View of Benjamin Freer House from east. Photo by Ken Walton, 2017.

Another early timber-framed house with a stone addition in Ulster County

By John R. Stevens

The writer has dealt with timber-framed houses in the Dutch context in his *Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640-1830*, published by HVVA in 2005 (DVA). The oldest-surviving timber-framed house in New York, and the only one to survive from the New Netherland period, is the John Bowne house in Flushing, Queens County, which was the subject of a monograph published by HVVA in 2003. The next two oldest-surviving Dutch-American timber-framed houses are the Pieter Wyckoff and Jan Martense Schenck houses, both in Brooklyn, Kings County; the Schenck house is now exhibited in the Brooklyn Museum. All of these houses appear to date to the 1670s (see drawings of them in DVA, Plates 5A, 14 & 17).

In Ulster County, it is understood that most houses built before 1700 were timber-framed. Evidence has been found by archaeologists working at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz that suggest early houses there may have been "earth-fast" (or post-in-the-ground) timber construction. After the beginning of the 18th century, there was a fairly rapid change-over from timber-framed walls to stone walls in the county's better

1. *Benjamin Freer house*, Kellar Lane, Old Route 32, North New Paltz, Ulster County.
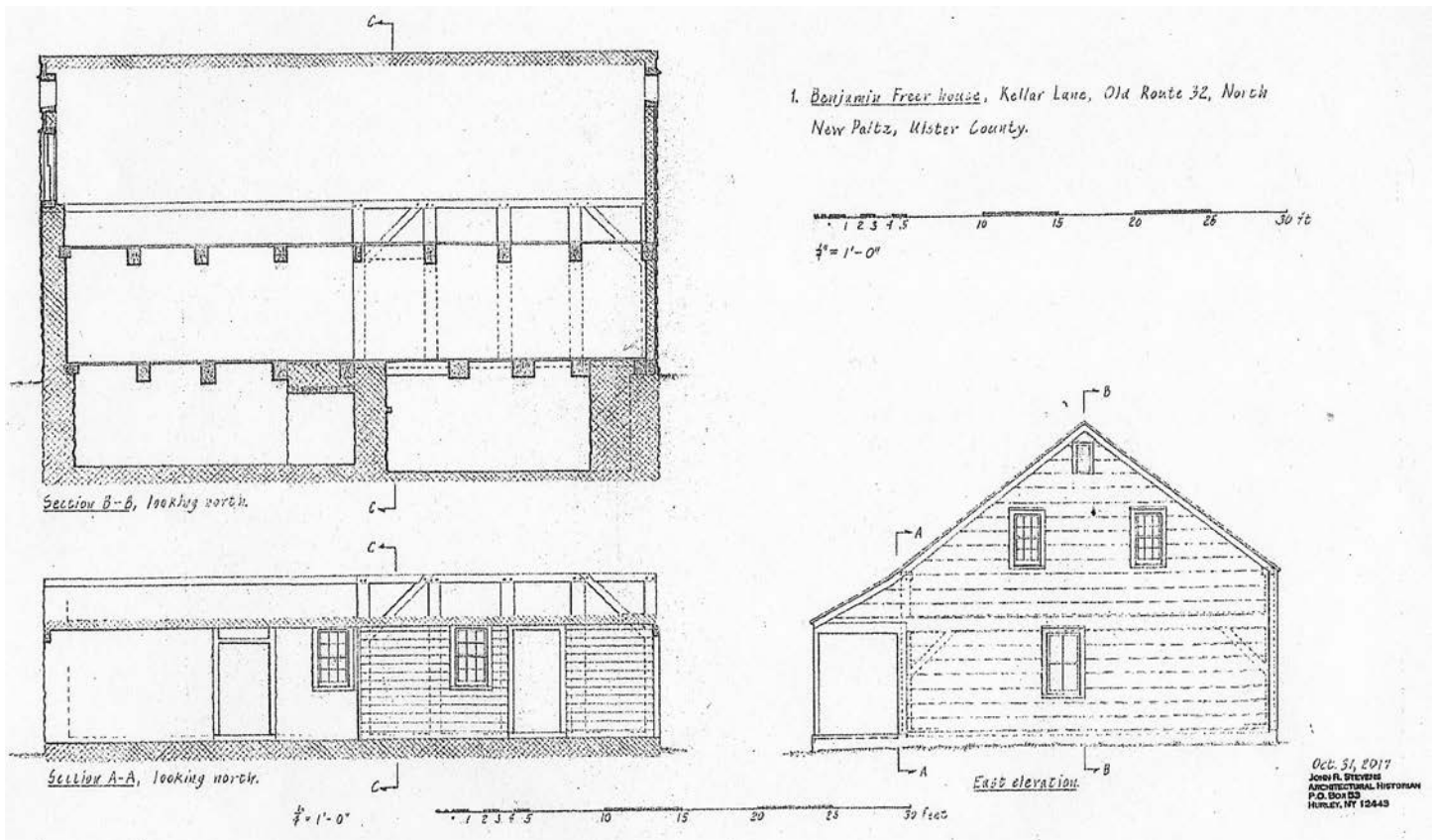
Fig. 1 – Benjamin Freer House, New Paltz, Ulster County. All drawings by John Stevens, 2017.

houses. Although a number of the Huguenot Street houses were long believed to date to the 17th century, dendrochronology carried out on them in the recent past has determined that none of them pre-date 1700. Interestingly, the second addition of the Abraham Hasbrouck house (which is dated 1734-1741) has as its front wall plate a re-used wall plate from a timber-framed house.

Peter Sinclair, founder of HVVA. was always on the look-out for early timber-framed houses in Ulster County, and in the *HVVA Newsletter* Vol. 4, (March 2002, pp. 4-5), he reported on a house identified as that of Frederick Deyo on Plains Road south of New Paltz. The western section of the house, 23 feet long, is timber-framed. The added stone-walled, eastern part is 36 feet long. While doing repair work on this house, Brian Kennedy discovered that under the beaded weatherboards of the timber-framed part, the original walls had been infilled with whitewashed clay, like the north and south walls of the Coeymans House "North Building" (see *HVVA Newsletter* Vol. 16 (April-June 2013), pp. 10-15). Neil Larson writes further about the Deyo house in the *HVVA Newsletter* Vol.17 (October-December 2014, pp. 14-15) and provides

evidence of the timber-framed section being the original dwelling,

In 2007 a house on Jacobsen's Lane in the north part of Stone Ridge was for sale. It is illustrated in Eberlein and Hubbard's Historic Houses of the Hudson Valley where it is called 'the long, whitewashed stone house'. It was built in three building sessions. Interior examination revealed that the middle section was the original part and that its east and west walls are timber-framed. The floor beams run east and west indicating that its original ridge was oriented north and south. The south wall, evidently the original façade, has a large window that seems to be the original 'kruiskozijn' casement unit, modified for double-hung sash. The original house unit measures 25 feet, east-west, and 21 feet, 6 inches north-south. Following the construction of the west and east additions the original section's roof was removed and replaced with a new roof on an east-west orientation that covered all three sections. (See *HVVA Newsletter* Vol. 18 (July-September 2015), pages 6-8).

Another timber-framed house was discovered in 2009 on Old Route 209 in Hurley. It appeared to be

a story-and-a-half stone house with a five-bay front, central entrance, and end wall fireplaces. However, its south end was not all stone, only the exposed back of a fireplace. Again, interior inspection within an added lean-to revealed the timber frame of its original west wall infilled with brick. The original timber frame measures 22 feet 8 inches north and south and 22 feet east and west. A stone addition was built on the north end of the original unit in the late 18th or early 19th century. The original east wall posts were either removed or encased in stone. This house is identified as a DuBois house. (See *HVVA Newsletter*, Vol. 12 (August-October 2009), pages 10-12.)

The most recent timber-framed and stone house to be discovered and documented is illustrated here. Included on the Wallkill Valley Land Trust's 2017 house tour, the Benjamin Freer house is located on the Wallkill River just north of the New Paltz line in the Town of Esopus. The original dwelling, the eastern part, is timber-framed and may date to the early part of the 18th century. When examined by the writer in March 2017 the house was undergoing interior rehabilitation and, as a consequence, details of its timber frame were revealed. This frame measures 24 feet 6 inches in width (north-south) and 19 feet 8 inches in depth (east-west). The height from the first floor to the top of the second-floor beams is 7 feet 6 inches; the height to the top of the wall plates is 10 feet 4 inches. There are the usual three interior bents. A jambless fireplace had been located on the west wall. Its hood beam measures 9 inches (width) and 15 inches (depth). The hearth beam is 16 inches wide and l4 inches deep.

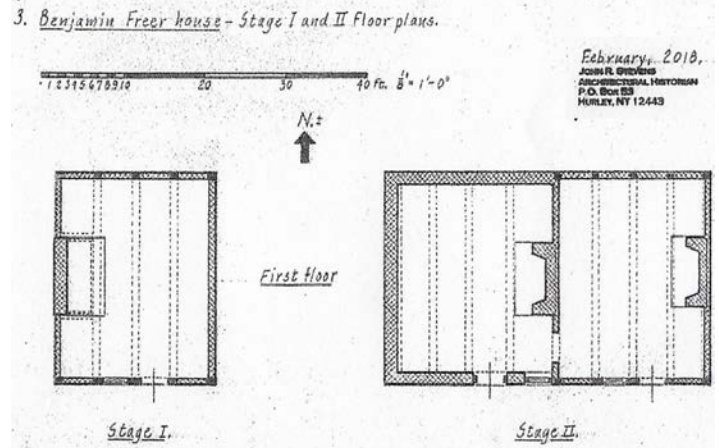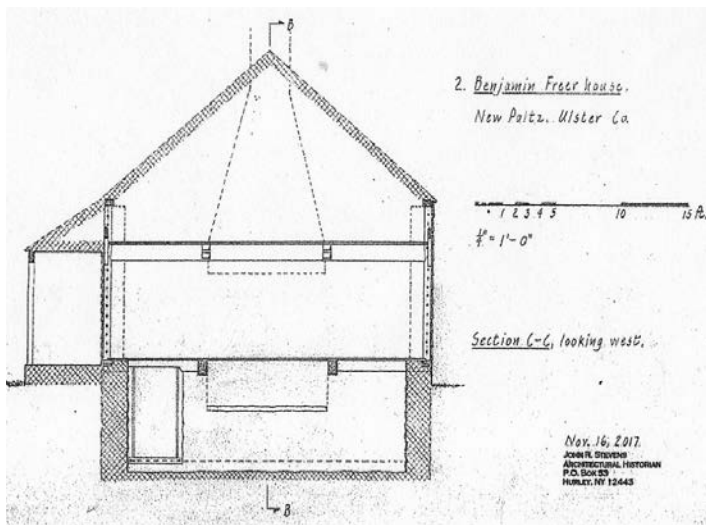Fig. 2 – Benjamin Freer House. Section of timber-framed portion.

Fig. 3 – Benjamin Freer House. Stage I and II floor plans.

Corner braces in the north and south walls are installed with dovetail lap-joints. Holes about one-inch in diameter are bored in the centerlines of the inside faces of wall posts spaced approximately 7 inches apart, from the tops of the sills to the undersides of the roof plates. Sticks were sprung into these holes, from post to post and clay and straw infill was packed around them, flush with the interior and exterior faces. The interpost bay on the north side by the west corner post had been completely cleared out, but the corresponding south wall bay retained, at its top, about two feet of the infill. From what could be seen, it could not be determined if the infill was flush with the interior faces of the wall posts or set back about an inch as was often done. Hacking was not seen on the room side of the wall posts, as would have been done had they been plastered over.

A basement under the timber-frame section has a door opening in the west end wall which may be an original feature. A corbel course survives in the west foundation wall for the support of the hearth of the original jambless fireplace. The stone section was added in the 18th century and may, in fact, be not much later than the timber-framed part. It retains stone piers that carry a bed of squared timbers that supported the hearth of an English-type fireplace. The evidence is that when the stone addition was constructed, the jambless fireplace was removed and replaced with a solid stone hearth and chimney base more-or-less centered on the opposite (east) end. In the 20th century, it would seem that both of the fireplaces in the house were removed but leaving their bases in the basement.

The Thomas Chambers house – Kripplebush, Ulster County

By Ken Krabbenhoft with Neil Larson

This summer, Scott Greathead and Juliette Bennett graciously opened their stone house in Kripplebush to tours sponsored by the Ulster County Historical Society and HVVA. Outwardly, it appears to be a conventional stone house with a five-bay front façade and center entrance *(Figs. 1 & 2)*. However, inside it presents an unusual plan, and because of that, we decided to provide some information about it here. On careful examination, it is obvious that the two windows on the right side of the entrance are positioned lower in the front wall than those on the left. Behind the huge hydrangias, a vertical seam in the stone wall indicates the house was built in two stages. This is not unusual, but the lower floor level of the addition begs a question *(Fig. 3)*. There are split-level stone houses in Ulster County, the best known being the Bevier-Elting and Abraham Hasbrouck houses on Huguenot Street in New Paltz, but in those cases, the floor level is elevated above the main floor, and a basement kitchen, not sunk below it, as in this example.

Local tradition associates "the mansion across the street from the Methodist Church" in Kripplebush with Thomas Chambers (1750-1812), one of two householders with the Chambers name taxed in the neighborhood in 1799.[1] The other was Jacob Chambers, a collateral relation; both were descended from early settlers of Rochester and both lived in Kripplebush. Jacob's stone house on Yaugh Kripplebush Road is described on the 1798 assessment list for the U.S. Direct Tax, but there is no listing for Thomas Chambers. This likely was an oversight because

Fig. 1 – View of house from south. Vertical seam visible to left of tallest flowers. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

of his having been taxed on a house and farm valued at $560 the next year. A stone house such as the subject of this article should have made the 1798 list. Thomas's brother Joseph's stone house on Yaugh Kripplebush Road is on the list; however, Joseph was not taxed in 1799. All of this suggests some mix-up in the records. Thomas and Joseph Chambers (b. 1753) were sons of Ephraim Chambers (1717-1786) and Magdalena Westbrook and had been born in the Town of Rochester before they settled in Marbletown in 1772.[2] In 1798 Joseph Chambers' stone house was deemed 20 years old.

Thomas Chambers' house probably was similar in age, although the addition could have been added 20 or more years later. Chambers is remembered as operating a store in the house in the early nineteenth century, probably in this space. The house, farm and store was inherited by his son John Davis Chambers, who was the storekeeper until his death in 1853. John's son, John B. Chambers, who had been an officer in the War of 1812, took over the store and stone house; he was appointed the Kripplebush postmaster in 1854.[3] Knowing this, one explanation for the odd addition is that it was designed for use as a store *(Fig. 4)*. There appears to have been an entrance into the store from the entry hall of the house. The basements did not communicate, with the low cellar of the store wing accessed by a trap door just inside an exterior entrance into the space on the rear wall of the house.

John D. Wilklow of Marbletown bought the property in 1866 for $3,500 from the heirs of John B. Chambers.[4] They included Helena Chambers, John B. Chambers's widow, and his children Stephen B. Chambers and Elizabeth his wife; Asenath Chambers and her husband Daniel Van Demark; John J. Chambers and Catherine Chambers his wife; George W. Chambers and Elizabeth his wife, Gertrude Chambers and her husband Simon J. Schoonmaker, all of Marbletown, as well as John B. Chambers' daughter Mary, who was wed to Isaac Wilklow, son of the grantee.

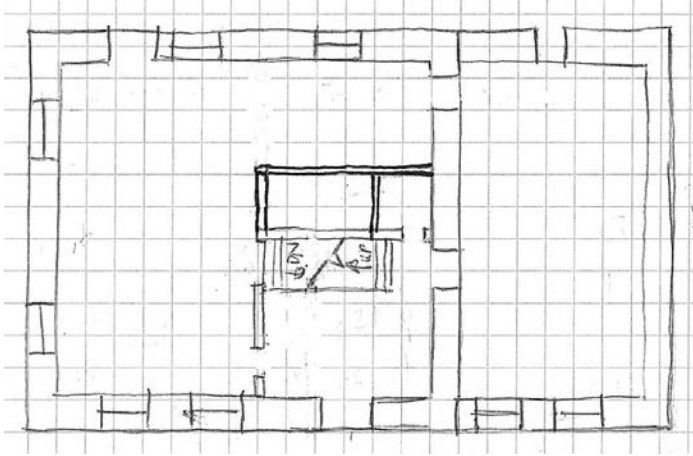Fig. 2 – View of house from north. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

Fig. 3 – Floorplan of existing floor plan of house. Sketch by Neil Larson, 2018. The store addition is on the right side of the plan connected to the entry lobby through a doorway that possibly had been a window.

Fig. 4 – View in store space looking south.

The 1870 U.S. Census enumerated Isaac Wilklow (1832-1912) as a retail grocer at the head of a household consisting of his wife, Mary, their eight young children, a domestic servant, and Orville Bevier, employed as a clerk in the store. The 1875 New York State Census identifies the material of the Wilklow house as stone, confirming it to be Thomas Chambers' old home. It would have been during Isaac and Mary Wilklow's ownership that a wood frame addition was built on the east end of the house, into which the store was moved and functioned for many years after *(Fig. 5)*. With seven children, the Wilklows surely could have put the additional space in the old stone store wing to good domestic use. The store extension was destroyed by fire in the 1930s.

Sometime between 1880 and 1900, the Wilklows sold the house and store, but the trail of ownership has not been followed here until picked up in 1993 when Kathy Schwarz of Stone Ridge sold the Chambers

Fig. 5 – View of house from south. Photo ca. 1900. Courtesy of Juliette Bennett. The wood frame extension was added for the store in the 1870s.

Fig. 6 – Current view of entry lobby from doorway into store section with exterior entrance outside of view on left and later staircase on right. The original box stair was in the corner where the doorway into the dwelling's principal room is located. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

homestead to Judith Gould of Kerhonkson, Kathryn S. Widvik of Hurley, and William T. Schwarz of Nassau, New York.[5] In 2003 these same parties sold the property, which had been uninhabited for many years, to Jon Boca, who substantially restored the house. He replaced a rotting front Greek Revival porch with the current structure, removed the stucco that coated the stones, and repaired the late nine-teenth-century lath-and-plaster walls in the interior. Although many of the original floor boards have survived, others had to be replaced. Boca sold it to the present owners in 2015.[6]

The plan of Thomas Chambers' house, excluding the store section, is not typical of stone houses found elsewhere in Ulster County. The entrance into the original house is on the south side of the front façade and opens into a large lobby with a staircase along the rear wall (Fig. 6). Originally, a boxed stair was enclosed in the southwest corner (Fig. 7). The change probably was made by the Wilklows in the 1870s. A doorway connects through the stone wall on the east side to the store section (Fig. 3). The peculiar dimensions of the lobby may reflect its dual role of directing people to public (store) and private (home) domains in the house. The principal room occupies the west side of the plan and may have had a jamb-less fireplace centered on the east wall. (Just about
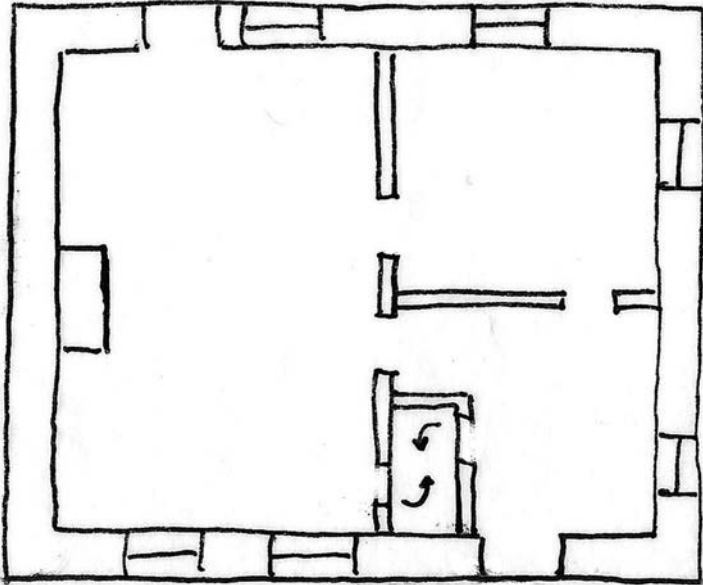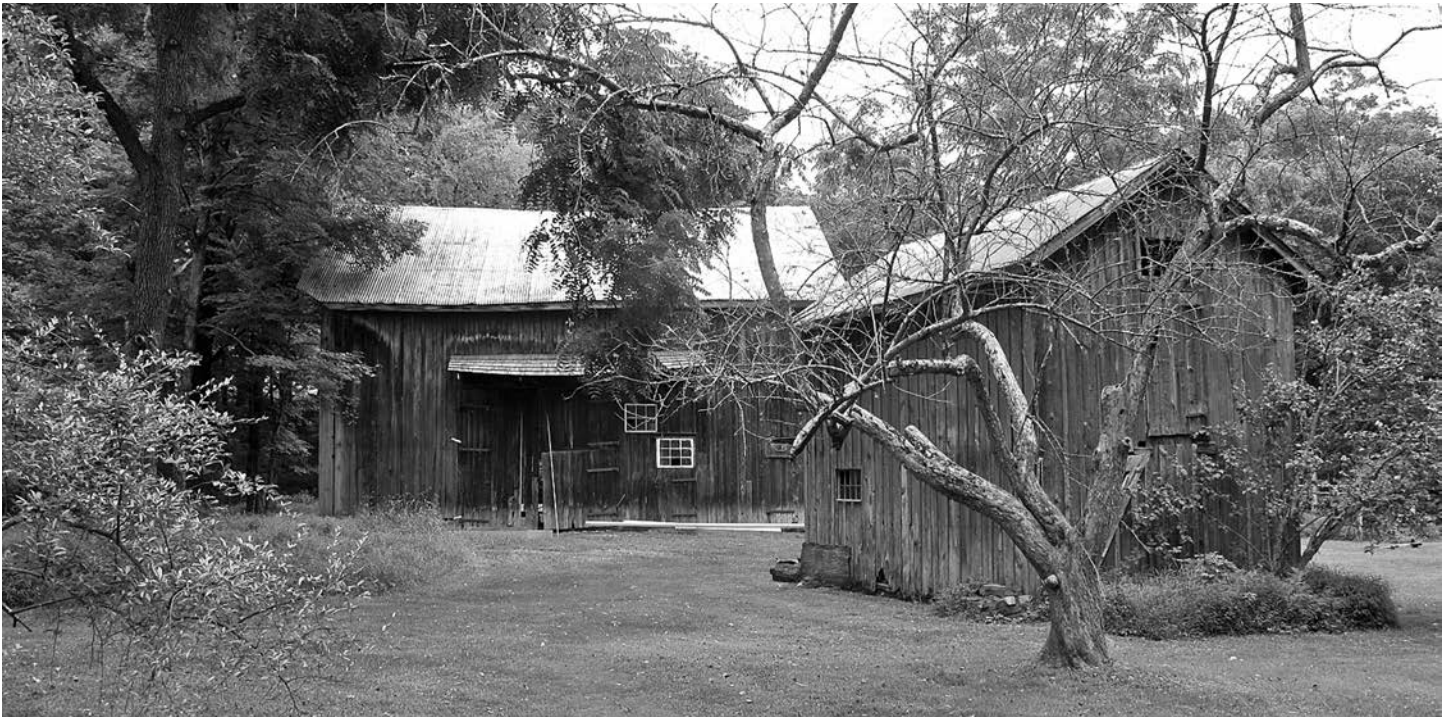
Fig. 7 – Conceptual floorplan of house as originally built. Sketch by Neil Larson, 2018. The plan and three-bay front façade with offset entrance are peculiar without the presence of the store wing.

Fig. 8 – View of barn and granary from west. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

all evidence of fireplaces was removed when stoves were installed.) One or two chambers were partitioned behind the lobby. It now contains a kitchen, lavatory and storage closets.

There is conflicting evidence about the origin of the three-bay English barn with vertical board-and-batten siding and a granary located behind the house *(Fig. 8)*. A carved inscription on a barn beam reads "May 5, 1877", although a recent evaluation suggests a construction date between 1820 and 1840. At one time, there was a hay-press inside the barn, which may account for the 1877 inscription. If so, the improvement may have been part of a large-scale makeover that included the Gothic Revival dormer above the front door. The current owners are rehabilitating the barn and are actively working with a local farmer to restore their thirty-acre property to healthy meadowland.

ENDNOTES

1 Anna Mae Emmerling, "Early Settlers of Kripplebush" in *Commemorate Marbletown 1777-1977* (Stone Ridge, NY: Stone Ridge Library, 1977), p. 62. Town of Marbletown Tax List for 1799.

2 "Early Settlers of Kripplebush."

3 Emmerling, ibid. and "Chamber [sic] House, 170 Kripplebush Road, Stone Ridge" in *What's Dutch: Country Seat Tour 2009* (Hudson River Heritage and Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture Society, October 4, 2009), p. 17.

4 Ulster County Deeds, Liber 136 Page 107, February 12, 1866.

5 Ulster County Clerk's Office, Liber 2313, August 23, 1993, pp. 258-259, August 23, 1993.

6 Ulster County Clerk's Office, Instrument 2003-00026574 September 5, 2003, and Instrument 2015-00015309, November 19, 2015. Some of wording here is adapted from the Ulster County Historical Society's guidebook to the April 2018 tour of historic homes.

The Blandina Bevier house – Marbletown, Ulster County

By Ken Krabbenhoft

EDITOR'S NOTE: North Marbletown is home to some marvelous stone houses. The Louis B. Bevier House, home of the Ulster County Historical Society set an early standard, followed by the elegant, two-story Federal Period Cornelius Oliver House, the extraordinary Gothic Revival Hasbrouck mansion, and the sophisticated Italian Villa of Blandina Bevier. Rich limestone deposits gave Marbletown its name, and there are few other places in Ulster County where stone masonry was so prolific or so expressive. The identities of the masons and craftsmen who built these houses remain a mystery. HVVA had the opportunity to visit the Blandina Bevier House recently, and tour leader Ken Krabbenhoft has delved a little deeper into its background.

The Reformed Church Connection

The patriarch of the Marbletown branch of the Bevier family was Louis B. Bevier, who in 1745 came over the Shawangunk ridge from New Paltz to marry Elizabeth Hasbrouck in Rochester.[1] In 1771 the property on which the Blandina Bevier House was built was conveyed to Louis and Elizabeth's eldest surviving child, David, by the Trustees of Marbletown and the Consistory of the Marbletown Dutch Reformed Church. David Bevier was at different times a deacon, church master, and elder, and is perhaps best known today for his role in the history of the headquarters of the Ulster County Historical Society.

The Reformed Church of Marbletown was established in 1743. To judge by a surviving copy of an original sketch, the original sanctuary was a small single-story stone structure with large windows facing west toward the Catskills; it was located in the northwest corner of the current graveyard. Local lore and real estate records place the Blandina Bevier House on the site of the original parsonage, just north of the site now occupied by the early nineteenth-century Oliver House.[2]

In 1792 the original church, damaged by fire, was replaced. It survived until 1851, when the congregation relocated to the newly-built Greek Revival building in the center of Stone Ridge. The impact of this move on the faithful in the northern part of the town resulted in the demolition of the 1792 building and its replacement by yet another edifice. Sylvester's 1880 *History of Ulster County* tells the story:

> This society [i.e. the North Marbletown cohort] is an off-shoot of the old Reformed Church of Marbletown, which is now located at Stone Ridge. At the erection of the last house of worship by the latter body they placed it so far to the south that the northern portion of the congregation decided to organize for themselves. The consent of Classis was obtained, and the formation of the new church took place June 18, 1851, at the school house [today the south section of the Marbletown Volunteer Fire Department]. The present house of worship was built during the year following, and dedicated Aug. 25, 1852. It cost about $3000. The records say: "The church is built by the side of the spot where the first Reformed Church of Marbletown was founded in 1743, and here is the burial-place of the fathers."[3]

The 1852 church was reportedly wrecked by a wind storm in 1902, at which time the present building was constructed. It is currently a thrift shop under the aegis of the Community Church of High Falls.[4]

The Bevier Connection

The division of the Marbletown Reformed community into two separate congregations brought about a change in ownership of the parsonage. In 1850 it belonged to all six of David Bevier's granddaughters. One of them, Maria, happened to be married to the Rev. Cornelius L. Van Dyck, who was naturally obliged to move with her to the new church and parsonage in Stone Ridge. It made sense for them and the other three granddaughters, two of whom were married and all of whom seemed to be happily residing elsewhere in Marbletown, to convey their interests in the parsonage property to their unattached sisters Blandina and Esther G. Bevier. Two years later Esther married George W. Basten and ceded her part of the inheritance to her sister. We know from census records that in 1855 Blandina

Fig. 1 – View of house from southwest. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

was living in her brother Louis's Marbletown stone house with him and their mother Maria, Louis's wife Catherine, their two children, an eleven-year-old German servant named John Edelmach, a twenty-three-year-old servant named Jane Hasbrouck, and two laborers: Richard Hasbrouck, 21, and John R. Hanible, 20; Hanible and the two Hasbroucks were blacks. Superimposed on a framed photograph from the early twentieth century in the possession of Joy Pollock is a newspaper clipping without which we

Fig. 2 – View of house form north, Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

would be hard put to explain the events that took place in the five years after the property changed hands. The clipping isn't dated, but matching it to the 1863 date stone on the front of Blandina's house, it would seem that the old parsonage was torn down and work on the new house begun in the early 1850s. Slightly reworded, this is what the clipping says about a building unlike anything Marbletown had ever seen:

> Its history is quite as interesting as that of any of its neighbors which have come down to us from a past century. New in material and workmanship and modern in design, it calls for many comments from the passing traveler. It belonged to an old maid named Blandina Bevier, aged about 55 years. The walls of the house were commenced about ten years ago, and were finished, roofed and plastered during this past year, and it cost full $5,000.

"Old maid" Blandina was 55 in early 1860 (she was born on October 1, 1804). Why the article speaks of her in the past tense is a mystery, although according to that year's census Blandina was in fact not counted in Marbletown. Wherever she was at that point, by 1865 she was ensconced in her "new and modern" house, which she shared with fourteen-year-old

Fig. 3 – View of house from southeast. Photo by Neil Larson.

Fig. 4 – Historic view of house from south, ca. 1900.
Photo courtesy of Joy Pollock.

William Bassett, ten-year-old Margaret Bassett, and a seventy-year-old laborer named Francis Collins, all of them blacks. In 1870 the live-ins were thirteen-year old Juliette Bassett and a Canadian farm worker named Napoleon Gunmount, age 27. By 1880, the help were Thomas and Sarah Mouris (probably a misspelling of Mauritz), ages 10 and 8, who were blacks and listed as companions rather than servants or domestics. By then Blandina was farming twelve acres of fields, and her cows and chickens were producing an abundanceof butter and eggs.

After Blandina

It's not clear who lived in Blandina's house and farmed her land in the decade following her death in 1889. The next document relating to the property is from 1899, when Isaac E. Hasbrouck, son of Blandina's sister Jane and Edgar Hasbrouck, sued his aunt Elizabeth and uncle Louis, twenty-one cousins, and thirteen of his cousins' sons and daughters for ownership of the house and property.[5]
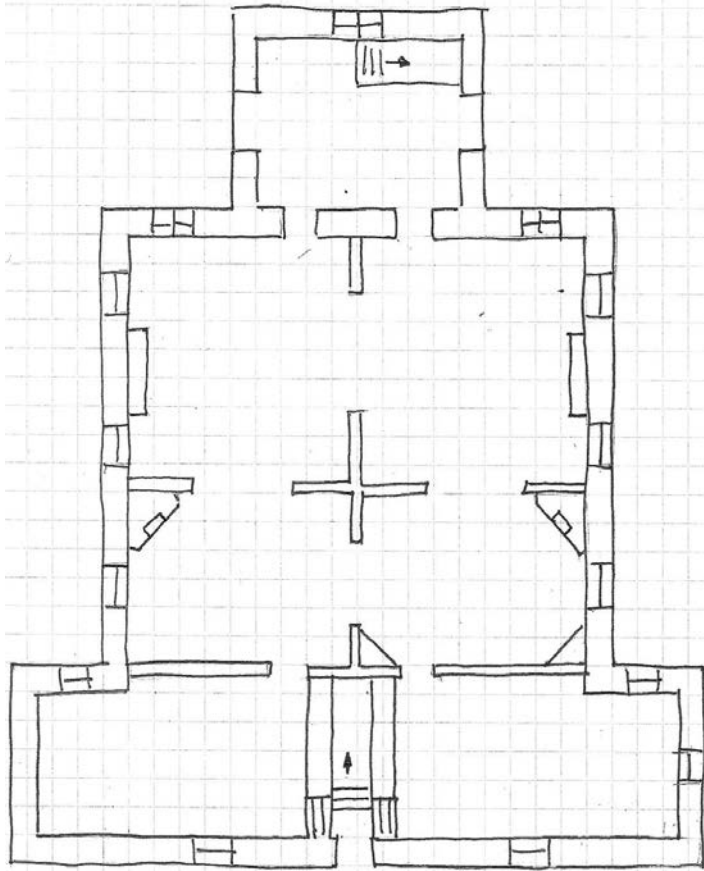
Fig. 5 – First floor plan (north at right). Sketch by Neil Larson.

The New York Supreme Court ordered a public auction of the property "at the front door of the County Court House in the City of Kingston." Although the 1860 newspaper clipping says the house cost $5,000.00 to build, the highest bid in 1899 for a total of three properties, the first of which was Blandina's house and the old parsonage parcel, was only $2,600.00. This is $400.00 less than the $3,000.00 assessed value of Blandina's farm in 1880, suggesting that the property was bought at a substantial discount.

Whatever his reasons for taking control of the property, the new owner stood out in the family for having sought his fortune outside Marbletown, taking a degree at Rutgers and staying on as a professor of mathematics there. In 1899 he was living in Brooklyn with his wife Lucy, daughter of E.L. Roberts, "a prominent architect of Brooklyn."[6] His presumable membership in an urban economic elite may help explain the suit to gain ownership of Blandina's house as a country retreat, whose unique formal qualities he knew from his youth in Stone Ridge and was in a position to protect.

Isaac and Lucy had three children. Two died in infancy and the third, Edna, graduated from Vassar and in 1915 married Prof. Benjamin W. Robinson of the University of Chicago. Her parents' decision to sell Blandina's house in 1906 may have to do with the absence of heirs in the New York area. The new owner, Eliza J. Crossman of Brooklyn, left it to her daughter Elizabeth P. Taylor, the executrix of her will, who sold it in 1910 to Allen G. and Florence A. Newman of New York City, thereby opening a new chapter in the house's story.

Allen George Newman III was a nationally-recognized sculptor whose best-known work, "The Hiker", is an homage to Americans who fought in the Boxer Rebellion, the Spanish-American War, and the Philippine-American War (Fig. 8). Dozens of copies of it still grace the grounds of schools, government buildings, and cemeteries in this country. Allen was also an enthusiastic promoter of modernist architecture. He made the external and internal changes to Blandina's house that are described below. The gallery and tall sliding doors in Newman's barn studio are as he left them. The Newmans' son Thomas inherited the property and in 1973 sold it to Joy Pollock of New York City, now a full-time resident of Marbletown.

The Architecture
(added by the editor)

The received history of the Blandina Bevier house is that she and her sister Esther built a house with two identical halves because they didn't get along. It had something to do with a feud over man both of them had loved. The plan of the house suggests this was the case; side-by-side plans, divided down the middle, exist on all floors, including the basement, which contains kitchens on either side. Yet, documentation contradicts this scenario. Esther Bevier married farmer George W. Basten in 1852 and ceded her share of the property to Blandina. It may be that the two sisters planned the house before the Esther's engagement and Blandina chose to build it anyway. Perhaps this was the reason it took ten years to complete. Census records do not indicate two-family households at any time during Blandina's lifetime.

The exterior walls of the house are constructed of dressed local limestone of uniform size and coursing on the front (Fig. 1). In the context of traditional stone

Fig. 6 – Interior looking west from parlor on north side, entry in background. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018.

house construction, the house is significantly well-crafted, even for Marbletown, which had been constructing buildings with cut limestone for the previous century. Door and window openings have bluestone lintels and sills that provide some contrast of materials and color. A gabled entrance pavilion projects from the center of the front façade with doors on the sides and a pair of tall windows in two stories on the front. The symmetry of the plan, fenestration and stonework is precise and emphatic. Side elevations have more random coursing and contain three evenly-spaced windows on both stories *(Figs. 1-2)*. Short winglets at the rears of the side walls are perplexing features; it appears that they originally were fronted by doorways *(Fig. 4)*. The cross-gable roof has deep eaves in the Italianate manner, but they are free of brackets.

In the rear, the roof fans out in a hip to cover the wider back section. The stonework on the rear wall is not as orderly as that on the sides showing the conventional hierarchy of facades and materials *(Fig. 3)*.

The opposing entrances in the front pavilion enter a single space with a stair wrapping around one corner. This is the only part of the house not bisected into two mirrored sections. Historic photographs indicate that there were no porches over the entrances *(Fig. 4)*. The extant porch on the north side and the remains of a pergola on the south side are 20th-century additions. Inside, there are separate doorways opening into each side of the plan *(Fig. 5)*. They enter large square parlors (17 x 17 ft.) with robust but simple woodwork *(Fig. 6)*. The rooms are connected by wide

Fig. 7 – Interior looking west from rear sitting room on south side. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018

pocket doors in the dividing partition. Built for stove heating, what likely were mantelpieces centered on the outside walls were later replaced with fireplaces in rustic stone surrounds. Behind the parlors are smaller sitting rooms (13 x 17 ft.) connected to them and each other by wide pocket doors. These have fireplaces with coal burners and wood mantels in the front outside corners *(Fig. 7)*. Corner cupboards added to the rear room on the northerly side indicate it later was designated a dining room. The elongated rooms (11 x 21 ft.) in the rear of the plan are believed to have been service spaces. One has become a kitchen and the other a bathroom, obscuring original functions and subdivisions. Both connect to a rear stair in the center, leading up to the second floor and down to the basement, as well as a single, rear exit. The basement is similarly divided with corner fireplaces in each of the two center rooms, apparently designed for cook-

stoves. Front rooms were used for storage and rear rooms for utilities. Likewise, the front of the second story is divided like the first, although a bathroom created and other changes have been made.

If truly designed as a two-family dwelling, it never turned out that way. Blandina Bevier, a single woman, lived there alone with only a few servants and dependents until her death in 1889. With their help she managed a small farm, largely for her own subsistence. Her elegant house perhaps satisfied a design impulse in her or the desire to add a distinctive landmark to the North Marbletown scene. Designed for entertaining, it may be that Blandina hosted gatherings of family and friends from near and far. A paucity of bed chambers indicates that she was not taking in boarders or summer tourists. She seems to have been as eccentric as her house.

Fig. 8 – View of barn from north. Photo by Neil Larson, 2018. Note studio window added by Allen George Newman III.

Fig. 9 – "The Hiker," by Allen George Newman III.

ENDNOTES

[1] Unless otherwise noted, the information about the Bevier family cited in this article is from Katherine Bevier, *The Bevier Family: A History of the Descendants of Louis Bevier* (New York: Tobias A. Wright, 1916), pp. 93-100, 132-137, and 176-177.

[2] Personal correspondence with Barbara Cole, September 3 and October 11, 2018, and Conveyance of December 6, 1771. The illustration of the 1743 church is in *A Marbletown Album 1669-1977* (Stone Ridge, NY: Stone Ridge Library, 1977), p. 16.

[3] Daniel Bartlett Sylvester, History of Ulster County, New York. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880, pp. 198-199.

[4] *A Marbletown Album 1669-1977*, p. 16.

[5] The identities of these individuals, information about their kinship, and sources for conveyances and wills cited in this article are available upon request.

[6] *The Bevier Family*, p. 182.

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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 dues remains at a low $25 per year ($15 for Students). So if you haven't sent in your dues or given a tax deductible donation to the HVVA mission, **please consider doing so now.**

❏ Yes, I would like to renew my membership in the amount of $ ......

❏ Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible contribution to help the effort of preserving the Hudson Valley's Architectural Heritage. Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of $ ....

Name ....

Address ....

....

City ....

State .... Zip ....

Phone ....

E-mail ....

Please mail checks to:

HVVA

P.O. Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491

Newspaper fragment from ca. 1865...

...found on the back of a historic photo of the Blandina Bevier House in Marbletown.

The old Kingston post-road leading from that village to Stone Ridge is dotted at regular intervals with the best specimens of old Dutch architecture i ... ance, and the villages of Old Hurley and Marbletown present some styles worthy of artistic study and preservation. The traveler of to-day may look with surprise on anything like a new or modern building along that section of the old post-road. There is one building, however, new in material and workmanship and modern in design, in the village of Marbletown, which calls forth many comments from the passing traveler. It is situated in a fenceless lot, a little above the level of the road, amid bushes, and is surrounded by houses odd and old ; its square corners, gothic gables, and neatly dressed walls present an unfamiliar sight in that vicinity. Its history is quite as interesting as that of any of its neighbors which have come down to us through a century past. It belongs to an old maid named Blondina Bevier, aged about 55 years. The walls of the house were commenced about ten years ago, and were finished, roofed and plastered during the past year, and it has cost full $5,000. Miss Bevier owns in connection with it several acres of

Upcoming Events

December 8   HVVA Holiday Luncheon & Tour, 10:30.

January 18   HVVA Annual Meeting, location and time to be announced.

For more information, please check www.HVVA.org