

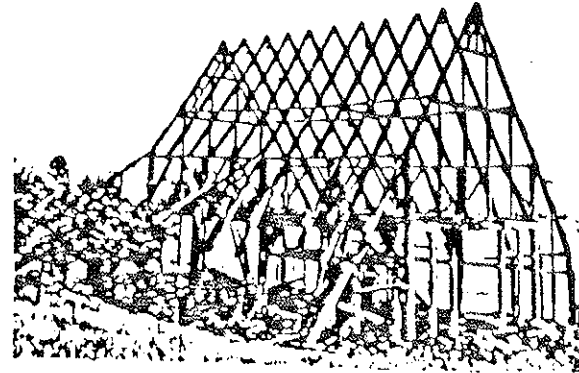
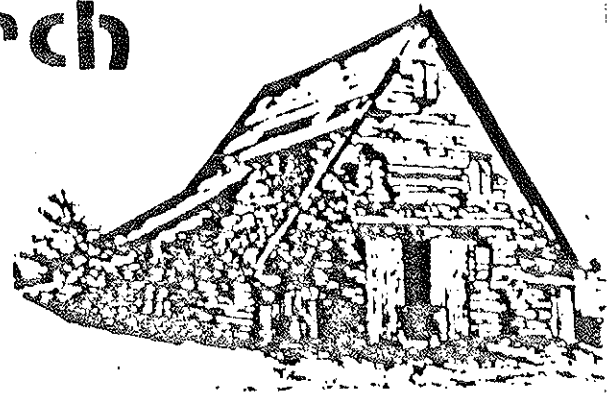
Dutch Barn Research Miscellany Vol. 1 No. 2, 1988

This publication is planned to provide more information than can be included in the NEWS LETTER of the society. The papers are based on the research activities, historical archives, field trips and collections of members and others interested in Dutch Barns. They are presented as unedited copy.

It is hoped that this information will lead to a better understanding of the chronology, the builders, and the utilization of these unique structures and the role they played during the early settlement of North-eastern America.

The "MISCELLANY" will be compiled, reproduced and distributed at random times dependent on the accumulation of useful data.

Please send copy to Vincent Schaefer.



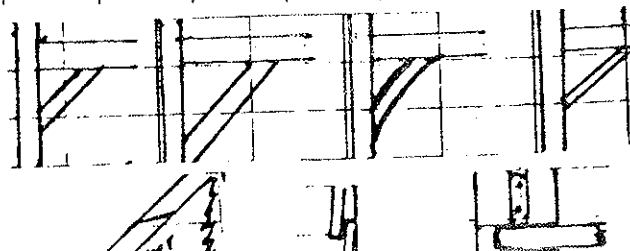
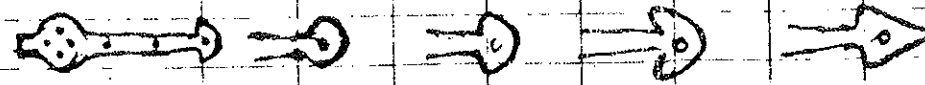
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WHAT IS A DUTCH BARN? AN OPINION

Vincent J. Schaefer - July 10, 1988

There are three types of old barns which can be called Dutch Barns or Dutch-type Barns. The first of these are those that were built by the master builders during the period from about 1680 to 1760. The second of these are those built between 1760 and 1800 that continued the traditional design but were built by local carpenters. The third are those that retain several of the basic Dutch Barn characteristics but are different in roof outline, hardware, doors and timber milling. These were probably built in the period 1800-1840.

The original Dutch Barn was a structure of beauty. It had a roof having a highly distinctive appearance so that it could easily be recognized at a distance. The included angle of these barns ranged from about 80 degrees to 105°. The height of the sides was also distinctive and ranged from 10 to 15 feet. They were generally square with sides ranging from 35 to 60 feet and heights of 30 to 40 feet. The interior was also unique with the floor plan dominated by a threshing floor having widths of 20 to 30 ft. and lengths of 30-60 ft. depending on whether the barn had 3, 4, 5 or 6 bays. On either side of the threshing floors, two aisles 10 to 15 ft. wide were used for stabling horses, cows or oxen while frequently a portion at one end had a granary.

The threshing floor resulted from the presence of tremendous sized anchor beams which were held by vertical posts. These beams had cross sections of 16" x 11" to as much as 22" x 12" with lengths of about 20 ft. to as great as 32 ft. including the extremely long tenons. These tenons had lengths of 16" to 24" and extended for 6" to 12" beyond the posts.

They were long so as to insure that the tapered wedges which snugged the anchor beam and its braces would not split the tenon when the wedges were driven "home." The anchor beam braces of these early barns had about the same width as the anchor beam and post, were tenoned and fit into mortises cut into the bottom of the anchor beam and the inner surface of the vertical post. These posts were also massive with cross sections of 10" x 12" to 12" x 14". They had lengths of from 18 to 22 feet. On top of the posts and running the full length of the barn were purlin plates, these timbers sometimes made in two pieces but often were 40 to 60 feet long in a single piece.

Resting on top of the purlin plates were the roof rafters which were tapered from bottom to top, frequently 7" x 7" at the bottom and 5" x 5" at the top. They had lengths of 30 to 40 ft. and were generally notched to fit on top of the purlin plate to which they were fastened with either a tapered wooden angular cross section oak or hickory pin 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter or with a large 12" long wrought iron spike. Occasionally, the purlin plate was notched to accommodate the rafter but this was uncommon. The top end of the rafters were joined with a tongue and fork construction with a single wooden peg holding them together. There never was a ridge beam.

The large and small doors on the gable end were hung on distinctive hinges. The large center doors were large enough to pass a loaded hay wagon and were hung on hard wood hinges. These spanned the width of the doors (about 6 feet), had a cross section of about 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" and were hung on hard wood circular shafts 1 1/2" in diameter which were sunk into the vertical posts framing the doors. One of the doors was the height of the opening of about 12 feet, the other side consisting of two doors the

upper one frequently left open to ventilate the contents of the barn.

The smaller "animal" door at either side of the gable, close to the eaves was hung on "Dutch Hinges," a very distinctive design consisting of a rounded expansion of the wrought iron strap close to the stud on which it swung. The further extension of the hinge, tapered toward its extremity. At the outer end of the hinge the metal was again spread to form a rounded or pointed end. About six different designs of this ending have been observed. A typical Dutch Hinge has a length of 20", a width at its heavy end of 1 1/4". At this end the hinge is bent into a rounded cylinder having a hole diameter of 3/4". Quite often this rounded end bears one or two horizontal indentations possibly of a decorative nature. The circular spreading of the metal at its inner end often reaches a diameter of 4", thinning at the edges. Generally, the edges of the hinge are beveled. While the overall length of the hinge described is typical of the common animal door hinges, the largest thus far observed is more than 36" long, while the smallest has an overall length of 10 inches. The original hinges were made by master smiths and are things of beauty -- simple, functional and elegant!

The timber used in building the early barns were virgin trees. Many of these were Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) also known as Hard and Yellow Pine. It was a native pine which flourished in dry, sandy soil such as occurred in the Pine Plains that stretched as a continuous forest between Albany and Schenectady. The Mohawk Valley is a northern outpost of this tree which flourishes as far south as Georgia. It is a very hard and rather brittle wood but was widely used for barn and house timbers, extremely wide floor boards and indoor sheathing. The virgin White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) was also used for the same purposes, the slow growing ancient trees having

greater durability and beauty than second growth.

Other trees utilized included the White oak (*Quercus alba*) and in later years the Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). The wooden pins, pegs and wedges were mostly fashioned from oak or hickory.

The siding of these barns consisted of long planks 3/4" to 1" thick, 12" to 13" wide by 10 to 14 feet in length. The milling marks indicate that they were fashioned with either a pit saw or a water powered up and down saw. They were laid in overlapped fashion with large rose head wrought iron spikes holding them against the vertical framing of the sides and gable ends of the barn.

The roof planks were of similar dimension except they were a bit thicker (1" - 1 1/4") and wider (12" - 15"). The earliest barns had plank roofs. These were made by making a very wide chamfer on both edges angled so that rain or snow melt water would be led outward when the boards were lapped. After a plank roof was installed it probably leaked with the lapse of a few years. Wood shingles were then added.

These early Dutch Barns rested on large stones located under the load bearing posts and at three to five places around the periphery of the barn along the four sides. These stones held the barn above the ground 1-2 feet permitting air circulation.

The heavy plank floor of most of the barns were of pine or oak, were 3" to 4" thick, 11" to 13" wide and cut to accommodate a spline that ran the length of the plank. These plank floors rested on beams which ran the full length of the barn and were recessed to receive the ends of the planks. These were frequently held down with wooden pegs. The wider barns often had a median sill on which the planks rested.

Those barns having granaries frequently had 2" holes on the underside in the center of one of the anchor beams with a related hold in a floor plank or median beam in which a shaft was fitted which was held in a vertical position. Presumably, this tethered an animal which went round and round, threshing the grain which would be spread in its vicinity. The exact process is not at present known.

Above the large door entrances was a pentice supported by horizontal studs mortised through the end anchor beams. Several different ways were fashioned to support the brackets holding the pentice.

Some of the early barns had wooden eaves troughs positioned to catch the roof runoff so as to divert it from the base of the barn.

A group of sway braces were fashioned to protect the barn when wind loaded. It appears that the longest braces of this type, some extending below the anchor beams, were installed in the older barns. These extended from the anchor beam posts to the purlin plate.

Quite frequently the barn siding on its upper portion was penetrated by 3 to 5 decorative martin holes. Such holes were made in 6 or 7 designs. Martins were encouraged to nest in the barn to feed in part on the insects brought into the barns with the hay and grain.

A number of barns were surmounted by a weather vane fastened to the peak of the roof at the front gable end. These showed silhouettes of fish, horses or other objects.

The second variety of Dutch Barns existing in the Hudson/Mohawk/Schoharie Valley area are those which we built in the period 1760-1800. These were built following the basic structural pattern of the classical barns but were constructed by local carpenters. The posts, anchor beams and braces and the purlin plates were an integral part of such

structures but in a general way they were less massive, the anchor beam braces were considerably smaller in cross section and the axe and adze work were cruder and inferior compared to the earlier barns.

They give the impression that they were built in a hurry, the main objective being to protect produce from the weather but at the same time having a building that would last for at least several generations.

Certain changes were introduced during this era. The long tenons of the anchor beams protruding beyond the back of the post were shortened or even eliminated, the end of the tenon flush with the back of the post being beveled showing this being a modification of the earlier design.

The probable reason behind this deterioration of workmanship is the toll of barns that were burned by British troops, Tories and Indians who swept the valleys of the Schoharie and Mohawk during the 1780 Period when Sir John Hohnson pillaged, burned and destroyed barns and homes and murdered his one time neighbors. Many of the Dutch Barns in Schoharie, Montgomery, Fulton and Otsego Counties are probably replacements of barns burned during the Revolution, and were probably built between 1785 and 1800.

The hardware fashioned for this second group of barns tended to be either of the more common strap hinge, sometimes of a rather pleasing contour but more often of a rather nondescript functional shape. When the design of the classical Dutch Hinge was attempted by the local blacksmith, the result was frequently a very poor facsimile. Apparently the art of spreading the metal to form the circular "plate" close to the inner end of the hinge was beyond the skill of the latter smithy or the effort took too much time.

Around the beginning of the nineteenth century and prior to 1850 the Dutch-type Barn was supplanted by an entirely new architectural design. Before this happened, however, the floor plan and internal features of the Dutch Barn persisted. Sometimes it is not possible to recognize such a modification by the external shape of the barn. Some of these had side walls high enough to permit the entrance of a fully loaded hay wagon through the middle of the side rather than the gable end.

The anchor beams became smaller and were sometimes square though still cut with an up and down saw. Pit saws had been abandoned. The tenons projecting beyond the rear of the post were less than 6 inches or might be completely absent although they did occupy the full depth of the post.

The anchor beam braces in these latter barns were nothing like the early ones. They generally consisted of one or two angular 4" x 4" sometimes mortised and tenoned but at times just nailed to the under surface of the anchor beam and the side of the post.

In some, the anchor beam posts extended twenty feet or more above the anchor beams and the purlin plates on top of them and held rafters whose included angles were such that the external outline of the barn had slopes similar to the later barn structures whose rafters were supported by the walls of the building.

The roof of the Dutch barn was never supported by the walls but by the purlin plates mounted on top of the anchor beam posts. Their side walls were thus "curtain walls" similar in function to the modern skyscraper.

I have felt for many years that the Master Carpenters responsible for the design and construction of our Dutch Barns had previous experience in Northern Europe of building barns and wooden ships. Evidence to support this suggestion is found in the joints visible in the construction of the

Jordan's barn in England made of timbers salvaged from the "Mayflower" when it was dismantled. The curved anchor beam braces of the Van Bergen Barn (1680) are similar to the Jordan's barn.

When in Oslo at the museum housing Nansen's wooden ship "The Fram" which he used in an attempt to float across the North Pole, I also saw joints similar to those used with the braces on anchor beams. I hope it will be possible to acquire detailed drawings of some ancient wooden boats recently salvaged from beneath the sea.

It is logical to expect that a Master Carpenter would be able to devise wooden joints that would hold. This would be of crucial importance in the construction of a wooden ship especially one that must withstand the strains, twists and buffeting that a sailing ship would encounter in the northern oceans, the North Sea and in certain instances the pack ice of the Arctic. Timber joints fashioned to survive such pressures would be perfect structures to handle the roof loading of a large barn.

When such an artisan was confronted with the magnificent trees of the neighboring woodlands of Northeastern America he probably was highly pleased and exerted himself to build in a manner that would last for many generations.

Those barns which have survived fire and rot for 25 to 30 generations attest to his artistry and craftsmanship. Anyone who has worked with wood and has a reverence for it, can readily understand the care that was exerted in making the perfect joints that are still visible, in chamfering the edges and in producing the smoothed surfaces imparted to the massive anchor beams of these early structures.

Thus, it is my opinion based upon fifty years of encounters with Dutch Barn mysteries in the upper Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys, that the

first wave of such barn construction which probably occurred prior to 1680 and continued till about 1760 was the work of Master Carpenters having a thorough knowledge of wooden boat construction and barn building. They had roots in the Netherlands, Germany or Scandinavia. The simplicity of design, precision of fabrication and elegance of assembly mark these barns as unique structures. Those built after 1760 remained in the tradition but tended to suffer in quality with a few exceptions. After the Revolution the replacement buildings continued to show the decline in quality. The third phase after 1800 which continued to employ the Dutch Barn design having a main aisle as established by the lengths of the anchor beams with side aisles used by animals and roof rafters supported by the purlin plates on top of the anchor beam posts.

The persistence of this design was probably due to the innate conservatism of the farming community. Despite the disappearance of the virgin trees which supplied the massive anchor beams, long rafters, big posts and purlin plates, inadequate substitutes failed to provide the basic timbers needed to carry on an adequate continuation of the earlier Dutch Barn design and construction.

Thus the conditions were suitable for the development of a radical change in barn construction. As a result this new design in which the roof is supported by the side walls, used sawed timbers of hemlock no larger than cross sections of 10" x 12" with many timbers considerably smaller.

Many of these latter barns (sometimes called German Barns, English Barns or Shaker Barns) were well built and since they have sound roofs and dry foundations they should last well into the twenty-first century. However, though some are impressive structures, they lack the aura which surrounds the ancient Dutch Barns with their blend of pioneer days,

Those remaining should be guarded jealously with care and a deep concern for posterity.

Unique features of Dutch Barns.

1. Anchor beams with projecting tenons in most cases
2. Purlin plate on top of anchor beam posts support roof rafters.
3. Top end of roof rafters pinned but have no ridge beam.
4. Wooden hinges on large gable end doors.
5. Dutch iron hinges on animal doors
6. Poles spanning anchor beams for holding hay or grain.
7. Floor planking of oak and pitch pine.
8. Plank roof with overlapping boards
9. Up and down saw marks on planks and timber.
10. Wide clap boards as siding.
11. Martin holes of 7 or 8 different designs
12. Weather vane
13. Spoked slanting dividers in animal stalls.
14. Animal stalls on both sides of threshing floor.
15. Piers of native stone supporting sills and posts.
16. Granary of tightly fitted wide planks.
17. Sway braces between anchor beam posts and purlin plate.
18. Pentice shielding outside of gable end doors
19. Wooden gutters along bottom of eaves.
20. Roof angle less than 105° .
21. Sides lower than 15 feet.
22. Anchor beams of Pitch Pine, White Pine, Oak or Basswood.
23. Anchor beam brace tenons fit into mortises on posts & beam
24. Threshing floor located near middle of barn.

Note: These features are not always present in a particular Dutch Barn in entirety. However evidence that some of them were present can often be found.

DUTCH BARNs

Schenectady/Albany Counties.

- 1 Van Eps
- 2 Vedder
- ③ Bradt-Mabie
- 4 Ellis
- 5 Van Slyck
- 6 Seeley
- 7 Bradt
- 8 Teller-Schermerhorn
- 9 Brouwer
- 10 Schermerhorn
- ① Van Antwerp-Wemple
- 12 Normanskill
- ⑬ Wemple
- 14 Diamond
- 15 Becker
- ⑬ Heldervue
- ⑰ Crouse ?
- ⑱ Knox
- 19 Viele
- Still Standing 1987



The Use of Pitch Pine in Early Dutch Structures

The structural timbers used in making the Dutch Barns of the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie valleys range from White Pine to Pitch Pine to Oak. The type of tree used varies somewhat with the geographic locations. In the mid-Hudson valley area Oak is used frequently while farther north White and Pitch Pine was favored.

The virgin pine forests must have been spectacular. A traveler entering the Pine Plains northwest of Albany remarked that he didn't see the sky until he reached Schenectady.

In examining the details of barn and house construction of the period between 1670 and 1750 it is of particular interest to observe that many of the extremely wide floor boards in houses were almost exclusively of Pitch Pine. It is a very hard wood of distinctive appearance since the "fall" growth is a rich brown color compared to the yellower color of the "spring" growth.

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) also is called Yellow Pine and Hard Pine. It was a giant tree in the virgin forest of Colonial New York rivalling the White Pine. It ranges north to south from southern Maine to Georgia and from eastern New England to Ohio.

One of these giant trees is still growing at the northernmost edge of the Pine Plains west of Schenectady on top of the bluff above Lock 8 on the Mohawk River. It is in the Old Maids Woods on the edge of a grove of very large red and white oak, white pine and hemlock. This tree is 89 ft high, has a circumference of 83 inches, with a D.B.H. of 27 inches. The lowest branch is at a height of 39 feet.

The Pitch Pine favors sterile sandy soil thus the post glacial sand bed of Lake Albany provided an ideal habitat for the Pitch Pine to thrive. Now a days in this location it is a scraggly tree and its appearance does not suggest that it could ever have been the source of the massive anchor beams and posts found in the Dutch Barns of this region.

An anchor beam having a cross section of 24" by 12" and length of 32 feet could easily be fashioned from the Pitch Pine in the Old Maids Woods.

Barns visited May 17 1988 by Vincent J. Chafer + Mark Hesler guided by Clair Tholl.

5. Bartholf-Lord Barn
"Amberfields"
1122 Rampao Valley Road
Mauwah

4 bay barn, high-sided)
originally - 3 bay

Worten Dyke Road
13 pasack County owned-open Wed. and Sun.
park rehabilitated, original frame

Upper Nyack
Nyack
May-Oct.;

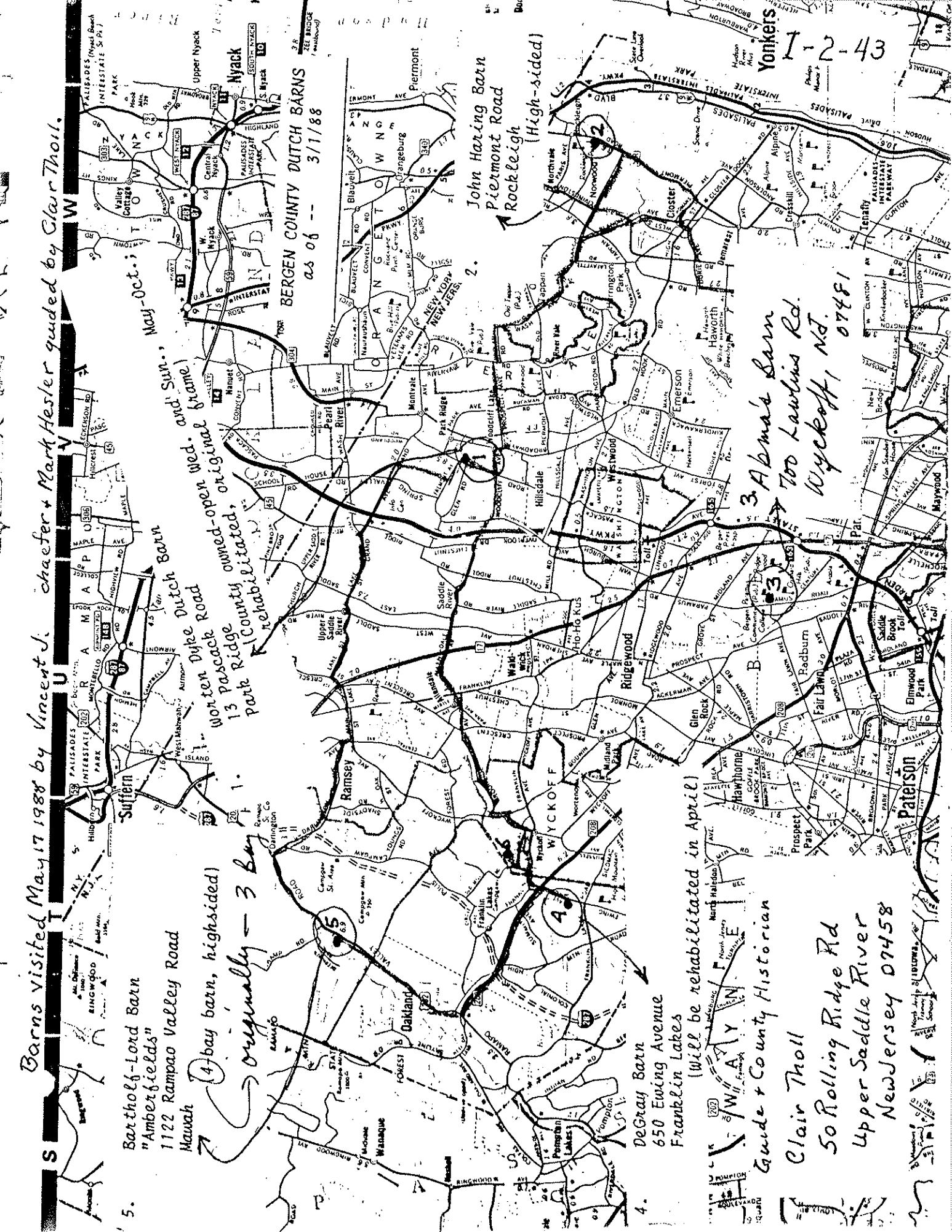
BERGEN COUNTY DUTCH BARN
as of -- 3/1/88

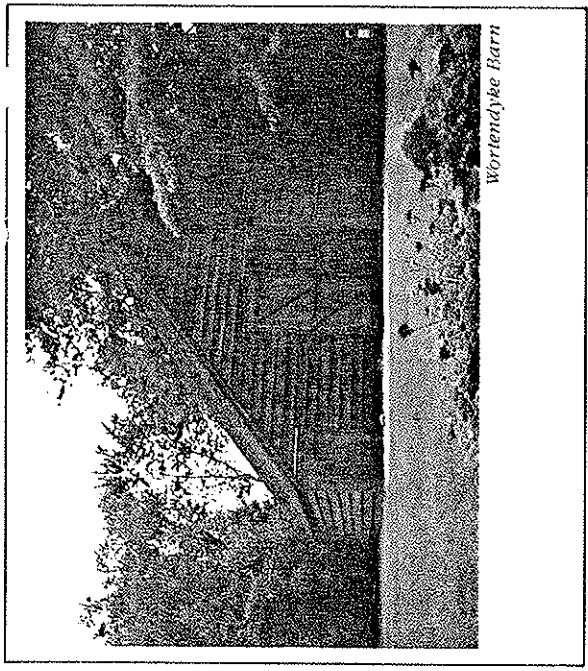
4. DeGray Barn
650 Ewing Avenue
Franklin Lakes
(will be rehabilitated in April)

Guide + County Historian
Clair Tholl
50 Rolling Ridge Rd
Upper Saddle River
New Jersey 07458

3 Abma's Barn
700 Lawlis Rd.
Wyckoff, N.J. 07481

2. John Haring Barn
Piermont Road
Rockleigh
(High-sided)





Wortendyke Barn

Wortendyke Barn

Come gaze on massive wooden beams. Visit the Wortendyke Barn. It is one of the area's few remaining examples of the unique type of barn built in this region of the New World settled by the Dutch. Learn what features make such barns a distinct architectural type. Also, see 18th and 19th century farm implements and vehicles.

The barn was erected on a farm which was owned by the Wortendyke family between 1735 and 1851. The exact construction date of the barn is not known. Its type was built into the early 1800's.

The Wortendyke Barn was acquired by the County of Bergen in 1973. Its restoration in 1976-77 was a Bicentennial project. Most of the exhibits are courtesy of the Pasack Historical Society, a private, non-profit, membership organization.

The Barn is open for guided tours, May through October on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. It is accessible to the handicapped. Special events held at the barn include the Pasack Historical Society's Pedlar's Day in May.

13 Pasack Rd., Park Ridge, N.J.
201-930-0124; 599-6151—Weekdays, 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

FROM NORTH:

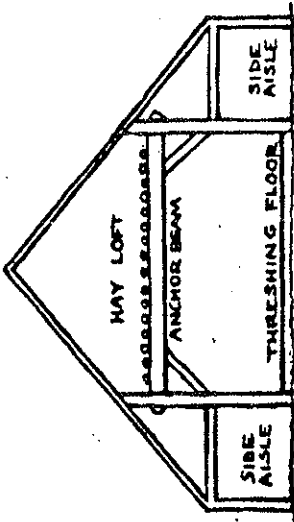
N.Y. State (Rt. 304); N.J. (Rt. 503) Kinderkamack Rd. s. Right onto Grand Ave. First left onto Pasack Rd. Barn is approx. 1 mile on left.

FROM SOUTH:

Rt. 17 N.: Farview Ave. Go approx. 8 miles n. on Farview, which changes into Pasack Rd.*

Rt. 4: Forest Ave., go approx. 3 miles. Left onto Oradell Ave. Right at first light onto Pasack Rd. Go approx. 5 miles.*

*Barn is on right just n. of Park Ridge border.



THE WORTENDYKE DUTCH BARN

The Wortendyke Dutch Barn was built in the latter half of the 18th century by Frederick Wortendyke, Jr., on land where he settled about the year 1750. He built his barn in a style familiar to areas of the New World settled by those who had come from the Netherlands — and by their descendants. Although these early emigrants included other nationalities, it was the Dutch culture, customs, agricultural practices and husbandry that exerted the greatest influence and which prevailed for generations to come. Their barns were simple, commodious and functional.

Dutch barns are distinguished by the fact that they are almost always wider than deep. The gable ends boast wide wagon doors through which the farmer could drive with a full wagon of hay — with smaller entrance doors for man or animals placed at the farmer's convenience.

The massive interior anchor beams stretch from column to column across the central aisle and are the most conspicuous evidence of stolid Dutch architecture and workmanship. Such huge timbers place these barns in a unique class. Upon them rest saplings which could support a vast amount of hay in the capacious loft which lies under the broad, sloping roof. Dutch barns are most frequently divided into three aisles. Stalls for livestock were placed along the side in aisles tucked under the eaves and flanking the central aisle — or threshing floor — with the animals facing inward.

Bergen County's early agricultural economy was sustained by the Jersey Dutch farmer and his barn was as important to him as was his homestead. Pasack Road separates Frederick's barn from his home — which still stands.

The Wortendyke Dutch Barn has been on its original site for approximately two centuries. Substantially built, and maintained by subsequent owners, its present restoration by the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders with aid and assistance by the Historic Sites Advisory Board and the Pasack Historical Society insures its preservation so that future generations can more fully appreciate the heritage left by our ancestors upon this land.

1-2-45.

General Observations Made During Field Trip to New Jersey
Northeastern New Jersey -- Bergen County 5/17/88

Note: Comparisons and conclusions based on Upstate N.Y. Barns

1. Barns are smaller, lower sided & shallower pitched roof. Often wider than long. 35ft x 30' observed several times. Mostly 3 bay.
2. Construction & craftsmanship much cruder and not of as durable a design. ie short tongues, no wedges, lap bracing, 2 pc. rafters on anchor beams.
3. Smaller capacity of hay mow areas created by shortened columns with only 3-4½ ft of height above the top face of anchor beams to bottom face of purlin plate. No raising holes.
4. Two piece rafters meeting at purlin plate most common. This increases structural load on outside walls but no doubt is easier to make as compared to full length tapered rafters.
5. Dove tailed lap joints used regularly in these barns. Most common use on longitudinal ties. In one barn all anchor beams had such design.
6. Chestnut wood used thruout these barns. It has a very dark patina. Have not seen such wood in use Upstate.
7. No Threshing pm holes observed in any of the barns nor any evidence of thick oak flooring.
8. No evidence of wagon door wooden hinges although flared Dutch iron hinges commonly seen on animal/man doors.
9. Anchor beams nowhere near as deep as Upstate Dutch Barns. Tend to be squarish - 9½" x 13½". Braces much narrower than anchor beams and columns.
10. No evidence of peltice mortices in gable end anchor beams.
11. No evidence of plank roofing. Roof boards narrow and widely spaced.
12. General age / period indeterminate. More research is needed on background of early owner, time of settlement agricultural methods and crops harvested. Comparisons should be made with barns further south including the coast line of south Jersey and Delaware.

Mark Hesler 5/20/88

1-2-46.

1.

Rough Measurement of 5 Dutch Barns in North Jersey

Note: Numbering sequence based on Bergen Co. Map: 1-2-43

1. Worter dyke Dutch Barn.

Very low sides (about 6 feet)

Squarish anchor beams

Lapped dovetails on long tie

Almost no column above anchor joint

Wood -- Chestnut Some pine

Double rafters

Anchor beam braces $\frac{1}{3}$ thickness of column

No sign of wooden hinges for wagon doors

Rough craftsmanship -- no wedges. short tongue.

Many alterations.

3 Bay barn.

2. Harring Dutch Barn.

High anchor beam ca 11 ft from bottom face of a.b. to sill.

Longitudinal Tie - Dove tail lapped joint at each gable end.

Double purlin plate with 2 piece rafters.

Rough construction - anchor beams broad axed.

Small timbers in general

Wood - chestnut with some oak(?)

Unique rail support in column - mortised in.

Anchor beam $13\frac{1}{2}$ " deep x $9\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, small braces up ^{saw} & down

Square tongues, chamfered - no wedges

3 Bay Barn

3. Abma Dutch Barn

Roof ridge 90° turned over H frame. Later wings.

Only 3' to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ' of column above anchor beams.

Wood - chestnut

Long tongues (tenons) with only 1 wedge.

High wall -- 11 to 12 feet.

All anchor beam braces dovetailed lap joints

Sway braces lapped with dove tail joints at gable ends.

- Mark Hester 5/20/88

1-2-47.

2-

Continued

Rough measurements of 5 Dutch Barns in Northern Jersey

Continued Abma Dutch Barn #3.

Anchor beams squarish, roughly hewn no adze work
Purlin plates with 5-6" wide notches spaced 8ft apart
Present purlin 5-6 ft above original and at right angle
Small attached structure very early, dove tailed ties.
3 Bay Barn

4 De Gray Dutch Barn.

3 Bays each $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft long.
Center aisle 14 ft wide
Side aisles $9\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide
Anchor Beam $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches x $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide
Rough size of barn 35 ft wide 30 ft long
Tongue flush with column surface with chamfered end.
Very poorly made rafters, halved sapplings.
Purlin plate 4- $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft above top of anchor beam.
Very rough craftsmanship
Distance from bottom face of anchor beam to floor 10 ft.

5. Barto 1/2-Lord Dutch Barn

Narrow center aisle 15 ft'
Low walls - 8 ft
Original 3-Bay / 9 ft long bays
Barn estimated 35 ft wide 30 ft long
Wood chestnut - oak rafters
Distance from floor to anchor beam 10 ft.
Purlin plate 4- $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft above top of anchor beam
Basically a square anchor beam
Short tenon - 6" chamfered - no wedges
Man door adjacent to wagon door.
No evidence of pentice.
No raising holes

- Mark Hessler 5/20/88

I-2-48

Basic Dimensions of 4 early Dutch Barns.

Barn Owners.	Teller Schermershorn Mohawk Valley	Wemple Dellamont Mohawk Valley	Bradt Mabie Mohawk Valley	Decker Bienstock Hudson Valley
Probable date	1701	1712	1710	1750
Width	50 ft.	47.1 ft	47.5 ft	53.0 ft.
Length	50 ft.	56.5 ft.	56.4 ft	56.9 ft
Height	40 ft.	40.0 ft.	36.0 ft	35.0 ft.
Height at Eaves	10.0 ft	12.9 ft.	14.0 ft.	15.4 ft.
Length Anchor Beams	34 ft.	30.6 ft	28.3 ft.	32.6 ft.
Depth Anchor Beams	20 in.	22.5 in.	21.5 in.	17.5 in
Width Anchor Beams	12 in.	11.5 in.	11.5 in.	11.0 in
Wood of Anchor Beams	Yellow Pine	Yellow Pine	Yellow Pine	Oak.
Beam clearance	12.4 ft.	11.4 ft	11.0 ft.	11.3 ft.
Height of Columns	21.9 ft.	22.0 ft	22.2 ft.	22.7 ft.
Type of Roof	Plank	Plank	Plank	(?) Butted.
Animal Door Hinges	Dutch	Dutch	Dutch	Dutch
Large Door Hinges	Wooden	Wooden	Wooden	?
Rafters.	1-Span	1-Span	1-Span	2-Span
Anchor Beam Braces	11.5 in.	11 in.	11.0 in	10.5 in.

Mark Hester

V.J. Schaefer 7/30/88

1-2-49

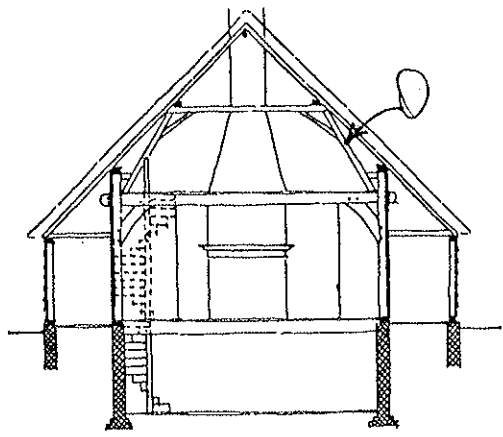


Fig. 32. Reconstructed side view of a farmhouse built by Jeuriaen Hendricksz for Jan Damen, 1648.

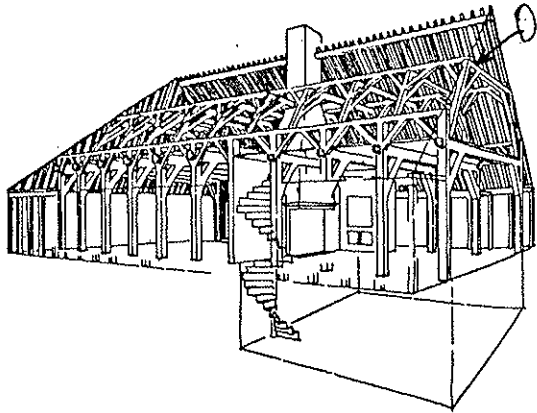


Fig. 34. Reconstructed perspective of a farmhouse built by Jeuriaen Hendricksz for Jan Damen, 1648.

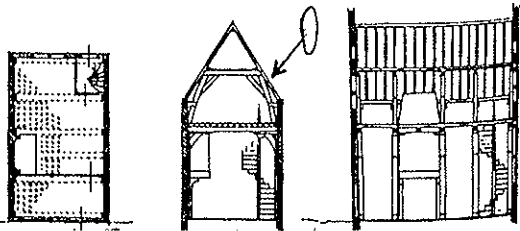


Fig. 24. Reconstruction of Breedstraat 32, Enkhuizen, Holland ca. 1540.

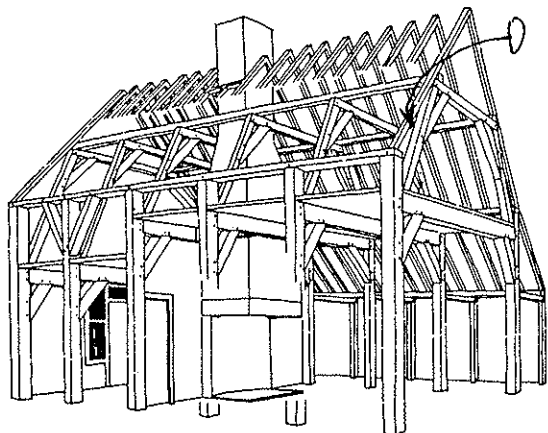


Fig. 23. Reconstructed perspective of a farmhouse built by Reynier Dominicus without the partition between the house and side aisle, 1646.



V.J. Schaefer 1940

Roof support framing of the Van Bergen Dutch Barn. This was located near Leeds, south west of Catskill and was photographed in 1940. This barn is said to have been built in 1680. Note the similarity to the framing of houses in the Netherlands built between 1540 and 1648.

Drawings from "The Netherlands Town House: How and Why It Works" Henk J. Zantkuy! New World Dutch Studies Albany Inst. Hist. + Art

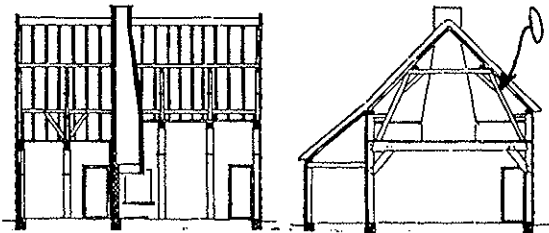
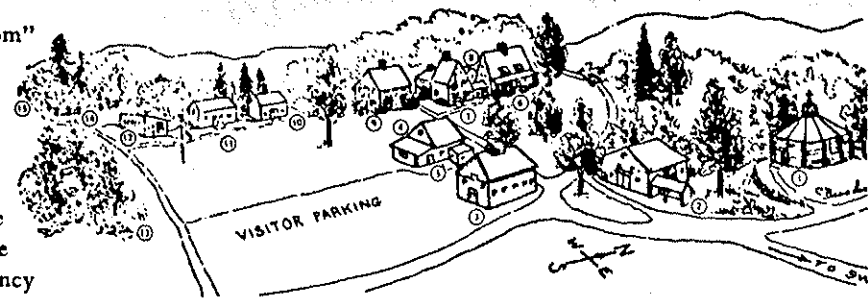


Fig. 20. Reconstructed elevation of a farmhouse built by Reynier Dominicus, 1646.

V.J.S. 8-19-8

1. 13 Sided "Freedom" Barn
2. Dutch Barn
3. Antiquarium
4. Library
5. Curator's Office
6. 1738 Brick House
7. 1663 Stone House
8. Kitchen Dependency



9. Caretaker's Residence
10. Rip Van Winkle Building
11. Pieter Bronck Trading Post
12. Rest Rooms
13. Picnic Grove
14. Bronck Cemetery
15. Slave Cemetery

More than three hundred years of upper Hudson Valley history are reflected in the cluster of architecturally significant buildings which comprise the Bronck Museum. After nine generations of Broncks had maintained the homestead as a working farm, it came to the Greene County Historical Society under the will of Leonard Bronk Lampman. This legacy is a permanent memorial to his mother Adelaide Ely Bronk Lampman, a lineal descendant of Pieter Bronck, original grantee and first builder on the land in 1663. The Greene County Historical Society maintains the Bronck Homestead as its headquarters and as a museum to house valuable historical collections which reflect the region's history.

1663 Stone House — the original building, built on a three-mile Indian land purchase extending from Hudson's River to Kalkeberg Ridge. By the terms of his patent from the Dutch Government, Pieter Bronck was required to build on the land within two years. While the original crude furnishings have long been displaced, the broad floor boards, huge beams, Dutch doors and the Indian lookout in the loft are noteworthy.

1685 Stone Addition — an early expansion of the original building to accommodate the growing family. This "west wing" consists of a hallway, main room, and loft. The great storm of 1792 caused extensive structural damage, requiring rebuilding. It was about that time the Dutch-style fireplaces were replaced in the various rooms and the distinctive paneling installed. The weaving loft contains an important collection of regional textiles, as well as the household equipment used in their production.

1738 Brick House — a choice example of rural Hudson Valley Dutch architecture modified by federal period taste. This addition to the homestead, consisting of cellar, two-room main floor, and two-room loft, attests to the growing affluence of the Bronck family. The brick and

stone houses were joined by a hyphen hallway at an early date for family convenience.

Kitchen Dependency — built in the federal period on the foundation of an earlier structure. A house in miniature, with main room, loft, and cellar, it faces the rear courtyard in a manner typical of the detached kitchen in a plantation economy. On display are local furniture and equipment used in the preparation and serving of food to a large household of family and servants.

House Furnishings — The rooms are furnished with elegant federal period and Victorian-style furniture. In addition, china, glass, silver and paintings from the several generations of Broncks and other Greene County families create a gracious atmosphere. The Society has not reverted to the periods of construction in its selection of furnishings. The 1710 Samuel Van Vechten portrait and the Hudson Valley Dutch Kas are of Van Vechten - Van Orden origin; the pre-revolutionary mezzotints on glass are from the Van Bergen - Van Dyck family; and the Lafayette triumphal tour commemorative china is from the Gay-Hallenbeck settlers. Descendants of the Catskill artist, Thomas Cole, have provided significant memorabilia relating to his life and work.

Throughout the houses are important works of art by such painters as Thomas Cole, John Frederick Kensett, Ezra Ames, Ammi Phillips, Richard Hubbard, Benjamin Stone and other nineteenth century artists.

The Barns — The Dutch barn with its huge framework, the 13-sided barn with its unusual center pole construction, and the Victorian horse barn (Antiquarium) contain trade and farm collections, horse-drawn vehicles, and a wide assortment of miscellaneous historical material. While exhibits are frequently changed, some permanent displays include Fox - Clark Athens pottery, medical equipment and country store items.

DIRECTIONS TO BRONCK HOUSE

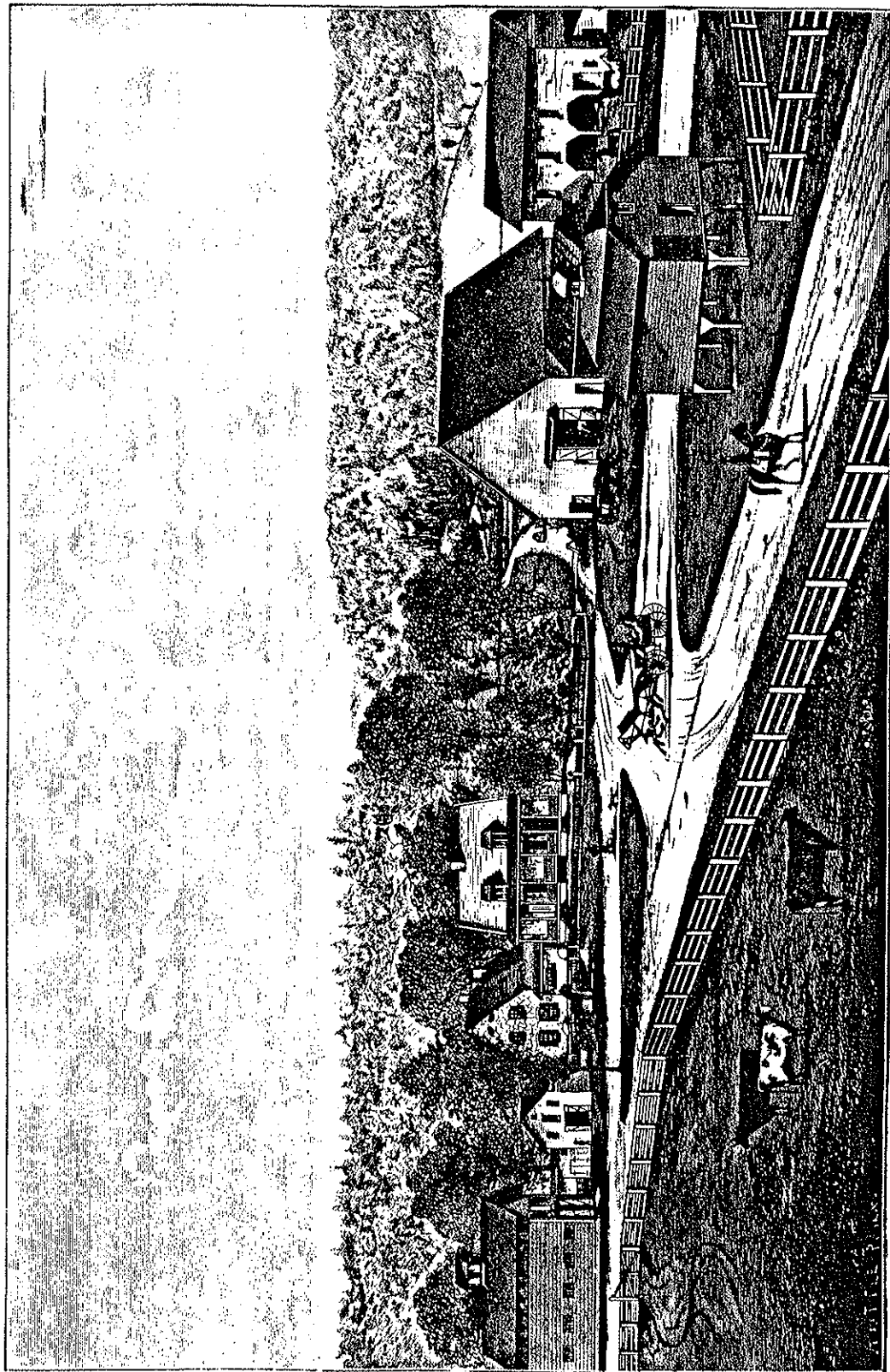
- From Thruway Exit 21-B, Coxsackie: South on 9W 3¼ miles; at RED BARN turn right on Pieter Bronck Rd.
- From Traffic Light at 9W and 81: South on 9W 1¼ miles; at RED BARN turn right on Pieter Bronck Rd.
- From Catskill: North on 9W; at RED BARN turn left on Pieter Bronck Rd.
(Opposite New York State Vocational Institution)

Scheduled Guided Tours

- Beginning Last Sunday in June — Ending Sunday before Labor Day.
- Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm — Closed for Lunch Noon to 1pm
- Sundays 2-6pm — Closed Mondays
- Admission \$1.75 — Youths 12 thru 15 - \$1.00
- Children 5 thru 11 - 50¢

Special Group Arrangements Upon Request
from May 15 to September 30 — Call 518-731-8862

1-2-51



Property of Mrs. ADELAIDE BRONK LAMPMAN.

BRONK HOUSE.

Coxsackie, N. Y.

BRONCK BARN IN 1880's

Bratt (Bradt) Geneology related to Mebie/Bratt Barn
Rottterdam Junction

Arent Andries Bratt b. ? d. 1662
m. Catalyntje de Vos d. 1712

ch.	b.
1. Jefie	1649
2. Ariantje	1651
3. Andries	1653
4. Cornelia	1655
5. Samuel	1659
6. Dirk	1661

— — Samuel Bratt b. 1659 d. 1713/14
m. Susanna Van Slyck

ch.	b.	b. 1684 d. 1715
1. Arent	1684	— — Arent Samuelse Bratt
2. Margareta	1686	¹⁷¹⁰ m. Catharina Mebie
3. Anna	1692	d. 1773
4. Jacobus	1695	ch. b.
5. Cornelia	1696	1. Samuel 1715
6. Johannes	1699	2. Johannes 1717
7. Catalyntje	1701	3. Susanna 1719
8. Susanna	1704	4. Annatje 1721
9. Andreas	1705	5. Margret 1723
10. Samuel	1707	6. Eva 1726
11. Ephriam	1712	7. Abram 1727
		8. Jacobus 1730
		9. Engeltje 1733

This family goes back to Arent Andries Bratt who with his brother Albert came to Albany prior to 1650. His brother owned a mill and remained in the Albany area. Arent came to Schenectady, was an Indian trader and one of the original proprietors settling Schenectady in 1661. He married Catalyntje de Vos in Albany and with her had 6 children while in Albany. A year after going to Schenectady he died.

His son Samuel born in 1659 married Susanna Van Slyck. Their first son (of 11 children) Arent Samuelse married Catharina Mebie. They had 9 children, 4 sons and 5 daughters while living on the Third Flat 8 mi. west of Schenectady, the first in 1715, the ninth in 1733. In 1735 he moved to Hindmost Farm No 1 where he built a brick house.

Field Trip to Measure Ancient Pitch Pine in Old Maids Woods.

On Tuesday Aug. 23, 1988 I decided to see if I could obtain a more accurate measurement of the big Pitch Pine that grows in the Old Maids Woods at Schonowe in the Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County N.Y.

I headed up the lower trail only to find it was blocked by a massive windfall of large black locusts. It was a mess! I struggled across the large downed trees, weeds, brambles, wild rose bushes and other growth, and finally reached the base of the angling trail which climbs into the woods. At the top of the sandy bluff I found the tree and began measurements.

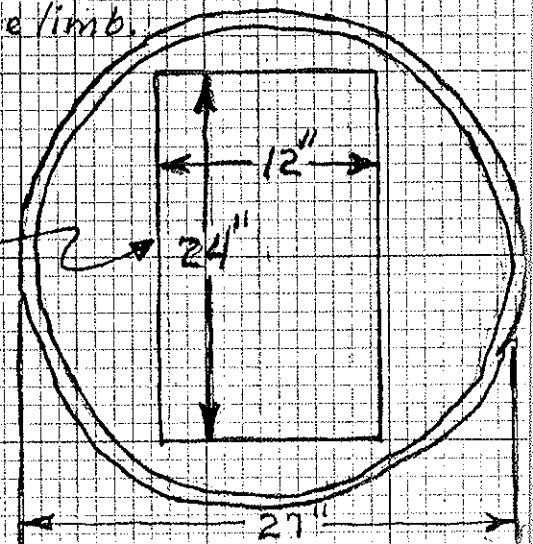
Measuring the circumference at breast high location I found it to be 83 inches. Thus its D.B.H. is 27 inches. I then searched for a place where I could get a 45 degree sighting of the top of the tree. This was very difficult because of the intervening trees. I finally found a spot not far from the old stone wall where the top of the tree could be seen. Making a sighting at 45 degrees I found it to be $84\frac{1}{2}$ feet from my tripod to the tree. Since my tripod had a height of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. This makes the tree to be 89 feet high. I then made a similar measurement of the height of the first tree limb above the ground and found it to be 39 feet. The diameter of the bole appears to be quite uniform up to the tree limb.

Cross Section of Pitch Pine
in the Old Maids Woods.

Thickness of bark $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1"

Potential Anchor Beam

Tree appears to be in excellent condition and is surrounded by small hemlocks.



1-2-54

The Crouse / Czapski Dutch Barn - Comments

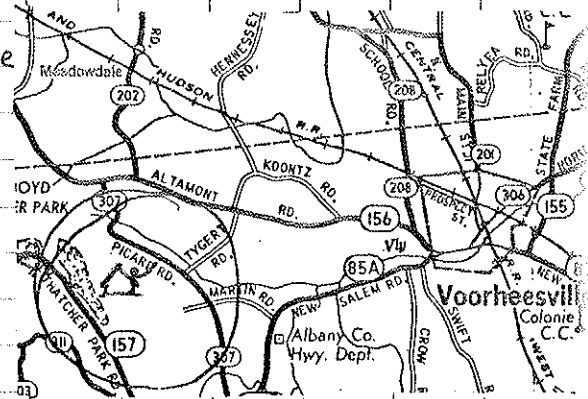
This barn is on Picard Road at the base of the Helderberg cliffs about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of New Salem in Albany County. This barn is in reasonably good condition but is missing a number of the original parts.

The original siding is on the east gable end with 5 man in holes similar to those on the Ingold Barn cited in the Inaugural News Letter of our Society. Only one anchor beam is intact the others having been modified or in one instance removed to make way for side doors. The west gable end originally had wooden hinges. Since the barn is on sloping ground the threshing floor terminates at the end of the third bay from the western gable. Part of the original planking and the median sill is intact. End sway braces are long but not at or below the anchor beam. The anchor beams have been adzed but not finished with a smooth surface and appear to be Pitch Pine. The anchor beam braces are not as wide as the columns. The anchor beams have a cross section of $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches \times 9" inches. No wrought iron hinges of the Dutch design were found though the smaller animal doors have been replaced. Roof sheathing are not overlapped or butted but have an inch or so between them. Some of the sway braces have been removed.

The purlin plates seem to be OK, but have a number of mortises not in use.

This barn was said to house an illegal still during the Prohibition Era at which time alterations to the integrity of the barn were made.

The barn is about 250 feet west of the farmhouse which is now occupied by the present owners Dr. & Mrs. Ulrich Czapski. They have restored the old Crouse house. It is said to date from the 1780s. The barn was built at about the same time. It is now used for car and equipment storage. V.V. Schaefer 1/24/88



i-2-55

The Persons/Cushing Dutch Barn - Comments.

This is a barn at the end of J. Hartman Rd. in the Town of Florida Montgomery County. It is between the N.Y.S. Thruway and N.Y. Pte 55 and goes west from Bulls Head Road.

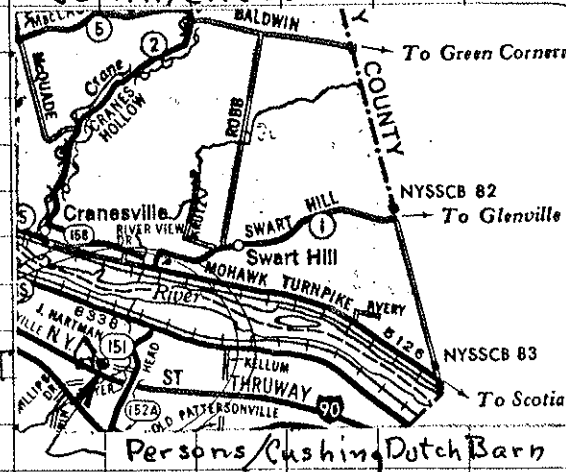
It is in very poor condition from the structural standpoint. It is adjacent to a small stream and about 100 feet in elevation above the Mohawk River.

This is a complicated barn. Originally it was a 3 bay barn but then had a wider bay added to it on its western end. The roof is O.K. but the posts and anchor beams lean due to the removal of side braces. The base of the rafters hang free of the side walls. One bay does not have an anchor beam though the mortises are in the posts which are made of oak. The middle pair of posts bearing the purlin plates have two anchor beams spaced about 6 feet apart. The adjacent pair of posts have a beam only about 5 feet above the floor while the main anchor beam is about 12 feet above the floor.

It would not be possible to drive thru this barn. The posts of the added west bay are Pitch Pine. No part of the barn shows careful carpentry. The anchor beams are not massive and are only about 20 feet wide. The sway braces are mostly missing.

Both gable ends have relatively new siding, the only original being on the north side where there are a few boards. The anchor beam tenons at the east gable are nicely cut, the rest are damaged or sawed off. The anchor beam braces have small cross sections.

All in all the barn is in bad condition and hardly merits further attention except for the presence of a double anchor beam. This barn was probably built in the early 1800s when the structural tradition was still present but the artisanship was not of high quality.



Vincent J. Schaefer 2/24/88

Historical Items Related to the Bratt/Mebie Dutch Barn.

This barn located between the Upper and Lower village of Rotterdam Junction was built not far from the ancient Van Antwerp/Mebie stone house. These buildings were on the Third Flat along the south shore of the Mohawk River west of Schenectady.

The Third Flat includes much of the villages of Rotterdam Junction and extends from the river bend at the Schenectady Chemical Co. to Lock 9 and maybe beyond.

It was described by Pearson as 8 miles above Schenectady. This land was originally owned by Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen who was born in 1635 in Holland. He became an Indian trader and obtained the Third Flat in 1670, built a stone house (still standing) acquiring the land from the Mohawk Indians. This land was patented to him by Gov. Dongan in 1680. On January 22, 170 $\frac{3}{4}$ he sold half of this land amounting to 63 acres to Jan Pieterse Mebie.

Jan Mebie married Anna Pieterse Borsboom sometime in the early 1680s. He bought the Van Antwerpen stone house in 1706 having lived previously at the western end of the Flat. He died in 1725 and had seven children. The second child Catharina born in 1691 married Arent Samuelse Bratt about 1710. They had 9 children between 1715 and 1733 all born at the Third Flat.

It is quite possible that Catharina (Catrina) was given the barn and a house by her father Jan Mebie as a wedding gift. Thus it is likely the Bratt/Mebie Barn was built in 1710.

About 1735 Arent Samuelse Bratt built the Bratt House located on the western edge of Hindmost Farm No. 1 the farthest arable land of the Great Flat's about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles up river from Schenectady. This farmstead is adjacent to Hindmost Farm No. 5 occupied by Johannes Teller and on which he built his house and barn in 1701 (The Teller/Schermerhorn Barn.) Bratt also built a barn next to his house. This had disappeared by the 1920s when I first traveled in this vicinity. Vincent J. Schaefer 9/30/87.

The Human Relationship to The Bratt/Mebie Dutch Barn.

Two brothers, named Bratt (Bradt) Albert Andriese and Arent Andriese were among the early settlers of Albany. They were referred to as 'de Noorman or de Sweedte', reflecting their origin in northern Europe.

Albert Andriese remained in Albany and had a mill along the Normanskill which stream was named after him. Arent Andriese went to the site of Schenectady with Van Curler as one of its original proprietors. In 1662 he died leaving his widow Catalyntje de Vos and 6 children. These were Jefie 15, Anaantje 13, Andries 11, Cornelia, 9, Samuel 5 and Dirk 3. Two years later in 1664 she married Barent Janse Van Ditmars. Van Ditmars was killed in the Schenectady Massacre of 1690. In 1691 Catalyntje married again this time to Claas Janse Van Boekhoven. Mrs. Bratt/Van Ditmar/Van Boekhoven survived her third husband and died in 1712. In her will of 169 $\frac{3}{4}$ she specified that Hindmost Farm No. 1 was to be given to her second son Samuel.

Samuel Arentse Bratt, this second son of Arent Andriese Bratt and Catalyntje de Vos was born in 1659. He married Susanna Van Slyck, fathered 5 sons and died in 1712. Hindmost Farm No. 1 which had been willed to him by his mother Catalyntje is described as "a lot on the south side of the River (Mohawk) now occupied by Samuel Bratt containing 30 acres bounded on the east by land of Arent Bratt and land of Johannes Teller (Hindmost Farm No. 5), north by the river, west by woodland of said Arent Bratt and woodland of Samuel Bratt and south by the Commons. This Hindmost Farm No. 1 was willed by Samuel Bratt to his second son Arent of the Third Flat who built the brick house (still standing in 1988) in 1735-36. Their youngest child was 2 years old when the Bratt family moved to the new brick house nearer Schenectady. It was called The Homestead and was occupied by Bratt descendants until the death of Eva Bratt in 1839. Data gleaned from J. Pearson's Schenectady Patent.

The Dutch Barns of Schenectady County.

There were many Dutch Barns in the general region of Schenectady. Settled in 1661 its original proprietors were each assigned two farms on the Great Flats adjacent to and west of Schenectady on the south side of The Mohawk River. In addition to these farms there was other rich arable land for these early settlers. There were four other flats on the south side of the river, seven on its north side and several flat areas of rich arable land above the flood



plain. There were also 9 islands that were available but none of them were conducive for home stabling because of the annual Spring flooding. In all instances the farm houses and barns were located on land adjacent but high enough to avoid flooding.

I started photographing Dutch Barns more than fifty years ago and will provide brief comments on the 14 of which I am familiar. These on the map were all within Schenectady County.

1. The Van Eps Dutch Barn. This barn when I photographed it in 1938 was in excellent condition. Located just east of Hoffmans Ferry on the north side of the road it contained many of the early farm implements such as wooden pitch forks and shovels. I was told some years ago that it had burned.

2. The Vedder Dutch Barn. Located several hundred feet west of the Vedder Tavern this was a fine barn. When I last saw it in 1984 it was being dismantled and in a few months was gone. I obtained a number of fine photographs of it.

3. The Bratt-Meble Dutch Barn. This barn was probably built about 1710 and is still standing. It lies between the Upper and Lower Villages of Rotterdam Junction near the ancient (1670) Meble House. Its south side roof has been neglected so that rot is

infesting its rafters and the purlin plate. Its structural parts are nearly identical to Barn No 13.

4. The Ellis Dutch Barn. - This was located near the old Larabee Stop of the Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville trolley line which connected with Schenectady. It was on the Ed King farm and disappeared about 30 years ago.

5. The Van Slyek Dutch Barn. - This was a beautiful barn. It had low side walls and all of the features of a very early barn. It was south of the River Road close to the banks of the Platter Kill. It burned to the ground about 20 years ago. Its owner Andy Baan gave me a number of beautiful Dutch hinges which he salvaged from the ashes.

6. The Seeley Dutch Barn. - This barn was on the north side of the Mohawk downstream of the old Maxon Road Bridge which spanned the river at the east end of Scotia. It appears in a news photo taken during the great spring flood of 1913. I never knew about it except for this photograph.

7. The Arent Bratt Dutch Barn. - This barn was located west of the Bratt House (1735). It was not seen by me except for its foundation stones.

8. The Teller/Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. - This barn was built in 1701 so far as I can determine and has been treated extensively in both #1 and #2 issues of this Miscellany, mostly in #1. It was located on the western end of Hindmost Farm No 5, east of my home along Schermerhorn Road. I had planned to convert it to a barn museum after buying it from Mrs. Anna Schermerhorn. However upon examining it I discovered that due to a neglected roof the rafters and purlin plates were badly rotted. I dismantled it in 1948 and in 1988 have made an exact scale model of it. Two of the original anchor beams and braces are intact and in the library room of my brother Paul at 899 St David's Lane in Niskayuna, Schuyl County.

9. The Brouwer Dutch Barn. This barn was said to have been the finest in the Mohawk Valley. It was sought by

representatives of Henry Ford who wanted to move it to Greenfield Village in Dearborn Michigan, as they did with the camp of Charles P. Steinmetz of General Electric. This camp was not far away, being up stream of Locks on the Mohawk.

The Schermerhorn Dutch Barn. - This barn was owned by Simon Schermerhorn an old friend of mine. It had been greatly modified. It was located at the big bend in Schermerhorn Road and not far from the Teller / Schermerhorn Cemetery. It was taken down about 30 years ago.

11. The Van Antwerp / Wemple Dutch Barn - This barn was originally along Van Antwerp Road in Niskayuna. In 1987 it was partially dismantled and moved to a new location near by. It was converted into a beautiful house. Many of the big timbers, the anchor beams and roof rafters have been retained and are exposed.

12. The Viele Dutch Barn. This barn was in perfect condition when I photographed it. It was located on the extreme western end of The Maalwyck upstream of present Locks and on the north side of the Mohawk. The large doors had wooden hinges and the smaller animal doors Dutch iron hinges. There were number of fine wooden latches. Unfortunately this fine barn burned down.

13. The Wemple / Delamont Dutch Barn - This is an excellent barn in very good condition, still standing and almost identical in dimension to the Bratt-Meble Barn No. 3. It has the original wooden hinges on the large doors, original siding, martin holes and Dutch hinges.

14. The Wemple / Diamond Dutch Barn This was a very small 2 bay barn with the largest anchor beam braces in the Mohawk - Schoharie area. It was neglected and soon deteriorated and in 1987 was a heap of ruins.

Note: - As the map on Pg 1-2-58 shows only 3 of the 14 Dutch Barns depicted by circles still exist. Vincent J. Schaefer 8/30/88.