

The Society for the Preservation of
HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE
NEWSLETTER

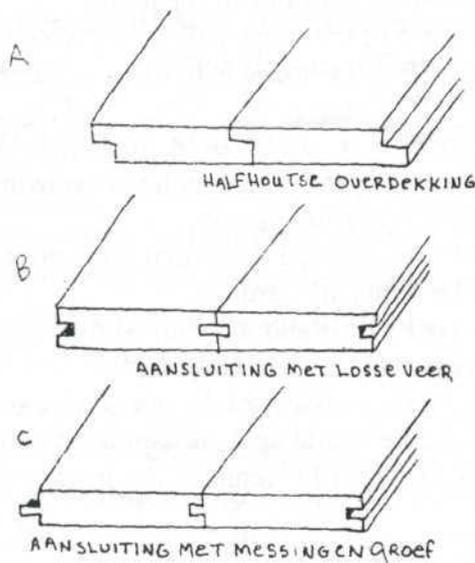
DECEMBER 2006

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From the Editor: This past month has brought about many changes in my daily life and a greater appreciation for all the work Peter Sinclair has put into the running of the HVVA office over his many years of service and leadership. As all reports claim Peter is progressing well after suffering a severe stroke on October 16th, I on the other hand continue to learn his HVVA routine and try to keep us on focus as well as to plot out some new pathways for expansion. I humbly ask that you bear with HVVA as we go through this period of growth and change. I have always said that the Newsletter is the backbone of our organization and truly hope others will keep the interesting articles and drawing coming in for publication. HVVA is the best group I have ever been apart of and I hope as our membership continues to grow we will be better able to keep our mandate to document and preserve the Hudson Valley's regional architectural heritage. I would like to encourage our membership to attend the monthly meetings and study tours. Happy Holidays. Rob Sweeney

Speaking Vernacularly: This space will be dedicated to definitions. While studying vernacular houses here in the Hudson Valley we often use terms which are specific to our location and in particular of our study of New World Dutch Culture. This article is truly meant for the beginner, but on occasion I hope all the readers might find something of interest. The following is taken from The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses, written by HVVA member Harrison Meeske and published by Purple Mountain press. A most superb read!

BEPLANKINGEN



Three wood joints used in wall panels and floors :

- A) Rabbet or halfhouthse overdekking.
- B) Spline or aansluiting met losse veer.
- C) Tongue in groove or aansluiting met en groef.

This old house is on the move

18th century Dutch home being taken apart in Jersey and reassembled in Ulster

By Robert Ford

Ulster County Press

Families move, houses don't. Well, normally houses don't move, except for this one home built in the 1790s in Montville, N.J., which is in the process of making its third and last move.

Built in the late 18th Century, the Zabriskie House is a Dutch Home that was the subject of a Discovery Channel "Dirty Jobs" show when it was first moved, according to Brian Kennedy, owner of the Historic Space Homewrights of Accord, which is overseeing the house's final move.

About a year ago, the then-owner of the home, Sal Saia, moved it in one piece from its original location a short distance up the road. Saia purchased the home named for a former local miller about a year-and-a-half ago. He then had the house jacked up, placed on two steel girders and then onto a flat-bed truck and moved up the street to a piece of property he owned. The house was slated for demolition, it and Saia told the television show that he couldn't see a piece of Montville's historic Dutch past destroyed.

He had planned on putting it on the property next to the home he lived in, which was also a home built by the township's original Dutch settlers, and slowly restore the old house.

But his plans were thwarted when the township's planning board would not grant him approval to subdivide his property. So Saia put the home up on the Internet, which is where local resident and old house restorer Brian Kennedy spotted it.

Kennedy purchased the home for \$1 with an eye to moving to a piece of land he owns on Palenville Road in Kerhonkson. Kennedy and a crew of four spent 14 days photographing the house, doing detailed drawings – including numbering every piece of the house – and then dismantling it.

The four-bedroom, 1,700-square foot house will be packed into a 40-foot tractor-trailer and moved to Kerhonkson this week. Kennedy said he is unsure of how long it will take to put the house back together, but when it is completed it will be totally restored. Reassembly is slated to begin in the spring.

"I've always been a huge fan of American architecture," Kennedy said of his love for old homes. "And we are losing it at a rapid rate."

He said that too many of America's traditional homes are being torn down to make room for generic "McMansions." "This is a beautiful old Dutch house and needed to be saved," Kennedy said.

The original house, Kennedy said, was about 28-feet-by-28-feet, and two additions were added in the 1800s. Another addition was added in the 1960s, but Kennedy said he would not be saving that section. "I'm a purist," Kennedy said of his desire to only save and restore the most historic portions of the house.

Parts of the home that were lost to rot or removed over the course of the years will be replicated in Kennedy's shop. "We will reproduce what we can't save," Kennedy said. "But the house is in really good shape."

When the house is finished, it will have all the modern amenities, Kennedy said. The plumbing and electrical wiring will be replaced and it will have a modern heating system.

Kennedy, who lived with his family on Long Island until he was 13 years old, said he became interested in old homes when his family took a tour of a Bethpage, Long Island restoration project.

The family was looking to move up the Hudson Valley, and it was decided that when they moved they would look for an old house to live in. They found a home built in the 1800s in Gardiner.

When he was 19 years old, Kennedy saw a story in the *New York Times* about a man who was restoring an old home. "The next day, I decided that's what I wanted to do with my life," Kennedy said.

He said his wife Sharon and three children, Levi, Maeve and Nash, who are totally supportive of his venture.

When his eldest son Levi was old enough to talk, Kennedy said, he would spot a dilapidated house and say, "broke down house, daddy fix." And for the last 16 years, the 36-year old Kennedy has been working on historic old homes and breathing new life into them.

(We are truly indebted to Robert Ford for bringing Dutch Vernacular Architecture to the general readership of the *Ulster County Press*, and especially for allowing HVVA to reprint this article in our newsletter.)

According to our by-laws HVVA must make known to its members the slate of proposed officers and trustees at least 30 day prior to elections. Elections are schedule to take place at the annual meeting to be held on January 20th at the Bevier House Museum located on Route 209 south of Kingston.

The nominations for the 2007 elections are as followed:

To serve as Trustees;

Peter Sinclair
John Stevens
Walter Wheeler
Karen Markisenis
Maggie Mac Dowell
William McMillen

Officers of the Board of Trustees;

President - Jim Decker
Vice President - Dennis Tierney
Secretary - Maggie Mac Dowell
Treasurer - Rob Sweeney

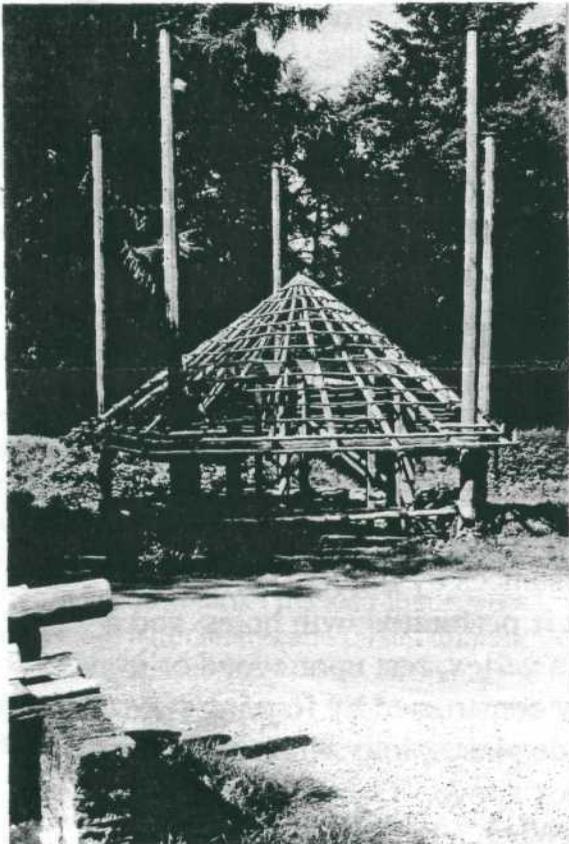
For those wishing to send a holiday greeting or some words of encouragement to Peter you may do so by using the following address:

Northern Dutchess Hospital
Thompson House
Montgomery St.
Peter Sinclair RM# 151
PO BOX 514
Rhinebeck, NY 12572-0514

From the mail box this month we found several snippets about hay barracks. This being a favorite subject of Peter Sinclair I felt compelled to include the information in this months newsletter. The following quote was sent to us by a member in Cobleskill, New York, It was found in an old book titled, History of Schoharie County. "Mohawk Valley, much hay and grain was formerly deposited in barracks— indeed, such depositaries are considerably used there at the present day. They are commonly made by erecting four upright poles or posts, so as to form a square, firmly set in the ground, or held at equal distances by timber framed into them above the ground. The upper part of the post is perforated with holes and a roof, made of a quadrangular form, terminating in a vertex, rest upon wood or iron pins thrust through those holes. The roof is usually constructed by framing two timbers, crossing at right angles, and secured by side pieces, into which are framed four upright poles, firmly secured at the apex above. The roof is sometimes boarded and shingled, but usually thatched. When a barrack is to be filled, the roof is raised to the top of the corner post, and the hay or grain in the sheaf is

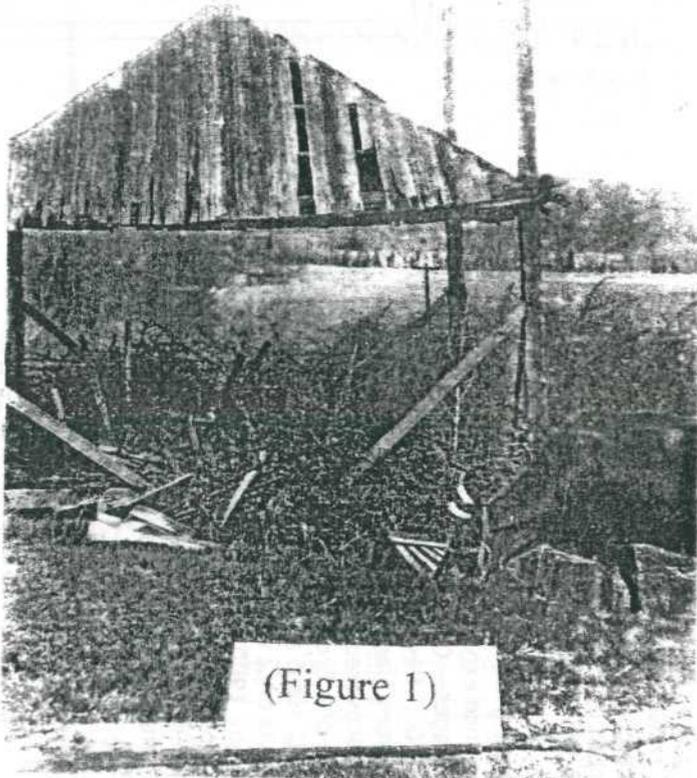


(Figure 2)



(Figure 3)

stacked beneath it: and as the contents are removed the roof is let down. Some barracks have a floor, and are so constructed as to last many years, subserving most of the purposes of the barn. They are generally built with four corners, but sometimes with more." You can see several different variations of barracks in the photographs sent in by this very month by our members, In (Figure 1) you can see a simple American form w/ a board roof perhaps it was shingled but highly unlikely. Note the bracing this could indicate that the corner post were not set into the ground, making this not only practical but also some what mobile. The photo was send to us by Kathy Fisher, she believes the barrack was in the Montville, New Jersey area. The bottom two imagines were sent in by Karen Gross, one of our members in Germany. The photographs were taken on her recent trip to the "Open Air Museum" in Arhem, Netherlands. In (figure 2) you can see the typical four post barrack given a shed roof addition more than likely to provide shelter for livestock. The tile roof maybe required on the shed roof not only because of the swallow pitch but also to prevent premature rotting of the thatch due to the moisture give off by the stabled animals. The barrack shown in (figure 3) depicts a five post system and clearly shows the frame work ready to receive it's thatch. Also in the mail came a letter from Mr. J. Schipper, of the Netherlands, stating he will contribute an article about hay barracks in the Zaan Region, in the coming new year.



(Figure 1)

A note from John Stevens:

On our way back to L.I. from Connecticut on Saturday, we stopped at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich to see the van der Heyde exhibit. It was well worth the effort! His views of streetscapes and buildings are superb. And his rendering of brick bonds is unbelievable! No mistaking that cross-bond was intended. His paintings were made before the sash window was adopted, so all the buildings have variations of cross-windows and leaded glass. Van der Heyde made significant improvements both in street lighting and in the design and construction of fire pumping engines- and as well canvas and leather hoses to draw water into the pumps, and deliver it to the fire. In *Remembrance of Patria* there is a drawing from his book of firefighting published in 1690 showing a section of a house with the firemen dragging hoses up the stairs to get at the fire. He manufactured the pumps and hoses, and made a lot of money from the sale of them, so he painted more for pleasure than for monetary gain. Marion says that she will write up something about this exhibition (it is on until Jan. 10) for the *Newsletter* (in January). She has already started putting something down on paper.

Membership: If you have been receiving this newsletter, but your membership is not current and you wish to continue to receive the HVVA newsletter and participate in the many house study tours offered each year, please send in your Dues. Membership currently pays all the HVVA bills and to keep us operating in the Black each of us must contribute a little. Membership remains at the low cost of \$20 per year (\$15 for Students). So if you haven't sent in your dues or given a tax deductible donation to the HVVA, cause please consider doing so now.

Yes, I would like to re-new my membership in the amount \$_____.

Yes, I would like I make a tax deductible contribution to help continue the work of preserving the Hudson Valley's Architectural Heritage, enclosed please find my donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please mail checks: HVVA, Box 202, West Hurley NY 12491