The Society for the Preservation of
Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture

January – March 2014 **Newsletter** Vol. 17, No. 1-3

Peter Sinclair

A word from the new president

It has been more than ten years since I first joined the membership rolls of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture. And many things have changed over that time period. We lost friends, and gained new ones, beloved historic houses have disappeared, yet leaving the rest to grow older and more cherished, the monthly newsletters have gone away, but their mere existence testifies to their Editor's (Peter Sinclair) long and steady perseverance on the behalf the Hudson Valley's built culture, and gone are those "spur-of-the-moment" study tours, which often offered fodder for the newsletter. In some areas we feel the loss and in other areas these losses have led to resolve and improvement. As HVVA moves wards its fifteenth year, we look both back on all that we accomplished and ahead towards the many goals and dreams we collectively hold. It is important to point out that all we have accomplished has been made possible by dedicated and determined volunteers.

As an organization we are grateful to all those who serve as officers, trustees and members. We are grateful for historians and homeowners who have hosted countless study tours. We are grateful for those who spend hours writing for and editing the newsletter and for those who show up faithfully to prep and mail them. This is an organization (a society in the best sense) of people building community around saving it. But this idea of saving bits of our shared heritage is an offering of our collective work, an offering of community for the community; a sharing of the past which is offered to everyone who has an interest, not hoarded or hidden – but given.

The generosity of this fellowship is obvious by its works and workings and we encourage you to join with us in whatever capacity you can. If you are just joining HVVA or have been with us since the beginning, we invite you to drink deeply from this well and then think of a way you might be able to help up deepen the well for the future. Keeping your dues current, offering an additional donation, giving a gift membership to a neighbor or a young history lover are all ways to help keep HVVA vibrant. We now stand at just over 300 paying members, and we strongly believe preservation comes via education and the more people we can reach, the greater the awareness and effect our mission of preservation. So if you are one of the many on-line readers who have never sent in membership dues or a donation, maybe now would be a good time to lend your aid?

As the Research and Education Committee continues to work putting together tours for 2014, please keep checking the EVENTS listing at www.hvva.org for the details. We also very much desire to keep you informed of events via "MailChimp." If you do not receive these reminders please send your email address to: info@hvva.org so that we may add you to the mailing list.

I look forward you seeing many old friends and meeting many new ones out in the field.

Rob Sweeney
As ever, your HVVA Sheepdog

HVVA Board of Trustees Annual Meeting – January 18, 2014

Elmendorph Inn, Dutchess Co., NY

HVVA Officers, left to right, Michele Van Hoesen, recording secretary; Ken Walton, past vice-president; Wally Wheeler, vice president; Rob Sweeney, president.

Meeting convened at about 11:02a.m.

Attendees (Trustees in bold):

Walter R. Wheeler, **Ken Walton**, **Michele VanHoesen**, Edward Cattuzzo, **Rob Sweeney**, **Jim Decker**, Ken Krabbenhoft, Eric Winchell, **Conrad Fingado**, **Karen Markisenis**, **Robert Hedges**, **John Stevens**, Marion Stevens, **Neil Larson**, Ian Keir, **Bill McMillen**, Judy McMillen, **John Ham**, Paul Selzam, Paul Lawler, Don McTernan, Alvin W. Sheffer, Betty Mosney, Roberta Jeracka, Peter Sinclair, **Don Hanzl**

Treasurer's Report (Rob reporting):

General Fund: $ 7,005.75
Book Fund: $ 2,007.06
The book account was divided 60/40
HVVA received $1,020, John Stevens received $ 680 and a working balance of $307.06 was left in the account.

Committee Reports

Fund Raising/Membership Committee
(Roberta, Rob S. reporting):

Total Membership is around 300. Around 50 delinquent names removed from list. Membership should continue to pay $20 per year. Their due date is located on their Newsletter envelope.

Collections Committee
(Jim D. reporting): No progress.

J. Decker (chair), J. Ham and Ian Keir

Education & Research Committee
(Ken reporting):

- Calendar of Events for 2014 has been roughly completed
- Next meeting February 15, 10 am at Woodland Pond; movie "The Sugar Connection, Holland-Barbados-Shelter Island."
- Bus trip to Hancock Shaker Village & New Lebanon, MA is being planned for August 16, 2014

Old Business

Text and pictures were sent to Rob for Rack Card production. Neil said the Education Committee changed some of the text. We have been giving out Newsletters instead of Rack Cards at our event table.

Discussion of Charter Renewal:
Wally previously notified the Board that our Provisional

Charter had expired and we needed to decide to continue with the Provisional Charter renewable every 5 years or to move to an Absolute Charter. It was discussed among the Board that we really don't have museum type items, but we do have many documents of the houses we document and knowledge of them we wish to preserve.

The Board voted to continue with the Provisional Charter and within 5 years move to an Absolute Charter.

The Collections Committee consisting of J. Decker (chair), J. Ham and Ian Keir to work on this project.

Rob read the list of Charter requirements to get the 501C3 Tax Exempt Status. To move from a Provisional to Absolute Charter is chartered by the Region & not by the State. By-Laws are up to date. Kevin Macavoy voted to move forward.

Tabled: Need of tour insurance. The home owners should have liability insurance to cover us, however we don't want to ask them to sign a release. Ken K. to ask his lawyer about this and report.

Neil made an appeal for content for Newsletter.

New Business

Established Board Meeting Dates 2014: April 19, June 21, October 18 and December 13 / January 17 Annual Meeting.

Wally discussed more participation in Research and Education Committee outside of the Kingston area by possibly creating regional areas in New Jersey and Westchester Co. by interested persons there. How to do it was not discussed.

The Progue House in Rhinebeck is Palentine and needs documentation before renovation.

Reduced price of John Stevens soft cover book to $30 to increase sales. Also a new member can sign up for a year and receive a book for $40. Advertise John's book in the Newsletter.

Compile John Stevens drawings to place on the internet as an E-book.

Ways we advertise HVVA:
Volunteering to docent the Winnakee Land Trust Barn Tour – Roberta said 'Thanks.'

Mail Chimp, Facebook, connecting with the Rhinebeck Historical Society and reaching out
to local Historical Societies when we know we are touring in their area. Wear clip-on name tags at future events.

Nominating Committee (No Chair):
Slate Presented as follows and all Elected

HVVA Jan. 2014 Election Slate

President:
Robert Sweeney (3-year term, Class of 2017)
Vice-President:
Walter Wheeler (3-year term, Class of 2017)
Recording Secretary:
Michele VanHoesen (1 year term 2014)
Treasurer & Corresponding Secretary:
Karen Markessinis (3-year term, Class of 2017)
Trustees:
Ian Kerr (3-year term, Class of 2017)
Ken Krabbenhoff (3-year term, Class of 2017)

Meeting adjourned at about 12:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele VanHoesen, Recording Secretary

Documenting an Antebellum African American Dwelling on Hunterfly Road in Weeksville, Brooklyn, New York

By Neil Larson

Fig. 1 – Hunterfly Road Houses, Weeksville, Brooklyn. Aerial photograph, 2003.

Introduction

Weeksville is an almost mythical place in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn that represents a settlement of emancipated African Americans begun before the Civil War. Today, it is the location of the newly-constructed Weeksville Heritage Center and four forlorn and ambiguous houses on a remnant of an 18th-century road surviving amid Brooklyn's street grid *(Fig. 1)*. The continued existence of the road and the houses are the strongest documentation of their pre-urban history; little else is really known. In fact, the house lots James Weeks offered for sale to African Americans beginning in 1838 did not include Hunterfly Road, the name by which the old road has been remembered.

Of the four houses remaining on the road, a one-story wood frame double house appears to be the only one built before the Civil War. Historic building specialists have examined the house over the past 30 years, and it has been "restored" on at least two occasions, once in the 1980s and again in recent years. Its peculiar location on the last diagonal remnant of Hunterfly Road between Bergen and St. Mark streets associates the house with a rural landscape, which characterized this part of Brooklyn into the 1880s. The site is also at the core of what was perhaps the most significant concentration of free blacks in the New York metropolitan area during the early19th century. Yet a convincing explanation as to how it got there has not yet emerged. This article attempts to address the location and design of the house in the context of the changing landscape in eastern Brooklyn.[1]

Setting

Hunterfly Road came into use when farms were established in Town of Brooklyn in the late 17th century. Its purpose was to link Brooklyn farms with salt meadows on Jamaica Bay at Canarsie. The town was landlocked, and the freeholders purchased meadow lots to obtain this critical fodder for their animals. The road aan der vly, or "to the meadows" departed the main road east of the crossroads hamlet of Bedford

and headed south to Canarsie crossing a high ridge that divided Brooklyn from Flatbush *(Fig. 2)*. There was no pass through the ridge here, and the road climbed up and over Crow Hill as it skirted the western edge of wood lots that were apportioned at this time to the freeholders of Brooklyn when common lands were divided. Forests covered the hills that defined the southern border of the town, and additional divisions of woodlots were demarcated there. These lots were preserved well into the 19th century for the principal reason that this mountainous waste land was suitable for neither agriculture nor urban development *(Fig. 3)*. On account of its diminished agricultural and real estate value, this landscape remained unimproved until the turn of the 20th century. Extraordinary growth of the city of Brooklyn at that time finally justified the effort and expense of leveling the hills and the opening of streets that had been projected more than fifty years earlier.[2]

Fig. 2 – "Ancient Map of Kings County" [c. 1775]. From Maud Esther Dilliard, *Old Dutch Houses of Brooklyn* (1945). Hunterfly Road indicated by heavy line.

Fig. 3 – Detail of Dripps's Map of Brooklyn (1869). Hunterfly Road is depicted as meandering vertically across the lower right quadrant of the view. Note the narrow, rectangular wood lots delineated on lower portion of the image and to the right of Hunterfly Road in spite of projected city street plan. (The Hunterfly Road Houses are not represented, but other documents indicate that five dwellings were present at the time.)

The African American presence in eastern Brooklyn prior to the Civil War

Kings County had the largest and most enduring slave population in all of New York State. By 1810 more than one in of three households in Kings County still contained slaves. Of the almost 500 white households using black labor in Richmond and rural Kings counties in that year, 90 percent continued to own slaves. By 1820 nearly half of the black population in Kings County was still enslaved compared to five percent in New York City and 20 percent in Queens County. Slavery persisted in Kings County because of its durable agriculture and land ownership by established slave-owning families. The farm economy had shifted from wheat to fresh market produce, notably potatoes, cabbages, turnips and peas, and it had become very profitable. Market farming required a large labor force that at first relied on the existing African American population. Because of the gradual manumission process legislated in New York, people still enslaved in this period tended to be older in age as young men and women had obtained their freedom with maturity. The demand for farm labor kept these two generations working together. Over half of the households in Richmond and rural Kings counties using black labor in 1810 (and probably 1820) employed a mixture of enslaved and free black labor.[3]

The 1830 census recorded no slaves in the Town of Brooklyn but enumerated 250 persons of color, who represented 10 percent of the total population. Most of these individuals remained associated with white households, however. Within the town, in the rural community of Bedford there were 41 African Americans living in fifteen households, all but one of which were headed by whites. The sole independent black household was headed by Thomas Hucks and ap-

pears to have contained Hucks, his wife and four children. Many of the heads of the white households containing blacks carried the names of the early Dutch landowners: Lefferts, Suydam, DeBevoise, Nostrand, Bergen and Booram, as well as new names, such as Johnson and Tucker. This latter group may represent the beginning of the influx of small farmers onto the traditional Dutch farms either as owners or tenants. At this point, blacks comprised a labor force that while no longer technically enslaved was still dependent on white landowners (and probably former slave owners) for their livelihoods and domestic support. Wages for free black farm laborers were low – $70 for the six months they were employed, not including board and laundry. As a result black laborers needed to work at a number of seasonal jobs to remain employed for the entire year. In addition to field work, they hauled produce to the city markets and manure on the return, cut timber and firewood, and entered the maintenance and service trades. Women were also employed in domestic service jobs and in home work as seamstresses to help fill in the gaps in agricultural work. The family's garden provided food for the table and potential surplus for the market.[4]

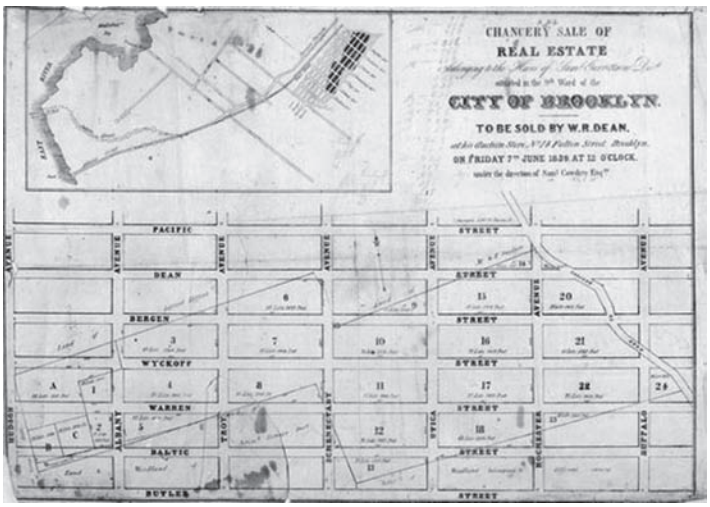
At this stage increasing numbers of free blacks would have lived in their own dwellings somewhere on a landowner's property. Some individuals still resided in segregated quarters within an employer's house, particularly if there was a continuing relationship extending from slavery, and there were still spaces in the house with a tradition of this use. Farmhouses of the period typically had a kitchen ell or an outkitchen with sleeping space for domestics built into the garret. Black domestic servants and farm laborers continued to occupy these spaces. Yet as unfamiliar blacks entered the farm work force and manumission rid the relationship of its obligations, more segregation occurred. This would have been especially the case when free blacks formed families and sought the community of their own race. In the early decades of liberation blacks remained dependent on their former masters, and the masters relied on the work they provided. This relationship would have motivated farmers to provide separate housing for them.

Laborer Housing

Farmers preferred to have their tenants' houses located well away from their homestead, and free blacks desired to have the opportunity to live among their kind. Sites would have been selected in more remote and non-productive zones of the farm, essentially equating land use with social status. Hunterfly Road was an ideal area because it was at the edge of the wood lots and the hilly waste areas of the agricultural landscape.[5] The old road to the salt meadows winding its way over Crow Hill between Brooklyn and Flatbush was a back road compared to the Jamaica Turnpike or Cripplebush and Clove roads leading north and south from Bedford Corners, respectively. Its original function was obsolete in the context of early 19th century farming, and it was rugged ground. On this otherwise vacant land, black families could provide for themselves, have access to wood and assemble without interfering with the white farmers' community. Here, too, the landlord could turn a blind eye to their impoverished living conditions.

This scenario is borne out by the limited facts the situation. The subject house is situated on what was, in the early 19th century, the eastern edge of a sizeable farm parcel owned by Samuel Garretson.[6] Garretson was a prominent member of the Dutch establishment in Kings County and was married to the daughter of Leffert Lefferts of Flatbush, where he also resided.[7] He evidently leased this Bedford farm. A map published for the sale of lots within this tract in 1839 indicates that the parcel contained a farmstead at its west end, which would have oriented it to Bedford Corners and the major roads *(Fig. 4)*. The configuration of the farm reflects the natural and social hierarchies of the landscape. The quality of the farm diminishes from the community center and fertile soil on the west to the peripheral, waste area on the east where it was logical to locate laborer housing.

Fig. 4 – Detail, Map for "Chancery Sale of Real Estate Belonging to the Heirs of Samuel Garrittson, Dec'd." (7 June 1839). Note lots for existing features on left (west) side of map. Hunterfly Road represents eastern boundary of farm parcel.



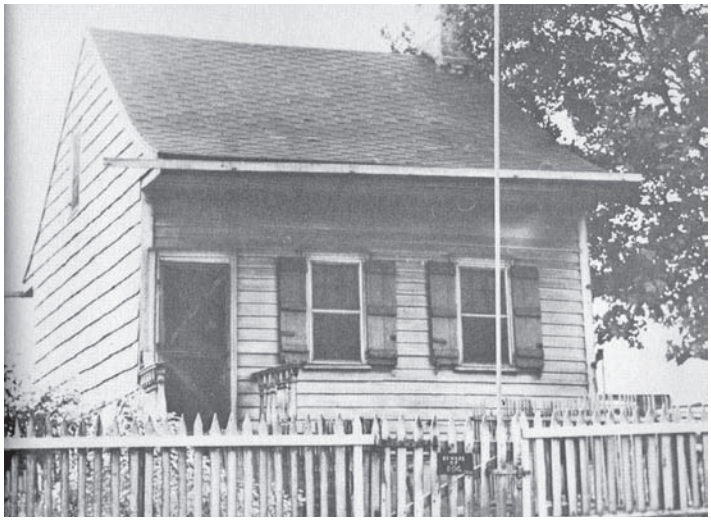


Fig. 5 – Schenck or Wyckoff tenant house, 1306 Flushing Ave., Brooklyn, c.1760. From Dilliard, *Old Dutch Houses of Brooklyn* (1945), house no. 46.

Fig. 6 – Double house, Nelsonville, Putnam County, NY, c.1850. Photo by Neil Larson, 2004.

The form of the subject house, the dimensions of its structural members, and the methods by which it was constructed unmistakably associate it with the period when a laboring class was emerging in the area. Garretson was an affluent property manager who was, by the example of the house, evidently disposed to provide decent housing for his tenants and laborers. The house embodies architectural characteristics that are both traditional and progressive. Traditional tenant dwellings of the 18th century were wood-frame structures, 1½-stories in height with one principal room and a hearth.

The better dwellings had plans augmented with an entrance lobby, one or more small rooms in the rear of the plan, and sleeping space in the attic *(Fig. 5)*. These buildings served as principal dwellings on small leaseholds as well as for the accommodation of hired laborers on large farms. Such dwellings had too much space and status for housing slaves, yet they were a domestic option for free African Americans as the character of farm labor changed in the region in the early 19th century. However, new construction in the period would have incorporated more current and economical design strategies, which Garretson employed in the subject house. Models of multiple laborer housing were increasingly prevalent in industrial and agricultural situations. The former were ubiquitous in the Northeast; ironically, the latter were more common in the South where the demand for slave housing was booming.[8] There was no shortage of precedents for Samuel Garretson once he decided to build a double house for farm laborers *(Fig. 6)*.

Fig. 7 – Subject House in 2003. Photo by Neil Larson.

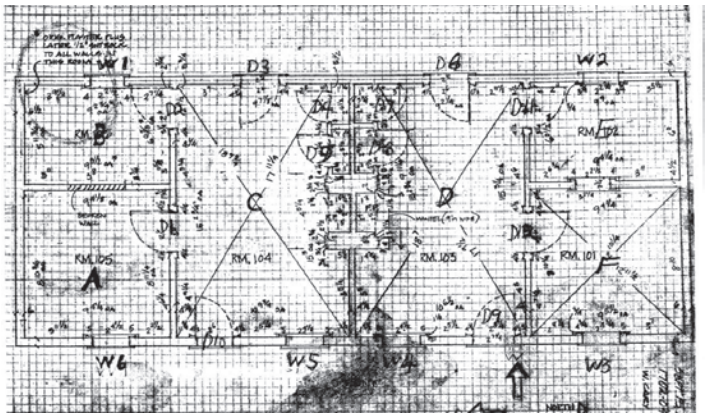


Fig. 8 – Subject House, measured floor plan, Center for Building Conservation, c. 1983. Society for the Preservation of Weeksville & Bedford-Stuyvesant.

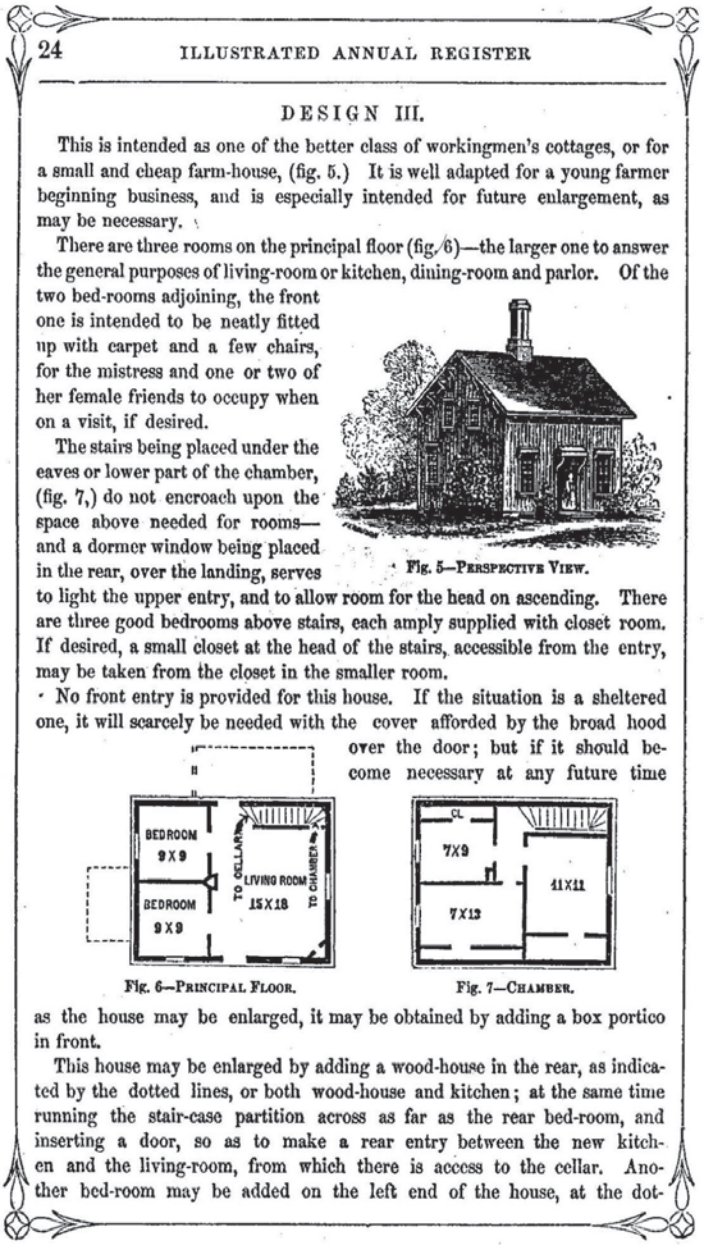
Pattern book examples demonstrate that the plan of the dwelling units in the subject house were based in progressive domestic ideas, another factor that speaks for a landlord's role (Garretson) rather than that of a vernacular builder. The orderly form and fenestration, and standardized plan all suggest a model

design was followed, even though it was conceived as a small multiple dwelling house with minimal appointments *(Figs. 7 & 8)*. Without the existing rear shed extension and basement or a habitable attic, the three-room interior with one heating source would have provided a basic dwelling for a black family. (Improvements made to the house at numerous later stages in its history have made it appear more ample and stylish than it originally was.) As is often the case, traditional construction techniques are expressed in the subject house in the use of hewn framing members. The use of down-bracing in the corners of the building, a feature more common to construction in the South, suggests that fugitive slaves from that region may have been involved in the construction of early vernacular dwellings in Brooklyn. The existence of an African American carpenter born in South Carolina, James LeGrant, on a neighboring block, contributes to this apparent coincidence.

House designs were widely disseminated in farm journals and rural newspapers during the second quarter of the 19th century. Andrew Jackson Downing and Cavert Vaux were positioned at the gentrified end of a much broader movement intent on improving the domestic environments in which rural Americans lived.[9] The prescriptive literature of the period is much wider, and agricultural improvement in all its facets was an enormous agenda. A wider survey of this literature is recommended to elaborate on the architectural context of the subject house; however, the 1861 *Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs* provides insight into the subject of "Workingmen's Cottages."

> Laborers' cottages differ essentially in some respects from larger dwellings. A leading object is to have them small, compact and cheap. The farmer who erects several, must study economy of construction. The rooms must be few, and no space allowed for waste or ornament.[10]

The journal presented designs only for single family dwellings. More than one design proposal utilize a form and plan very similar to the dwelling units combined subject house. A 1½-story three-room plan dwelling, 18 ft. by 23 ft. in dimension, contains a large, heated "living-room," a squarish front "bed-room," and a smaller rear "pantry." A more elaborate 1½-story house retains the configuration of three ground-floor rooms, although it is larger. Its exterior, floor plans,



24 ILLUSTRATED ANNUAL REGISTER

DESIGN III.

This is intended as one of the better class of workingmen's cottages, or for a small and cheap farm-house, (fig. 5.) It is well adapted for a young farmer beginning business, and is especially intended for future enlargement, as may be necessary.

There are three rooms on the principal floor (fig. 6)—the larger one to answer the general purposes of living-room or kitchen, dining-room and parlor. Of the two bed-rooms adjoining, the front one is intended to be neatly fitted up with carpet and a few chairs, for the mistress and one or two of her female friends to occupy when on a visit, if desired.

The stairs being placed under the eaves or lower part of the chamber, (fig. 7,) do not encroach upon the space above needed for rooms—and a dormer window being placed in the rear, over the landing, serves to light the upper entry, and to allow room for the head on ascending. There are three good bedrooms above stairs, each amply supplied with closet room. If desired, a small closet at the head of the stairs, accessible from the entry, may be taken from the closet in the smaller room.

Fig. 5—Perspective View.

No front entry is provided for this house. If the situation is a sheltered one, it will scarcely be needed with the cover afforded by the broad hood over the door; but if it should become necessary at any future time as the house may be enlarged, it may be obtained by adding a box portico in front.

BEDROOM 9X9 · BEDROOM 9X9 · LIVING ROOM 15X18 · TO CELLAR · TO CHAMBER

Fig. 6—Principal Floor.

CL · 7X9 · 11X11 · 7X13

Fig. 7—Chamber.

This house may be enlarged by adding a wood-house in the rear, as indicated by the dotted lines, or both wood-house and kitchen; at the same time running the stair-case partition across as far as the rear bed-room, and inserting a door, so as to make a rear entry between the new kitchen and the living-room, from which there is access to the cellar. Another bed-room may be added on the left end of the house, at the dot-

Fig. 9 – Design for a Workingman's Cottage. From *The Illustrated Annual Register of Rural Affairs for 1861*. (Albany NY, 1861), 24.

and a written description of this house are illustrated below *(Fig. 9)*.

The Formation of an African American Community

Samuel Bouton, an alderman from Brooklyn's seventh ward and land speculator, purchased four lots partitioned from Samuel Garretson's farm in 1839.[11] The lots were defined by an overlay of the projected city street plan; each block was a lot *(Fig. 4)*. Lot No. 21 was bounded on the south by Hunterfly Road and contained the subject house, although no existing buildings were mentioned in the deed. When this land was sold 24 years later (1863) by Bouton's estate, Lot

No. 21 had been redesignated Block 185 and subdivided into the standard 2500 sq. ft. lots of the Brooklyn city street plan except those where Hunterfly Road served as their eastern boundary. Lot descriptions mentioned no houses on any of these lots.[12] The rural era for eastern Brooklyn had ended, yet it would be decades before the city would tame the wild nature of Hunterfly Road. In the meantime an African American community grew.

The cultural demographics in eastern Brooklyn had changed significantly by the time the 1840 census was completed. Although the number of blacks in what had become the ninth ward had declined from levels recorded for Bedford in 1830 (156 v. 250), the percentage of blacks in the population had increased from 9.6 percent to 14.8 percent.[13] What is also noteworthy is that while 14 white households still contained blacks as servants or laborers, there were 24 independent black households recorded in the ninth ward, which represented a certain increase over the past ten years. The established farm families – Lefferts, Suydam, Lott, Rapelyea and Johnson – were still the principal heads of households containing African Americans.

African American communities with the names of Carrville and Weeksville appeared in the 1830s as the result of land purchases made by blacks in the area. William Thomas, a black chimneysweep from New York City, acquired a 30-acre parcel in the wood lots on the town line just west of Hunterfly Road in 1832. Sales of other sizeable lots to other African Americans followed on Crow Hill as urban subdivisions platted in the woods lured them from the city with the promise of owning land. This section became known as Carrville. With the Long Island Railroad nearby, workers could keep their city jobs by commuting into Brooklyn or Manhattan. Weeksville was a second African American community laid out closer to the railroad on the west side of Hunterfly Road (near present-day Schenectady Street) in 1838. The 25 different occupations of the 139 black heads of household identified in the ninth ward in the 1850 census indicates the success of this effort to settle African Americans in eastern Brooklyn.[14]

The decade between the 1830 and the 1840 censuses was when an African American community coalesced in eastern Brooklyn. Its development was the likely the result of the combination of the preexisting presence of free black farm laborers there, which served to associate the area with African Americans, and the subsequent sale of undesirable land to city blacks for homesteading. Even though streets and lots were surveyed the underlying rugged landscape discouraged an urban pattern of development. Lots were purchased in combination indicating that while the legal definition of the property was based on a street plan represented on a map, the actual setting remained rural and irregular, which it would continue to do until the end of the century *(Fig. 10)*. The local topography impeded urban development, and the density it would have allowed. Thus, one- and two-room, wood-frame dwellings, one-story or a story-and-a-half tall would have remained the norm. Houses of urban design would have been premature. Double houses would have been an alternative to make the costs of supporting a house and property more affordable. The forested character of the landscape suggests that log houses were a ready alternative, especially for those who were already working as timber men. *(Fig. 11)*. As late as 1888

Fig. 10 – View of Bushnellville, Shandaken, Ulster County, NY. From De Lisser, *Picturesque Ulster* [1905], 196. This Catskill Mountain scene conveys a sense of the rugged landscape and sparse rural settlement characteristic of eastern Brooklyn in the mid-19th century.

Fig. 11 – Unidentified log house, Town of Hurley, Ulster County, NY. From *Picturesque Ulster*, 115.

Sanborn insurance maps identify many small, one-story houses amid the limited and scattered development of new two-story, wood-frame urban houses both free-standing and in rows. A significant number of these small houses are depicted misaligned with the lot plan; some are actually mapped within streets revealing that the city plan still only existed on paper.

Hunterfly Road after the Civil War

The landscape and community began to urbanize after the Civil War, although it still would be two more decades before the street plan began to take hold. In 1850 over half of the heads of African American households in Brooklyn's ninth ward were employed as laborers, which meant they remained connected to the traditional rural occupations of the eastern section of the city. By 1865 the state census classified only 10 of the 152 black men and women identified with an occupation as laborers. This infers a significant drop in rural work, especially when compared to the 41 other occupations listed. The category with by far the largest number of entries was "none" with a total of 29 black men. They very well could represent the impact of urbanization in eastern Brooklyn and the gradual disappearance of farms. It also suggests a growing level of poverty in this part of the African American community.

The references to street names and 2500 sq. ft. lots belied the fact that the landscape had changed little from its rural antebellum settlement *(Fig. 12)*. And it was still known to be an area populated by blacks and avoided by most of the white urban dwellers in the city. Henry Stiles's *History of Brooklyn*, published in 1869, virtually ignores the entire eastern section of the city. He ends his description of the appearance of the landscape at Bedford Corners and mentions Hunterfly Road only in an appendix. References to Carrville and Weeksville also are scarce in the *Brooklyn Eagle* in the period, except for a few accounts of criminal activity. One account from 1868 provides a vivid description of the landscape.

> The people who live down in the settled parts of the city do not realize what vast unsettled tracts of land there still are in the limits of the city of Brooklyn… But midway between Weeksville and East New York, there is a territory, half a mile in breadth from Atlantic avenue to the city line at East New York avenue, and more than a mile in length from East New York to Weeksville, on which are scarcely any houses, and where the primitive forest and the tangled underbrush still retain unchallenged occupancy of the soil. No one can clearly understand the problem of the chances of real estate venture in Brooklyn for the future, until he has ridden or walked along Atlantic avenue to the city line, along the old Hunterfly road, and marked the vast extent of the waste spaces which yet exist within the city limits, on grades inaccessible to city streets and improvements, involving vast alterations of elevation and depression, and requiring fabulous expenditures of money before they can be made fairly habitable by the overflow of our city population. This land is now being sold for $300 per lot, whole blocks at a bargain, but the people buying do so for speculative purposes, in hope of what the grand 9th ward boulevards may effect in bringing that part of the city into the real estate market, rather than in any sober expectancy of immediate occupation of the land for building purposes.[15]

Fig. 12 – View of fields with city skyline in background, Vandeveer Farm, Flatbush, 1890. From Edmund Fisher, *Flatbush Past and Present*, Reprinted in Marc Linder & Lawrence S. Zacharias, *Cabbages to Kings County* (1999), 196.

Changing conditions in the Urban Era

Ferdinand Volckening, a carpenter and small-time developer, purchased the property containing the Hunterfly Road houses from the Samuel Bouton's heirs in 1863.[16] In the deed, the parcel was defined as Lot 19 in Block 185, reflecting that the overlay of city plan had become official in eastern Brooklyn. This was an odd, irregular lot at the easterly end of the block with 75 ft. frontage on Wyckoff Street and mere 7½ ft. frontage on Bergen Street with Hunterfly Road cutting across its easterly side, for which Volckening paid $445. The deed described six lots. Three lots identified as nos. 41, 42 and 43 were 2500

Fig. 13 – View of Hunterfly Road Houses. The second double house is pictured on left with a later urban plan house built by Ferdinand Volkening shown on the right. Photo by Neil Larson, 2004.

sq. ft. in area, each with 25-foot frontages on Wyckoff Street. Lots nos. 2, 3 and 4 had been partitioned in the remaining triangular-shaped space on the north side of the lot with frontages on Hunterfly Road, and the deed conveyed the portion of the road in front of the lots to the centerline to the grantee for access to them.

Based on the logic of the city street plan and its regular division of 25 ft. by 100 ft. lots within blocks, it would not have been necessary to preserve Hunterfly Road nor three small lots along it in the wording of the deed unless there were buildings there. By comparison, in the southeast corner of the block the road had been obliterated and replaced with new lots fronting on Buffalo Avenue and Wyckoff Street. Although the deed does not specifically mention existing houses with the lots, they may have been ignored because a dwelling such as the subject house was not considered of any particular value because of its age, condition and African American occupancy.[17] Prices netted at the 1863 auction for vacant building lots on the north side of Wyckoff Street were around $75 per lot. This left the much smaller Hunterfly Road lots valued nearly the same suggesting that one or more of those lots contained improvements that enhanced their value, namely an old tenant house or two. Other houses and lots sold by the Bouton estate in established parts of the city ranged from $750 to $6,550 in value, indicating just how modest a dwelling or dwellings in this neighborhood may have been.[18]

In 1863 Volckening was a good decade ahead of any concerted push for street development in the area, and he justified his investment on the existing dwellings he had acquired on the Hunterfly Road portion of his property. Tax assessments beginning in 1869 valued his property on the north side of Wyckoff Street at $1800 based on five dwellings reputed to have been there.[19] With only three lots on the road, it is likely that the two double houses that have survived represent four of those dwelling units with a fifth in another building located on the third Hunterfly Road lot *(Fig. 13)*. The second double house on Hunterfly Road is similar in form and function to the subject house, but its larger scale suggests it was constructed at a later date. (Fire damage and extensive renovations have left this building without much interpretable material.) Three scenarios are possible for the second double house: (1) it was constructed before 1863 and during the period of the Bouton ownership; (2) it was constructed by Volckening between 1863 and 1869;

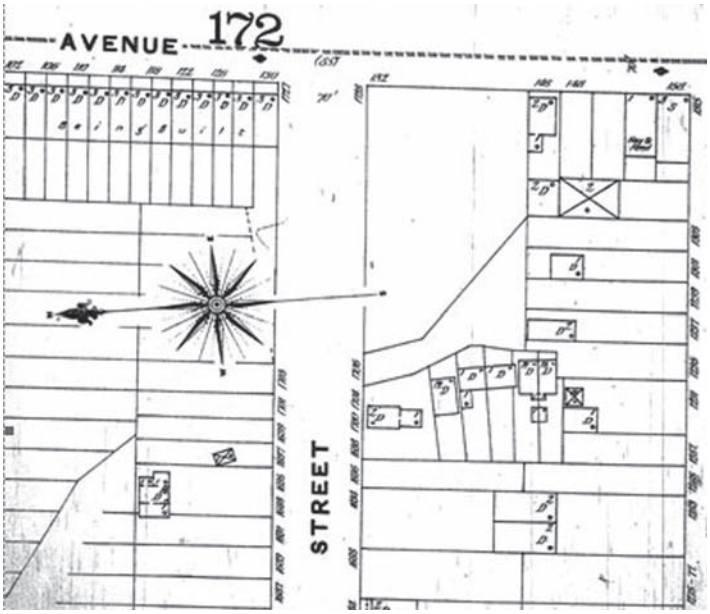


Fig. 14 – Detail of 1888 Sanborn map showing footprints of extant houses on Hunterfly Road.

or (3) it was built after 1869 to replace an older double house more akin to the subject house.

In any event, the second double house documents the persistence of the rural environment along Hunterfly Road into the period of Volckening's ownership. If it was a replacement of an earlier house, Volckening would have built it before 1883 when a deed for the purchase of neighboring Lot No. 18 and a building permit, both with that date, firmly document the construction dates of the two houses north of the subject house now having the addresses of 1698 and 1700 Bergen Street *(Fig. 1)*. Three maps dated in the 1880s depict these new buildings as well as the two double houses. One published by J.H. Higginson c. 1883 delineates the Volckening property and locates the Hunterfly Road houses in an arrangement uncannily similar to what exists today.[20] Another issued in Robinson's 1886 *Atlas of the City of Brooklyn* adds a fifth building and jumbles the orientations of the old double houses. The 1888 Sanborn map presents the current arrangement of buildings *(Fig. 14)*.

The two new buildings were similar in the size of their plans and their function as two-family dwellings. However, they differ in that the house facing Hunterfly Road (1700 Bergen St.) was a story-and-a-half in height while the house facing Bergen Street (no. 1698) was a full two stories. An account of ongoing house construction in the city in the *Brooklyn Eagle* provides an indication that these were the common form of dwelling being erected in south of Atlantic Avenue in the Weeksville area.

> On Hunterfly Road, north [sic] of Atlantic avenue, that is to say near the line of Rochester avenue, Mr. John Frasor is about to build a row of five neat and cheap two story frame houses to accommodate two families each and to cost about $1600 or $8000 for the lot. The plans are by Mr. Amzi Hill. The front is plain, but, for the size of the building, 18½ x 38, the arrangement of the interior is about as good as could be made. The front room on the first story is 11½ x 12½. Behind it is a room 11½ x 9, while in the back of the house there are two rooms 13 x 11¼ and 6 x 9 respectively. In the second story the arrangement is the same, except that there is an additional room over the hall in front, 6 x 9. The owner of these houses, after making ample allowance for the price of the land, could afford to rent them for $10 a flat a month and make money out of the investment. Yet how much better housed these tenants would be than in an ordinary tenement house.[21]

These improvements came as a result of the leveling of the terrain that had finally taken place in the neighborhood. Volckening's houses, new and old, were re-sited on a lot that was graded to comply with the new street elevations. This lot was apparently stripped of its early layers because archeological investigation has revealed that the Hunterfly Road bed no longer exists nor do domestic materials dating prior to the 1880s. Volckening preserved the Hunterfly Road right-of-way, which allowed him to maintain the pre-existing density and arrangement of dwellings on his awkward lot. A small cellar was dug under the northern half of the subject house at this time.

Conclusion

The form and design of the double house on Hunterfly Road clearly associates it to vernacular architecture of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. This determination is supported by the physical presence of hewn framing members and the dimension of sawn rafters typical of the period. The appearance of the dwelling coincides with the time when African American farm labor had been emancipated from slavery and independent laborer housing was needed. Many freed slaves remained in Kings County as the demand for farm labor was increasing; just as many or more blacks came to Brooklyn from other parts of the country (a distinctive number from the slave states)

swelling the African American population. The area around Hunterfly Road, amid the old, hilly wood lots in eastern Brooklyn was a nexus of their settlement. Situated at the margins of the expanding city of Brooklyn on land that was not readily developed, African Americans were able to congregate and eventually buy land and organize communities. The historic black settlements of Carrville and Weeksville were located here. The double house on Hunterfly Road dates to the earliest stage of this settlement in the 1830s when freed slaves were creating independent occupations and households. Soon after, the Hunterfly Road area became a destination for city blacks seeking land because it was already identified as African American territory.

The one-story double house is an anomaly in the urban architectural context, which is based in a multi-story plan form. Rather, it evinces the rural, agricultural context in which it developed. An orderly pairing of plans and facades and an economy of its scale suggest that the design of the house was based in a prototype. Models for such dwellings were available to farmers and land owners through published sources or personal experience. Clearly, the house type was too modest to have been built for speculation, but it was intended for working-class tenants. Models for this double house include a wide range of industrial worker housing present in rural and village settings throughout the Northeast. Ironically, models in rural locales were more prevalent in the South taking the form of slave housing. The three-room plan of the Brooklyn dwellings distinguish them from extant slave housing, and more directly associate them with progressive house models. However, the known presence of an African American carpenter from South Carolina nearby on Hunterfly Road and the tell-tale Southern feature of down-bracing utilized in the framing of the subject house hint that there was a melding of dichotomous regional and cultural practices. The Southern elements strongly suggest that African Americans were involved in this house from its very beginning.

Although a precise date of construction cannot be established, the one-story, wood frame double house was clearly in this location on Hunterfly Road between Bergen and St. Mark streets in 1863 based on fact that it occupied a lot in the parcel Samuel Bouton's heirs sold to Ferdinand F. Volckening in that year. (That three small lots were described along Hunterfly Road in this deed suggests that one or two additional houses were also present at this time.) The Dripps map of 1869 does not depict the building, yet it also fails to represent numerous buildings that the 1888 Sanborn map shows on lots and in the streets that would have predated the imposition of the city grid. Dripps omitted a good amount of information about the existing rural landscape by projecting the urban overlay on the area, as the article in the 1868 Brooklyn Eagle cited above attests. The presence of the subject house also brings the validity of this map into question (rather than vice versa). It has a form, style and method of construction that evinces a period earlier than 1869.

Samuel Bouton was a successful land speculator and looked to the future value of the largely unimproved land he had purchased from Samuel Garretson's estate in 1839.[22] Based on the description of lots sold by his heirs in 1863, it appears that the landscape of Parcel 21, one of the four block parcels he acquired from the Garretson estate and the one containing Hunterfly Road and the subject house, remained essentially unchanged for the 24 years he owned the property. The 1869 Dripps map indicates this, and overlays Samuel Bouton's name on the parcels, even though he no longer owed the property. Had Bouton not elected to evict tenant farm laborers from the premises, there is a plausible scenario that links the subject house back to the 1830s. Throughout this period there is documentary evidence of a significant African American presence in the ninth ward in Weeksville and in the "unsettled" area east of there along Hunterfly Road and extending into the old woodlots where Carrville had been located. It would also appear that the second double dwelling located south of the subject house was constructed during the period of Bouton's ownership since its form indicates a design post-dating 1839 and its presence would have been needed to define the three Hunterfly Road lots sold in 1863 and the five dwellings taxed in 1868.

There should be no argument that the remaining two houses were constructed during Ferdinand F. Volckening's ownership and a deed, building permit and three maps document their appearance to 1883-1886. That these houses incorporated framing components that were connected with mortise-and-tenon joints is a curious feature but not one that brings the date of these building into question any more than other out-moded design but elements. Such conservative features reflect the traditional and economical practices preserved in buildings intended for the lower

classes. The old rural houses share exterior and interior features with the new urban houses indicating that they were upgraded and updated by Volckening to improve their general condition. The new construction came on the heels of the re-grading of the lot as part of extending the urban street plan into this area. The renovations to the old houses occurred at this time as the altered archeological strata attests. The rear shed was added to the subject house to create kitchen space, and the hearths in the main rooms were rebuilt to accommodate coal burners. Exterior and interior finishes were refreshed using inexpensive, manufactured components and materials available in the 1880s.

Ferdinand F. Volckening died in 1898 and his family continued to own and manage the rental units in the houses into the 1970s. Their continuous passive ownership helps explain how the Hunterfly Road houses were remarkably preserved with an enduring tradition of African American tenants that stretched back to a time when eastern Brooklyn was still rural and freed slaves were allowed to live in an isolated community in the woodlots on Crow Hill. The only known relic of this landscape and its muted history is the one-story, double house located on this remnant trace of Hunterfly Road.

---

[1] This article is excerpted from a context statement for a National Historic Landmark Designation written in 2004 for the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville & Bedford Stuyvesant History with the support of a technical services grant from the Architecture, Planning & Design Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. A number of scholars contributed their expertise during a charette held at the site including Bernard L. Herman, then a senior faculty member at the University of Delaware (he is now Professor and Chair of American Studies at the University of North Carolina); Myron Stachiw, a specialist in African American and early industrial housing who is now on the faculty of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Kathleen Egan Johnson, curator at Historic Hudson Valley, which had recently completed a NEH project to interpret the African American presence at its Philipsburg Manor site, Michael Devonshire from JHPA Architects and and Tom Paske, and building historian from Westfield, Massachusetts, both of whom had worked on the building in a restoration effort with the Center for Building Conservation in the 1980s; Kathleen LaFrank and Mark Peckham, National Register coordinators with the NYSHPO; Judith Wellman, who was preparing the NHL designation report; Joan Geismar, a historic resource consultant who had prepared an environmental assessment for the site. Pam Green, Radiah Harper and Lauren Rose of the Society of Weeksville staff participated along with Joan Maynard, the society's founding executive director and guiding spirit, and Clement Scantlebury, who had been involved with the property and its various restoration efforts from the beginning in the 1970s.

[2] Henry Stiles, *History of the City of Brooklyn* (1869), 441-442. Dripps, *Map of Brooklyn* (1869). Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Brooklyn* (1880). The 1888 Sanborn Insurance Maps of the area show numerous buildings in the streets indicating that even by then the street plan was simply a template for future development. One newspaper item, titled "Depredations in the Woods," documents that the forest continued to exist in 1855 and trees stolen by unscrupulous thieves who chopped them down and carted wood to New York. [*Brooklyn Eagle*, 14 March 1855.]

[3] Shane White, *Somewhat More Independent: The End of Slavery in New York City, 1770-1810* (Athens GA: University of Georgia Press, 1991), 52-53.

[4] Graham Russell Hodges, *Root and Branch: African Americans in New York & East New Jersey, 1613-1863* (Chapel Hill NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), 220-221; Marc Linder & Lawrence S. Zacharias, *Of Cabbages and Kings County: Agriculture and the Formation of Modern Brooklyn* (Iowa City: Iowa University Press, 1999), 25-26.

[5] "The Future of Population and Real Estate, *Brooklyn Eagle*, 23 December 1868. A later account of Weeksville speaks of a pond in the vicinity of Hunterfly Road. ["Miscalled 'Hunter Fly,'" *Brooklyn Eagle*, 30 October 1887.]

[6] See "Chancery Sale of Real Estate Belonging to the Heirs of Samuel Garrittsen Dec'd…," 7 June 1839.

[7] Teunis G. Bergen, *Genealogy of the Lefferts Family, 1650-1878* (1878), 98. The history of the Lefferts family is entwined with that of Flatbush where they initially settled. However, Jacobus Lefferts (1686-1754) moved to a farm his father had bought in the Town of Brooklyn in 1700 and established a second locus for the family at what became known as Bedford. [Teunis G. Bergen, *Register of Early Settlers of Kings County, New York* (1881), 186.] More research into the early land and social history of Bedford would be useful.

[8] The building resembles certain examples of antebellum slave housing, particularly a double house that was described by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1861; however, it is more appropriately associated with a general class of farm and industrial laborer housing in the North and South. [*The Cotton Kingdom* (rpt. 1953), 184-185.]

[9] Andrew Jackson Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850); Calvert Vaux, Villas & Cottages (1864).

[10] Page 22.

[11] Kings County Deeds, book?:478-482.

[12] "Sale of Brooklyn Real Estate," *Brooklyn Eagle*, 15 May 1863.

[13] The 1840 total and the percentage may turn out to be slightly different as two pages of the schedule did not open on Ancestry.com. The results also demonstrate that the areas known as Bedford in 1830 and the ninth ward in 1840 were not entirely congruent.

[14] Robert J. Swan, "The Origin of Black Bedford-Stuyvesant," Charlene Van Derzel, ed., *An Introduction to the Black Contribution to the Development of Brooklyn* (Brooklyn: New Muse Community Museum of Brooklyn, 1977). Swan provides the interesting interpretation that this sale of land was intended to help African American males meet the land requirement for voting.

[15] "The Future of Population and Real Estate," *Brooklyn Eagle*, 23 Dec 1868, 2.

[16] Kings County Deeds, 643:350, 14 May 1863.

[17] Insufficient study has been made of Brooklyn deeds in this era to be able to determine what the descriptive conventions were. In many cases elsewhere in the state, buildings are not mentioned in deeds, even when they are there. How consistently houses were cited in Brooklyn deeds is not known.

[18] Ibid. The house and lot valued at $6,550 was located on the northeast corner of Front and Dock streets, which appears to have been the location indicated for Samuel Bouton's home in the 1840 census.

[19] WASA, "Weeksville Master Plan" (2002)

[20] This map was included in WASA's Weeksville Master Plan has caused some confusion because it is captioned as dating to 1873 or before Volckening purchased the new lot and obtained the building permit. Yet, the map also pictures the footprint of St. Mary's Hospital on the south side of St. Mark Street, which was not founded until 1882, suggesting an error in the date in the caption. An original copy of the map has not been located to confirm the accuracy of the map or the date.

[21] "Building Activities," 24 January 1886.

[22] An article about the sale of the late Samuel Bouton's Brooklyn real estate referred to him as "a wealthy resident of this city." [*Brooklyn Eagle*, 15 May 1863.] Other issues of the paper indicate that Bouton was an alderman of the seventh ward as early as 1842 and served on the Board of Excise.
[http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm]

Albany Fifty Years Ago

Under this title in the March, 1857 of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Benson J. Lossing (1813-1891) created an essay that introduces the reader to an "Albany Knickerbocker" and relates some interesting reminiscences of Albany. Using engravings from the drawings by James Eights, Lossing's narrator, as he laments the degeneracy and speed of life in the mid-nineteenth century America, takes the reader on a romantic journey through streets filled with quaint Dutch characters, customs, and wonderful architectural buildings of an old city already forgotten by most. We have been publishing bits and pieces now-and-again. Here is another installment.

VII.—NORTH PEARL STREET.

This section will appear familiar to some of my Albany friends who were boys fifty years ago, for they will recognize in 15 the little district school-house and its surroundings, where they went to get whipped, and to be seated upon a hard high bench six or seven hours each day. The first house in this sketch (10) was the dwelling of Dr. William M'Clellan, an eminent Scotch physician. In the next (11) broad and spacious house dwelt the very distinguished John B. Romeyn, D.D., of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Romeyn was quite remarkable for his obesity. An anecdote connected with him is related, which exhibits the often lurking humor of the grave and taciturn Indian. One very hot day in July, during the administration of Governor Jay, the doctor was present just at the conclusion of a council with Mohawk and Oneida Indians, at Schenectady. The Indians have a custom of adopting white people of eminence into their tribes, and giving them significant names, and the honorary title of chief. At the Doctor's urgent solicitation he was adopted by the Oneidas. The day was excessively sultry, and he sat there perspiring at every pore. When the ceremony was ended, he inquired what was his new name. With great gravity the old sachem gave it in the Iroquois language, while not a muscle of the face of his dusky companions was moved. The Doctor wished an interpretation, and the sachem, with equal gravity replied, The Great Thaw. The Indians sat unmoved, while the whole white portion of the audience roared with laughter.

Next to Dr. Romeyn's stood a house of more ancient pattern (12) in which resided Nicholas Bleecker, one of the wealthiest merchants of the city. Peter Elmendorf, an eminent lawyer, dwelt in the adjoining house (13); and between that and the little school house (15) was the play-ground for the boys. Looking over that inclosure, and among the trees, is seen the top of the old family mansion or homestead of the Bleeckers, at the corner of Chapel and Steuben streets. There Harmanus Bleecker, our minister at the Hague a few years ago, resided at the time of his death. I believe the property has since passed out the possession of the family. I remember seeing there, during the latter years of the late Mr. Bleecker, a fine portrait, cabinet size, of John Randolph of Roanoke, painted by Ward of Philadelphia. Bleecker and Randolph were warm friends while they were in Congress together in 1811; and, as a token of that friendship, they exchanged portraits with each other.

The last house (16) was the residence of John Andrews, a well known police constable, who was the terror of evil-doers in the good old Dutch city fifty years ago. He might always be seen at the polls on election days, with a stout leather cap, similar to those worn by firemen, and an ugly looking hickory cudgel with two huge knobs on the larger end.

Ken Walton downloaded this material from a digital copy of *Collections on the History of Albany: from its discovery to the present time; with notices of its public institutions, and biographical sketches of citizens deceased*, Vol. II, (J. Munsell, 1867) from www.archive.org/stream/collectionsonhis02muns/collectionsonhis02muns_djvu.txt.
He cleaned up the scanned version as best as possible using a printed version in *New York: Tales of the Empire State*, compiled by Frank Oppel.

Membership info

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 $20 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

Designed by Jon Dogar-Marinesco jon@oldbrickhouse.com

From the archives of the HVVA Research Department, Unexpected Sources File.

Salsiccie e Patate alla Paesana

Sausages and Potatoes, Country Style, with Tomato, Garlic and Bay Leaves
From *Marcella's Italian Kitchen* (1989), by Marcella Hazan

When I was a young girl in Romagna, my father had a farm, run, like nearly every farm then in Italy, on a crop-sharing basis. The owner supplied a house to live in, the peasants the labor, and they divided the proceeds more or less equally, depending on the watchfulness of the former and the craftiness of the latter. My father often took me along on his tours of inspection. I loved the outing, which included, if we timed it well, an invitation to eat at the farmhouse. It was wonderful food in a setting that somehow had me spellbound.

The house was a rough, stout, brick structure. In the low-ceilinged upper story, the family had sleeping quarters; the floor below it consisted of a single, large, dusky room. Into it, a tiny window strained dusky daylight. At one end there was a hearth and, beside it, blackened, thickly encrusted grills and trivets, battered pans, piles of dried vine canes and other firewood; in front of it, a crude table and chairs. Against the wall there were hoes, spades, picks, and other paraphernalia scattered where they had been dropped. The farmer butchered his own pig, and hams and sausages were hung in the corner farthest from the hearth. Also hanging were tomatoes and bunched garlic; save for the fire, they were the only sources of color and brightness in the room, their cheeriness, in that cavernous, mysterious place, seeming almost frivolous. Baskets on the floor held potatoes and onions. A streaked cupboard contained flour, and to one side of it hung the long, narrow pasta pin. In that smoky, primitive room I had some of the best meals of my life.

I used particularly to hope for this dish of sausages. Over the open fire, the peasant woman would start them cooking with olive oil, garlic and onion; while the sausages were cooking, she skinned the tomatoes, cut up the potatoes, and, whenever she was ready to, dropped them in. The making of the dish, its ingredients pulled literally out of the shadows, was like ritual magic. But, what may be even more magical is that, when I make it today, its good flavor and the flavor of those days come through neat, as one.

Marcella Hazan
April 15, 1924-Sept. 29, 2013
Italian cookbook writer who introduced American kitchens to the practical art of simple cooking.

2014 Calendar of Upcoming HVVA Events

April 19	Tour of houses in Orange County
May 17	Tour of houses in North Salem, Westchester Co., led by John Stevens
June 21	Tour of houses in Marbletown, Ulster Co., led by Ken Krabbenhoff
July 12	Hurley Stone House Day and HVVA Picnic, hosted by Jim Decker
August 16	Bus trip to Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, MA

For more information, please check www.HVVA.org