



From the Editor... We were saddened to hear of the death of our good friend Robert C. Euich, age 66. Bob was an interested and active member of HVVA attending most of our meetings and tours over the past several years, since moving to the Village of Hurley in Ulster County, from Montgomery in Orange County.

Bob was a retired curator for the Orange County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. He received a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in museum management. He was a member of the Orange County and Ulster County Historical Societies and was a past president of the Historical Society of Walden and the Walden Valley.

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FROM THE JOURNAL ===== 

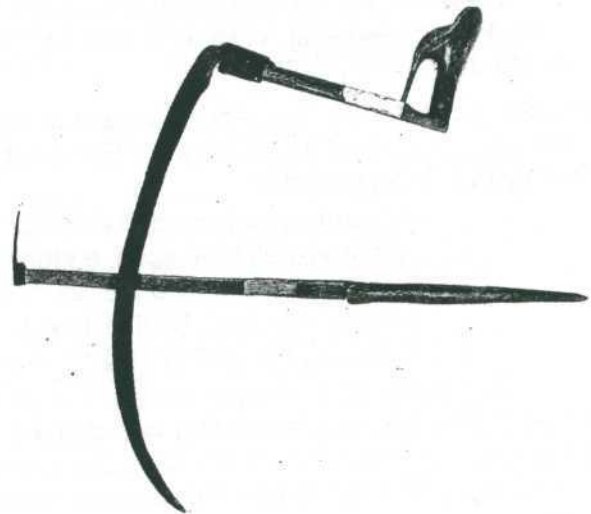
Friday, September, 1 - I drove with Roberta Jeracka to The Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, NY and met with Devin Schatzel who has recently moved from Hurley to Otsego County. Of special interest was the post-in-ground turkey pen that has been constructed with a thatched roof. The roof contains phragmites and cat-tail reed in separate layers. We were unable to inspect its interior and see the rafter system as it was filled with live turkeys. According to the interpreter it is based on a suggested design from an 1840's agricultural journal. They have speculated that hay barracks were not used in Otsego County. There were once a few Dutch barns in Otsego County. The last known one was disassembled a few years ago and moved to Stone Ridge in Ulster County. Another one was moved to Columbia County.

The tool collection, displayed in the main building, is very selective and organized by craft and application. The Dutch/German sith-and-mathook are no longer displayed together. Evidently they were not used in Otsego County. The mathook is now with the hay-hook and other hooks not well understood. The sith is with the northern corn knife where it belongs, being its ancestor, I believe.

On the way to the Farmers Museum we stopped at a Dutch barn on route 145 south in the Cooksburg area of Albany County that we were unaware of. "Free Irish Museum Cultural Center" painted on the garage door, a farmstead with a complex of farm buildings. No one was available to talk to while we were there. We did not go into the buildings. The Dutch barn has a steep pitched roof its cellar has been deepened and the lower columns replaced for a dairy operation.

We went with Devin to his new family farm in the Burlington Flats, near Cooperstown. The original English barn is within a complex of buildings and silos now. Its frame shows a lot of additions and the entire barn was raised one level. It originally had been a 3-bay frame with flared posts, English tie joints, vertical siding and a ridge beam. It has no raising holes.

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Schoharie Valley Sith and Mathook from the Schoharie County Historical Society, photograph from Remembrance of Patria, by Roderic Blackburn and Ruth Piwonka, Albany Institute, 1988

These are an American version of the ancient tools of grain harvest used in the Netherlands and parts of Germany.

In the Hudson Valley they were superseded by the cradle-scythe and eventually by the horse drawn McCormick reaper. These tools belonged to the Rickard and Rorick families. Their estimated age is listed as 1775-1850.

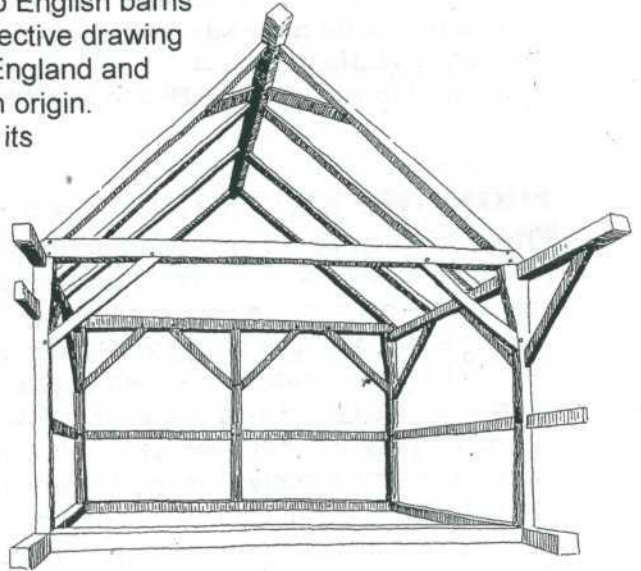
When I got home I got out my copy of an extraordinary 58-page illustrated article published by Henry Glassie in 1974 and based on his and his students' survey of 2,193 barns in Otsego County in the 1960's. Beginning in 1964, Glassie examined the framing and spatial plans of the buildings, gathered information from farmers about their uses and history and used a systematic method of locating the sites. He did examine some barns outside Otsego County "to prevent the study from becoming absurdly narrow". His interview of F.H. Sheldon of Kerhonkson, Ulster County, who recalled the tales of older carpenters like those of his grandfather, a barn builder, and the documentation of his Dutch barn, would be of special interest to us here in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

In all his searching Glassie was surprised to find only one Otsego County barn with English style tie joints, as opposed to English barns with dropped ties. He did a wonderful free-hand perspective drawing of it. He did not know of the use of the ridge beam in England and speculated that it was Yankee, perhaps Connecticut in origin. It is occasionally found in timber framed buildings and its origin is still a matter of speculation.

It seems that the Schatzel family barn in the Burlington Flats could be added as the second English frame to the Glassie survey of Otsego County.

English Timber Frame with Flared Posts and Ridge Beam, located between Cooperstown and East Springfield, Otsego County, NY drawing by Henry Glassie, 1966

from *The Variation of Concepts Within Tradition: Barn Building in Otsego County, New York, Geoscience and Man*, Volume V, June 10, 1974, pages 177-235



Sunday, Septembr 3 We receive an e-mail and I went to see a house in Rosendale on the Old Lucas Turnpike. I met the owners, Dr Randall Marshall and his wife who have owned the house for ten years. I registered it:

Seven-bay two-room Dutch stone house with end-wall fireplaces, a stone extension and stone summer kitchen, circa 1790-1800
Snyder/Marshall (NY/Uls/Ros-6)
N 41°52.780 W 074°05.247, elevation 467"

This stone house began as a two-room story-and-a-half building with exposed ceiling beams. It was added to soon after with a stone extension with three rooms and plastered ceilings. At this time, or probably later, the roof was raised. The rafters and side walls were raised 3- or 4-feet and supported on wood framed side walls with eyebrow windows. It has a full cellar.

Friday September 8 I met with John Stevens and Jim Decker at The Huguenot Society, New Paltz. The end-wall of the 1721 Jean Hasbrouck House has now been completely taken down and the remains of the two barred cellar windows removed. These were closely examined, interpreted and drawn. They will be replicated at the on site shop. We followed John who re-examined, and documented the altered remains of a half-dozen, pre 1730, surviving window frames for leaded glass in the Hasbrouck and Bevier/Elting Houses.



**Snyder/Marshall House (Ros-6)
Rosendale, Ulster County, NY**

Tuesday September 12 On a tip from Maggie MacDowell and Paul O'Neil, I went to the Niewkerk stone house on Dug Hill Road in Hurley. I met the new owners David Bruce and Frank Godchaux, took a quick tour and registered it:

stone house of three rooms all before 1770
and two barns, sawn frames, circa 1900
Niewkerk/Bruce (NY, Uls, Hur-17)
Hurley, Ulster County, NY
N 41'55.393 W 074'05.503 Elevation 217'

HVVA should return and take measurements. In my brief visit two things stood out as noteworthy. First the location of the house on a high buff, like the early 18th century Lem Boice house in the Town of Ulster we have been documenting; second, the survival of an interesting, perhaps unique, brick fireplace hearth support in the cellar. My guess is that it supported a by-pass flue for a cellar fireplace in the adjoining cellar room, and a first floor jambless in the room above. There is a transverse joist between the trimmers to accommodate or support the brick by pass flue.

HVVA Saturday, September 16, 2006 Meeting

The meeting was convened at the Brush House in Pine Plains, Columbia County (PP-5)

Called to order at 10:40 by Pres. Jim Decker.

Present were 14 members; Alvin Sheffer, Betty Mosny, Dennis Teirney, Roberta Jeracka, Peter Sinclair, Bob and Amelia Andersen, Robert Hedges, Robert Eurich, Ron and Karen Markisenis, John Coppell, Rob Sweeney, Jim Decker.

Roberta aided Peter in giving a financial report a total of \$1132 was on hand with all expenses being paid.

Rob reported that a total of \$3117.00 in book sales was received during the 3rd quarter of this year that ended 8/31. Sales have continued to be steady, with most of the recent sales being from out of state.

The question of increasing dues was raised, but with more discussion it was agreed that it would be better left for the annual meeting. In general it was felt the dues should remain unchanged and an annual appeal might be in order.

South African connection: It was spoken that we may want to look into a similar group studying Dutch Vernacular Arch. in South Africa to share information and look for an international recognition for folk building practices.

Jim reported on Fred Smiths findings for our projector and laptop purchase, some other sources were mentioned and it was decided to ask Fred a couple further questions regarding the Brand before a purchasing. Jim was ask to continue on this project

A topic was brought up to see if HVVA could file for grant money to dendro date several house of importance with questionable dates and then to publish the findings. More work needs to go into this topic and someone must be found to organize this effort, any takers??

Jim reported on the progress being made at the Jean Hasbrouck House. The larger first floor and garret windows are well underway in Brian Parkers workshop.

October 21 meeting will be held at the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction, Schenectady County.

Reed collection will take place in late November, date To-Be-Announced.

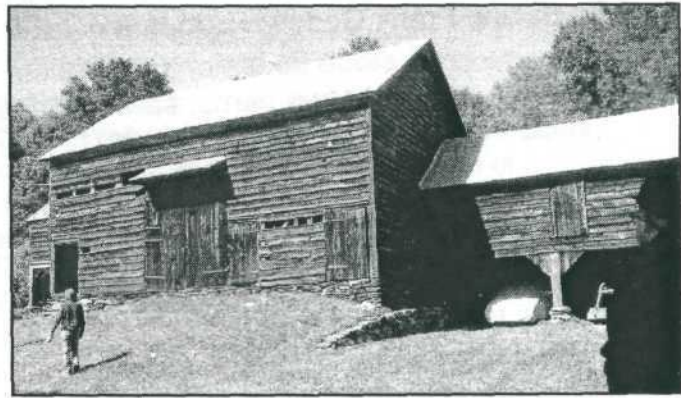
No other business being at hand, meeting was adjourned and the group went on to examine two barns in the locale.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Sweeney, Vice Pres.

Saturday, September 16 After our meeting in Pine Plains, Dutchess County, we drove north to the Town of Gallatin in Columbia County to visit two scribe-rule English barns with dropped-ties, The Mintzer (Gal-1) and The Ding/Silvernail (Gal-2) (*).

Bob Hedges and John Coppell have been working over the years on the restoration of the Brush log House in Pine Plains (PP-5), a remarkably well preserved 18th century frontier cabin, and the Mintzer barn in Gallatin, a small threshing barn from a tenant farm on the Livingston estate. This small 3-bay dropped-tie English barn contains re-used parts of an earlier Dutch barn as well as parts of four 16-foot long barrack plates, part of a barrack pole from a

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(From the Journal, continued)

steltenberg type with a raised floor, rather than the *kapberg* type barrack without a raised floor. The holes are drilled diagonally through the pole suggesting the roof may have been raised with a *bergheef* or barrack-

screw. The four-part wooden-hinged wagon doors have been restored using the wooden latch design of that found on the Ken Snyder Dutch barn in Saugerties, Ulster County (Sau-5).

We next drove to the nearby Ding/Silvernail barn. This is a large, 35-foot wide, English threshing barn with dropped ties. It has German marriage marks, lines-and-flags.

Ding was a second generation Palatine German of the 1710 immigration. Livingstone, Lord of the Manor, sold him this farm on the upper Rollof Jansen Kill as a way of holding on to the eastern boundary of his estate. Livingstone intended to rent most of his large holdings to tenant farmers who were hard to find. His eastern frontier against the land hungry New Englanders was unstable in the early 18th century. When Ding wanted to build a mill on his stream, Livingstone would not let him as he held all mill rights on the Manor. Ding sold the property back to Livingstone and moved to Pennsylvania.

Saturday, September 23 About 130 people attended the Winnakee Land Trust tour of ten historic barns in the towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck, Dutchess County. It was an interesting and interested group of people, many of them barn owners. The Tour began at The Sapascot farm in Rhinebeck where HVVA set up its display in the Kelly's cement-block equipment shed with a plank-truss gambrel roof, circa 1950.

Then to Red Hook to The Stewart/Gonzalez mid-18th century 3-bay English barn with dropped ties (RH-13), where HVVA demonstrated documentation and discussed the significance of the many unusual features of the barn. There is evidence that the barn originally had wagon doors on only one side, and they were harr-hung.

There are a number of unique features in the barn's Dutch major/minor rafter system. These suggest it may have originally been thatched. The German marriage-marks with lines-and-flags are the same as those in the Ding/Silvernail barn (Gal-2) seen last Saturday. There are many similarities between the two barns.

The tour ended at 3:30 with a wine and cheese reception in the cathedral sized 1909 stone barn, once part of the Grasmere estate, a county seat created in 1775 by Richard and Janet Livingston Montgomery. The barn burned a few years ago and is undergoing reconstruction by its present owners, Steve Mensch and Family, from its slate roof to its timber framed interior. It is a bank barn that once held hay and kept cows in the basement. It now overlooks an open landscape of hundreds of acres, a statement about the goal of the Winnakee Land Trust, "to protect and preserve the natural, agricultural, cultural, scenic, historical, and open space resources of northern Dutchess County."

(left) Graham/Brush Log House (PP-5)

John Coppell explains the bulge in the back wall of the fireplace to Craig Vogel.

(right) Mintzer English Threshing barn (Gal-1)

Bob Eurick on the right, looks at the Mintzer barn at his last HVVA tour.

FROM CANADA

Jef Achenbach (*), from The Annapolis Thatching Co-op, Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, Canada, sent us some important information on thatch that I would like to share with you:

August 19

"Five of the 27 newly described types of reed (*Phragmites australis*), by Saltonstall (**), and others, are thought to be indigenous to North America. I believe these native reeds were used by early pioneers; Acadians here, and Dutch in the Hudson Valley.

By 1660 I suppose reed could have been cultivated for roof thatch, but whether of local or imported European stock is debatable. The Chambers case you mention (***) is quite interesting to me as it is the earliest mention of New World "reed" as opposed to simply "thatch".

Due to the 1755 "interruption" (****) in Acadian history, we don't enjoy too many documents relating to early architecture. John Stevens and I have talked about similarities between Acadian and Dutch traditions, sea-dikes being the most obvious, and barracks another. As I am continuing to reconstruct 17th century Acadian domestic architecture these similarities may be the best place for me to seek the details I need and I'll help your exploration of reed thatch all I can.

As for active reed harvesting, I have done it several ways. Most recently I've used a ride-on rig I put together to cut several thousand bundles in Massachusetts. I hope to go back in the new year to cut more, though I hope never to gather it by hand again, whew!

Thanks for the note and the updates through your very good newsletters. I hope I've helped a bit and that you'll let me know if I can do it again."

Regards, Jef

Jef, Thanks for your wonderful letter. We will stay in touch. Let us know when and where you will be cutting reed this winter. Peter

(*) Go to your search engine, search for <jef achenbach> open Tupperville School Museum. Go back to search engine, open Thatching Sales and Wants to see the international scope of the active trade of thatching.

(**) I went to the Saltonstall inter-net site and printed out her three-page Recent Research on *Phragmites australis* in North America. Some interesting facts: Examination of New World sloth dung deposited 40,000 years ago shows that *Phragmites* made up 60% of their diet; 3,500-4,000 years ago it was present in Connecticut marshes; and 600BC to 1,400AD it was integral to Anasazi culture. Cliff dwellers used it for arrow shafts, prayer sticks, mats, flutes and cigarettes. Modern man uses it to collect heavy metals from his waste products.

(***) See HVVA Newsletter Volume 8, number 8, page 6. Thomas Chambers, a carpenter of English origin, purchased land in the Esopus Valley from the Indians in 1652 and soon became one of the original colonists of what is today Ulster County. They called Thomas Chambers, "Clapboard", probably referring to the thin split oak boards the English colonists of New England sided their houses with. The Dutch of the Hudson Valley were quick to build sawmills and so used wide sawn weatherboards that saved time and used one third the nails or less, assuming a width of 4-inches for clapboard and 12-inches for weatherboards. When using wide weatherboard-siding the builder can also space his studs further apart

Before coming to The Esopus, the first European colony in the Mid Hudson Valley, Thomas Chambers had worked for ten or more years in the Upper Hudson Valley in what is today Albany and Rensselaer Counties, and so was familiar with and practiced New World Dutch traditions.

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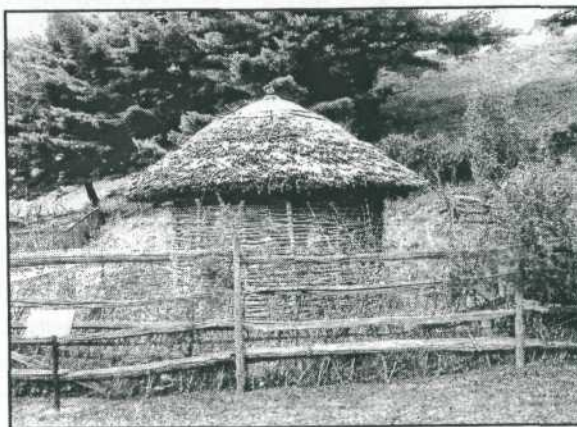
(From Canada, continued)

One of these traditions was to keep the local court of law-and-order busy with all sorts of charges against your neighbor and to write it all down on an acid-free paper. Rob Sweeney brought to my attention the 1660's case that Thomas Chambers brought against Teunis Jacobsen and Andries Pietersen for cutting reed for thatch on his land. Chambers said that on the day before the theft, he had asked Jan Gerretsen and Henderick Hendericksen Van Wye to cut the reed and they had refused saying they had other work to do. Notwithstanding, they had asked Chambers where the reed was and he had told them at Pisseman's Corner. Jan and Henderick had cut the reed the next day and the defendants, Teunis and Andries, had hauled it away. The defendants pleaded guilty.

In the 1660's there was a very small population of European colonist at the Esopus so that one might imagine there was lots of reed available in the common lands owned by the community. Roberta Jeracka has suggested that perhaps Chambers was cultivating a longer imported variety of reed on his land.

It should be noted that all four of the names of the guilty end in "sen" or son-of. One of them, Henderick son of Hendrick is more specific and gives his family's place of origin as "Wye". It was a time when some Hudson Valley surnames were forming and would begin a 350-year evolution in spelling and pronunciation that continues today.

(****) Jef refers to the expulsion of the French Acadians from Canada. Many migrated to Louisiana and became Cajuns.



**Turkey Pen with Thatched Roof
Farmers Museum, Cooperstown
Otsego County, NY**

From **George K. Van Sickle** of Marletown, Ulster County...when the British Burned Kingston in 1777, they evidently missed a few buildings. George found the following news item on urban expansion in the Ulster Republican, for September 1847.

"Last of the old Dutch barns in Kingston being demolished on John Beekman's property on Main Street. It survived the Rev War."



Robert C. Eurich, 1939-2006

(From the Editor, continued)

Bob wrote numerous articles on local history and architecture and was the author of three books, Horse Farms and Homesteads in Old Orange County, Mantels of Montgomery, co-authored with Emma Locke, and The Old Houses of Hanover, co-authored with Robert L. Williams.

A former assistant curator for Nassau County, Long Island, with the Old Bethpage Village, he served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Born November 4, 1939 in New York, he was the son of the late John J. and Helen Stevens Eurich. Survivors include many cousins. A brother, John Eurich, died previously.

**Peter Sinclair, Editor
West Hurley, Ulster County, NY**

Whitewash Basics:

Many of our readers either own or have seen whitewash surfaces; But few understand how to duplicate the process. I hope this small article might encourage the continued use of this historic and durable finish.

Whitewash, is sometimes referred to as lime wash, has been used to protect and beautify Hudson Valley homes from their inception. It is environmentally friendly, and inexpensive. A typical house can be washed at a cost of no more than \$30.00 in materials. It is perfectly suited for use on both masonry and wood surfaces, indoors as well as out. A whitewashed finish is vapor permeable and will wick moisture away from the surface it is applied to. Whitewash is remarkable for its ability to seal a surface, for it tightens and consolidates as it dries. Think of it as painting on a shell, after all lime and shells have a very similar chemical makeup. In fact clam shells were burned and slacked to make the very first whitewash in America. So you can see it is nature's own recipe to keep water out. The ph of lime helps sanitize surfaces. It is often used in chicken coops and cow stalls. Found in cellars, whitewash brightens dark spaces and inhibits mold and mildew. On exteriors it may be used to visually unify additions of differing materials and as well to protect porous mortar joints from the elements. As an added benefit whitewash cools a house in the summer as it reflects sunlight and reduces heat absorption. Although limefast pigments such as, brick dust or lampblack can be added, pure white seemed to be the most popular choice among our forebears. In South Africa, Cape Dutch houses are often washed with a dark color belt around the foundation to obscure the mud that slashes onto the walls when it rains. (Perhaps the watertable ledge we find on our local houses perform a similar function?) So as you can see whitewashing has many virtues and it is important to our vernacular tradition to keep it alive.

There are many wash recipes, some include, molasses, alum, milk, salt, and glue. None of the above ingredients are either needed or recommended, in fact they all will weaken the end results. The best Whitewash is made from hydrated lime (type S) and pure water. In former times hydrated lime was referred to as slacked lime. Slacked lime is quicklime that water has been added to. Quicklime comes from quarried limestone which is heated to a very high temperature in a lime kiln. Many lime kilns still stand in our area today. Also remember that limestone needs to be pulverized into a fine dust, before it can be used for whitewash. So lucky for us most of the laborious work has been done when we buy commercially prepared hydrated lime (type S), from the store. I have found that farm stores like "Agway" stock hydrated lime in 50 lb bags, just ask at the counter it's stored out back. For most projects one bag will suffice. You will also need a pail to mix the whitewash, a mop bucket works well. Make only a small batch at a time by measuring out in equal volume, one coffee can of hydrated lime and one of water into a bucket and mix thoroughly. A large whisk or a simple stick works for this step. Periodical during application you must stir up the solution to keep the lime from settling out. Apply with a brush. I have seen claims that good quality paint store carry whitewashing brushes of 100% Tampico fiber set in hard wood blocks, but I have not been able to find one. I use either a wallpaper paste brush or a large china bristle paint brush, both seem to get the job done. The important thing to remember is to choose a brush of natural fiber and one with quite stout bristles. Using the brush to coat the surface well, be sure to push the wash into the cracks and crevices. Feel free to brush in every direction to accomplish this goal, but as the wash sets up smooth the surface in one direction. The Fall is the best time to whitewash in the Hudson Valley, the perfect day is warm and dry. The finish is a dull translucent gray color at first but as it dries it will turn bright opaque white. The wash dries in an hour or two and is fully cured within 2 days. When preparing to white wash you should wear a mask while mixing the lime, it is very fine and dusty. Precautions should be taken as to keep the lime from coming in contact with your skin as it is caustic and irritating. Wear gloves and a long sleeve shirt right from the start. As you can see this is a really easy and inexpensive project that will not only beautify but preserve your old house.

Few things compare with the picturesque quality of a whitewashed house. The play of sunlight and shadow on white walls, surrounded by open green fields and clear blue skies should away remain a part of a Hudson Valley vista. Whitewash speaks much about why we need to preserve our vernacular ways.

Rob Sweeney, HVVA Vice President

Benjamin Ten Broeck/Sweeney House, 1751 (Uls-2) Town of Ulster, County of Ulster, N.Y.

This house began as a Ten Broeck tenant house for the Felton family

