

The Edward Mooney House

The house was used during the 1940's for retreats. Vassar students used to come and stay according to Rev. Elliot Lindsley who recalls the house at that time.

Upper Red Hook was settled by Palatine families in the 18th century. The green in front of the Gage House was used for training militia during the Revolution.

Clara Losee of the Thomas House has shown pictures to the Jones which prove that the 2nd floor windows and the dormers were not original to the house. The porch built in the nineteenth century across the front was taken down by heavy snows in recent years and proved to be larger by far than the original. The peak of the original porch proved it to be only adequate to cover the door. It may have also covered facing benches.

There is much evidence in the building that it could be pre-Revolutionary. The style and method of building is similar to that of the Elmendorph Inn.

The house is a four story Dutch Colonial with gambrel roof. It is well preserved with original windows, floors and exposed beams. The foundation is stone and in the basement level is the cook kitchen. It is massive and well built with a bee-hive oven. There is only a small path down to this level from the walk but we will open it to the public and ask older visitors to use discretion. In the lower room is a large bar which came out of the Sage House Inn which stands next door on a triangular piece of ground. When the Jones family excavated the floor they found old enameled buttons and a disintegrating leather shoe of the colonial period. There were, according to an older neighbor, leather straps attached to the wall on the west end of the basement. As a known will for one of the Lyle children bequeathed a slave to one, we suppose there were, at least during the Lyle years, slaves kept by the family. Foundation full height in front but built into hill in the rear.

The house had a central entrance porch at one time. The first floor has a wide and welcoming center hall flanked by two parlors on either side. The second floor also reflects the same plan, a wide center hall with two major rooms opening from it. This is typical of Georgian design. There are two chimney stacks, each equidistant from the gable ends. The small windows on the second floor at the end of the house were original. The delft tiles around the fireplaces in the bedrooms are original to the house and rare. The house resembles in many ways the Rensselaer house Cherry Hill. The Georgian interiors combined with the gambrel roof of the Dutch influence of the Hudson Valley was characteristic of many houses built in the upper Hudson Valley in the 1760's. Building a house with this type of roof was already old-fashioned by the late 1780's.

Room by room descriptions will be produced for docents by the time of the tour.