



Resource Information:

Date: May 17, 2023
Staff: Jennifer Betsworth
Name: Scandrett House
Location: 26 Old Pleasant Hill Rd, New Windsor, NY 12553

Resource Status:

- Determination:** Determined SR/NR eligible by the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation on the date noted above.
- Contributing:** Not Determined

Criteria for Inclusion in the National Register:

- ☒ Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns in our history.
- ☒ Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- ☐ Have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.





Summary Statement:

Based on the information available, the Van Duzer / Cocks / Scandrett House is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of eighteenth and nineteenth century stone residential construction in the Hudson Valley. The property is additionally significant under Criterion A in the area of Settlement for its association with the Van Duzer family and the early settlement of Cornwall. The house is also significant for its association with Richard Brown Scandrett, Jr. (1891-1969), a prominent figure in early and mid-twentieth century New York Republican politics and in the postwar era on the Allied Reparations Commission and as Chief of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Mission to Byelorussia (Belarus). The preliminary period of significance for the property extends from ca. 1749, the estimated date of the first section of the house, through 1969, Scandrett's death.

In 1735, Isaac Van Duzer acquired 1,000 acres of land from a patent originally granted to Captain Andrew Nicoll. The property was in Isaac Van Duzer's name from 1748, until his death in 1772. Isaac Van Duzer named three of his sons in his will, all of whom were given land. His son Tyerck (Tierck, Shadrach) Van Duzer acquired the land, and it remained in his name until his death in 1794. Henry Van Duzer, the son of Tyerck, lived in the house and worked as a farmer on the property until 1845. Henry Van Duzer willed the house to his three sons, although his son Jacob and daughter Catherine appear to have owned the house following his death. Catherine Van Duzer's husband, Isaac Cocks, lived in the house from 1848 until 1870, and the property appears in his name on 19th century maps. Before marrying Catherine Van Duzer, Isaac was married to her sister, Martha. Catherine's will from 1875 left the 200-acre Van Duzer homestead to the surviving children of Isaac and Martha, including Jacob Van Duzer Cocks and Catherine (Cocks) Van Duzer. In 1876, Jacob Van Duzer Cocks transferred 115 acres to his sister Catherine. The property remained in her name until 1927, when she sold the property to Richard Brown Scandrett, Jr. Scandrett, a lawyer active in Republican politics, named the property Idlewild and used it as a country home. His 1930 wedding to Mary Emma Landenberger was held at the house. He was a partner in the firm of Scandrett and Chalaire from 1930-1960, was Vice President of the American Gas and Electric Company, and was president of Survey Associates, Inc., a publishing company, from 1935 to 1949. Previously active in the New York Republican Committee, he joined the Orange County Republican Committee after purchasing the property and supported the political campaigns of Wendell Wilkie and Robert A. Taft. In the postwar era, Scandrett served on the Allied Reparations Commission as an advisor on international law and later served as Chief of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Mission to Byelorussia (Belarus). In this role, he oversaw the distribution of supplies and creation of power plants within the country. Scandrett died at Idlewild in 1969. In 1982, the Scandrett Family deeded 17.9 acres, including the Scandrett house, to Storm King Art Center.

The Van Duzer / Cocks / Scandrett House is a two-and-a-half-story five-bay by three-bay, side-gabled stone house with a two-story, three-bay by three-bay, side-gabled frame and concrete addition. The core portion of the 18th century stone house was built in 1749, with a southern addition added in 1792 and an eastern addition in 1823. The last addition was completed in 1941 on the western side of the building. The stone house has a central one-story, one-bay, flat-roofed entry porch; four columns support the denticulated entablature. The entrance door is framed by wood paneling, sidelights, and a fanlight. Four six-over-six windows with shutters flank the entrance. The second story has five six-over-six windows. Three front-gabled dormers with full



l pediments, pilaster details, and six-over-six windows project from the roof. Additional dormers in this design are located on the rear elevation. On the façade, the addition has a stone foundation, clapboard siding, and pilaster details marking the bays on each story. The first story has three six-over-six windows. The second story has a balustrade and enclosed porch which appears to date to its original construction. The other elevations of this addition are covered in stucco and retain six-over-six windows and an oval bulls-eye window. While the interior appears to have been renovated in the mid-20th century, with the modernization of the kitchen area, it appears to retain much of its historic plan and details. The house retains a historic period staircase, paneling, mantlepieces, doors, and flooring. The original stone fireplace in the kitchen has been replaced with brick. A second brick fireplace is located in the basement. These changes, as well as the installation of decorative tile, date to the Scandrett family's ownership.

"Richard B. Scandrett Jr. Dies; Lawyer Active in G.O.P. Affairs," New York Times, December 16, 1969.

"Miss Landenberger to Wed on Oct. 4," New York Times, September 24, 1930.

Richard Brown Scandrett papers, 1907-1966, 1907-1951. Collection Number 2623. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

<https://rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/htmldocs/RMM02623.html>

Richard Brown Scandrett papers, 1944-1954, bulk 1947-1957. Archival Collections, Columbia University Libraries. https://findingaids.library.columbia.edu/ead/nnc-rb/ldpd_4078523