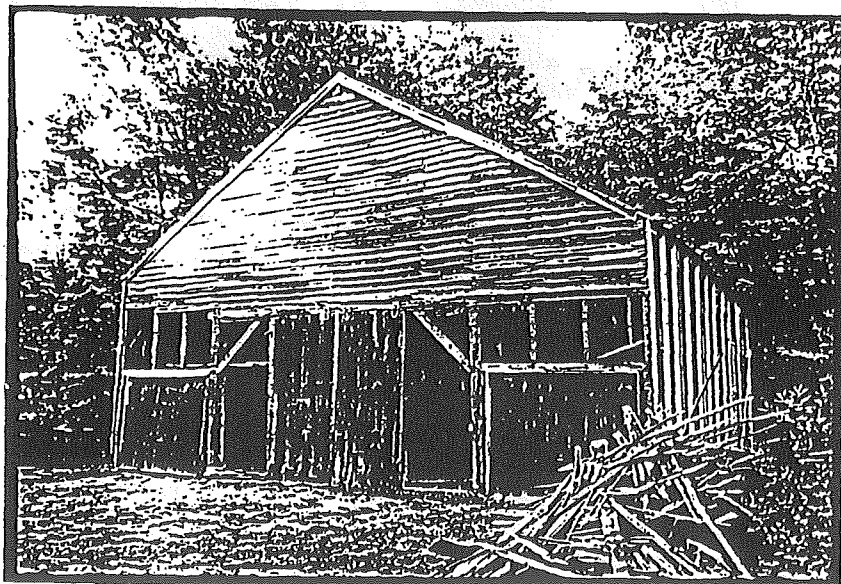
The present barn has all the signs of nineteenth-century construction. there is no evidence of anything but strap hinged wagon doors, the anchorbeam tenons do not extend, the two-inch planks of the threshing floor are not splined. But, there are early columns re-used as wall posts and probably other re-used parts that would give an idea of the original barn. Most of the Feller family is buried in a cemetery on the site.

An exposed wall of brick in the house behind the fireplace has 2-inch thick bricks 4-feet up and then reused thin Dutch bricks, 7 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/4-inches, which show traces of soot and whitewash indicating they were reused from the hood of the jambless fireplace when it was converted into a jambed fireplace with a chimney.

Two exposed posts have grooves for riven wood infill and in one exposed wall section the infill is finished with mud and straw. One beam measures 6 x 13-inches. The H-bent has a 2-foot verdiping.

We next visited the ___/Shutz/Gonzales (RH-12) farm and measured the circa 1750-1780 scribe-rule English barn with rafter collar-ties supporting purlins, and unusual marriage-marks. This is an English barn because it has three bays and side entrances on the center bay, but the carpentry of the Gonzales barn is Dutch and seems early. Like the nearby ___/Parker Academy (Rh-10) Dutch barn, the Gonzales barn has upper braces on the anchorbeams joined with lap-dovetail. The 35' width is too much for a free span anchorbeam so a center post has been added to the bent.

The braced sidewall (section B.) looks very English but the rafter design looks Dutch. This purlin system was used on dovecotes in England (see Dovecotes of Suffolk, by John McCann, Suffolk Inst. of Archaeology and History 1998) but in this case probably has Dutch roots. Four rafter collar-ties

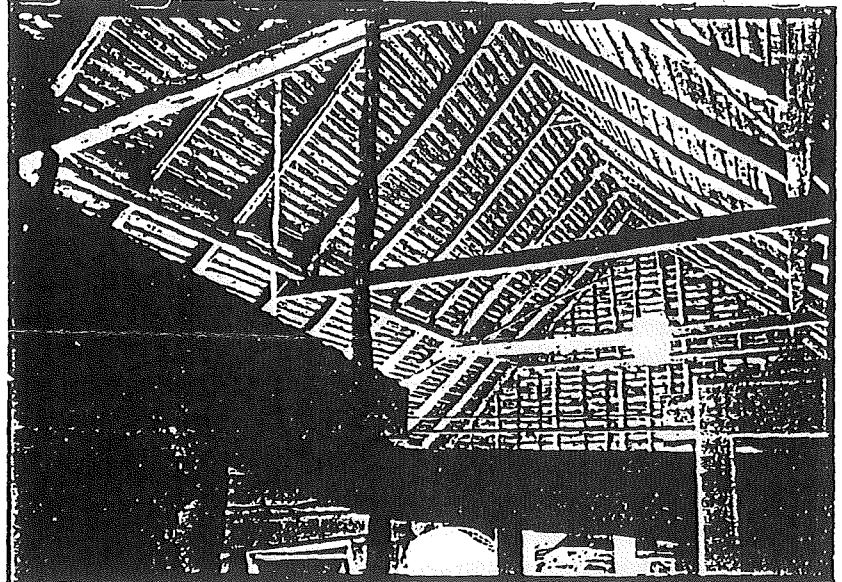


Interior and exterior view

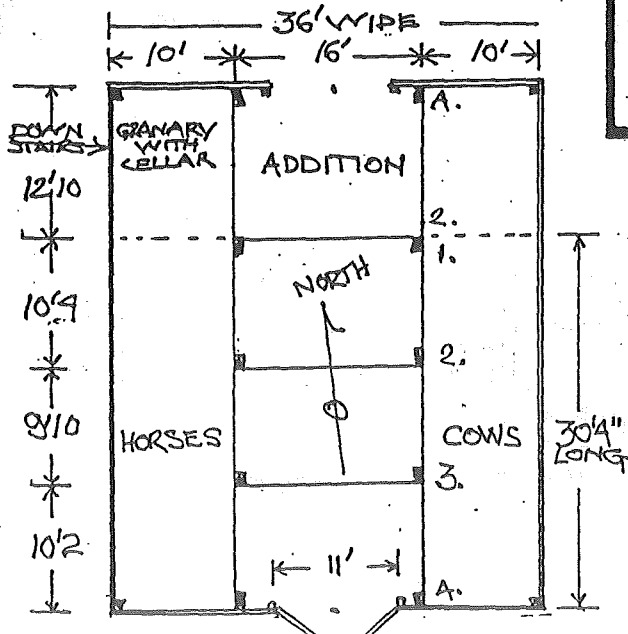
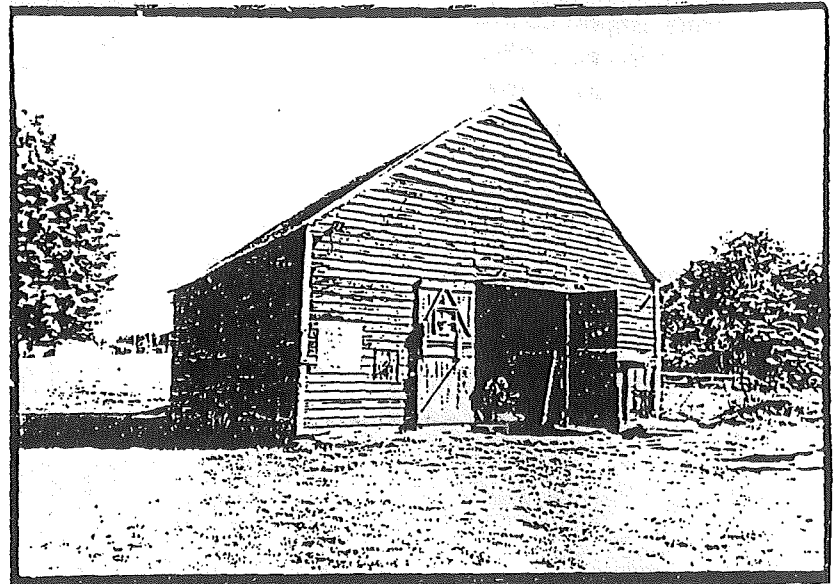
___/Beebee/Roy 3-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn with 1-bay extension (Rhi-18) Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, NY

support upper purlins that support intermediate rafters. It is reminiscent of the circa 1710 Teller/Schermerhorn/Schaefer Dutch barn of Albany County as can be seen in photographs of its frame during dismantling. It also seems related to the major/minor rafter system of which three examples are known in Ulster County on pre-Revolutionary barns. Normally In early Dutch barns and houses the common rafters are staggered in relation to the posts and columns. The carpenter of this barn places his pairs of collared rafters like the English principal rafters, in line with the post, but he uses no tie beam, only the 35-foot long H-bent beam.

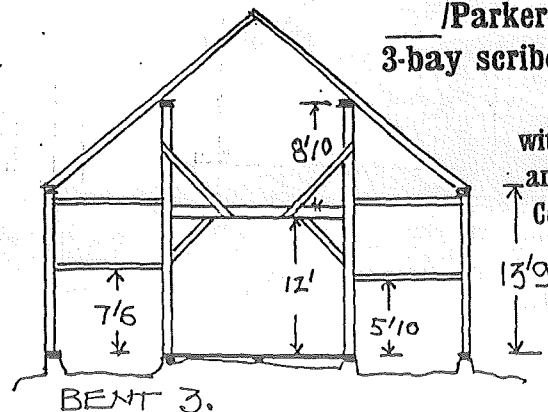
We next visited the circa 1820-1840 ___/Klose Dutch barn (RH-8) on Echo Valley Road owned by Woodey Klose. A four-bay Dutch barn with a two bay extension. There are many reused parts and like the Thetford Dutch barn (RH-11) it would be possible to reconstruct an idea of the original barn. Roger said that there is a side of a 5-plate stove re-used in Woody's summer kitchen. It is marked "Heford Furnace" and depicts a sea shell.

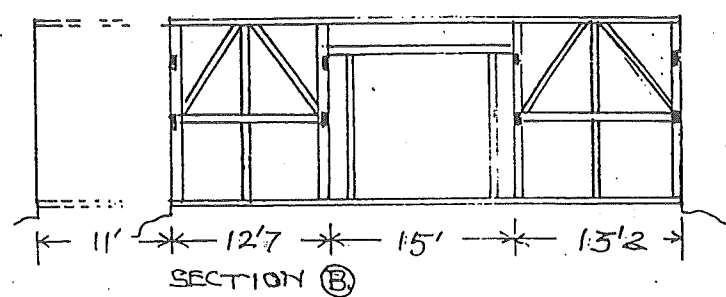
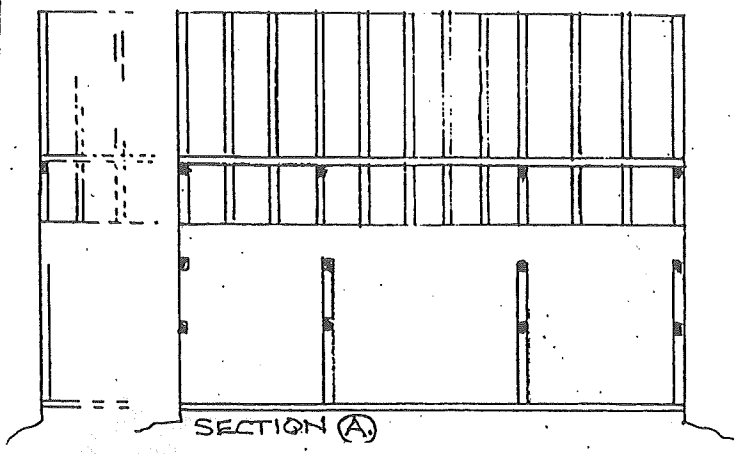


interior photo
 ___/Shutz/Gonzales (RH-12)
 3-bay scribe-rule English barn
 circa 1750-1780
 with four rafter collar-ties
 supporting purlins
 Red Hook,
 Dutchess County

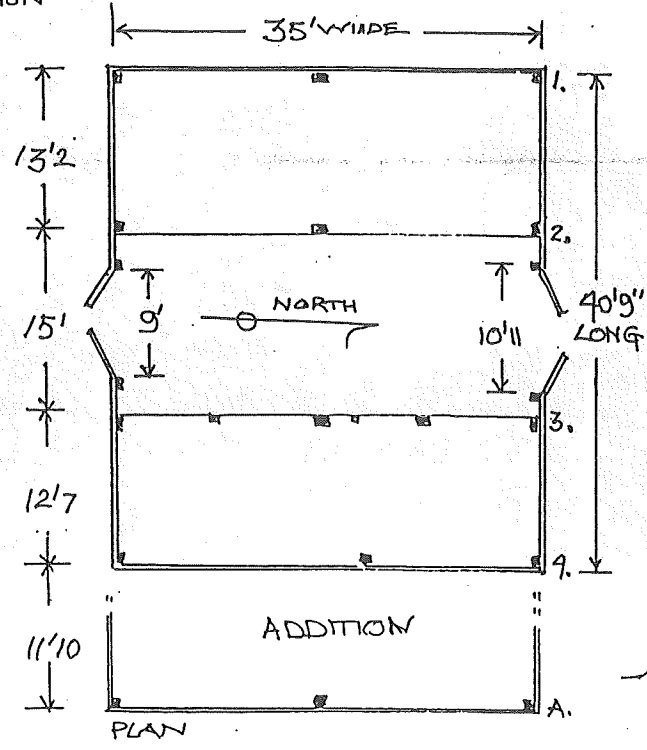


exterior photo, floor plan and internal bent
 /Parker Academy (RH-10)
 3-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn
 circa 1790-1801
 with a 1-bay extension
 and partial basement
 Cokertown, Red Hook
 Dutchess County

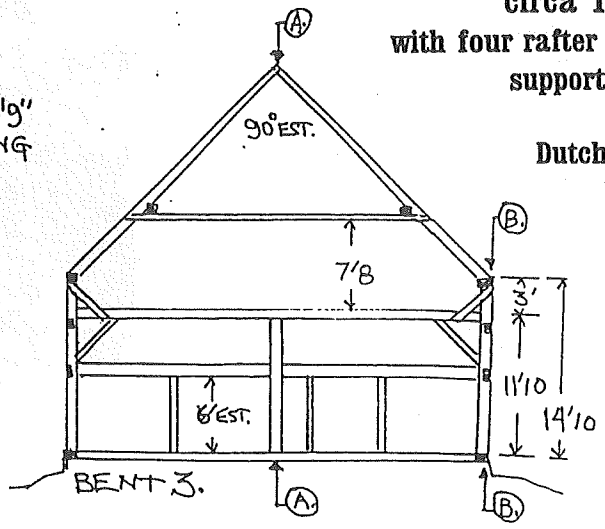




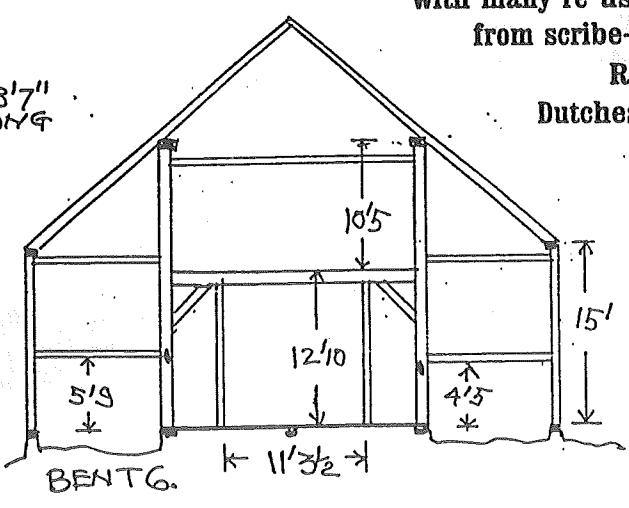
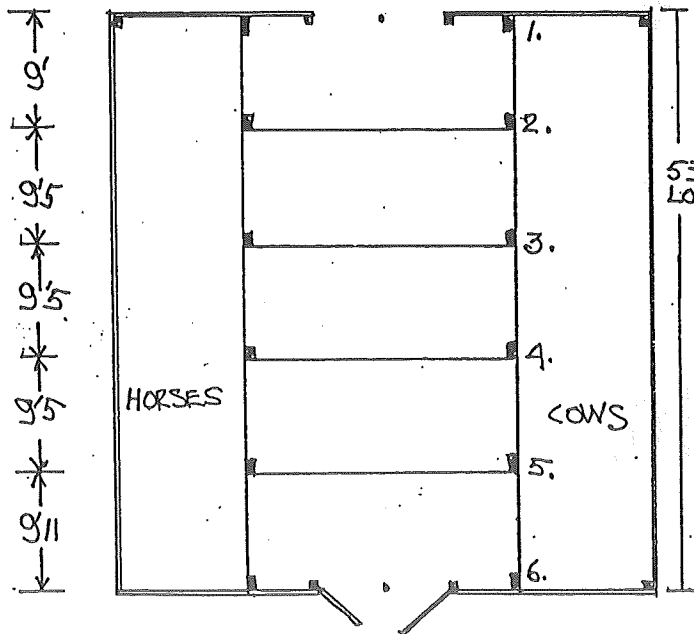
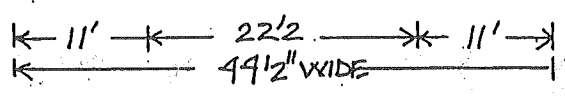
ADDITION



floor plan, internal bent 3. and sections A. & B.
 /Shutz/Gonzales (RH-12)
 3-bay scribe-rule English barn
 circa 1750-1780
 with four rafter collar-ties
 supporting purlins
 Red Hook,
 Dutchess County



floor plan and external bent 6.
 Feller/Thetford (RH-11)
 5-bay square-rule Dutch barn
 circa 1820-1840
 with many re used parts
 from scribe-rule barn
 Red Hook,
 Dutchess County



8. (continued from page 1.)

We next visited the nearby Coeyman stone house built in 1716, the largest Dutch house in the Hudson Valley. From a tall parapet-gable its roof was changed to a gambrel in about 1790 according to John Stevens who worked on the house in the early 1970s when Mr. Pilsbury bought it. The remains of an earlier, after 1678, wood frame house are exposed in the interior of what is now the garage. The wall infill, much of which survives, is wattle-and-daub using thin saplings, about every 4 to 5-inches, inserted in holes in one post and grooves in the other. The floors in both houses are tongue-and-groove rather than spline fitted.

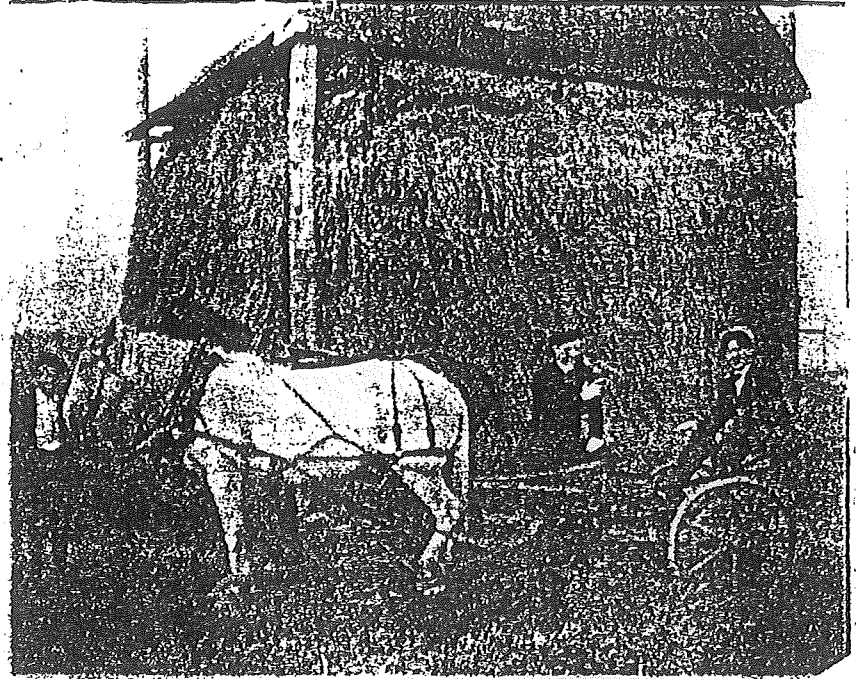
In 1716 all of the windows in both houses were seventeenth-century Dutch style leaded glass casement types. Evidence of three of them remain. We examined the surviving cross widow frame with polychromia painted shutters that John discovered behind a wall in the large house when he worked for Mr. Pilsbury.

The 28 x 30-inch frame for a fixed leaded window with 16 panes survives in the stone wall of the cellar of the old house and John helped uncover an original 67-inch tall window frame with two openings in the wood frame wall above it. The tracing of the corbel in the Winne/Creble house matched exactly those in the frame of the early Coeyman house.

Because more information has been acquired than fits this newsletter and in recognition of the errors that have been pointed out to us the publication committee, after heated debate, has decided to do an annual report next year that will correct and rearrange the information.

Roger has been discovering barns in the southern Dutchess area near Poughkeepsie and this may be our next tour.

Peter Sinclair



Unidentified Hay Barrack circa 1900
photo collection, Todd Scheff

Shawangunk Barn Tour

Ulster County, NY

12 Noon, Sunday, October 24, 1999

The Deli on 208 at Ireland Corners

any questions call

Jim Decker (914) 895-3272

Peter Sinclair (914) 338-0257

A day at Doctor Oliver's Dutch barn

Marbletown, Ulster County, NY

10 to 5, Sunday, November 7, 1999

Route 209, across from the Widow Davis Tavern

any questions call

Peter Sinclair (914) 338-0257



The Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society

and notice of up-coming events will be made available with a \$10 membership.

Mail to Peter Sinclair, 83 Spillway Rd., West Hurley, NY 12491; (914) 338-0257

.....
I would like to join the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Dutch Barn Society

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
.....