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From: wint aldrich <wint42@earthlink.net>
To: Ruth Piwonka
Subject: Re: Hendrick Martens house, Red Hook
Date: Sep 14, 2006 8:48 PM

Ruth,

I don't think I ever opined on the age of the house, as I have no expertise in such matters and have never researched the property. It certainly warrants NR listing.

I am printing out and mailing your message to Barbara Thompson, the talented and assiduous archivist of the Egbert Benson Red Hook Historical Society; she maintains office hours on Tuesdays from about 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second floor of the Elmendorph Tavern. She may have the sort of documentation you are seeking -- especially amongst the Frank Teal Papers. She will probably have your message by this coming Tuesday, but I can't be certain of that.

We are all proud of this house, which may be Red hook's oldest, and the attentive care is is getting from the Gurlands.

Good luck! I'm glad business is bringing you to Red Hook, where I am still Town historian lo these 30-plus years.

Wint

-----Original Message-----

>From: Ruth Piwonka <rpiwonka@nycap.rr.com>
>Sent: Sep 14, 2006 5:44 PM
>To: Wint Aldrich <wint42@earthlink.net>
>Subject: Hendrick Martens house, Red Hook

>

>

>Hello Wint,

>

>I am pulling together material sketching the history of the Hendrick
>Martin house, Willowbrook Lane, Red Hook. From Barry and Roni
>Gurland, I learned that you had visited the house and thought it
>could be as early as 1721. So far, the material I am turning up
>suggests a date closer to 1751 -- and I am hopeful that you might be
>able to direct me with respect to possible earlier Beekman leases or
>other kinds of documentation for this property or the area in
>general. The Gurlands have copies of typed abstracts of deeds and a
>will that were made in the 1930s. Would you know if the original
>documents still survive and where they might be. I paste in below,
>what is presently gathered together.

>

>The house is wonderful; and the Gurlands are inspired owners who have
>given a lot of good care to their property.

>

>Many thanks for your interest.

>

>Best wishes,

>Ruth P.

>BEGIN PASTE-IN:

>

>Hendrick Martin stone house history

>

>The history of the house is defined by published histories as well as
>some abstracted documents. The house is a significant document
>embodying the aspirations and accomplishments of the German Palatine
>immigrants who first came to America in 1710. The house, probably
>built by Hendrick Martin, demonstrates the importation of German
>domestic design and ideas for living and their recreation in
>provincial New York.

>

>As early as 1882, a ca1732 date was suggested for the house by James
>H. Smith (History of Dutchess County, New York ? 1683-1882. Syracuse,
>New York: D. Mason & Co., 1882, page 186), when he wrote:

>
> "The most historic points of interest near this village are the
>houses of E. L. Traver and Edward Martin. The former at one time
>known as the ?Martin House? was built probably one hundred and fifty
>years ago [i.e., about 1732], and still retains the characteristics
>of the architectural style of those days. ?... Hendrick Martin, the
>great grandfather, was the first proprietor of the farm as tenant.
>The house of Egbert Traver, before mentioned, was the original
>dwelling of the ancient Martins."
>
>He also cited the nearby stone house (now NR, Cookingham, Rte 9, Red
>Hook village) that was built by the son of Hendrick --
>
> ?The Martin Homestead, the present occasional residence of Edward
>Martin, was built by his grandfather, Gotlieb, or Gotlop Martin, in
>1776, the rafters being raised on the stone walls on July 4th of that
>year. This homestead has never been out of the family. The house
>stands on the road leading to Upper Red Hook.?
>
>While not mentioning the Hendrick Martin house, son Gottlieb Martin?s
>house was cited by Helen Wilkinson Reynolds [Dutch Houses in the
>Hudson Valley before 1776, The Holland Society, New York, 1929
>(reprinted, 1969), pp 320-321] as one of several examples of the type
>of stone houses built by Palatine Germans in Dutchess County. In its
>original two-and-a-half story, one-room square footprint set into a
>steep slope, her characterization of Gottlieb?s house would equally
>apply to Hendrick?s house as a representative of Palatinate German
>dwellings. It compares, for example, with the Stone Jug (c1760, Rte
>9G, Clermont).
>
>Hendrick Martin, born 30 January 1715, was a son of Johan Henrich
>Mertens and Catherine Esenroth, who emigrated to America with the
>great Palatine immigration of 1710. They evidently lived at West
>Camp (town of Saugerties) where Hendrick was baptised by the Lutheran
>minister Justus Falckner, who traveled from Loonenburg (modern
>Athens, Green County, New York) to visit, marry and baptize his wide-
>spread congregation. Twenty-one years later, Hendrick married
>Elisabeth Emmerich at Kaatsbaan where they then resided. Their first
>four children were baptized at Kaatsban, the last in 1743; the
>baptismal records of the next two -- Gottlieb [b c1745- November
>1832] and David -- are not located in the Hudson Valley churches.
>Their last child, Anna, was baptized at the Rhinebeck Lutheran
>Church. Thus Hendrick Martin?s arrival in Red Hook is not fixed with
>certainty but is likely to have occurred between 1743 and 1751, when
>he received a deed for his Red Hook property.
>
>Although, Smith?s history states that Hendrick Martin was the first
>proprietor of the farm as a tenant, land records suggest variations
>of this. Several unrecorded leases and deeds were transcribed in
>1933 and are deposited at _____. From these documents, one can
>illustrate the growth and development of Hendrick Martin?s farm.
>They are most clearly articulated in the conveyance made by David
>Martin, who inherited Hendrick?s house and barn, to his brother
>Gotlieb on 24 April 1794. This conveyance was evidently the formal
>division of property that the two brothers had inherited from their
>father., for it conveys to Gotlieb ---
>
> "The equal half or moiety of all the several tracts ? of land which
>were devised to the said David Martin in virtue of the last will and
>testaments of is father Hendrick Martin deceased dated 29 April 1786.
>
> "Refers to deed granted to Hendrick Martin by Henry Beekman by an
>indenture dated 1 May 1751,
>
> "the equal half of the premises conveyed to Hendrick Martin by
>Hendrick Teeter by indenture dated 14 May 1756;

>
> "the equal half of land granted and conveyed to the said Hendrick
>Martin by John Van Ness, Catherine Ten Broeck and Jacob Ten Broeck by
>indenture dated 30 March 1773;
>
> "subject to the rent covenants and conditions in the before recited
>deeds."
>
>Abstracts for the otherwise unrecorded documents survive except for
>the 1751 conveyance to Martin by Hendrick Beekman. Judging from
>language in the will, it is assumed that this was a lease like the
>others. Based strictly on this, and if it is true that Martin was
>the first to farm the property, the original house likely dates from
>1751. However, it entirely possible that the original section of the
>stone house had served as the dwelling for a previous tenant of
>Beekman. The addition to the house seems most suited to the needs of
>Hendrick and Elizabeth Martin and their large growing family as they
>existed in the 1750s and 1760s.
>
>Based on the available abstract of his will, Hendrick Martin made
>bequests to only his younger sons David and Gottlieb:
>
> ? First I give to my son David Martin the house outhouses and barn
>barrack with three acres and one quarter acre of land which is most
>convenient to the house and barn
>
> ? Also my son David Martin shall give unto my son Gottlieb Martin the
>half of the orchard until Gottlieb's orchard brings fruit.
>
> ? I also give unto my two sons ? all my lands woodlands hayland
>which shall be equally divided amongst them
>
> ? [He gave to his wife Elizabeth a female slave and appointed
>Gottlieb and David, and a neighbor, Ebenezer Adams as executors. The
>abstractor notes that other portions of the will pertained to
>personal property and were not abstracted.]
>
>Provision for his older children must have been made as these
>children grew up and left the family. However, in the 1790 and
>subsequent censuses, it is the elder sons and Gottlieb who are present
>in Red Hook. Living evidently at the house was Henry (b1739), the
>eldest son of Hendrick and Elizabeth. It is he who remained here for
>several decades, later to be joined by John (b 1743), who in 1790
>lived at New Marlborough. David who inherited the house settled in
>New Marlborough (Rockland County) and seems never to have lived at
>Red Hook.
>
>Ownership of the house between c1790 and c1850 has not been
>researched. In the 1850s, the house was owned by John R. Faure, a
>New York city merchant, and his wife Catherine. In the 1860s the
>house was occupied by J H Lord, and in the 1870s and beyond, it was
>owned by Egbert Traver, a farmer and member of a local family.
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