

Jan Mabie House (1618-1670)
Rotterdam, New York
(Oldest house in Mohawk Valley)

Saratoga County

HABS No. NY-337

HABS

N. Y.

47-ROTJ,

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New York
No 3, Albany

Historic American Buildings Survey (Fed.)
Norman P. Sturgis, District Officer
74 Chapel Street, Albany
New York

MABIE HOUSE AND SLAVES QUARTERS

Town of Rotterdam, Schenectady County, N. Y.

Owner: Mable A. Scrafford of Rotterdam Junction and
Mrs. Edna S. Franchere of Altamont, N.Y. sisters:
and direct Mable decendants.

Date of Erection: 1670-1680.

History of County of Schenectady, 1662-1885 by
Rev. J.H. Munsell. Locally credited as being the oldest
house in the Mohawk Valley.

Architect (Unknown)

Builder: Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen. (Original owner)

Present condition: The stone Farm House; of typical Dutch type,
with gabled dormers; is in an excellent state of preser-
vation; but some alterations and additions have been made
to the original structure.

A frame wing has been added to the southeast end of
the main building and a glass enclosed porch; used as a
summer kitchen; to the south end.

A door on the south-west side of the house has been
replaced with a window and the wall filled in as required,
but the original timbers of the door frame were left and
are still in place.

The framing and siding of the north end gable as well
as the window sash, ~~frame~~ and blinds are modern and appear
to be an alteration from the original design.

Early prints also show a window in the south end above
where the present cellar-way is; the latter also being of
later date.

In 1926 a bronze tablet was placed on the east wall of the house by the local chapter D.A.R. attesting the probable date of erection and other significant data.

The smaller out-building: reputed to have been the slave quarters and situated about 10 ft. west of the main house; is in a fair state of preservation. The original design was obviously a brick fill built around a barn frame.

At present the south and west sides have the original brick exterior; the north and east sides, modern wood siding.

In the east foundation wall of this building, two wooden posts show on the outside; the distance (opening) between them 38", being appropriate for the placing of a door leading to a reputed underground passageway to the main house.

The legend seems plausible in view of the projecting masonry at the ground level of the contiguous corner of the main house; which projection is about identical in length with the shortage of the cellar floor length as compared to the overall length of the first floor of the main house.

Number of Stories: One and one-half.

Materials of Construction: Foundation and exterior walls of main house except one end gable are constructed of local blue stone, laid without mortar in random bond; plastered on the interior and pointed up and painted white on the exterior.

Many of the individual stones are quite large and unevenly laid, and the north end wall is about a foot

longer than the opposite end wall, consequently the building is that much out of square.

The first floor beams are of white pine 14" wide by 12" deep, hand hewn and spaced $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. on centers.

The second floor beams also of pine average 8 x 14 inches spaced 4 to 5 ft. on centers and planed smooth; the beams in the dining room showing a quarter round bead on the lower edges, and one beam in the living room has been notched out to a depth of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches to accomodate a four poster bed.

The floors are of pine boards of varying widths up to 18 inches, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, laid on the beams and forming the ceiling of the floor below.

The window frames are of large timbers, the sash having small lights with wide muntins. The upper sash is stationary.

The entrance door is of Dutch type $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick made of $7/8$ inch battens with 2 panels formed on the outside. Much of the original wrought iron hardware is still to be found in place.

The roof is the typical steep Dutch type; it is now of modern wood shingles.

The outbuilding (Slave Quarters) has a stone foundation with brick walls above on two sides both interior and exterior; the other two walls have modern wood siding exterior but the interior brick filling is still mostly in place.

The brick chimney with a large fireplace in the cellar diminishes sharply from the second floor to the roof. A heavy strut parallels the chimney from the second floor to the roof to which the framing is stopped

Other existing records:

"Old Mohawk Turnpike" by Nelson Greene 1924 "Schenectady" by Joel Henry Monroe 1914, "Old Dutch Houses in Hudson Valley" by Helen W. Reynolds, "History of the Mohawk Valley" by Nelson Greene, "Early History of Schenectady" by John Sanders, "History of Schenectady County" by A.A. Yates.

G.H. Vaughan

**DATA NOT COMPILED AND NOT GUARANTEED
BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

ADDENDUM TO:
JAN MABIE HOUSE
River Road (State Route 55)
Rotterdam Junction
Schenectady County
New York

HABS No. NY-337
HABS
NY
47-ROTJ,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240