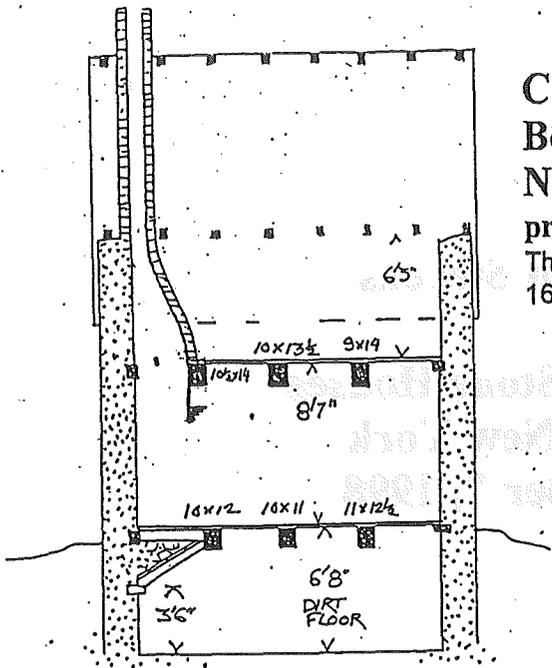


**A Tour With John Stevens  
of Three  
Eighteenth-Century Stone Houses  
in Ulster County, New York  
Saturday, November 7, 1998**

**THE FOUR-BAY  
NEW WORLD  
DUTCH HOUSE**

**Peter Sinclair**  
**Spillway Farm Press**  
**83 Spillway Rd.**  
**West Hurley, NY 12491**  
**(914) 338-0257**

1.

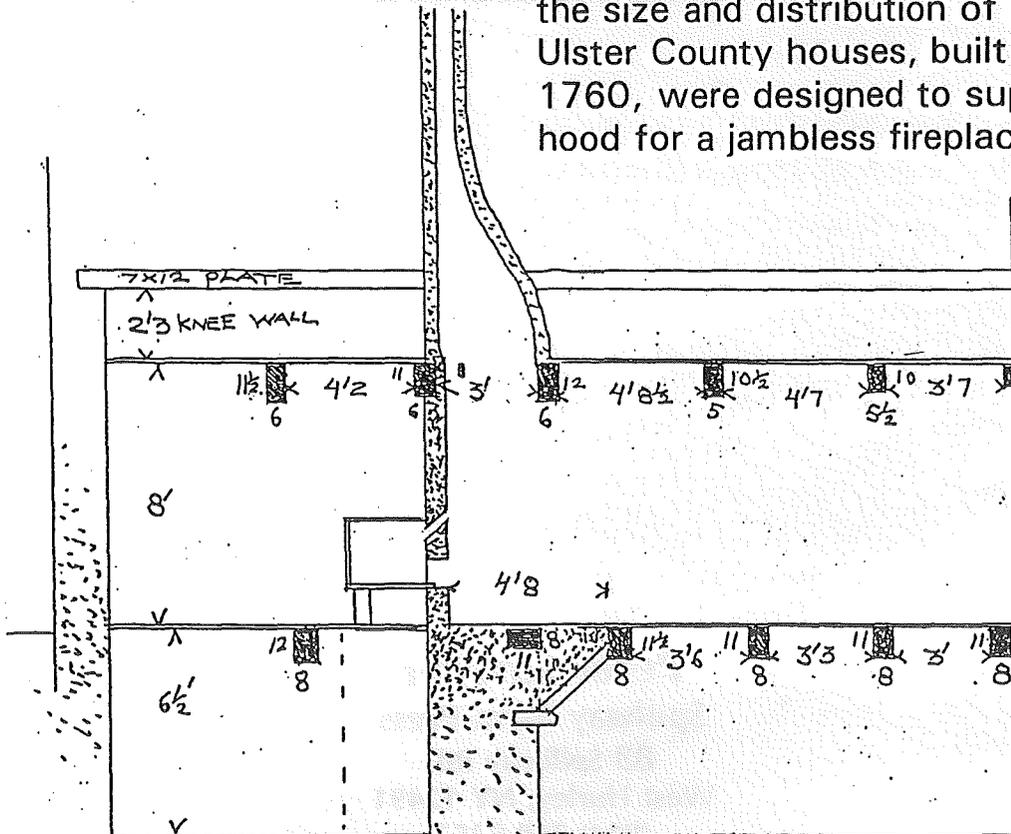


**Center Section  
Bevier/Elting House,  
New Paltz, NY**

property of the Huguenot Historical Society  
This drawing shows the original  
1698 condition of the house.

The Bevier/Elting house (on the left) is a classic example of a one-room four-bay New World Dutch stone-house. The kitchen wing of the Wynkoop house (as reconstructed below) is a two-room house with a four-bay hearth-room and a two-bay stove-room.

The "bay" is the space between the beams and refers to the length of the building. In a Dutch wood-frame house each beam is joined to columns forming an H-bent so that the bays are the spaces between the bents, but whether it was built of wood or stone, the size and distribution of beams in most Ulster County houses, built before about 1760, were designed to support a smoke hood for a jambless fireplace.



**Center Section, Kitchen Wing, Wynkoop/Lounsbery House,  
Stone Ridge, NY, property of Gary Tinterow and James F. Joseph**

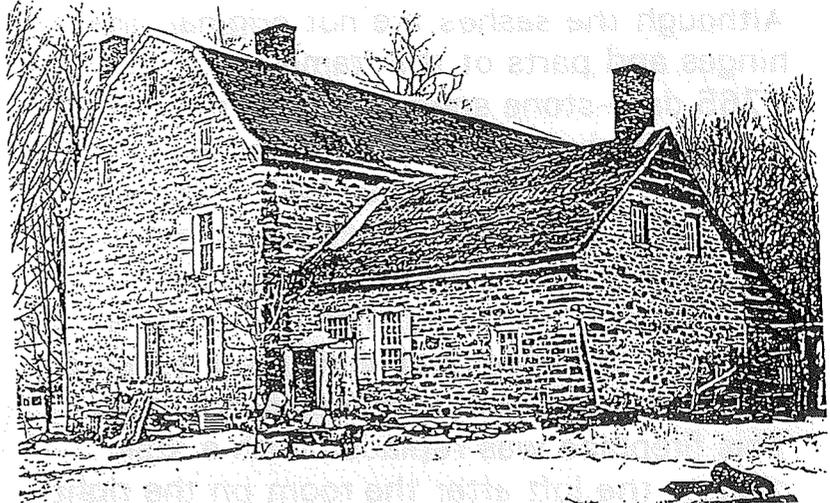
This drawing represents the kitchen wing as it first was in the eighteenth century with a jambless fireplace and a stove room behind.

11/7/98 with John Stevens, Roger Scheff, Alvin Scheffer and Greg Huber, visited three eighteenth-century stone houses in Ulster County.

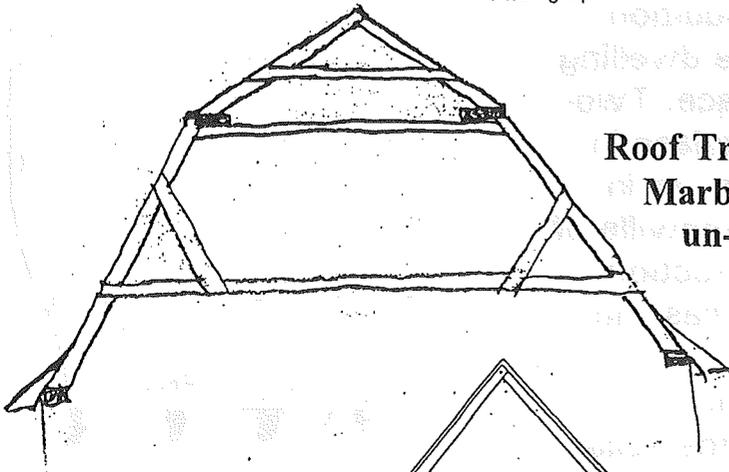
**The Wynkoop/Lonsbery house in Stone Ridge.**

In examining the evidence of a jambless fireplace in the ceiling beams of the kitchen wing, John noted that the missing side hood-boards had been set at an angle and felt that the wide board set into the back beam was to cover fire damage.

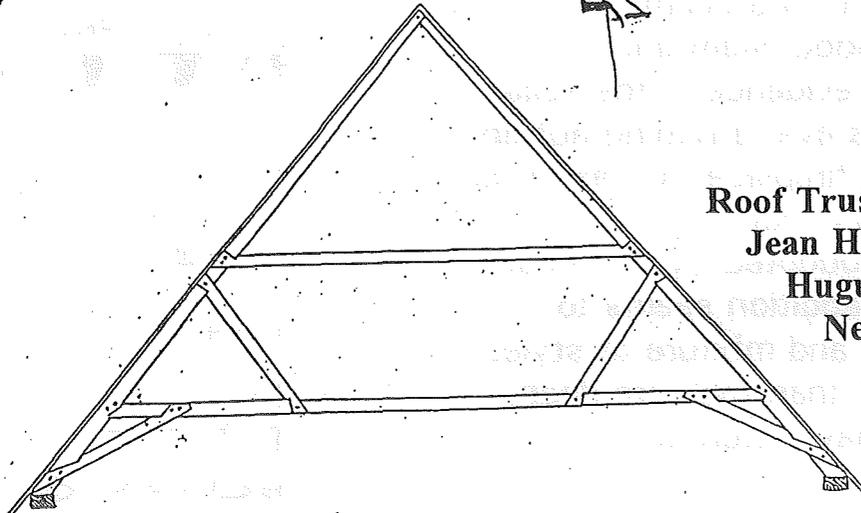
Although the rafter system in the large two-story 1768 Wynkoop house was designed for a gambrel roof, it has some similarity to the 42-foot roof-truss in the 1712 Jean Hasbrouck house in New Paltz, especially in the use of a descending brace from the rafter to support the lower collar tie.



**Wynkoop/Lonsbery House circa 1925, Stone Ridge, NY,**  
property of Gary Tinterow and James F. Joseph  
Photograph in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art



**Roof Truss, 1768 Wynkoop/Lonsbery House**  
**Marbletown, New York**  
**un-measured memory sketch**



**Roof Truss, 1713**  
**Jean Hasbrouck House**  
**Huguenot Historical Society**  
**New Paltz, New York**  
**measured drawing**

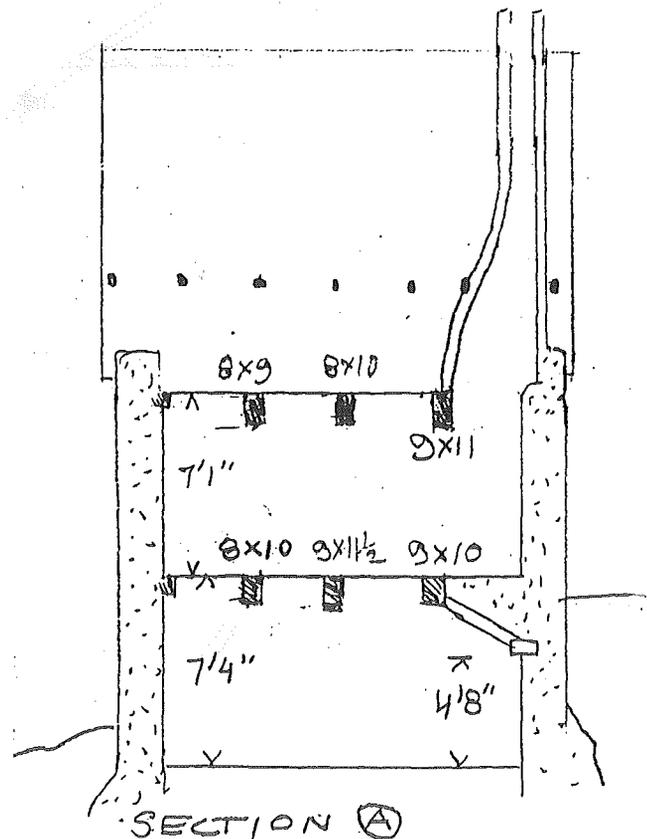
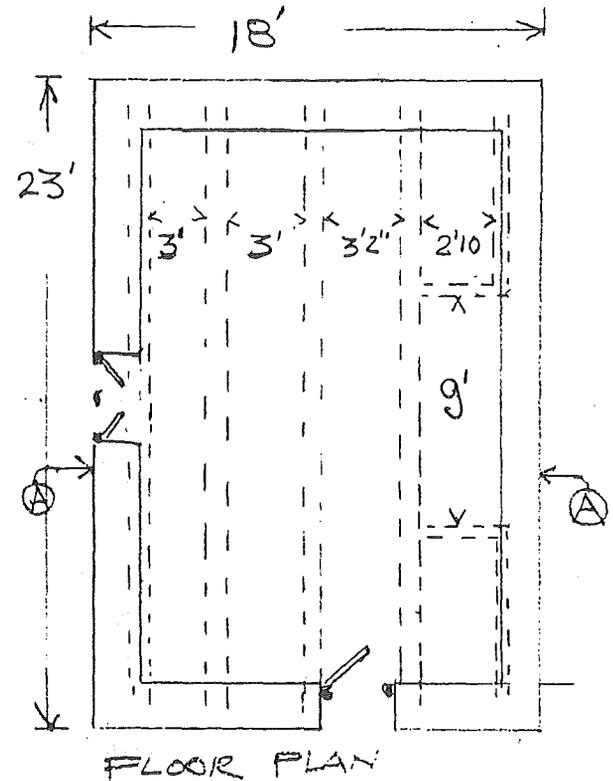
3. The Jan Freer House, town of Esopus

We met with Sue Boice and Karl Wick [(914-338-7659)] at the Freer house. The owner John Zerbo [(914) 340-0847 & (800)631-1912; 465 New Milford Ave., Oradell, NJ 07649] has a good understanding of the house and pointed out what he has learned of the building. The area was once known as Freersville and now as New Salem.

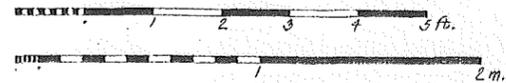
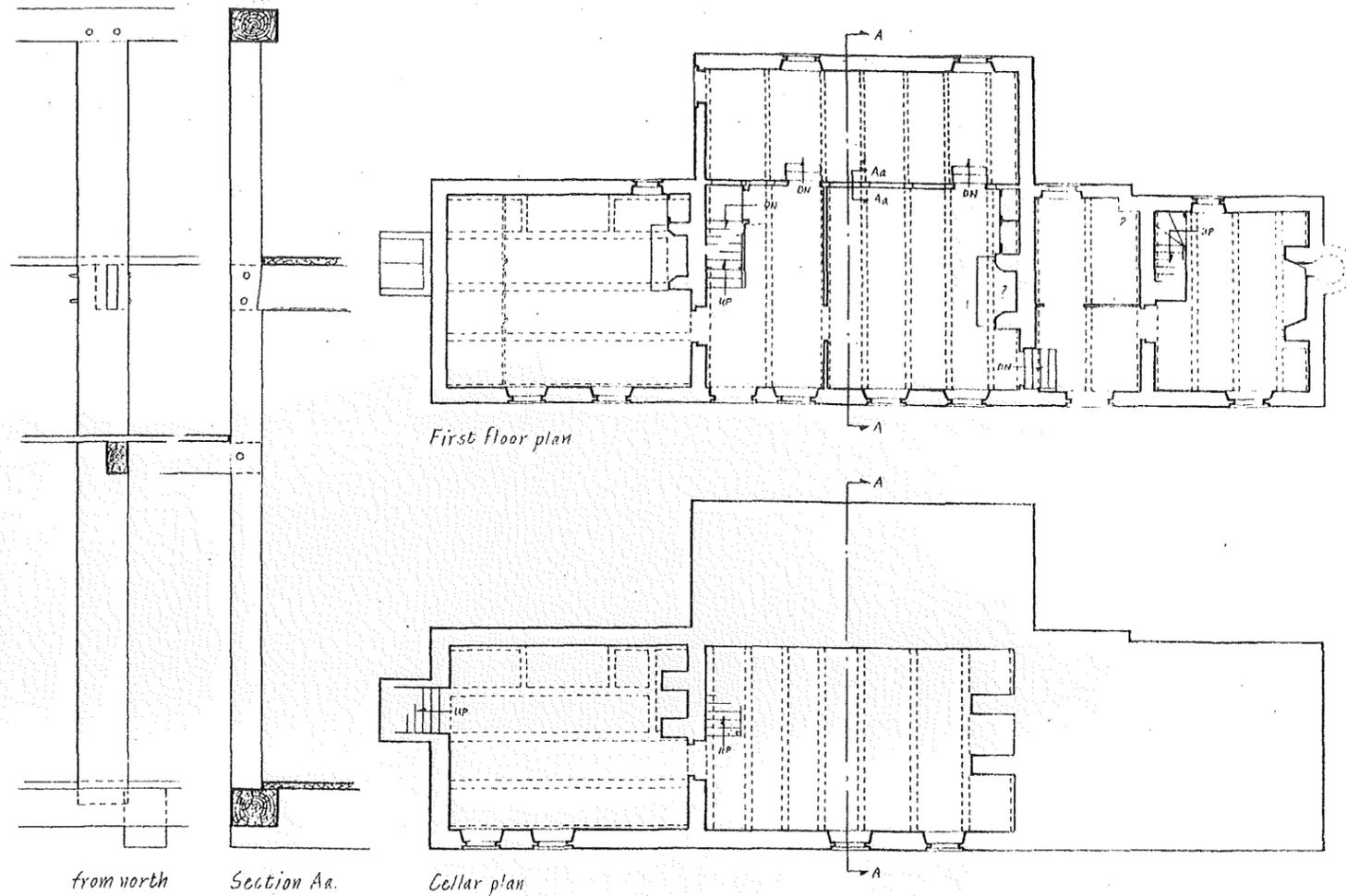
The Freer house has many original features including a rare double-sash casement window (*bolkozijn* in Dutch). Although the sashes are not original, the hinges and parts of the frame are. The 1765 date-stone seems to date the right half of the house while there is clear evidence the left half was built first.

The three internal ceiling beams of the original four-bay one-room house are irregular and unrefined. There is a stone corbel in the cellar wall indicating the cradle for the original jambless fireplace above. This fireplace was replaced with a stair case to the loft after the room on the right was added in 1765. The floor is lower in the new room and the ceiling beams are heavier and better finished. This addition with its jambed fireplace made the dwelling a two-room house with one fireplace. Two-room houses with an end wall fireplace in only one room were once common, as in the two Broadhead houses in Lamontville of a similar eighteenth-century construction.

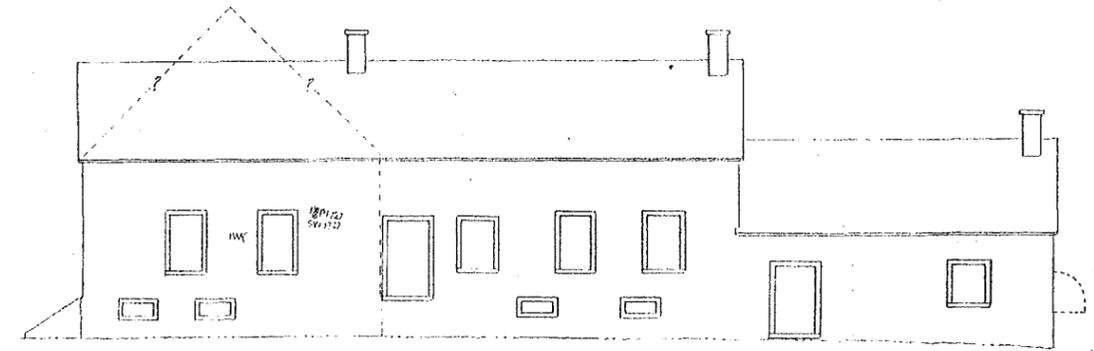
Although the 1765 addition has the classic four-bay Dutch style beam arrangement with a hood beam and trimmers, there is no evidence in the cellar that the fireplace was ever anything but an English style jambed fireplace. It was in the late eighteenth century that the jambed fireplace was being adopted by the local Dutch and the 1765 addition seems to represent a transition and mixture of style. Both rooms are wider than they are deep, typical of early four-bay Dutch country-houses.



Freer House before 1765



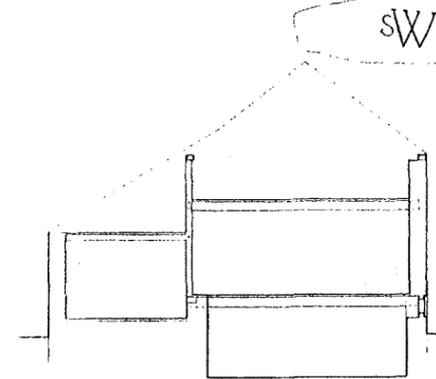
**The Kierstead House**  
 Saugerties, Ulster County, NY  
 drawing by John Stevens



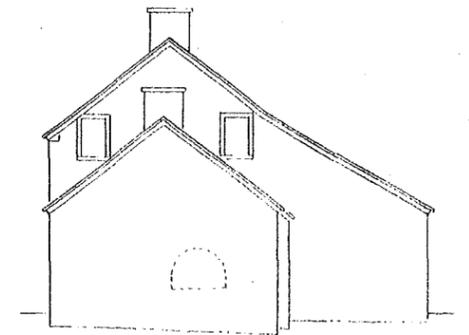
South elevation

DEN 6 IVNI  
 EXP J 727

SW J 727



Section A-A

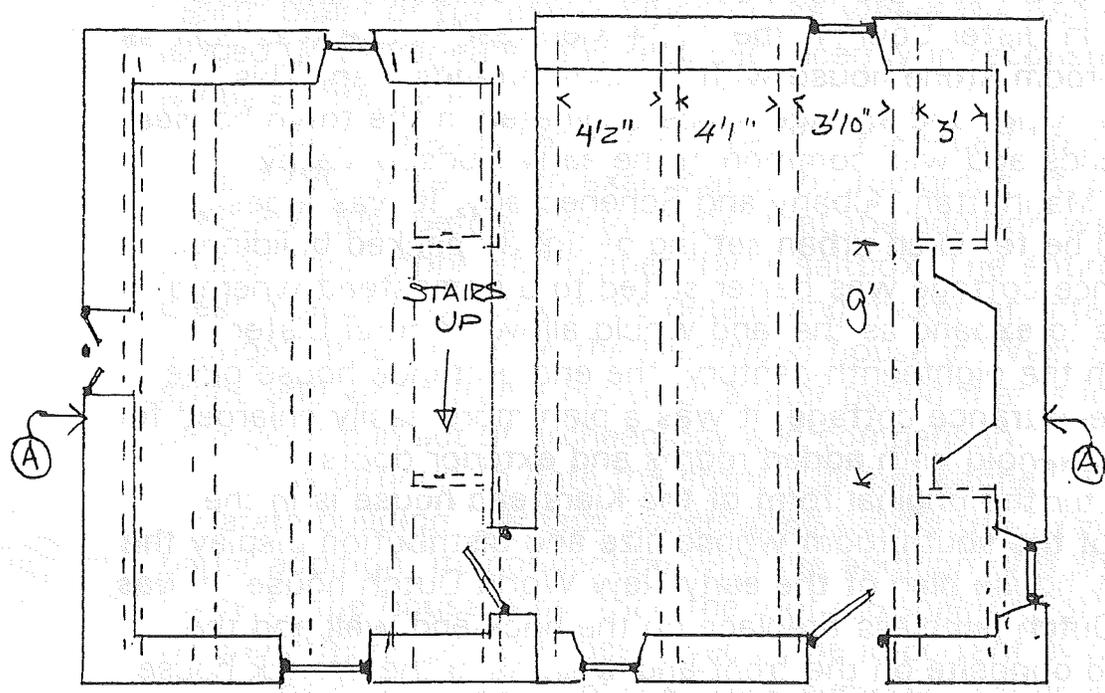
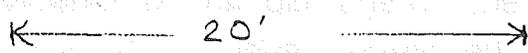


East elevation

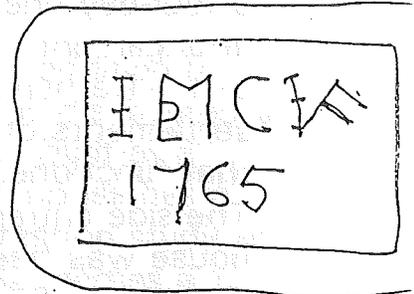
Du Bois - Kierstede



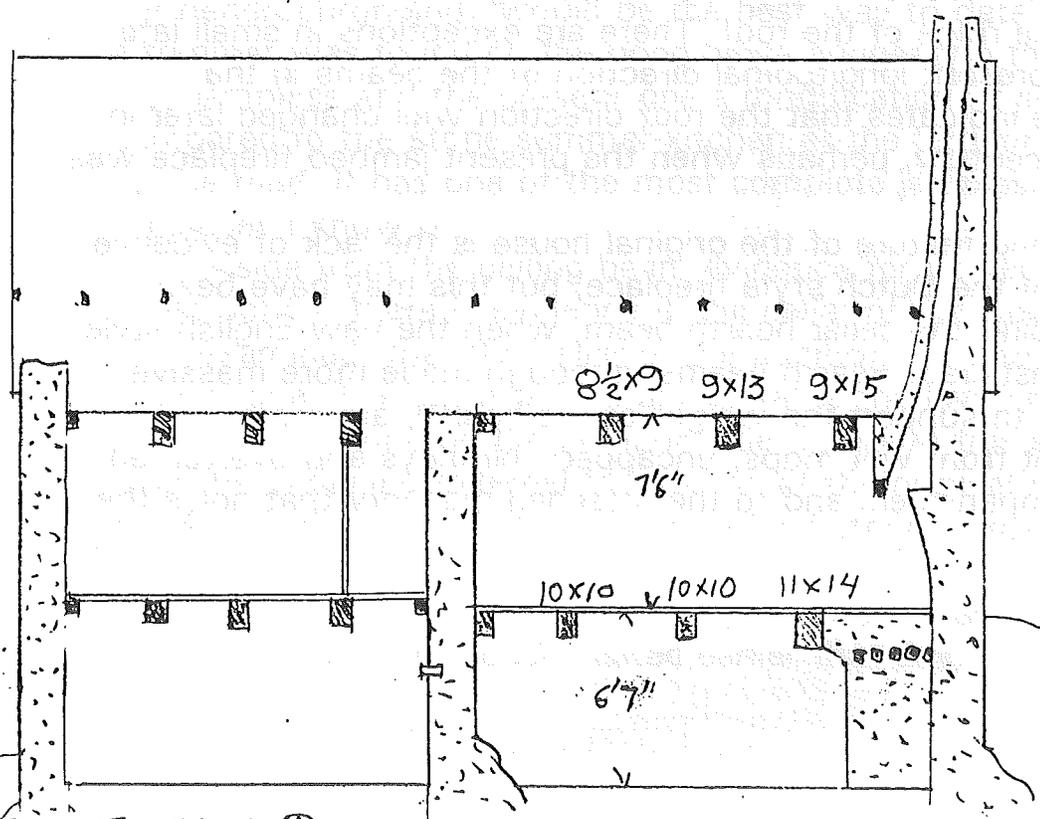
The Freer house is at a mill site fed by the water of Diamond's Pond, Diamond had an ice cutting operation there. Parts of the lower mill-dam are still in place and the house is built into the bank of a steep hill. The water continues a short way through the gorge and empties into the Rondout Creek.



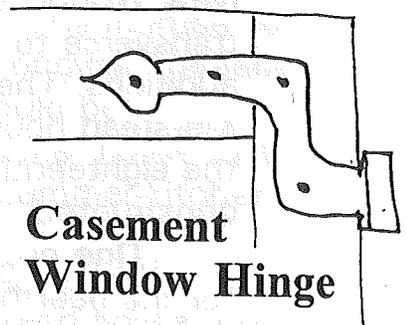
FLOOR PLAN



Date Stone



SECTION A



Casement Window Hinge

Freer House after 1765

### The Kierstead House in Saugertie

Met with Barbara Budick [(914-246-0104)] at the Kierstead House.

Like the 1668 Peter Bronck house at West Coxackie and other early examples in Ulster County, the 1724 Kierstead house was built as a four-bay one-room stone house with an end-entrance plan. This arrangement of living- and storage-space originated in the town houses of the Netherlands and was common in the early Hudson Valley settlements of Manhattan, Albany and Schenectady. It was a design that functioned better in an urban setting of tightly packed buildings. The side entrance cottage was better suited to a homestead where a house was free to expand as the land would allow. In rural Ulster County, early in the eighteenth-century, the end-entrance house gave way to the side-entrance cottage. It was a plan more easily enlarged for the growing household with added rooms and exterior doors.

Evidence for the original form of the Kierstead house is in the ceiling beams of the south room whose size and distribution display the classic four-bay house plan of the early New World Dutch house. It was a plan with a Dutch jambless fireplace on the back-end wall and the entrance placed opposite on the front-end wall, as in the Bronck house and the 1690 Bevier/Elting house in New Paltz. In all the examples of New World Dutch houses I know of, the ceiling beams are set transverse to the ridge of the roof. There are exceptions in small late additions. The present longitudinal direction of the beams in the Kierstead house indicates that the roof direction was changed later in the eighteenth century, perhaps when the present jambed fireplace was constructed.

One puzzling feature of the original house is the lack of evidence for the hearth of the Dutch style fireplace, but this may have been removed, including the cellar hearth beam, when the new English style fireplace was installed. Hearth beams, although made more massive than the others to support the weight of the hearth, are more vulnerable to rot from wet mops, uncapped chimneys and overturned kettles that dampen them and to the attached masonry that holds the dampness.

There is clear evidence of this damage on the hearth beam in the kitchen wing of the Wynkoop/Londsbery house and in the missing hearth beam of the Bevier/Elting house where the original beam was judged un-salvageable and replaced recently in reconstructing a jambless fireplace.

John Stevens dated the 7-bay (?) Kierstead house addition to circa 1790. After much examination by the group, it was discovered at 4:45 PM, just before closing time, that the addition was built as a combination stone and timber frame saltbox. The entire house has a great deal of originality in its details and makes an interesting study of changes. It is similar to the Beir/Wood house in West Saugerties a stone and wood frame house of a later period that is in ruin and would be a good subject of archaeology and comparison.

It is difficult to date the stone summer kitchen. It was originally a separate building, perhaps constructed before the 1790 center-hall and parlor addition. Its connection with the addition was the last change made to the house other than the roof replacement of the late nineteenth-century that destroyed some important evidence.

The ceiling beams of the stone summer-kitchen are very light suggesting it was an out-building rather than the home of a land owner but dendrochronology would be the best way to date it. The mortise for a trimmer was found on the hood beam suggesting the original fireplace was jambless and the present one a modification. It should be compared to the stone summer-kitchen at the Schoonmaker house just up the road. It has one of the most complete jambless summer-kitchen fireplaces I know of.

Aside from the ceiling beam evidence for its sequence of construction there is evidence in the cellar of the Kierstead house, not fully examined, that the cellar of the addition was excavated after the original one. The stone wall that separates the two cellar rooms has a low shelf of stone on the addition side. I believe this shelf was built over the widening external foundation of the original house exposed by the excavation. The 1790 masons added stone to make this rough and awkward protrusion at the foot of the steep cellar stairs into something useful. It is noteworthy that this improvement was not made in the more primitive Frier house visited earlier that day.

