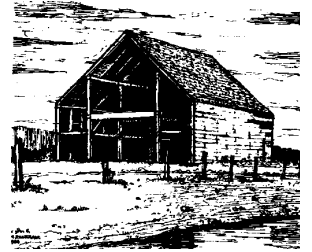


DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2012

VOL. 25, ISSUE 1

A New World Dutch Barn from 1669

Shirley W. Dunn

In 1668, the Director of Rensselaerswijck, Jeremias van Rensselaer, began to talk about building a new house on a new farm. A spring 1666 flood on the Hudson River had carried away his house and barn located on the north side of Fort Orange, as well as many other buildings. While Van Rensselaer family members escaped with their lives, they lost their colony accounts, stored grain, furniture, and most other possessions. After the flood they rented temporary housing while Jeremias continued in charge

of the Van Rensselaer land grant known as Rensselaerswijck.¹

Jeremias had selected a farm for himself called Crayloo (now spelled Crailo), within the present-day city of Rensselaer, which placed his farm and brewery across the river from his west-side residence. Since he could not retrieve products from his Crailo farm when the river was impassable, Jeremias decided to obtain a farm on the west shore. The one he hoped for was occupied by a farmer called *Broer Cornelis*.

Unfortunately, Broer Cornelis had a secure lease for his land. The hay barracks of Broer Cornelis were falling down and his horses and cattle were forced to look for food under the snow, according to Jeremias, but family managers in the Netherlands, respecting the existing lease, declined to give him the farm. Although frustrated, Jeremias intended "at one place or another" to go in for farming.²

Soon Van Rensselaer chose land beside the cascading Fifth Kill, a

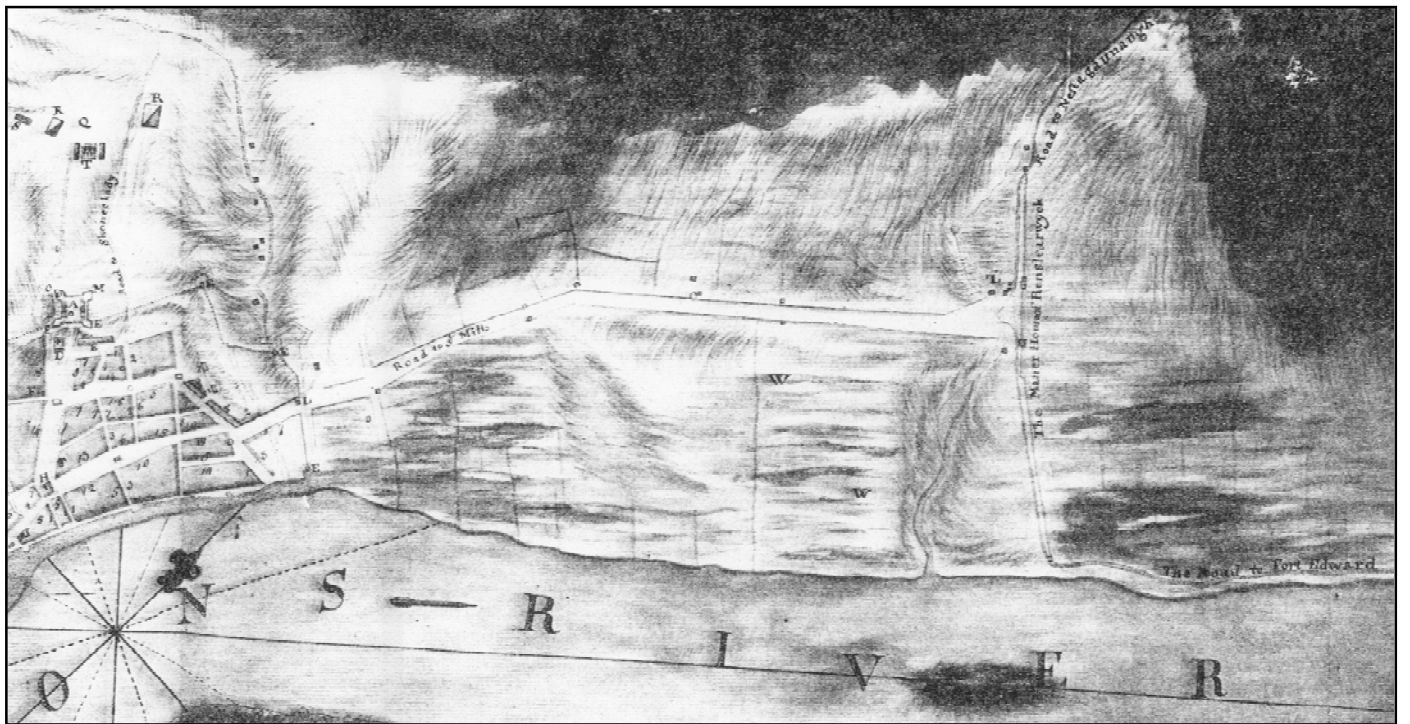


Photo 1. 1750s Map of North Albany. This English army map locates the old Van Rensselaer Manor House (and farm) in present North Albany. The 1669 Manor House was situated at the northeast corner of present Broadway and Tivoli Street. Broadway was then called "the road to the mills" and Tivoli Street was called "the road to Niskayuna." (Crown Collection of Photostats, New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Albany, NY).

(continued on page 2)

New World Dutch Barn (continued from page 1)



Photo 2. Van Bergen barn. About 1680, only a decade after the barn in the 1669 contract of Jeremias van Rensselaer was erected, another early Dutch barn was put up at Leeds in present-day Greene County, New York for Marte Gerrit van Bergen, a resident of Rensselaerswijck. The building collapsed in the 1970s. This rare view of its seventeenth-century interior shows anchor beams, posts, and the curved soffit of a brace, with saplings above (Photo of unknown date by Vincent Schaefer, from his 1994 book, *Dutch Barns of New York, An Introduction*, (Purple Mountain Press), reproduced with permission.)

structures needed for a farm: a barn and a hay barrack. The location of the barn called for in the 1669 contract is unknown.⁵ However, it would have been situated on the Van Rensselaer farm in the vicinity of the house and the nearby agent's office at the intersection, as this barn was also intended to be used for storage of grain which was paid to the patroon's agent as rent.

The Contract for the Barn

The proposed barn for Jeremias van Rensselaer fits the description of today's surviving "Dutch" barns. Barns were introduced in Rensselaerswijck by Jeremias' father, Kiliaen, the first patroon, on a few tenant farms on the upper Hudson River in the 1630s and 1640s. Prototypes can be found in period barns in the *Gooi* region of the Netherlands, where Kiliaen Van Rensselaer invested in the polders—lands reclaimed from the sea (Figure 1).

mill creek north of what is now the City of Albany. The spot was free from danger of river flooding, and moreover was adjacent to the coveted farm of Broer Cornelis. Jeremias purchased existing mills on the creek, started an orchard nearby, and installed a new brewery beside the stream.³ Despite a lag in trade which made him short of funds, he began a new house in this safe inland location. The Fifth Kill was later known as Patroon Creek. Although Jeremias was never a patroon, his successors, including his son, Kiliaen, were patroons (lords) of Rensselaerswijck. Patroon Creek runs adjacent to Tivoli Street in North Albany.

In 1669 Jeremias signed a contract with a carpenter for the erection of his new house, for which some work had already begun in 1668. The house survived for many years and was occupied until 1839.⁴ It was located at the northeast corner of the intersection of today's Tivoli Street and Broadway (Photo 1). The contract included, in addition to the house, two other

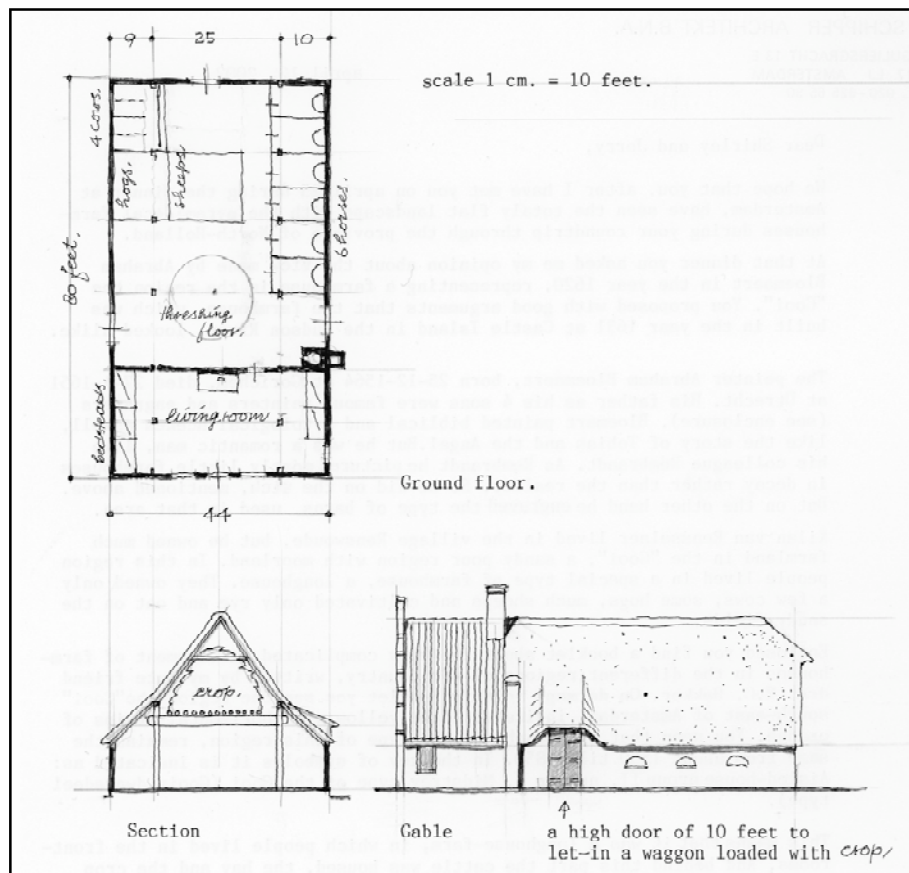


Figure 1. *Gooi* barn interior. A sketch of a typical seventeenth century *Gooi* barn frame was made about 2002 for the author by Dutch building expert and historian Jaap Schipper, now deceased. Once the barn and dwelling were separated, the former side entrance (projecting on the right wall) was abandoned in favor of the front entrance.



Photo 3. The 1668/69 Contract. The document shows fire damage, but most words can be read. The back of the page contains a list of materials purchased, including money owed for planks, some pencil calculations, and the names of nearby neighbors Jacob Sanders and Wynant Gerrits (New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections).

In letters Kiliaen van Rensselaer bewailed the cost of erecting buildings in his overseas colony on the Hudson River. Because the *Gooiland* barn was an economical structure which sheltered animals, owners and farm helpers under one roof, it is not surprising that Van Rensselaer introduced a similar form for his new farms in the Hudson Valley.⁶ In the Netherlands the dwelling at the gable end of the barn was made of brick with a tile roof to avoid fires, while the barn was of wood with brick or mud infill in the walls and thatch on the roof. Such large combination buildings were called “longhouses” in the *Gooi* region. A barn of this type was constructed and described on a Hudson River island in 1631. It was a frame barn with brick infill, with a brick residence on one gable end.⁷ By 1636, boards for siding became available from a sawmill on

the Mill Creek, now called Red Mill Creek, at Greenbush on the east side of the river. Adding siding was an improvement in bad weather, but did not alter the barn framing.

Deep frost and bitter winters were common in the seventeenth century in the Hudson Valley. Within a few years, the practical Dutch at Rensselaerswijck chose to separate their barns from their dwellings. The result was an important change in the barn layout. Without a house fronting the barn it was possible to have the large wagon entrance and animal doors on the gable end of the building. The inside remained similar to those of barns from the *Gooi* region, and included large beams over a central threshing floor and outer aisles called *uijtlaydingh*, one on each side (Figure 1). This framing became the Rensselaerswijck style (Photo 2).

The contract for the 1669 barn of Jeremias van Rensselaer was written in period Dutch language and old script. The document, having survived the 1911 Capitol Library fire, has been transcribed and translated (Photo 3). The barn dimensions call for a building 60 feet long by 30 feet wide, with *uijtlaydingh* 11 feet wide. However, it was not that large in modern terms. In 1630, Kiliaen van Rensselaer had sent to Rensselaerswijck “a wood-measure rule, 1 1/2 feet long, the foot containing 11 inches....”⁹ The Dutch wood foot precisely equaled 11.15 modern inches, according to historian and Dutch translator Jonathan Pearson. As English measurement had not yet been imposed on the resident Dutch population in 1669, the barn would be about 55 feet long by 27 1/2 feet wide in modern measure, while the width of the outer aisles would be about ten feet

New World Dutch Barn (continued from page 1)

across. The 45-foot long horse manger would be a few feet shorter, as well. The original Dutch wood-foot numbers are retained in the translation below. That part of the contract dealing with the barn and hay barrack is as follows:

The barn:

De scheur sal langh sijn 60 voet & breed de buijten van de [] van de stijle 30 voet

The barn shall be 60 feet in length & in width on the outside be [post?] to post 30 feet

uijtladingh weijt 11 voet

outer parts [aisles] width 11 feet

de vloer die[selve?] gelijkt met 3 duijms plancken vastune nagels

the floor to be tightly sealed with three inch [thick] planks fastened with nails

een paerden crib van 45 voet langh de koestel de stoe[le] van geklooft hout

a horse manger of 45 feet length, the cow stall base of split wood

& voorders alles near behooren near vereijst vant wreek

and for the rest everything as usual according to requirements of the work.

The hay barrack:

De bergh roeden te beslaen de gaten ordenaer weijt de laning[e] langh 22 voet cap

The hay barrack posts with holes the regular width, the plate 22 feet long with an overhang.

The last paragraph of the contract reads

For this work the carpenters will receive a salary of 30 beavers to be paid in the following July or August as well as two hundred and forty bushels of wheat of which one hundred bushels of wheat will be paid in the month of April and the leftover one hundred and forty bushels of wheat in the following October or November and also 3 half barrels of good beer no more [?] and [they] will commence the above described work on the first of April new style without delay. This is said and done in all honesty and in good faith and signed by the above mentioned to fulfill these agreements with witnesses as required.

Done at Albany 2 February 1668/9

[signed] Jeremias van Rensselaer

[signed] G[eu]rt Hendricksen

Note that many details of construction are not spelled out in this contract. Certain features of barns were well known and mutually understood; they did not have to be stated. Routine interior details could be requested verbally, such as an enclosure for calves at one end of the cows' aisle, or, on the opposite side, a grain room beyond the end of the horse stalls. Yet enough information is provided in this 1669 contract—including the barn's core, the mention of flanking outer aisles which ensure a gable-end entrance and the sealed threshing floor—to indicate this early barn perpetuated the usual Rensselaerswijck barn framing.

Other barn types were developed in the Netherlands, but the Rensselaerswijck barn type as described in this contract became the standard in the Hudson Valley. It is easy to recognize, with a roof distinctively large over low sidewalls, and a front wagon entrance. The type was passed down through generations and continued to be common within scattered enclaves of Dutch-speaking descendants into the nineteenth century. Today's surviving New World Dutch barns illustrate Rensselaerswijck's prolonged cultural influence on buildings in the Hudson Valley, on Long Island and in New Jersey.⁸

Notes:

1. Shirley W. Dunn, "Jeremias van Rensselaer Builds a House," in the *Dutch Settlers Society Yearbook* (in press).
2. A. J. F. van Laer, *Correspondence of Jeremias van Rensselaer* (University of the State of New York, 1932), 228-29.
3. Jeremias van Rensselaer, *Account Book of Receipts and Disbursements of the Colony 1658-1674*. Van Rensselaer Papers, Ms 14783 (filed as SC7079, Box 17), 35, New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Albany, NY.
4. Dunn, "Jeremias van Rensselaer Builds a House," in *Dutch Settlers Society Yearbook*, (in press).
5. The contract can be found at the Manuscripts and Special Collections department of the New York State Library, in the Van Rensselaer Papers, SC7079, Box 19, Folder 20. Although this house and barn contract was damaged in the fire at the Capitol in 1911, it has been possible to translate most of the words. A tentative transcription and translation was supplied by the Manuscript Room staff at the New York State Library. Dr. Eric Ruijsenaars, a visiting Dutch scholar, read the document and made a transcription of the writing about the barn. Agatha Bardoel, a skilled translator from the Netherlands, provided a translation of the barn segment. The author appreciates the help of both scholars and the Manuscript Room staff.
6. Shirley W. Dunn, "Settlement Patterns in Rensselaerswijck: The Farm at Greenbush" in *de Halve Maen Magazine* 75:2 (Summer 2002), 25-26.
7. A. J. F. Van Laer, trans. and ed., *Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts* (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1908), 308-309. Two barns are described.
8. Shirley W. Dunn, "The Long Reach of Rensselaerswijck: Shaping Hudson Valley Architecture" in *de Halve Maen Magazine* 80:1 (Spring, 2007) 3-4.
9. Van Laer, *Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts*, 160; Jonathan Pearson, trans. and ed., *Early Records of Albany*, Vol. I (Albany: University of the State of New York, 1869), 5.

Shafer Farm New World Dutch Barn Complex Warnerville, Schoharie County, New York

Anna Blinn Cole

In December of 2009, Birchwood Archaeological Services conducted a cultural resource survey of the historic Shafer farm, located on the western outskirts of the hamlet of Warnerville at 1461 New York State Route 7 in the Town of Richmondville, Schoharie County, New York. At the time the documentation was undertaken, the Shafer farm represented an intact accumulation of residential and agricultural buildings associated with the Shafer family from as early as the late eighteenth century. Between 2011 and May 2012, almost all of the outbuildings were razed, leaving only the New World Dutch barn and house on the site. The barn complex is located approximately 150 feet west of the Shafer House and associated outbuildings (Figure 1). The side-gabled Greek revival Shafer House dates from the early nineteenth century and rises two full stories with a one-story ell extending off its rear. The house was updated in the mid-nineteenth century with an Italianate double front door and a gable-end bay window (Photo 1). Two outbuildings located immediately northwest of the house included a sizable corn crib with pentagonal gable end converted into an apartment and gable-front wagon shed.

The primary cluster of agricultural buildings on the site consisted of four barns. Central to the complex was the four-bay New World Dutch barn (Photo 2). The barn fits into standard New World Dutch barn typology with

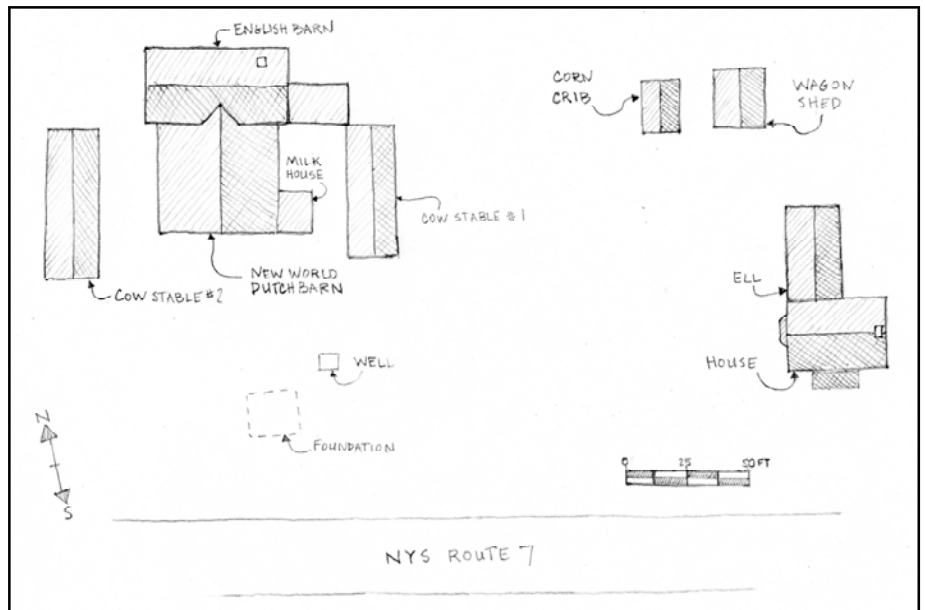


Figure 1. Site plan of the Shafer farm in Warnerville, New York (The author, June 2012).

a nearly square (44 x 41 ft) footprint, a plan featuring three aisles, and a gable-front entry (Figure 2). The barn was originally accessed via hinged central wagon doors on its southern (street) façade, along with two smaller doors giving access to the side aisles, also located on the south elevation. The easternmost of these doors has been altered and the central wagon doors have been replaced with a garage door in a downsized opening. No evidence remains to indicate that there were analogous wagon doors on the north elevation; Dutch barns in Schoharie County frequently had wagon doors on only one gable end wall¹. The barn has the moderately-pitched roof typical of examples constructed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



Photo 1. The Shafer house dates from the early nineteenth century and features Italianate details added at a later date. A corn crib with pentagonal gable end is visible in the left background, December 2009 (Photo by David Moyer).



Photo 2. The Shafer New World Dutch barn anchored a complex of four barns on the north side of NYS Route 7 near Warnerville; view facing northeast, December 2009 (Photo by the author).

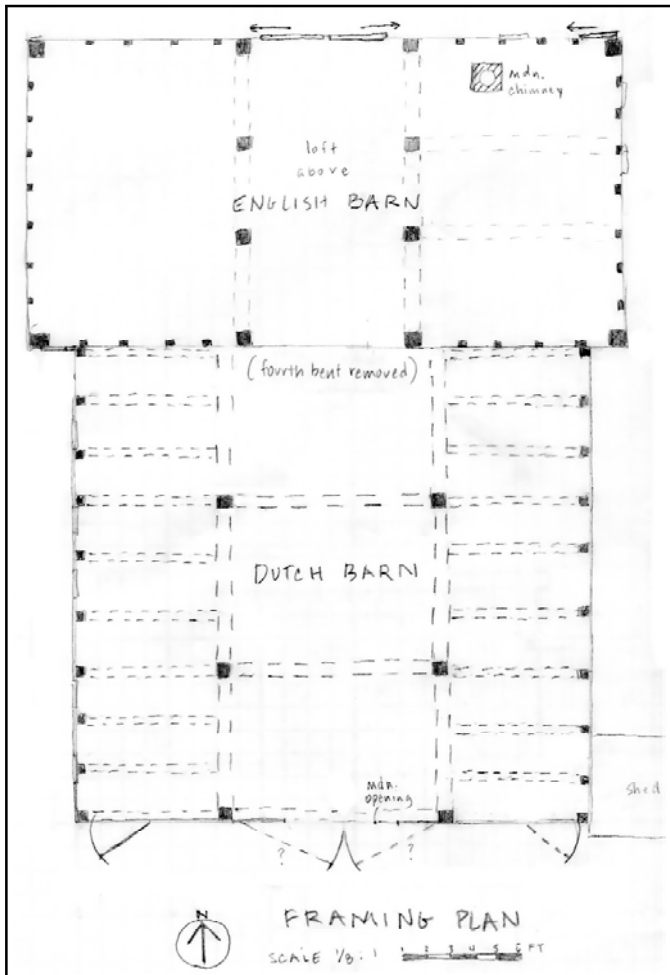


Figure 2. Plan with framing details of the Shafer New World Dutch barn with English barn addition (The author, December 2009).

Interior framing in the Dutch barn consists of a four-bent, three-bay structural system. The four H-bents (two end and two middle) original to the barn were spaced roughly 13 feet apart on center; the fourth bent was not

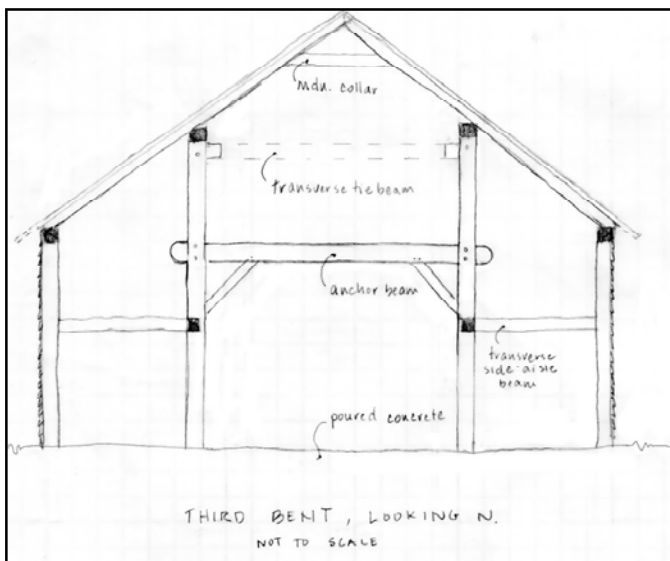


Figure 3. Section of the Shafer New World Dutch barn, taken at the third bent looking north (The author, December 2009).

present at the time of survey and was likely removed during the addition of the English barn. The anchor beams span the central aisle, a distance of 20 feet. A total of four H-bents (two end and two middle) original within the barn were on roughly 13 foot centers (the fourth bent has been removed). An upper transverse tie beam extending parallel to the anchor beam originally joined into the top of the third H-bent posts (Figure 3 and Photo 3). This beam has been sawn off close to its joint on both posts and its original purpose remains unclear.² Transverse side-aisle ties join into a longitudinal tie beam connecting the H-bents. One transverse side-aisle beam lines up with each H-bent, while two trans-



Photo 3. Interior of Dutch barn showing rafters, H-bent post, anchor beam, cut-off transverse tie-beam, longitudinal sway bracing, and modern bracing, facing southeast, December 2009 (Photo by the author).

verse beams intersect the longitudinal beam between H-bents. Rafters meet in an open mortise-and-tenon joint fastened with a wooden peg, and are notched over the top plate, continuing uninterrupted to the roof plate. Pairs of longitudinal sway braces extend from the adjacent columns to the top plate between the bents.

All original timbers within the barn's framing system are hand-hewn including posts, plates, girts, joists, braces and rafters. Assembly of the barn followed the scribe rule method with carpenter's marriage marks visible on accessible joints. Most of the accessible primary framing members appear to be original. Some framing has been added in the twentieth century to add additional support, such as collar ties and lateral sway bracing. The novelty siding and a standing-seam metal roof applied over the original wooden shingles are later nineteenth century replacements.

Gregory D. Huber separates New World Dutch barns into chronological categories based on their craftsmanship, framing, joinery, roof pitch and finish.³ Barns built before 1790, argues Huber, exhibit hewn timbers, angled scribe-rule joinery, a wide central aisle (26-30 ft.), shorter side walls making a steeper roof pitch, and well-appointed craftsmanship. After 1790, Dutch barns began to reflect advancing technology and incorporate changes to the barn's geometry. The Shafer Dutch barn

(continued on page 7)



Photo 4. English barn and cow stable #1 at the Shafer farm Dutch barn complex, facing southwest, December 2009 (Photo by the author).

falls into this later category. Its central aisle is narrow, at only 20 feet, some minor timbers like the longitudinal sway braces are milled, and the side walls are taller than those of older barns, creating only a moderately-pitched roof. However, scribe-rule joinery employed in the Shafer barn suggests its construction followed traditional methods held over from the earlier period.

According to William Roscoe's *History of Schoharie County*, the Shafer farm was first settled in 1797 by Henry Shafer, Jr.⁴ The earliest property ownership map of the Warnerville area indicates that the farm was still in the hands of Henry Shafer, Jr in 1856.⁵ In 1850 86-year-old Henry Shafer, a farmer, was living at the farm with his son and his son's family of eight at that time.⁶ Between 1856 and 1866, Henry's son, H. A. Shafer, took possession of the farm.⁷ The Shafer Dutch barn likely dates to Henry Shafer's first settlement in 1797 or soon after, fitting well within the "late" period for Dutch barn construction.

The rear, north-facing façade of the Dutch barn abutted an English threshing barn addition, creating an overall T-shape plan (Figure 2). The perpendicular attachment of an English barn to the rear of a New World Dutch barn is a pattern largely found in the Schoharie Valley⁸. The English barn was rectangular in footprint and measured 53 x 20 ft, nearly doubling the footprint of the Dutch barn. The English barn had a traditional interior arrangement with a central bay accessed by two wagon doors on the side-gabled, northern façade (Photo 4). A queen-post truss system supported the roof and rafters, meeting in an open joint. Two bays on either side of the central aisle provided space for animal stalls or a haymow. Major timbers within the English barn consisted of large, hand-hewn beams. Studs, braces and rafters were cut with a reciprocating saw. Major joints are mortise-and-tenon and fastened with wooden pegs. The English barn addition appears to have been constructed using the square-rule method, not displaying any obvious marriage marks. Square-rule construction

became widespread by the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A concrete block chimney was added in the northeast part of the barn, perhaps to vent a furnace, in the twentieth century. With the addition of the English barn, the threshing bay of the Dutch barn was extended to the double doors in the English barn's north elevation. It was not possible to assess the extent of the English barn's original purpose as evidence of any animal stalls that might have populated the English barn's ground floor had been obscured by modern materials and interior revisions to the space.

Agricultural practice in Schoharie County shifted during the course of the nineteenth century and dairying became one of the most profitable

endeavors, following patterns prevalent in much of central New York⁹. The Dutch/English barn at the Shafer farm reflected this trend and its owner converted it to a large-scale dairying complex at some point in the mid- to late nineteenth century. The ground-floor of the Dutch barn was whitewashed while a second floor added at the anchor beam level was used for storing hay. The transverse tie beam in the third bent may have been cut in this period to allow unobstructed access through the second floor hayloft. Collar ties were also added to provide lateral bracing to the rafters without obstructing the walkway. Both modifications in the Dutch barn's loft—the removed transverse tie beam and the collar tie additions—were perhaps precipitated by the installation of a labor-saving hay track system in the late nineteenth century.

While the English barn addition may predate this dairy conversion, two other barns within the complex were presumably built in conjunction with the transition to large-scale dairying. In addition, and perhaps concurrent with the construction of a third, easternmost barn, the Dutch barn and its English barn appendage were given a facelift. The roof was replaced and eaves, which are not typically found on Dutch barns, were created with a slight over-hang of a new standing-seam metal roof. The barns were painted red with white trim.

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, farmers began to give their agricultural buildings both unity and ornament. According to the *New England Farmer* of 1855, "[t]he gables, doors and windows of the barn are frequently ornamented with pediments; and the eaves, or cornices, with wide handsome mouldings."¹⁰ While the barns in the Shafer farm complex did not actually have "handsome mouldings" around their cornices (with the exception of the easternmost barn which will be discussed shortly), they did have a band of white paint that was applied to give the appearance of a wide, decorative cornice fascia. From a distance it is difficult to make the distinction and, as such, this cheaper means

Shafer Farm (continued from page 7)

of attaining the cornice “look” sufficed. When the fourth, westernmost barn was built, it too was given a coat of red paint with white trim.

The third barn constructed within the complex stood to the east of the Dutch/English barn and was a gable-front building nearly two and a half times long as it was wide. The exterior of the barn was clad in horizontal tongue-and-groove siding. Unlike other barns in the complex that simulated a fascia with paint, this barn was designed with a wide cornice board, adding a note of stylization to the otherwise utilitarian design of the building. This barn was likely the first building in the complex to be built with these ornamental considerations and the Dutch/English barn may have been painted to mimic the cornice lines on this barn. Two vertical-plank sliding doors allowed vehicular entry on the front façade. Sliding doors such as these became increasing popular in the late nineteenth century as farmers sought to mediate the damage and inconvenience of hinged doors caused by wind and snow banks.¹¹

Timber framing within the easternmost barn consisted of hand-hewn primary timbers (plate, joists, and posts) and circular-sawn minor timbers (studs, rafters, and braces). The major joints were mortise-and-tenoned while the joints of minor timbers were secured with square-headed machine-cut nails. Many of the major timbers appear to have been recycled from an earlier building as there were unused mortises found throughout the frame. The floor in the southern portion of the ground floor consisted of roughly-squared planks measuring $2\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6''$, sitting directly on the ground. Due to an uneven site, portions of the floorboards were supported by an uncoursed fieldstone foundation, particularly in the northern end of the building. The second story was unpartitioned and accessed via a staircase reused from a domestic context. Portions of the second floor were laid in board and batten plank, suggesting well-sealed grain or hay storage. Small exterior doors at the loft floor level provided a direct way for hay to be transferred to the second floor from the bed of a wagon or truck to the loft. Numerous six-over-six double hung sash windows lit both the first and second floors of the building. Based on nail and timber evidence, the barn was likely constructed in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, contemporaneous with remodeling of the Dutch/English barn. With white-washed surfaces on the first floor and hay storage on the second, this barn likely served as the farm’s first purpose-built cow house or stable.

The most recently constructed component of the farmstead was a front-gabled barn, sited to the west of the Dutch/English barn. This building exhibited a massing very similar to aforementioned cow stable but was nearly three times as long as it was wide. While major timbers (girts, plates, posts) within the barn were hand hewn, minor timbers were circular-sawn, again like the easternmost cow stable. As with the other barns in the complex, the exterior was clad in red-painted tongue-

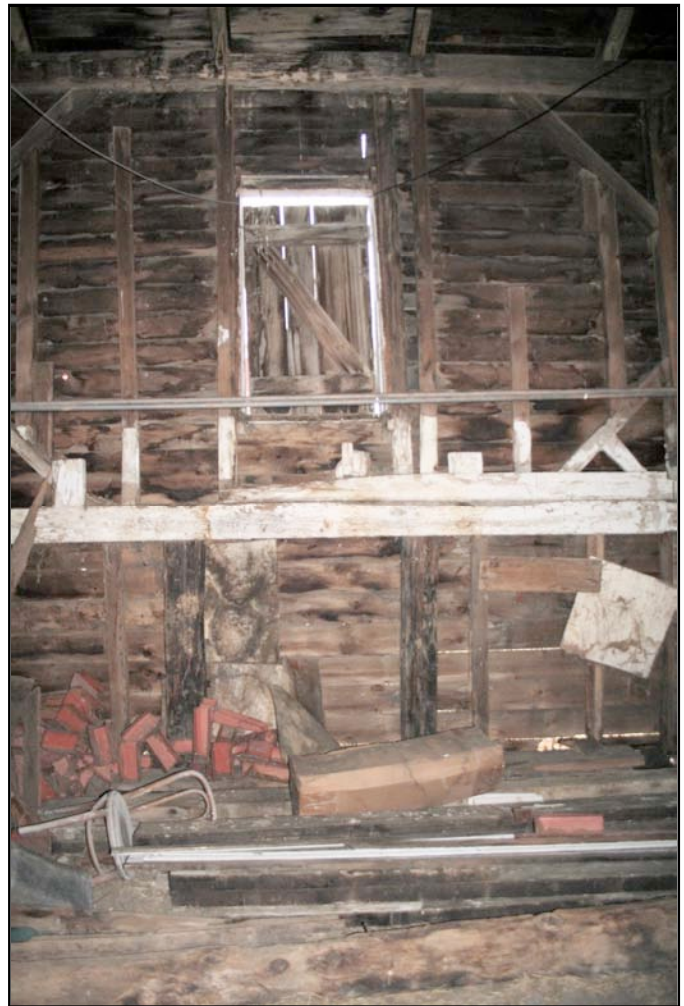


Photo 5. Interior of cow stable #2 showing what remains of the white-washed, double-boarded first floor walls, facing west, December 2009 (Photo by the author).

and-groove siding with a painted white “cornice” band at the top of the exterior walls. A small door provided the only access to the interior from the front façade. Other fenestration included a sliding door and a larger, doorless vehicular opening, both on the eastern elevation. Small hayloft doors, some of which had been converted to windows, were located throughout the upper half story. The ground floor consisted of poured concrete with a trough bisecting the length of the barn. The mangers or hay troughs that lined the long walls had been removed before the survey was undertaken.

This fourth barn stood out among the others for its employment of progressive agricultural trends promoted among dairy farmers near the turn of the nineteenth century. Chief among these was the adoption of a poured concrete floor with built-in manure collection. Wood floors were largely abandoned because concrete floors were considered to be more sanitary.¹² The Shafer ground-level stable barn exhibited such a floor with a longitudinal manure trough. Additionally, first floor interior walls bore evidence that they were originally double-boarded (Photo 5). Double-boarding created a buffer of air and provided a degree of insulation for both

(continued on page 9)



Photo 6. View of Shafer farm Dutch barn complex from the south side of NYS Route 7, facing north, December 2009 (Photo by the author).



Photo 7. Current view of the Shafer New World Dutch barn in the shadow of new development, facing north, May 2012 (Photo by David Moyer).

the cows inside and the temperature-sensitive milking process.

Together these four barns served to meet the needs of a large dairy farm (Photo 6). The modified Dutch barn represents an architectural expression of adaptation and innovation isolated to a small region as a standalone structure. “T-bone” additions such as this are a regional response to the need for additional threshing space and grain and animal housing. While the Dutch barn is itself a rare survival in Schoharie County, its role in the expansion and evolution of dairying at the Shafer farm gives it a greater significance; its alteration documents the transition between the diversified, subsistence farming of the late eighteenth century and an emerging singular focus on cows and their milk the mid-nineteenth century. As its threshing floor was converted to a milking parlor and its loft outfitted for systematic hay storage, the revamped Dutch barn became the anchor of a com-

plex of highly-efficient dairying buildings and typified advancing trends in New York State agriculture. The Shafer Dutch barn and its complex of buildings were unified not only in purpose but also in color and decorative details.

Today the complex of supporting barns and outbuildings around the Shafer Dutch barn has been torn down to make way for new development (Photo 7). The house and Dutch barn are now the only historic structures left on the site. Ironically in its current form—even in the face of unfolding modern development—the barn and its relationship to the house recalls a configuration evocative of the property’s earliest history. Both the Shafer Dutch barn and house will be incorporated into the new development.

- 1 John Fitchen. *New World Dutch Barns: the Evolution, Form and Structure of a Disappearing Icon*, Second edition, edited and with new material by Gregory D. Huber (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001), iii.
- 2 A transverse tie beam occurring on the middle bent of a five-bent NWDB is more common. Architectural evidence was not available to confirm the original presence of five bents at the Shafer NWDB. The barn’s fourth bent, at the very least, was removed the process of appending the English barn.
- 3 Ibid, introduction by Huber, xlvi-xlvii.
- 4 William E. Roscoe. *History of Schoharie County*, New York (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1882), xviii.
- 5 E. Wenig and W. Lorey. *Map of Schoharie County* (Philadelphia: R. P. Smith, 1856).

Shafer Farm (continued from page 9)

- ⁶ 1850 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Warnerville, Schoharie County, New York, Dwelling 149, Family 168, Harvey Shafer household, jpeg image, (Online: The Generations Network, Inc., 2009), subscription database, <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>, accessed December 2009.
- ⁷ S. N and D.G. Beers. *New Topographical Atlas of Schoharie County*, New York. (Philadelphia: Stone and Stewart, 1866).
- ⁸ Neil Larson. "Agrarian Changes: Learning from Barn Additions," in *DPBS Newsletter* 1:2 (Fall 1988), 2; Harold Zoch, "Dutch Barn Observations," in *DPBS Newsletter* 13:1 (Spring 2000), 4.
- ⁹ Sally McMurry. *Transforming Rural Life: Dairying Families and Agricultural Change, 1820-1885* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1995), 6-12.
- ¹⁰ Thomas Durant Visser. *Field Guide to New England barns and Farm Buildings* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997), 77-78.
- ¹¹ Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 54.
- ¹² Visser, 98; Cynthia Falk. *Barns of New York: Rural Architecture in the Empire State* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2012), 43.

Dutch Barn Preservation Society Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On 11 December 2011, members new and old of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society gathered to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organization at the new Franchere

Education Center at the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction (Photo 1). The Center is also the new home of our organization's archives and research collection.



Photo 1. The George E. Franchere Education Center (Photo by Ned Pratt).



Photo 2. Members assembled in the meeting room at the Center and heard several presentations (Photo by Ned Pratt).

Photo 3. Ev Rau reminisced about the early days of the organization and founding member Vince Schaefer. Ev also discussed the importance of the work that has been done by the organization's members, and of making sure that documentation gets deposited into our archives so that it can be of lasting benefit to all (Photo by Roberta S. Jeracka).

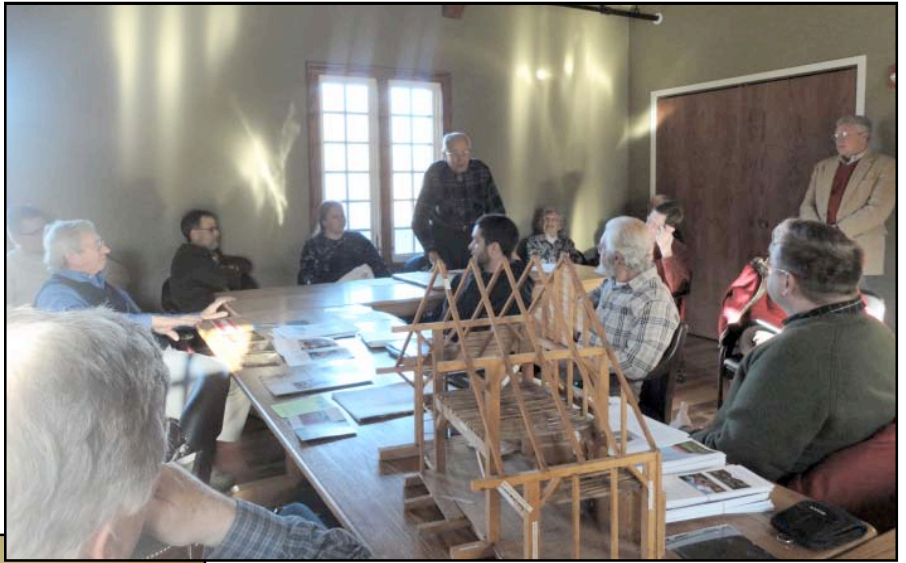


Photo 4. Joe Ferrannini with Shirley and Paul Dunn (Photo by Ned Pratt).



Photo 5. Doug Johnsen, from N J and Allan Deitz (Photo by Ned Pratt).



Photo 6. Bob Hedges and Alvin Sheffer (Photo by Ned Pratt).

(continued on page 12)

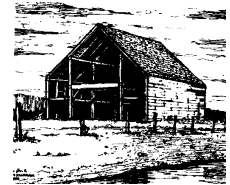


Photo 7. Members enjoyed the installation of paintings by Len Tantillo, on display in the Education Center's gallery (Photo by Walter R. Wheeler).



Photo 8. After touring the new Education Center and gallery exhibit, members reconvened for a reception (Photo by Walter R. Wheeler).

DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is printed by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, a non-profit organization incorporated by the Regents of the State of New York.

Dutch Barn Preservation Society Board Members

Ned Pratt, *President*
Walter R. Wheeler, *Vice President*
Keith Cramer, *Secretary*
Thomas Lanni, *Treasurer*

Brandt A. Bolding
Allan F. Deitz
Robert Hedges
Greg Huber
Paul R. Huey
Bruce Nelson
Alvin W. Sheffer
Jordan Schlanger
Henry Vanderwerken

Peter Sinclair, *Trustee Emeritus*

Editor:
Walter R. Wheeler
(518) 283-0534
wwheeler@hartgen.com

Design & Printing: Modern Press

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society
Mabee Farm Historic Site
1080 Main Street Route 5S
Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150
www.dutchbarns.org

All memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Membership:
\$50. (supporting)
\$35. (contributing)
\$20. (regular)
\$10. (student)

Organizational Membership: \$25.00

Individual Copies of Newsletter: \$2.00