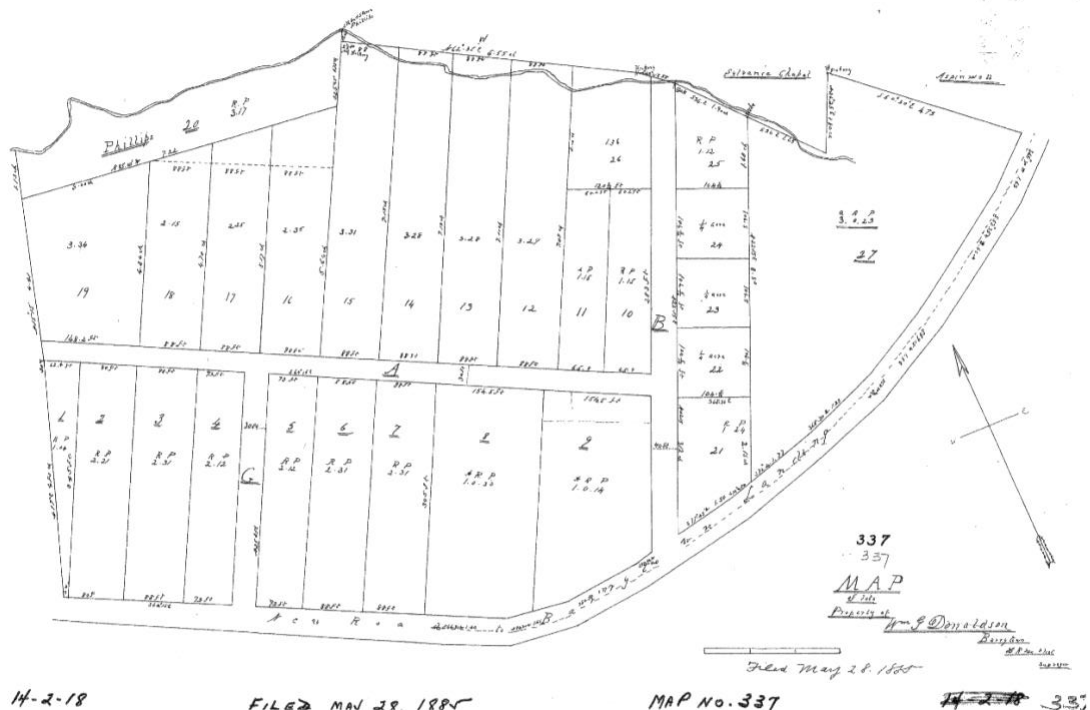


Barrytown house 78 Station Hill Road

Jeremiah Sullivan

78 Station Hill Rd. began as Lot "3" on a plat map filed in 1885, surveyed by L.R. (?) Van Vliet. It was sold by William G. Donaldson, who owned Edgewater, to Jeremiah Sullivan on March 31, 1886 for \$400 (Dutchess County Deed Book Vol. 225, p. 56).



Lot "4" was purchased by Robert Smith. In 1888, Smith sold that lot to Jeremiah Sullivan. The two lots remained under one ownership until they were merged in 1981.

Jeremiah Sullivan was a day laborer, born in 1857 and raised, at least for a while, in Barrytown, possibly on the Donaldson property. His parents were Patrick and Catherine Sullivan, Irish immigrants who lived in Germantown, Columbia County per the 1860 census, which also says that neither one could read or write. Patrick listed his occupation as railroad laborer. Patrick and Catherine had at least five children: Jeremiah, Michael, John, Mary, and Joseph. By 1880, Patrick, Catherine and Joseph were in Barrytown. Joseph may have run the Barrytown hotel. If so, he died in 1890 at the age of 27.

Jeremiah married Minnie McCowen in 1891. By 1900, the census shows they had 3 sons: Edward, William and Joseph. In 1905, Minnie died, leaving the 3 young boys with her husband. They are listed, probably in this house, on the 1910 census, where his occupation is listed as baggage agent. It appears from county probate records that

Jeremiah died in 1921. "J.E. Sullivan" and wife Minnie have a large gravestone in the Sacred Heart cemetery in Barrytown. There are birth and death dates for Minnie but none for Jeremiah.

Warren Lewis and Mary Sullivan

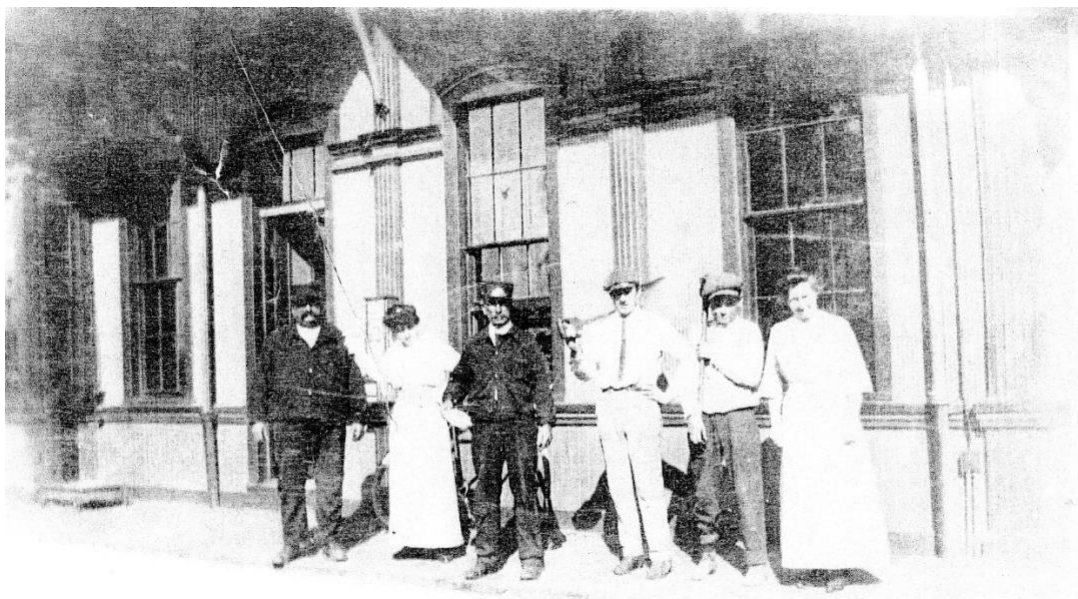
Jeremiah's sister Mary Sullivan married Warren Lincoln Lewis in 1893. Warren Lewis was the son of Ludlow Lewis, a mason, and Anna Louise Moore. Like the Patrick Sullivan family, the Lewises were in Barrytown in 1880. In 1922, this property (lots 3 and 4) passed from Jeremiah Sullivan to Warren and Mary Lewis, probably by inheritance at Jeremiah's death.

Warren Lewis listed his occupation in 1910 as "cooper", or barrel maker.



Warren Lewis is the big man in the doorway. The cooperage was just east of the schoolhouse. Joyce Lewis Cole

On the 1915 state census, Warren Lewis said he was a poultryman. On the 1920 federal census, he listed his occupation as "gateman" for the railroad.



Warren Lewis at left at the Barrytown station. The two boys are Francis and Edward Lewis. Joyce Lewis Cole

On the 1900 census, Warren and Mary and their 2 sons, Francis and Edward, were renting a house and living with Mary's mother, Catherine Sullivan, somewhere in the Town of Red Hook.

On the 1910 census, Warren and Mary were renting a house in Barrytown, very near John Jay Chapman. No road name is given in the census, but John Jay Chapman built the Sylvania estate on Station Hill Road.

Son Francis Lewis served in France during WWI 1918-1919.

On the 1920 census, Warren and Mary were living on a Barrytown road near Richard Aldrich, a journalist for the NY Times.

In 1922, Warren and Mary acquired ownership of the Barrytown house and adjoining lot (lots 3 and 4) from the estate of Mary's brother, Jeremiah Sullivan (deed book Liber 427, p. 29). It's possible that they had been renting that property or that they had taken over housekeeping for Jeremiah's sons after Minnie's death, either while Jeremiah was alive or after his death.

On the 1930 census, Warren and Mary, now both 66, listed Francis' two young daughters, Rose and Marjory, (but not Francis himself) as living with them at the Station Hill Rd. house.

In 1932, Warren Lewis died and was buried at the Bard College cemetery.

On the 1940 census, widow Mary, 77, and son Francis, 47, (listed as a widower) were both living at the Barrytown house. Francis died later that year and was buried in a veteran's grave in the Barrytown Sacred Heart cemetery, near his uncle Jeremiah Sullivan.

Francis' daughter Marjory Lewis married Stanley Kolos in 1943. In 1947, Mary Lewis, then 84 years old, sold the house to Stanley and Marjory Lewis Kolos, her granddaughter.

Meanwhile, Mary's other son Edward Lewis and his wife Irene raised their large family (11 children) first in the double house (gate house octagon and rooming house) and then in the brick house next door at the west end of Station Hill Rd.



Irene Maxim Lewis, Mary Lewis, Edward Lewis
at 78 Station Hill Rd.

Stanley Kolos died in 1971 after renovating this house. In 1980, Thomas and Paula Schoonmaker bought the house from widow Marjory Lewis Kolos, who subsequently moved with her daughters to Florida. Her son Peter Kolos remained in Red Hook and then moved to Pleasant Valley. This sale was the first time the Barrytown house/property left the original family.

The house

When the Schoonmakers began insulating and repairing the house, it became clear that Stanley Kolos had made several changes during his 1960's renovation. Nearly all of the windows on the north side had been removed and covered over, both upstairs and downstairs, probably to save heat. In the east bedroom, there had been two windows facing east. Those had been removed and one had been installed in the middle of the east wall. Also, the kitchen door had originally opened to the rear of the east porch. It had been covered over and a new door installed to open at the front of the porch. Mr. Kolos had installed aluminum siding over the original clapboard and aluminum triple-track storms and screens over the windows. He may also have moved the downstairs wall between the large living room and the small "lying in" room/dining room. That room was used as Mrs. Kolos' bedroom in 1980.

The Schoonmakers added an east-facing kitchen window (near where the original door had once been) and an east-facing window at the bottom of the stairs. They insulated the attic in 1980 and replaced the standing-seam metal roof with an asphalt shingle roof in 1981. They insulated the outside walls with fiberglass batts in 1980. They rebuilt both porches, using the original column planks and trim, following the same footprint. The decking and railings on both porches have been replaced with identical materials and in the same style.

It's clear that at some point the house was heated with coal. There is evidence of both a coal chute at the west basement window and a coal bin on the floor. There was also at some point a central heating grate where the living room meets the hall.

The house originally had a west-facing gable window, but it was removed and covered over when the chimney for the furnace was erected. Later, the Koloses built a second chimney to

serve a ski-lodge (1970's) style open fireplace, which the Schoonmakers replaced with a small woodstove.

In 2015, the wood trim piece on the front gable began to fall off. A restoration carpenter said that the piece had been structurally compromised by carpenter bees and that it was not advisable to try to repair it. He took the piece down and used it to make an exact replica out of cedar, and that piece is firmly installed in the gable. The original piece is in the basement.

Stories about the house and property

One story I heard was about the house was when Stanley Kolos and some friends, all of whom had been drinking, decided to clean the chimney one spring day. They didn't have a chimney brush, but someone said that he had heard that an evergreen tree was good to use. They found the family's old Christmas tree, tied ropes to each end, got up on the roof, and lowered the tree, point end first, down the chimney. When they tried to pull the tree back up, it became stuck and no matter how hard they pulled, it wouldn't come up. The only way they could think to get rid of the tree was to set it on fire, which they did. The tree was extremely dry and flammable, and apparently flames immediately shot up the chimney, threatening to set the attic and roof on fire. Luckily several fire departments arrived and were able to put out the fire.

Another story took place in the 1940's, during WW II. John Carberry told this story at an Egbert Benson Historical Society event called "Remembering Barrytown". Mr. Carberry said that a "rail walker" named Ed Torkeson or Forkeson(?) was living in a small house (or shack or I've heard it described as looking like a small garage that clearly had no running water or electricity) on the vacant lot (lot 4 on the plat map) next to the house lot. He was a Norwegian who spoke little or no English, and every day he walked up and down the railroad tracks looking for loose spikes, etc.

When the United States entered the war, U.S. submarines were using Norwegian fjords for refuge to escape German u-boats, airplanes, etc. However, the American sub captains were having trouble with the winding and treacherous fjords. Someone told Franklin Roosevelt that Ed Torkeson had been a Norwegian seaman or in some way knew the fjords, so Roosevelt created a naval commission for Torkeson, then in his middle fifties. Torkeson left Barrytown to guide submarines through the fjords and never returned. The little house fell into disrepair and finally the remains of it were removed.