

from the Editor...The unofficial Mid Hudson Chapter now has 56 paying members but only \$71 in the bank, due to printing and mailing costs in October. After a chance meeting and a friendly discussion, the finance committee has invested in two rubber stamps. One reads "paid" and the other "over due" to remind non-paying unofficial members that annual dues remain only \$10 and assure them of possible future issues of this publication.

Since the October Mid-Hudson Newsletter the Oliver Barn Restoration Fund has grown to \$75 through generous contributions of new members but not much has happened yet at the chapter's temporary barn headquarters in Marletown, however, a very successful and delicious event did take place at the old stone smoke-house on the farm. Renee Danboise and some of the people who live in the Doctor Oliver house next to the barn did some research and a three day smoke-in at which they learned something of this ancient art from a hands-on experience. There are different methods of smoking. The brick smoke-house on the DuBoicé farm with a raised floor (page) differs from the Oliver example. Does its design reduce the heat?

Nice letters from two new members, one from Florida and the other from Germany. Edwyn E. Mason of Zephyrhills, retired River Boat Captain and State Senator of the 48th District wrote,

"Sending check for membership in your excellent organization - \$10 membership and balance a donation - your project should be supported and encouraged."

and a letter and two unpublished articles, Raising holes in East Gelderland, The Netherlands, and "Rauchhauser" Living in a smokehouse, from Karen Gross of Breitenheim. The second article is an excellent overview of the development of hearths and stoves in her area of northern Germany. We met Karen in May of 1998 at the national Palatines to America conference in Kingston, Ulster County, and she spoke to the official Dutch Barn Preservation Society at the Wemp barn in Feuer Bush, Albany County in June.

Virtually all eighteenth- and nineteenth-century timber frame barns in the Mid-Hudson Valley have raising holes in the H-bent columns. They are a hall-mark of New World Dutch timber framing. Their function and origin has been a matter of speculation since John Fitchen first wrote of them in his 1968 book, The New World Dutch Barn. The mystery may soon to be solved. In her introduction to Raising holes in East Gelderland, Karen writes,

(continued on page 8.)

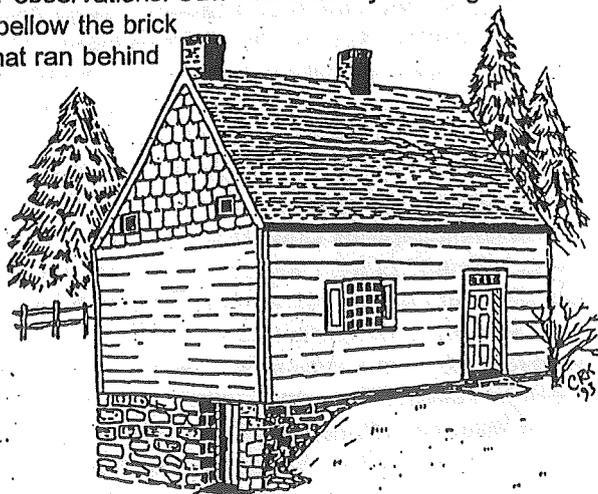
The following is a selection from editor's journal of a busy month-and-a-half since the last newsletter.

Tuesday, 9-28-99 with Roger and Todd set up metal scaffold and repaired two holes in the roof of the Winne/Creble house (Bet-1) in Albany County. Found a 6-lite window frame with wide muntin and H-L hinges in a shed. It was probably from the end wall of the addition.

Friday, 10-22-99 with Jim Decker spent 3 hours at the Winne/Creble house. The stench is much less due to the roof repairs. Made no new major discoveries but many closer observations. Saw more clearly the original fireplace arrangement in the addition. The stone foundation wall below the brick wall is angled out to accommodate the cellar fireplace and flue that ran behind the jambless flue above. The addition roof is still leaking.

Saturday, 10-23-99 Annual meeting of the official DBPS at the Stone Fort at Schoharie. Afterwards, with John Stevens and friend, Tom Lanni, Alvin and Todd, we visited the 1743 Palatine House Museum, the Lutheran Parsonage that in 1796 was moved, probably intact, about 200-feet onto the stone foundation of a missing frame house nearby. Before that, the parsonage had no cellar. It is one of the only pre-Revolutionary timber frames left in the Schoharie Valley after the ravages of the British and Indians.

John had visited the house before its 1971 restoration but had not seen it since. It is now interpreted as a two room 7-bay house with a center jambless fireplace and a cellar jambed fireplace on an end wall. John thought that the house might have had a 5-plate stove. What



The 1743 Palatine House, Old Lutheran Parsonage Brunnendorf (Springtown), Schoharie County, NY from a publication of the Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association by Richard B. Hinman

2.

seems odd to me is that the fireplace room now has three bays and the stove room four. Usually this is the reverse, but then, the larger room had originally been used as the church.

Much of the original timber frame and in-fill have survived. From a photograph of the building during restoration, when all of the clapboard siding had been removed, John saw that it had originally been a white-washed "fractur", or half-timbered house.

Some of the interesting original features about the 1743 Palatine House are the front door hinges which show a mixture of the Dutch pad hinge with triangulated nails and the floral German finial. There are similar hinges in the 1747 Lutheran Parsonage in Germantown, Columbia County.

Exposed in the loft, The frame has eight bents with ten pairs of rafters. As in the frames of many northern Dutch barns, the end bents have rotated posts with double tenons, one to hold the purlin and one to hold a tie-beam above it that is joined to the rafters, much like the English principal rafters but in this case a more German design. Later we tried to visit a frame house that has been moved to the Stone Fort Museum but it was closed. It is thought to perhaps pre-date the Parsonage. From an exposed corner post it can be seen that this frame has the lowered tie beam typical of the Hudson Valley. There are also mortises in the posts on one side that suggest an original open porch or side aisle.

Sunday, 10-24-99 about 10 people attended a tour of four sites in the township of Shawangunk, southern Ulster County.

1. the **Walkkill Correctional Facilities stone house and Dutch barn (Sha-7)**. I last saw the house in 1993. The wood frame addition and porch have since been removed and the loft is now more open. It was decided by the group that the 27- by 40- foot house was originally a two room Dutch stone house with end-wall jambless fireplaces and the present south entrance and window changes were made later than its 1763 construction that its date-stone indicates. The west side-wall entrance, its two-part door and frame seem original and the front door on the east side seems added. An interesting short curved timber connects the plate and lintel on the east side to support the door frame, an indication the doorway was later.

Most interesting was the discovery of the left side-plate of a 5-plate stove used as a fireback. It is the same "The Salutation" rococo-style plate of 1760 reported on in this newsletter, number 5, page 5 found in Orange County. Since this house seems not to have had an internal fireplace the 5-plate stove was from another building. The present fireplace seems part of a 1790-1800 reconstruction.

There is a 41'3"-long by 43'3"-wide 3-bay Dutch barn on the Walkkill site, some distance from the house. It has a scribe-rule oak frame with extended wedged tenons and interesting marriage marks with the use of a single small half round chisel cut to indicate left side. The barn could date from mid- to late-18th century. New purlins were added in the 19th century 3 1/2-feet above the original purlins. In changing the pitch of the roof the 14-pairs of rafters were re-cut and butted at the peak, a practice usually done after about 1840.

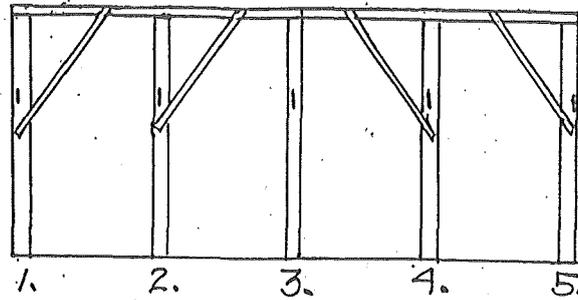
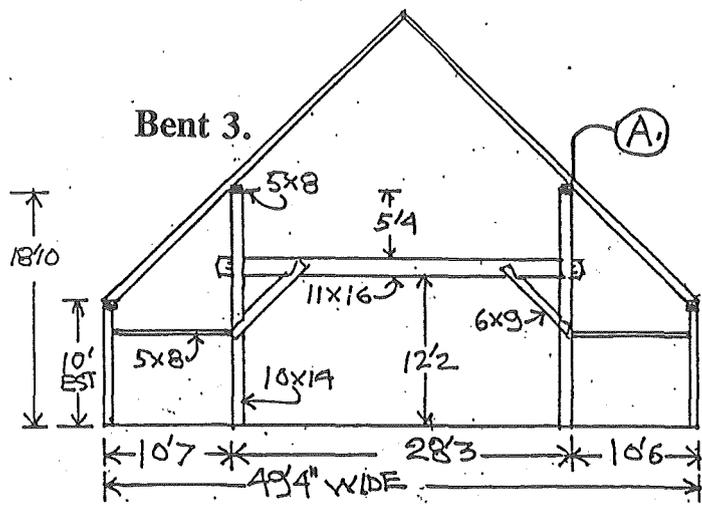
2. **___/Powell Dutch barn (Sha-5)**. This 44-foot wide by 48-foot long barn is longer-than-wide because it is a 4-bay barn with its end hay-mow bay over 16-feet long. All the braces are sawn and none are pinned. It has an oak square-rule frame of 1830-1840. The wood-frame house has an 1864 date stone in its foundation but Jim Decker dates the house to about 1810.

3. **___/Kobelt Dutch barn (Sha-4)**. This 40-foot wide by 36-foot long barn has 3-bays. All the braces are hewn and pinned. It is an oak scribe-rule frame of perhaps 1800-1810. Like the previous Powell barn it seems to be a regional configuration of the true-form Dutch barn, a fusion of English and Dutch tradition, that incorporates a mowstead wall in an end bay and adds a side entrance. We might call it an L-barn type. Unlike the U-barn, the L-barn does not necessarily have lowered anchorbeams.

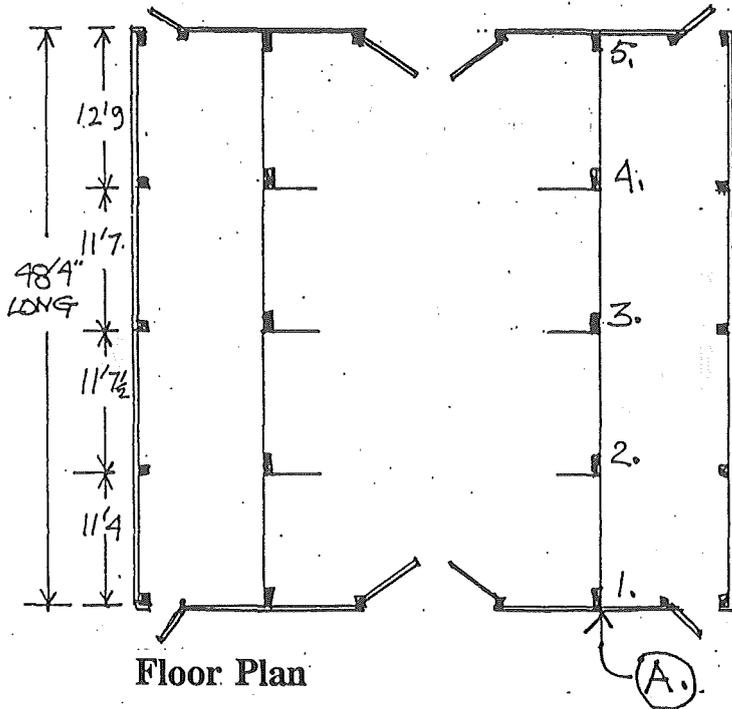
Both the Powell and Kobelt Dutch barns contain re-used barrack plates and other parts as well as evidence of internal changes that should be studied and documented more carefully.

4. **Jansen/Chorney Dutch barn (Sha-2)**. This true-form 4-bay scribe-rule barn measures 49'4"-wide by 47'4"-long. Like many of the early surviving Dutch barns in the Hudson Valley, additions were later made, the side-walls and roof raised and the pitch of the roof lowered slightly. Despite the changes, the major timbers of its oak scribe-rule frame remain and it may be one of the oldest surviving examples. The 41' 5" wide by 24' long granary next to the barn seems later. Many of its timbers are sawn and three beams are placed between its four anchorbeams to support the upper floor. They rest on the longitudinal struts, a nineteenth century design.

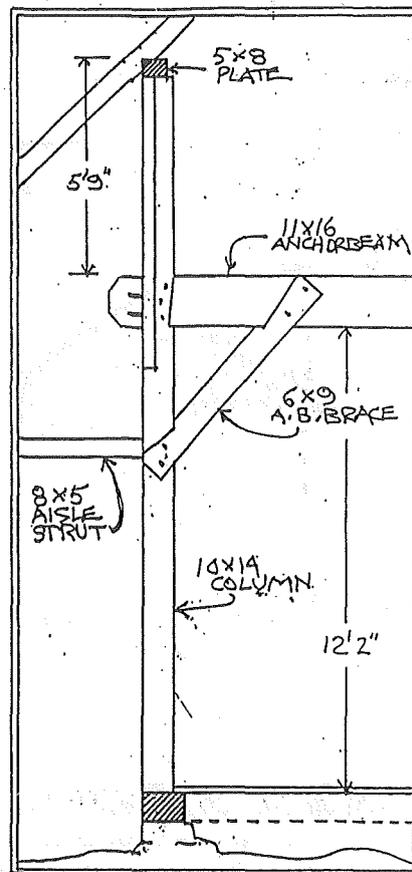
The features that indicate an early 18th-century date of construction of the Jansen barn are the use of cup-marks cut with a half-round chisel to match timbers on the left side of the frame, no tie-beams or braces on the end-bents, long lap-dovetail purlin braces that join the columns below the anchorbeams and heavy anchorbeam-braces joined with lap-dovetails.



Section A. internal column wall

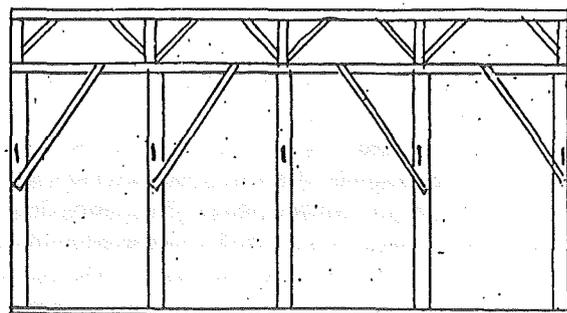
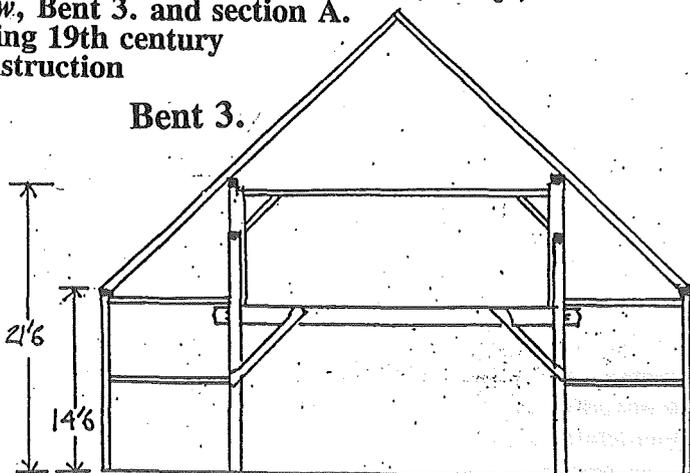


Floor Plan



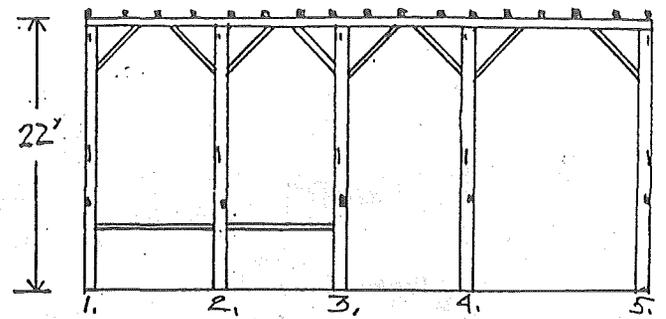
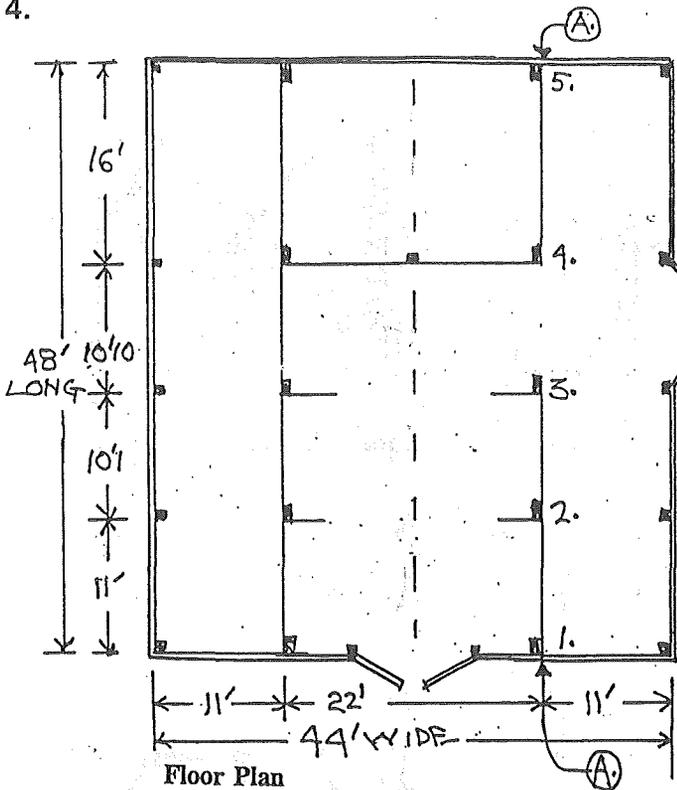
H-bent Detail

Above, Bent 3., Floor Plan and Section A.
 of the circa 1700-1750
 4-bay Scribe-rule Dutch Barn
Janson/Chorny (Sha-2)
Shawangunk, Ulster County, NY
 Below, Bent 3. and section A.
 showing 19th century
 reconstruction

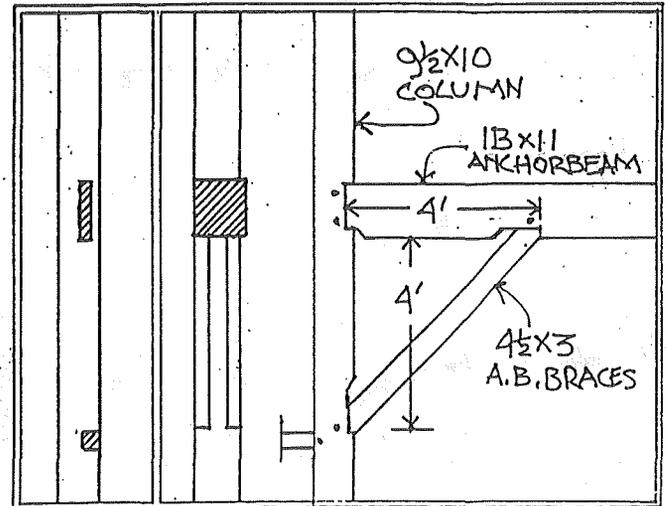


Section A. internal column wall

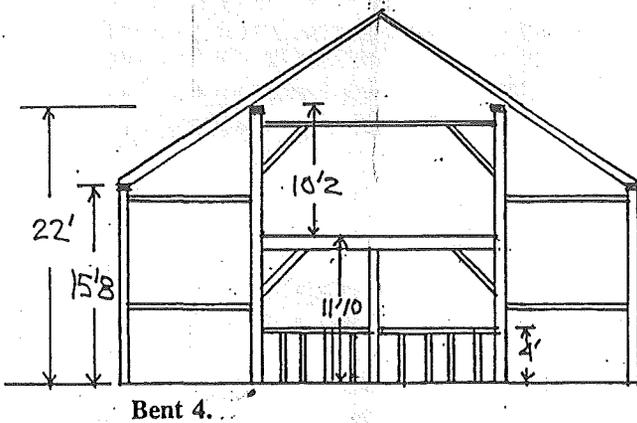
4.



Section A. Internal Column-wall



H-Bent Detail showing Double A.B. Brace



Bent 4.

Bent 4., Floor plan, Section A. and H-bent detail of the circa 1830-1840

4-bay square-rule Dutch L-barn

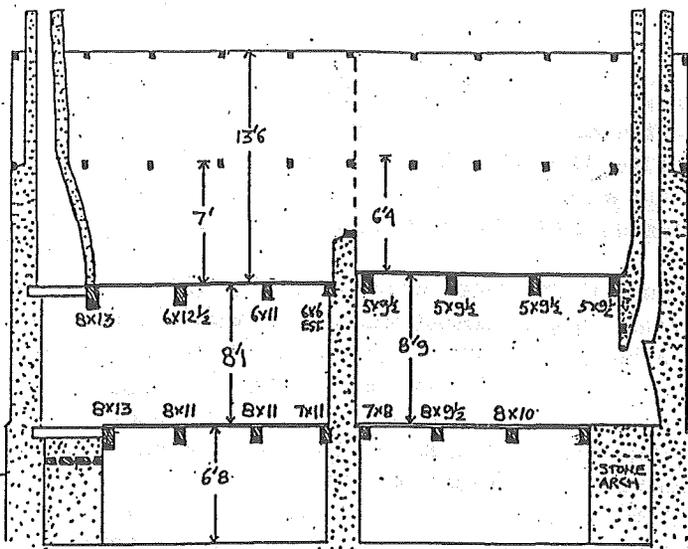
/Powell (Sha-5)

Shawangunk, Ulster County, NY

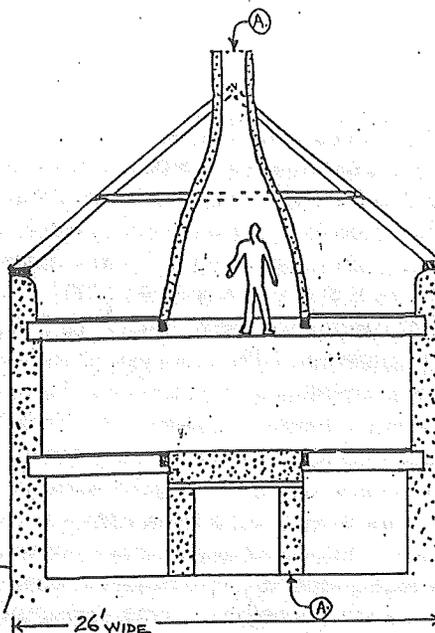
Saturday 10-30-99 With Chris Albright, new president of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, Shirley Dunn, founder and past president, Jim Decker and Roger Sheff, we visited four sites in the township of **New Scotland, Albany County** where Chris lives. Chris edits the official D:3PS Newsletter that has accumulated ten years of important articles on the subject, keeps them in print and makes them available. The next issue will contain an article by Rod Blackburn on the Winne/Creble house in Albany County with measured drawings by John Stevens. Most interesting is an early photograph of an Albany house that Rod has discovered. It has features like the Winne house it was an end entrance town house with a brick first story and a second story with a slight overhang. Because the upper story of the Winne house had been changed in the nineteenth century, there had been speculation on how it had been sided, brick or clapboard seemed to be the choice, but the new photograph suggests a wall of wood shingles. A closer examination and removal of new material would probably answer the question.

1. At the **George Reed House** with its new owner Lanni Underwood we gave her some observations and suggestions for the restoration of the house. It seems to have started 1770-80 as a scribe-rule Dutch frame one-room 4-bay 2-story house. Two story Dutch frame houses are rare. In about 1820-30 a two-room square-rule Dutch frame was added and the pitch of the original roof was lowered slightly to conform with the more popular pitch of the next generation. One puzzle was to understand the original fireplace. There is no evidence of a base in the cellar. It was later discovered that the base had been taken apart when the addition was made and the stone re-used to rebuild the wall that separates the two cellars. Notches on the inside of the hearth beam indicate there had been a short Dutch-style cradle hearth support.

One special feature of the house is the close but separate 3-bay wood frame summer-kitchen. Its fireplace with a crane and a large side beehive oven are intact.



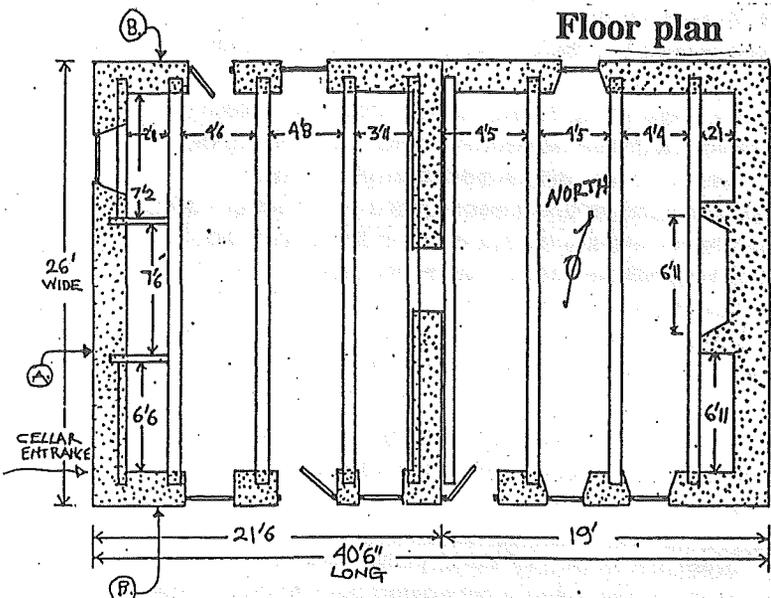
Section A.



Section B.

The later jambed fireplace below the jambless on the west end-wall has been eliminated in these drawings. See page 8. for an explanation of the figure in the smoke hood.

Floor plan



Section A., Section B. and Floor plan of the circa 1720-1740 one-room stone house with room added circa 1780-1800
Bevier/Newkerk/Romero (War-4)
Wawarsing, Ulster County, NY

Sunday 11-14-99 With Fred Steuding and his uncle visited and measured the **Bevier/Newkerk house (War-4)**. It is owned and being restored by Darren Romero with help from his uncle Vaughn Malfeld who bought the property in July, 1996. The house is in Helen Reynolds, Dutch Houses of the Hudson Valley

page 185 and in C.G. Hine, Old Mine Road, page 98. The house was about to be destroyed through neglect and Darren, with some help from his uncle saved it. There is a 16-foot waterfall close to the house, Darren owns half of it and is entitled to a 4-inch diameter pipe of that stream, called the Leuren Kill, that flows toward the Rondout Creek, even in the driest season. The name of the kill may derive from the Dutch, "trading place." Darren is young and enjoys the intellectual and physical challenge the property offers. He has already accomplished some impressive feats, hewing a 22-foot long 6x13-inch wall plate from a tree on the property and cutting another with an Alaskan chain-saw mill to replace rotten ones in the stone house, and with his home-made metal crane and hoist, designed for the steep hill side, lifted these long heavy plates, weighing probably 1,000-pound each, 20-feet up and inserted them into the loft of the house through a small window, and with a few rafter repairs thus saved the house.

The Bevier/Newkerk house was begun in the early 18th century as a one room stone house with a jambless fireplace and later in the century a second room was added. Darren and Vaughn think the house is associated with the Bevier 1705 patent in Wawarsing and might date 1710-1720. The house is known for the family story of an Indian attack on it during the French and Indian War. Mrs. Bevier was alone in the house, the story goes, the doors and windows were planked over, but six hostile Indians who wanted to get in climbed up on the roof and were going to descend down the chimney. Mrs. Bevier kept a fire going to deter them and they eventually went away. Later her husband Conrad, returned home. There are a number of accounts of Indian attacks during the French and Indian and Revolutionary War in this area but the Bevier story raises some questions like, 'why didn't the Indians just go through the roof?'

Although there are no original doors or windows there are a number of original frames and the loft has seen little change. The original hood for the jambless fireplace is still intact. It is probably the only surviving one constructed of stone rather than brick, which fits the frontier setting of the house where brick would have been hard to come by. The site retains its frontier setting, still visited during the day by bears and watched over by the owls at night.

Sunday 11-1-99 with Jim Decker and Bob Eurich visited four sites in Shawangunk, Ulster County.

1. **Graham/DuBoise/Work 5-bay scribe-rule Dutch barn (Sha-9)** It is within a barn complex of expansions and out-buildings. The original part of the house is dated 1772. The Dutch barn seems a little later circa 1790-1800. Its lower 6.5-feet were converted to a dairy with metal posts and cement floor. Its upper section is in good condition and contain many original features. One empty mortise reveals that the drill bit had a lead screw, good evidence that it was built after 1790.

2. **Decker/Bienstock Farm (Sha-1)**. This Dutch barn is dated with an inscription "SS 1750", the earliest known date in a Dutch barn. This barn does have door posts with slots for wooden hinges. The present 4-part wagon doors have key-hinges and open out. A human door to the side of the wagon doors, also with key hinges, has numerous initials and dates, 1855, 1856 & 1860. This might represent the period during which the barn went through changes. Lowered anchorbeams were added to the last three bents. All the columns were extended about 3- or 4-feet and new purlins set above the original ones. The braces for the new purlin are round sawn. Saw mills with round blades began to replace the up-and-down mills after 1860.

There are a number of features that corroborate the 1750 date of the original Decker barn. These are the extended wedged tenons, the diminished shoulders of the anchorbeams and the long purlin braces that join the columns below the anchorbeam. One puzzling feature is the almost total lack of marriage marks. Aside from the "1750 SS", there is an inscription on a column with three cup-marks below the initials "SS". Before the introduction of the lead-screw, the scribe-rule carpenter used cup-marks to match timbers on one side of the frame. "SS" may be the builder of the barn.

3. **Blue Chip Farm (Sha-8)** This active farm has two very large timber frame barns. They are mostly sawn hemlock of square dimensions. They are an excellent example of late nineteenth century mill-rule timber frame carpentry. The smaller barn has an "1890" date stone. "Mill-rule" was discovered recently by Rudy Christian, a Timber Framers Guild member from Ohio. It is a distinct concept and design, along with scribe- and square rule, that is important in dating timber frames. Because hewn timbers are not exact in their dimensions the scribe-rule carpenter matched the timbers and cut each joint individually. The square-rule carpenter assumed there was a perfect dimension within the rough irregular timber and made his cuts according to these measurements within the timber. The mill-rule carpenter used timbers cut to precise dimensions. There are often raising holes in mill-rule frames (we forgot to note them for this barn) indicating these later carpenters were still following traditional methods for raising the frame.

4. **Van Keuren stone house (Sha-10)** The ruins of this 1745 center hall stone house with a later stone addition are in the midst of new housing development and the site is in danger of destruction because of the liability its present condition presents. It had a fire about 30 years ago.

Tuesday 11-9-99 with Jim Decker, visited and measured the **Shultis/Kornblum (Wod-2)** circa 1796 two-room Dutch frame house in Woodstock, Ulster County, NY. Peter Kaufman was aging a new hewn pine timber with an acid treatment Don Carpentier knew of. It looked convincing. John donated some mud and straw infill from the house for the future museum at the Oliver barn.

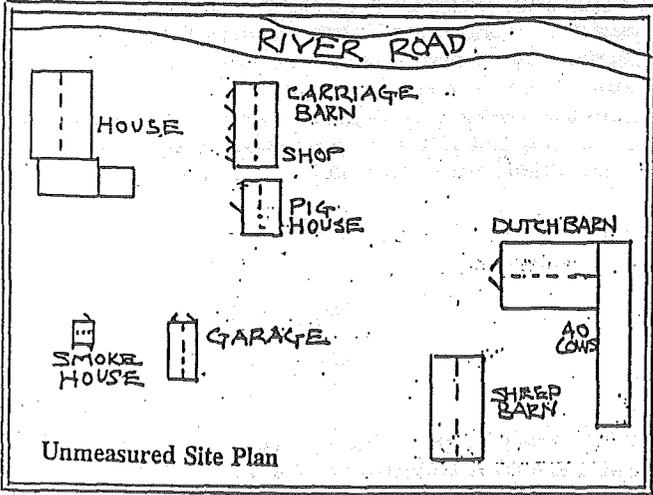
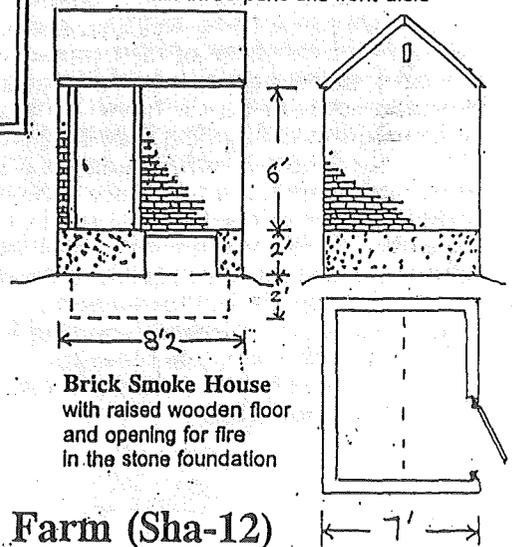
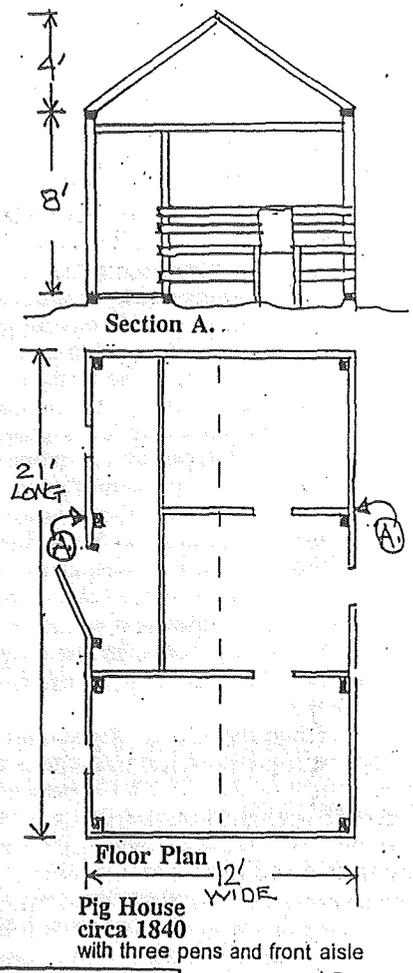
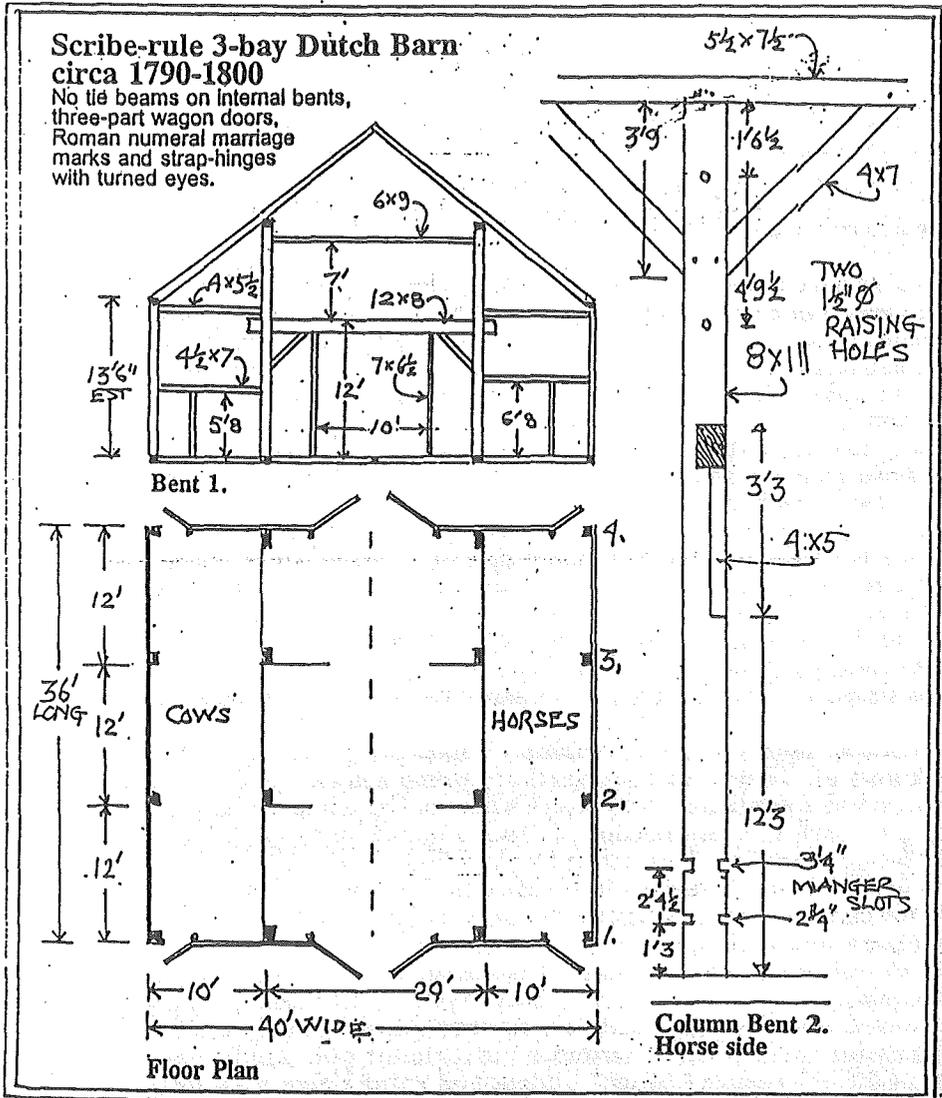
Friday 11-12-99 with Jim Decker and Bob Eurich visited sites in Shawangunk.

1. **___/Lucile Farm, (Sha-11)**. There is a small, 19 1/2 x 26-feet, stone house with frame additions. The owner does not value it and would not let us go inside. From our observation it may originally have been an end entrance house.

2. **___/DuBoise farm (Sha-12)** was purchased by Danniell DuBoise in 1855. The 100-plus acre farm is for sale including a 6 acre island in the Wallkill. The house is thought to date to 1830 with an 1890 roof raising to two stories. There is a summer kitchen addition and a cellar kitchen room finished with plaster and wainscoting. There are also a number of outbuildings. We measured some. There are the remains of a 3-bay Dutch scribe-rule barn with an addition. There was no evidence of wooden hinges.

Friday 11-19-99 with Jim Decker visited sites in Shawangunk.

1. **___/DuBoise (Sha-12)** took measurements of the demolished Dutch barn and removed hinges. It is a scribe-rule frame c1800-1810 with roman numeral marriage-marks. Re-examined the brick smoke house and the pig house that has a hewn frame and lapped and pinned rafters, pre 1840. It is probably earlier than the shop barn. The Sheep barn is a late balloon frame and filled with sheep dung to perhaps an 8-foot depth. You can only get so far in and you hit your head. There is a cellar under the shop where the DuBoises stored their apples.



/DuBoice Farm (Sha-12)
Shawangunk, Ulster Co., NY

(continued from page 1.)

"In a letter of June 1998, Dr Ellen van Olst, Director of Stichting Historisch Boerderij - Onderzoek (the Institute for Historical Farms Research) wrote: 'raising holes are indeed known in the Netherlands, although we have not (as yet) done any serious research into this matter.' The only information up to now has come from the easternmost part of the country, i.e. the area between Arnhem and the German border. Because anchor-beam construction is prevalent there, the area is particularly relevant for New World Dutch barns."

Dr Olst wrote that her research staff have never noticed any raising holes in other parts of the country. She believes that this does not mean that there aren't any, just that no one has taken any notice of them. Information on the raising-hole comes from a 1997 re-print of a 1940 book by L.A. Van Prooije containing interviews, of that mid twentieth-century period, with timber frame carpenters and drawings of the use of the raising hole with poles and planks. There is no other known descriptions (so far) of the use of the raising hole either in German, Dutch or English.

This points out the importance of oral tradition in the study of vernacular architecture, and the intelligence to document, re-print and make such information available to the public. It is in contrast to the sad state of our present dark-ages in New York State.

"Do you think the Timberframers would ever be willing to try raising a barn using raising holes and poles?" Karen asks in her letter. I do think that it would be interesting to try these European methods. One difference, after raising the heavy frame, the Dutch carpenters must then lift the columns and place them on a masonry pier. New World Dutch barns have heavy sill-plates on which the frame is raised and the base of the columns are joined to them. It has been pointed out that Old World Dutch barns have earthen threshing floors in the naive whereas their American cousins have wood plank threshing floors fastened with square pegs to the sills and sleepers. This difference is probably due to the abundance of wood here.

Since the end of September the research staff of the Mid-Hudson Chapter has made sixteen documenting field trips that the editor knows of. They have discovered, registered and explored many new sites. It is a team effort to observe, measure and speculate on why and what was. On a Sunday, at the Bevier/Newkerk house (page 5.) during a re-check of measurements, Darren climbed up through the narrow flue of the jambed fireplace and disappeared into the massive smoke hood of the old Dutch jambless fireplace and stood, out of sight, on the smoke shelf of the jambed fireplace built bellow it. This is perhaps one of six surviving smoke hoods. A place that could comfortably hold three people and what written accounts tell was sometimes the hiding place when Indians attacked.

From this dark sooty wrap-around reality of stone, holding his flashlight and tape measure, Darren called down to me the description and measurements of the things he saw: two wooden brackets nailed to the exposed inside faces of the trimmer beams with rose head nails, the fixtures that once held the long wooden trammel pole that held the iron chains and adjustable hardware that held the pots and kettles above the hot coals on the hearth. In the jambed fireplace bellow I listened and wrote down what he told me from above and made a drawing he said looked just like the trammel brackets he had found.

The Bevier/Newkerk house has seen years of neglect, a condition, along with poverty, that often contributes more truth to historic preservation than all the money and "restoration" have destroyed. Helen Reynolds wrote of the Bevier house in her 1929 book, "The interior may be assumed to have consisted originally of two rooms, with a hall between them. (She was quite wrong, it was a one room house with an added room and no center hall.)...the assumption being based upon the visitor's hasty observation of the exterior. Like an ant hill the house and hillside swarmed with the lowest life of the Ghetto and it was tragic to see a once pleasant farmstead in a condition of such indescribable filth and decay that hasty flight from its vicinity was a first thought."

No more space or time. No barn tours planned for the cold Holiday season but expect a warm indoor event soon after.

Peter Sinclair
Spillway Farm
West Hurley



Newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Dutch Barn Preservation Society
and notice of up-coming events will be made available with a \$10 membership.
Mail to Peter Sinclair, 83 Spillway Rd., West Hurley, NY 12491; (914) 338-0257

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

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