

DBPS TRUSTEE MEETINGS

November 12, 1990 (formal) Guilderland Center, Albany County, NY

December 11, 1990 (informal) Guilderland Center, Albany County, NY

A number of members brought photographs and books of interest. There was a lively exchange of information and opinions at the restaurant next door to the Fredrick House before the meeting began.

Vince Shaefer distributed copies of Miscellany, Volume 3, Number 2 containing his 30 page report on the moving of the Wemp barn. Vince announced that he wanted to turn the publication over to Greg Huber, who accepted. Vince, who has financed the operation until now, asked that the barn society set aside funds for the publication and distribution of future issues.

Michael Bathrick announced the grant by the Historic Trust of \$1,000 toward the legal costs in drawing up a model deed to allow owners of Dutch barns to preserve them as historic landmarks for future generations. The total cost of the sample contract would be \$1,800 which would require the society to cover the remaining \$800. Harold Zoch suggested it be discussed at the next formal meeting on January 15th.

Harold showed the membership a (six page) set of blue print plans of the Mickel barn which Jack Sobon sent him for the society's growing documentary files. Peter Sinclair gave a report on his recent inspections of Dutch barns in Michigan and his plans for a two week Midwestern Dutch barn inspection in the Spring.

There was some discussion about why the Dutch barn in the New World developed as a building separate from the house rather than to continue with the house-barn which was traditional in Holland. Charles Gehring, who has translated many of the early New World Dutch manuscripts, pointed out that many of the New World Dutch did live in their barns here until the late 17th century. In regard to a commonly held idea that the Dutch adopted a separate house because they were adjusting to a colder climate, Charles pointed out that in the 17th century Holland was undergoing a little ice age and knew well how to deal with cold weather. He suggested that the availability of land was a more likely reason.

Clarke Blair described some built in box-beds he had seen in an old house in Montgomery County, New York. He was surprised at how short they were, not five feet long. Charles reminded everyone that the Dutch were not a short people but it was considered unhealthy to sleep in a flat position. The Dutch slept with their backs raised.

Greg Huber suggested an April or May tour of Orange County Barns and a meeting at the William Bull Homestead, early 18th century, with the only Dutch barn in that County.

George Turrell, a new trustee from Closter, New Jersey, showed the members an old photograph of the Achter/Bishop barn in Saddle River, New Jersey. It had a pentice roof above the wagon doors, unusual on New Jersey barns. He believes it will be saved thanks to public pressure on local officials.

George reported on his inspection of the Wortendyke museum barn. It was badly restored in 1975. The replacement sills were made of untreated Georgia pine and are already rotten, but he tempted the membership to visit his New Jersey area by telling of stone churches there with internal H-bents.

George's company, AchterCol, has just gotten a contract from the Rockley, New Jersey DPW for a timber frame utility building. It is planned as a modified Dutch frame with extended tenons.

January 15, 1991 (formal) Guilderland Center, Albany County, NY

the three panel display which includes, photographs, drawings, and text was set up for the trustees and members present to see. It is the result of a \$4,000 Sate Humanities grant. The need to reprint volume 1, number 2, of the DBPS Newsletter was voted by the trustees.

It was suggested that Richard Turrell's one hour New Jersey barn raising show with words and music be presented sometime soon up here in New York state. There was talk about acid free storage of photographs and some sources of archival materials.

The treasurers report was read and there was a long discussion of the easement grant, just what it is, and how it works, and who might need it. The \$800 matching money would be paid by DBPS. It would pay for lawyers and experts in this specialized futuristic trade who would study the issue and give us their advise. It sounded good to three of the trustees who immediately voiced offers of \$100 each for the program. Others loved the proposal but were having personal financial problems. Ev said that so far the discussion had not turned on any lights of enlightenment in his head but that it was intriguing and he would join the yes votes. The bill passed with one nay from trustee Anderson.

DBPS presedent, Harold Zoch, asked that the February 19th meeting be devoted to setting long and short term goals. He would welcome written suggestions sent to him.

Publications Committee Meeting

January 30, 1991 Shirley Dunns house, Greenbush, NY

Costs and editorial direction of DBPS Miscellany Notes was discussed with the new editor, Greg Huber. Plans for the next two issues of the DBPS Newsletter were presented and discussed. Visual historic documents concerning the Bronk barn at the Greene County Historical Society were presented and plans were made to re visit the barn for the eventual published report.

There was discussion of Dutch barn terminology and especially the use of the word "anchorbeam" which Fitchen coined in his 1968 book Shirley pointed out that the anchorbeam was described with various Dutch words such as "beam" and "loftbeam" in the early written records. She showed some early papers of John Fitchen where he had originally called it a "summerbeam", a New England term. She reminded us that "architecture is language" and of the importance of the use of correct terminology. She and other members have recently been questioning the use of the term "master builder".

DBPS Trustee MeetingFebruary 19, 1991 (informal) Guilderland Center, Albany County, NY

Harold Zock suggested that we hold a technical meeting in June or July at the Wemp barn where members could report on their recent research. Alicia Jettner suggested the need for a manual on the stabilization and repair of barns for the barn owner. There was a general discussion on items that would be important in such a manual. George Turrel said that he is presently working on such a manual for the State of New Jersey based on his work with the Wortendyke barn restoration.

Harold directed the discussion to the short term goal of establishing a data base of Dutch barn information and mapping locations. Mark is reworking the long form. Shirley said there is already lots of information gathered by individual members but it is not organized or centralized. Chris stressed the importance of adopting Jack Sobon's methods of measurement as they represent the builders method and often give a simpler figure. These include measuring the nave from the outside of the columns and measuring up from the top surface of the sill and down from the top surface of the purlin

A number of suggestions were made concerning what map to adopt. None could be agreed upon and Harold said this should be done at the March meeting. He felt the initial survey and mapping should be completed by September.

As a long term goal, Mark suggested that the three most important barns in each district be designated for full documentation. The importance of noting unique regional characteristic was brought up, and the fact that some of these characteristics might not be covered in the long form. George stressed the need for drawings.

Carolina Lazzari reported of the progress of restoring the Wemple/Lazzari barn in the Township of Rotterdam. She has located some leads on where to obtain pitch pine, the wood from which the barn was built. It is now an uncommon wood in upstate New York.

George said that he and Greg had attended a meeting concerning the Hopper barn in Rockland County and that it seems that it will be saved. The local officials had been impressed by the volume of mail they had received. George sent out a little over 200 letters to DBPS members asking them to write in support of preservation and 175 members responded. That is impressive.

The following people were made regional representatives...

Columbia County, New York- Mike Bathrick, Albany Co. - Mark Hesler and Chris Albright, Otsego Co. - Mark Hessler, Dutchess Co. - Greg Huber, Fulton and Montgomery Co. - Clarke Blair, Greene County - Shirley Dunn, Rensselaer and Washington Co.-Alicia Jettner, Rockland Co.-George Turrel, Schenectady Co.-Vince Schaefer, Schoharie Co.-Harold Zoch, Ulster Co.-Peter Sinclair, and Bergen Co., New Jersey-George Turrel.

If you have not yet done so, please mail your membership dues to,  
 The Dutch Barn Preservation Society  
 Box 176, Rensselaer, NY 12144  
 Student \$5, Regular \$10, Contributing \$20, Supporting \$25  
 Thanks