

**HVVA STUDY TOUR OF HISTORIC FARMS IN SHAWANGUNK & GARDINER,  
ULSTER COUNTY  
Saturday, 19 September 2015**

*This tour is a partial reprise of the Wallkill Valley Land Trust's 2014 house tour. Our sincere thanks to the WVLT and the owners of the three farms open to us today and especially to Vals Osborne who organized the tour for us.*

We will be visiting three historic farmsteads with houses ranging in date from the 1740s to the 1830s and representing significant periods in Hudson Valley architecture. Each farm includes a Dutch barn illustrating the evolving form and function of those buildings, as well as other interesting outbuildings.

**SCHEDULE**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 10:00 am    | The tour will convene at 128 Crispell Lane in Gardiner (#1 on map and in directions). We will explore this farm at the end of the tour. From here we will carpool and depart immediately for the Johannes Decker Farm at 337 Red Mills Road. |
| 10:30-11:30 | One hour to explore the Johannes Decker house, barn and surroundings (#2)  |
| 11:45-12:45 | One hour to explore the Johannes Jansen house, barn, granary and surroundings (#3)   |
| 1:00-2:30   | Lunch at the Historic Tuthilltown Grist Mill (#4)  |
| 2:45-3:45   | One hour to explore the Hardenbergh-Jenkins house, barn and surroundings (#1)  |

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF PROPERTIES (verbal directions follow)



1. Directions to 128 Crispell Lane, the starting place

From Exit 18 off Thruway:

- Left at light off exit onto Rt.299
- Left at next light onto South Putt Corners Rd.
- Pass high school and then left at next light onto Rt.32 south

- Follow Rt.32 to Modena and turn right at light onto Rt.44-55 west
- Follow Rt.44-55 through Gardiner to light at Old Albany Post Rd (CR 8)
- Right on Old Albany Post Rd and follow about one mile to Crispell Ln. on right.
- Right on Crispell Lane and follow all the way to the end.

*This route is proposed rather than taking Rt. 299 through New Paltz and then turning left on Libertyville Rd., which leads to Old Albany Post Rd. from the other direction because The Taste of New Paltz Festival will be taking place at the Ulster County Fairgrounds causing traffic tie-ups.*

From other points, follow Rts. 32 or 208 from north or south to intersections with Rt.44-55 and follow directions from Rt.44-55 cited above.

#### 2. Directions from 128 Crispell Lane to 337 Red Mills Road

- Left on Old Albany Post Rd. from Crispell Ln.
- Right on Rt.44-55 at light
- Next left on Bruynswick Rd.
- Follow Bruynswick Rd. to Bruynwick intersection
- Straight on Red Mills Rd.
- Follow Red Mills rd. about one mile to driveway for #337 on left

#### 3. Directions from 337 Red Mills Road to 510 Decker Road

- Right on Red Mills Rd. from driveway
- Straight on Bruynswick Rd at intersection
- Left on Tillson Lake Rd. (CR 209)
- Follow Tillson Lake Rd. to end Rutsonville and continue straight on Decker Rd.
- 510 Decker Rd. on right just past Meeker Rd. on left

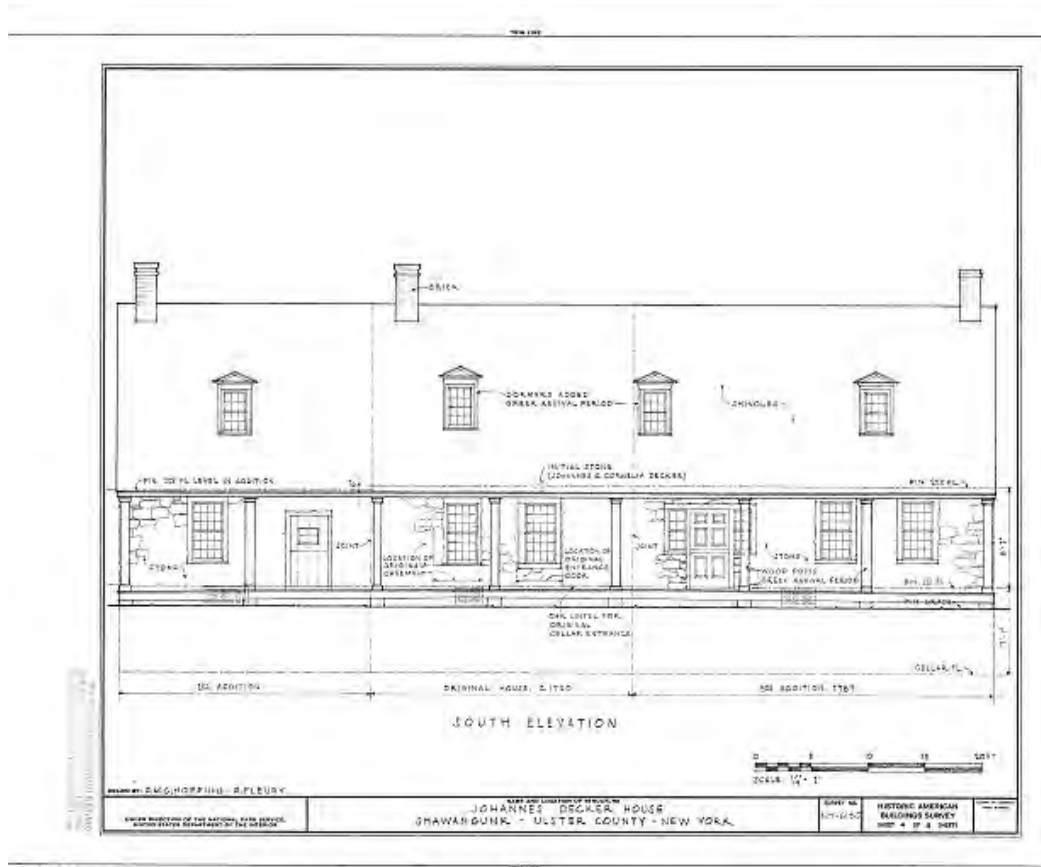
#### 4. Directions from 510 Decker Road to Tutthilltown Mill

- Follow Decker Rd. and Tillson Lake Rd. back to Bruynswick Rd.
- Left on Bruynswick Rd.
- Right on McKinstry Rd. (CR 7A)
- Follow McKinstry Rd. to end at Old Albany Post Rd. CR 9)
- Left on Old Albany Post Rd.
- Left on Tutthilltown Rd. and follow signs to mill (If you reach Rt.44-55, turn around)

#### 1. Directions from Tutthilltown Mill to 128 Crispell Ln.

- Left on Old Albany Post Rd. from Tutthilltown Rd.
- Straight through light and across Rt.44-55
- Follow Old Albany Post Rd about one mile to Crispell Ln. on right.
- Right on Crispell Lane and follow all the way to the end.

## JOHANNES DECKER FARM 337 Red Mills Road, Walkkill



The Johannes Decker Farm is an exceptional surviving 18<sup>th</sup>-century property with a stone house, built in four stages, a Dutch barn with its side walls and roof later raised, a wagon house and well-preserved rural setting. The farm is part of a parcel in the Van Camp Patent that Cornelius Decker (1670-1702) of Kingston acquired in 1694. His son, Johannes Cornelius Decker (1696-1742) began building the stone house in the 1720s with the central room; a second room was added to the west end of the first, probably before Johannes died in 1742. The resulting two-room-plan house had separate entries on the front façade.

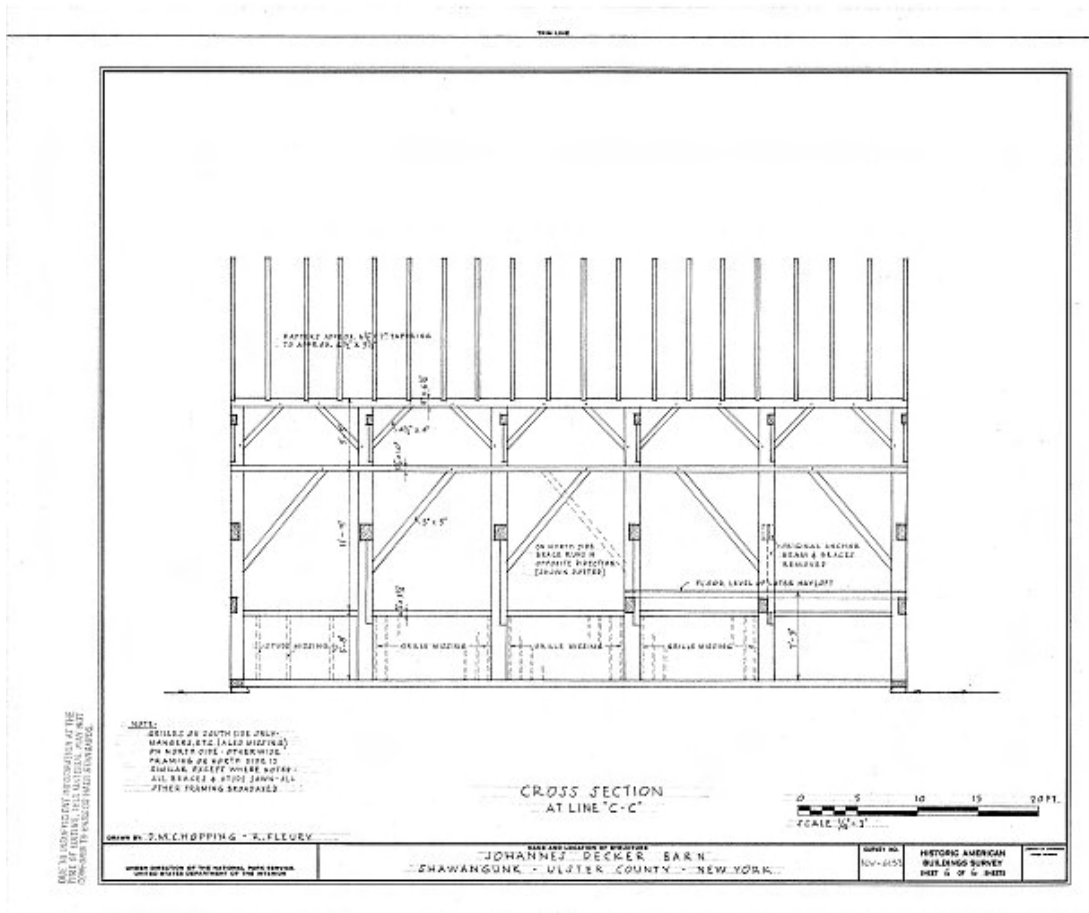
A date stone documents the construction of a passage and parlor on the east end of the house to 1787. It was built for Johannes' son Cornelius Decker (1732-1812). The front door in the original, center room was replaced with a window to create a balanced five-bay, center-entry façade with a kitchen wing. The current fireplace and bake oven in the west room replaced a jambless hearth at this time; the jambless fireplace in the center room also was updated at this time.

A stone ell added to the rear of the house around this time or later is an unusual feature. It may have functioned as a second kitchen and housing for some of the ten slaves enumerated on the farm in the 1790 census. The wood paneling was added to the fireplace wall in the 1930s. The paneling was added to the fireplace wall in the 1787 parlor by the current owner in the 1970s; it had been salvaged from a derelict house in the area.



The Dutch barn has been dated to 1750. With ten slaves working on the farm in 1790, it is evident that the Deckers were producing a substantial volume of wheat during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The shift to dairy farming after the Revolution led to the enlargement and adaptation of Dutch barns to accommodate growing numbers of cows and increasing amounts of hay. The Decker barn illustrates one method of enlargement: the side walls were raised and the roof elevated on posts mounted on top of the old purlins. The anchor beam in the rear of the barn was dropped to a lower level to accommodate cow stanchions. The two box stalls and the drop flaps to the manger were added in the 1970s.

The Johannes Decker Farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It was recorded for the Historic American Building Survey the same year.



JOHANNES JANSEN FARM  
510 Decker Road, Gardiner



*One of the continuing debates in stone house architecture revolves around kitchen wings. For a long time it was assumed that these small, simply-finished appendages represent the original sections of the larger houses to which they are attached. This is especially the case when they are joined to large two-story houses with more elegant proportions and finishes. While this conclusion is occasionally supported by facts, in many if not most cases, the little wing was built contemporaneous with the house and was designed to look like the dependent appendage that it appears. That this flies in the face of contemporary architectural logic has a lot to do with the conclusions that are commonly reached. See if you can determine from physical evidence what has happened here.*

It is believed that the stone kitchen wing attached to this house was all or part of an original stone dwelling built ca. 1750 by Johannes Jansen (c. 1725-1803). His nephew, John Jansen, who inherited the property in 1803, built the existing two-story center-hall house leaving the old kitchen wing intact. Johannes Jansen was a Lieutenant Colonel in Johannes A. Hardenbergh's Ulster County Militia, Fourth Regiment, during the Revolutionary War. He also served as supervisor of the Town of Shawangunk for several non-consecutive terms.

The four-bay Dutch barn is believed to have been constructed around 1750, although it later was enlarged and altered raising the side walls and roof with new framing. The remaining original framing components of the barn are noteworthy for use of lap-dovetail joints on braces and horizontal ties between posts. A large ca. 1800 granary sited between the house and the barn is a rare surviving example of its type. The house and farm buildings were restored by the present owners. The property was listed on the National Register in 1983.



## HARDENBERGH-JENKINS FARM 128 Crispell Lane, Gardiner



Situated amid a rich alluvial plain along the banks of the Wallkill River in a grove of ancient black locust trees, the existing buildings of an early farmstead include a large Dutch barn, a smaller barn with a chicken coop attached, and a stylish 19<sup>th</sup>-century residence.

The form, method of construction and well-appointed decorative features of this two-story center-hall wood frame house is consistent with the 1831 date etched on the knocker on the front door. Its design reflects an interesting amalgam of Federal and Greek Revival styles interpreted in the local Wallkill Valley manner. It was built for Crines Jenkins (1796-1878), whose family developed the mill site at Jenkinstown, and Rachel Hardenbergh (1802-1880), who inherited the farm from her father, Johannes A. Hardenbergh. It is believed that large Dutch barn was constructed around 1820.

The history of the farm dates back to 1743 when the Hardenbergh-Guilford 2,000-acre patent was purchased by Abraham J. Hardenbergh, who built a stone house here soon thereafter. His eldest child, Johannes A. Hardenbergh, inherited the property, and from him it passed to his daughter Rachel, who married Crines Jenkins in 1818. They may have lived in the ancestral stone home or another dwelling on the property—or in Jenkinstown—until the existing house was erected in 1831. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary there in 1868 simultaneously with the marriage of their daughter Hannah.

Following Rachel's death in 1880, the farm passed through a succession of owners who neither maintained nor updated the house. When Francis A. Echlin, a New York neurosurgeon, and his wife Letitia purchased the farm and its then 100 acres in 1949 as a weekend retreat, it was suffering from benign neglect, which would prove a blessing in its restoration 50 years later. The house was clad in asbestos siding, the one-room western addition (which may or may not pre-date the house) was a kitchen, and a dilapidated outhouse existed in the back yard. The Echlins performed a basic systems' update and applied a coat of paint. The property was deeded to the current owner, the Echlins' daughter, in 1997. In 2000 she began a carefully-researched restoration from the basement up, completed in 2013.

