



JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM
BEDMINSTER, NEW JERSEY

Raising the BAR(N)

The Capital Campaign to Raise Our Dutch Barn

A decaying, but architecturally significant, early 19th century Dutch barn from Branchburg, NJ will soon become the centerpiece of a planned farmstead surrounding Bedminster's historic Jacobus Vanderveer House. In June, The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House were awarded a \$94,190 Historic Preservation Grant from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders for the acquisition and relocation of the 33' x 51' barn from a private property on Old York Road to the grounds of the Jacobus Vanderveer House.



“The owner of the barn intended to demolish the structure,” explained Robin Ray, president of The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House Board of Trustees, the non-profit organization that operates and manages the Jacobus Vanderveer House, owned by Bedminster Township. “The Branchburg Historic Preservation Commission unanimously voted that this rare example of Dutch new world construction should be salvaged and preserved. They recommended to the owner that she transfer the barn to The Friends to preserve this example of rural architecture and keep it within Somerset County. The owner agreed to do so as long as The Friends agreed to be financially responsible for the documentation, disassembly and relocation of the barn.”

Following an endorsement by the Bedminster Township Committee to proceed with the project, The Friends applied for emergency funding from the Somerset County 2016 Historic Preservation Grant Program administered by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The grant application process was led by Leslie Molé, a trustee of The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House who chairs the organization's Development Committee.

The Friends enlisted the help of HMR Architects, a firm with extensive historic preservation work and expertise, to prepare and submit an application for a Certificate of Eligibility to the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the barn's listing in the New Jersey and National Historic Registers of Historic Places. The Bedminster Township Historic Preservation Commission unanimously supported that application. The SHPO agreed that the barn had a sufficient number of New World Dutch Barn characteristics that would make it eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places at its proposed relocation site, the Dutch-Colonial Jacobus Vanderveer House in Bedminster.

"We recognized the urgency and importance of saving this structure from demolition as part of our commitment to preserving our region's rich heritage," observed Somerset County Freeholder Director Patricia Walsh. "The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House have done an admirable job of creating a museum that interprets Dutch colonial life in America as well as the Pluckemin cantonment, now considered to be America's first military academy, and the military achievements of General Henry Knox, who used the Vanderveer House as his home and headquarters during 1778-79. The acquisition of the Dutch barn will further their contributions to historic preservation and interpretation at this site, located within the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area."

From July through August, historic preservation experts from HMR assisted a team of historic demolition, restoration and relocation experts from Restoration Technologies of New Jersey, LLC, in documenting the barn through photography, annotated measurements and drawings. Boring samples were taken from wood timbers to more closely determine the age of the barn and the local mills that may have crafted its beams and siding. Restoration Technologies then carefully and methodically dismantled the circa 1820-1840 Voorhees Dutch Barn (so-called for a historic owner) in preparation for its repurposed life in Bedminster. The salvaged beams and rafters (primarily composed of oak and poplar), some original hardware, and stone were placed inside a 44-foot trailer and transported to the Vanderveer property where they await reassembly at a future date.



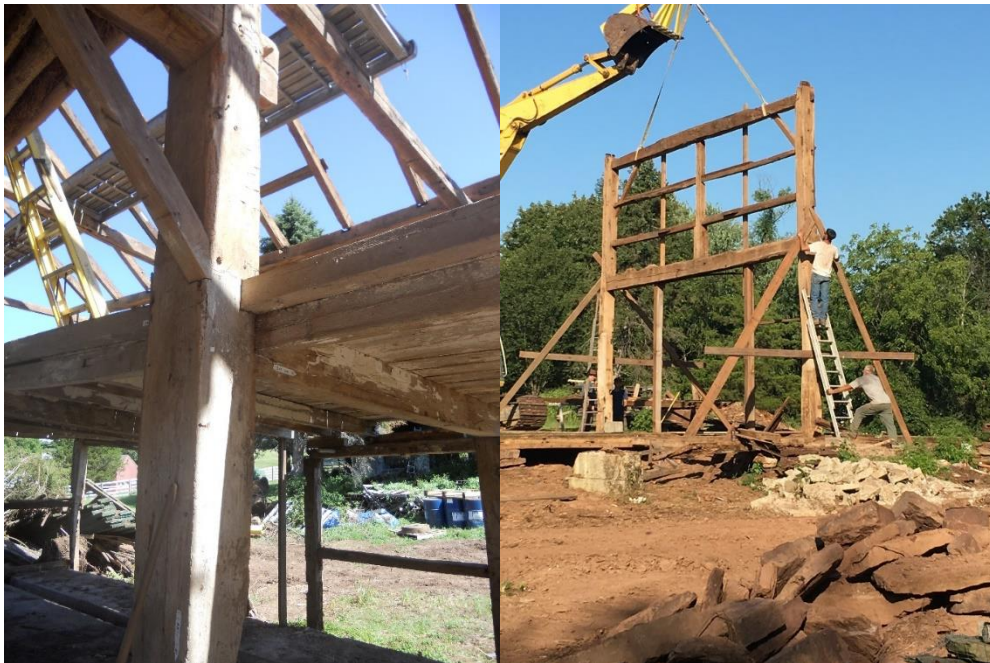
“Once it is reassembled and completed, the barn will provide a much-needed year-round space for meetings, community events, and educational programming; exhibitions; and a secure repository for the archaeological artifacts that were excavated during the Pluckemin Archaeology Project. It was one of the most significant Revolutionary War archaeological investigations ever undertaken,” said Mrs. Ray.

“These artifacts and the accompanying documentation are currently being housed in a warehouse facility in Central New Jersey. Once these artifacts can be permanently stored in a climate-controlled facility, they will be available for exhibition and interpretation to the thousands of history lovers who reside in Somerset County and the greater New York area. In addition, the adaptive reuse of this rare and important historic Dutch barn will enable the nationwide community of American History scholars to gain access to these artifacts in order to further the study of the Pluckemin Artillery Barracks of 1778-79 and its significance to our nation’s history.”

While the Somerset County grant will cover the cost of dismantling and relocating the barn, preparation of National and New Jersey Register nomination forms, initial construction documentation and schematic designs, additional funds must be raised to construct a new foundation, reassemble and repair the historic frame and enclose the barn with new siding, stress skin paneling, a roof, windows and doors, as well as complete finishes and building systems.

To help finance the next critical phases of the ambitious project, The Friends have initiated a capital campaign aptly named *Raising The Bar(N)*. For more information and to donate visit: www.jvanderveerhouse.org or phone (908) 396-6053.

Watch the careful disassembly of the barn on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ayRWSHtMU0>





The steeply pitched gabled roof is visible through the hayloft



Massive crossbeams span the wide center aisle.

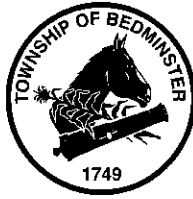


Members of The Friends Board of Trustees inspect the demolition progress.





Salvaged hardware and pegs



Township of Bedminster

April 18, 2016

Re: Salvage of the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn

To Whom it May Concern,

The Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster fully support The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House plans to salvage the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn targeted for demolition, and relocate the barn from Old York Road in Branchburg Township to Bedminster Township's historic Dutch Jacobus Vanderveer farmstead located inside River Road Park. The Voorhees-Sena Dutch barn would complement the existing Jacobus Vanderveer House and property, owned by Township and leased to The Friends.

A national and New Jersey Historic Site, the Jacobus Vanderveer House interprets Dutch colonial life in America as well as the stay by General Henry Knox during the winter of 1778-79 while he commanded the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment. The Vanderveer House is the only known building still standing that was associated with the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment, believed to be the first installation in American to train officers in engineering and artillery.

Substantial archaeological investigation and research conducted on behalf of the Friends on the site of the Jacobus Vanderveer property, identified several historic structures that once stood on the property in the late 18th/early 19th century, including a Dutch barn with hovels, hay barrack, hog house, wagon house with corn cribs, and a smoke house. The salvaged Voorhees-Sena Dutch barn will help realize the Friends' historic landscape plan for the property, and will also serve as an important educational and community resource. Most significant, the structure will house the thousands of rare artifacts and related documentation found through archaeological investigation on the site of the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment.

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House are committed to launching a Capital Campaign in order to raise the necessary funds to disassemble, document and reassemble this structure for an adaptive reuse. The Township also supports the Friends' grant application to the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission to partially fund the implementation of this project.

Steven E. Parker
Mayor



Township of Bedminster

March 17, 2016

Re: Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bedminster Township Historic Preservation Commission unanimously supports the application for a Certificate of Eligibility for the above noted structure. We strongly endorse the plans of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House to salvage this rare and important Dutch barn (circa 1810-1830) and relocate it to the historic Dutch farmstead in Bedminster Township on which the Jacobus Vanderveer House sits. The barn currently sits on private property on Old York Road in Branchburg, New Jersey. It is the intention of the property holders to demolish this structure.

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House completed a Historic Landscape Plan in 2008. Holt Morgan Russell Architects was a key partner in the development of this plan. The placement of a historic Dutch barn of this period on the site identified on the Master Plan was recommended. The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House are committed to launching a Capital Campaign in order to raise the necessary funds to disassemble, document and reassemble this structure for an adaptive reuse. The salvaged barn will become an important educational and community resource. Most significant, this structure will house the thousands of rare artifacts and related documentation that were found through archaeological investigation on the site of the Pluckemin Artillery Barracks of 1778-79. It was here that General Henry Knox built the nation's first military academy, the precursor to the United State Military Academy at West Point.

We urge your approval of the Certificate of Eligibility so that The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House can move forward with a grant application to the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. It is hoped that this grant request would partially fund the implementation of this ambitious project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Vanderveer Jeanes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "J".

Pam Vanderveer Jeanes
Chairwoman
Bedminster Township Historic Preservation Commission

March 4, 2016

The Branchburg Historic Preservation Commission strongly supports and approves the relocation and restoration of this New World Dutch barn. It is a marriage to the Jacobus Vanderveer/Knox house listed on the national and state register of historic places in 1995.

The barn will culminate the goals and vision of the Friends of the Vanderveer House. The acquisition will serve public education as a community resource and a military museum displaying artifacts from the Pluckemin artillery cantonment of 1778-1779.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Sanderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond Sanderson
Chairman Branchburg Historical Commission



23 March 2016

Re: Letter of Support for Acquisition and Restoration of the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in enthusiastic support of the efforts of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House to acquire, move, and restore the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn. The plan to move this historic barn onto the property where the Jacobus Vanderveer House is located is exciting. It would allow for a restoration of the barn and construction beneath it of a repository for the remarkable collection of artifacts recovered from the 1778-1779 winter cantonment of General Henry Knox and the Continental Artillery at Pluckemin.

The Pluckemin artillery cantonment was the subject of scientific, archaeological survey and excavations from 1979 through 1989. The excavations, conducted by the non-profit Pluckemin Archaeological Project, Inc., were the most extensive and detailed investigation of any archaeological site from the American Revolution up to that point. I directed that investigation and have spent more than 30 years pursuing continued research on the site with a wide variety of collaborators. The archaeological fieldwork still stands as a model, and the detailed recording undertaken there has not been surpassed in the 26 years since the excavations were completed. The resulting artifact collection of several hundred thousand objects, along with the voluminous records of the excavations (including notes, scale drawings, maps, photographs, and databases) is perhaps the most important such collection in the country. Work continues on its analysis and subsequent reporting.

Ensuring the proper long-term preservation of the collection has been a long-standing problem and is of extreme importance. Currently housed in a storage facility at a moving company, the collection is difficult to access and is not stored under ideal conditions. Its current location was never envisioned as anything more than a temporary solution. It is essential that the collection and accompanying records be preserved for future generations of archaeologists, historians, and the public. Over the years, several solutions to this dilemma have been suggested, including ownership by the National Park Service, but no organization or proper curatorial facility has been willing to accept the responsibility and costs associated with the collection's curation.

From 2008-2012, the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer commissioned several studies of the collection, including the 2008 *Standards and Guidelines for the Curation of the Pluckemin Artillery Park Archaeological Collections*. This study highlighted the need for a secure, easily accessible storage place with climate controls and other safeguards for this irreplaceable part of our nation's history.

The current proposal to locate the collection in a newly built repository, disguised inside an historically appropriate addition to the Vanderveer House grounds – the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn - is a wonderful solution to the problem. It would ensure both the preservation of the collection for posterity and return the collection “home” to Bedminster. It would allow for changing exhibits of artifacts in Knox's headquarters building and be a stellar addition to heritage tourism in

Bedminster and Somerset County. I can think of no better solution to a dilemma that has plagued us for a quarter of a century.

I commend the Friends for taking on this important project, and I sincerely hope that they will find wide-spread and meaningful support for this initiative. I stand willing to help in any way that I can. The Friends have my strongest possible enthusiasm and support for their project, which is both timely and of the utmost importance.

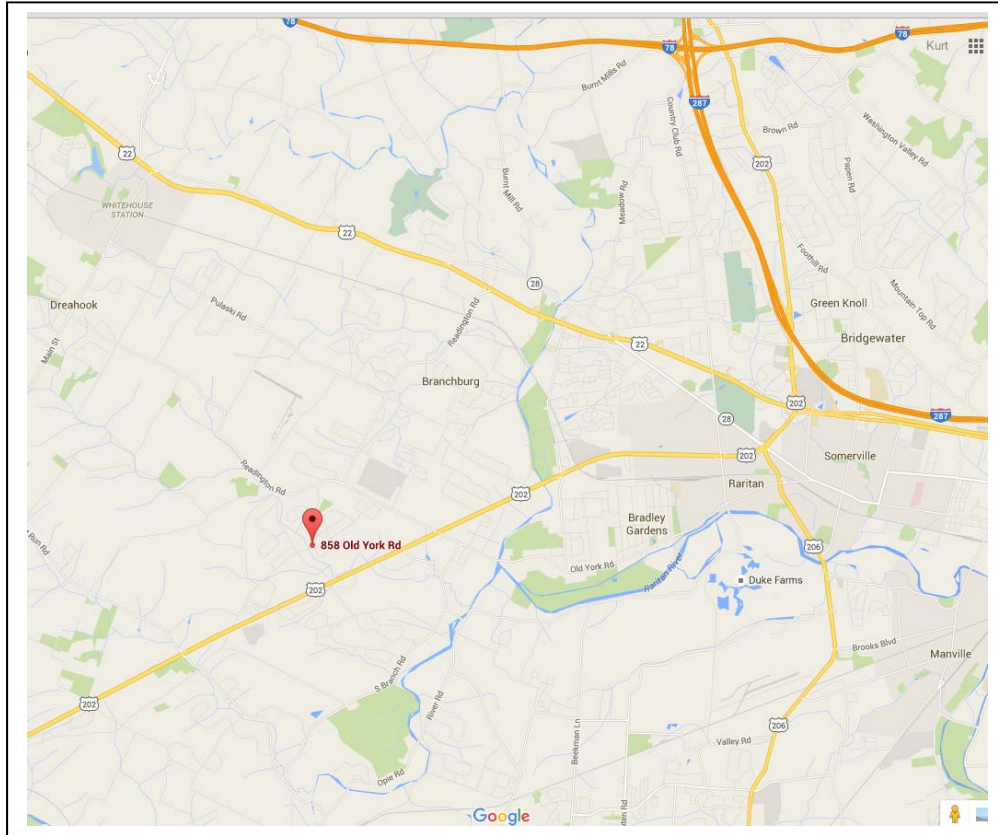
Sincerely,

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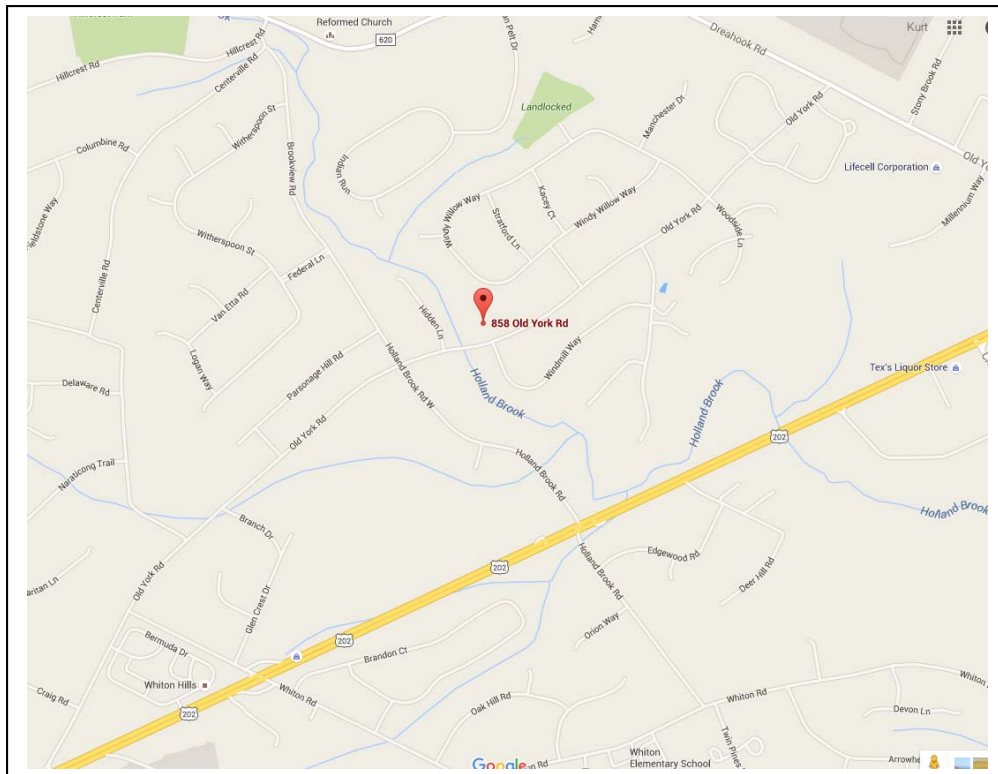
John L. Seidel, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Environment & Society
Lammot du Pont Copeland Associate Professor of
Anthropology & Environmental Studies

Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn
858 Old York Road, Somerville
Location Map

Regional

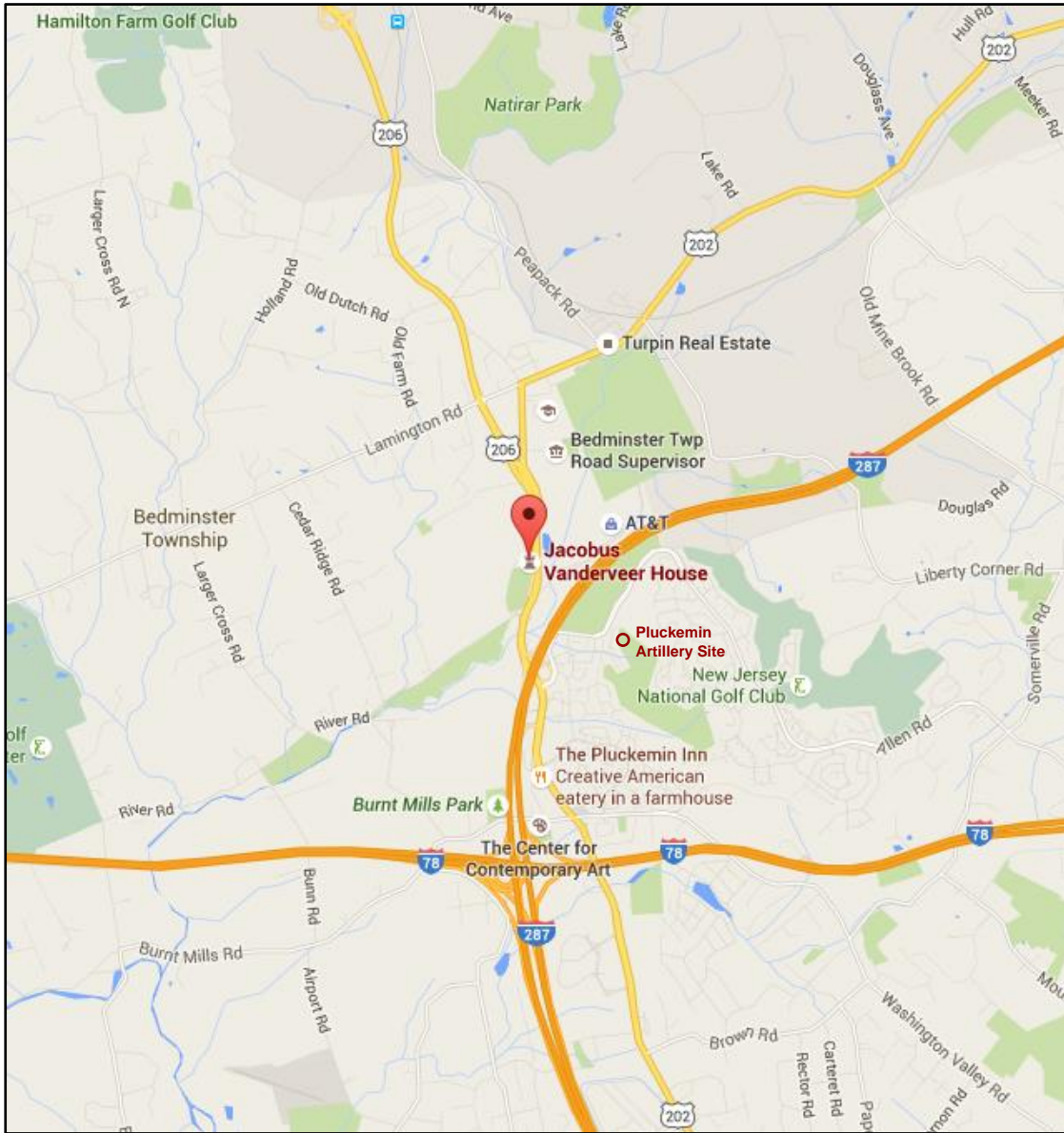


Local



Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House
Grant Application to the Somerset County 2016 Historic Preservation Grant Program

Attachment 1: Map



The Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn, so called for a historic owner and the current owner, is a four-bent new world Dutch barn located on the north side of Old York Road in Branchburg Township, New Jersey. The barn is oriented with its large gable front facing southeast in a linear pattern with the other outbuildings extending east from the location of the current farmhouse, which was constructed after the original farmhouse was destroyed in a fire. The barn retains a high degree of integrity of historic fabric, including its original configuration and most of its original framing members. Also notable, the barn retains early mow-poles laid across the main anchor beams still holding hay at this level. Some changes have been introduced to accommodate changing agricultural needs, such as large sliding doors on the south face, a sliding hay door in the south upper gable and a hay track; however, none of these detracts from the architectural significance of the Dutch barn frame.

Although the barn appears at first glance to be in poor condition, most of the principal framing members and braces are in good condition. Secondary nailers at the exterior walls reflect a variety of conditions. The principal H-bent framing members are in excellent condition. There is one outside aisle post on the west side that exhibits extreme deterioration and is hanging from the top plate with most of the post missing. The exterior sill plates are also in poor condition. The rafters, although very long and of a small cross section, appear to be mostly sound and much of the threshing floor appears to be salvageable. As mentioned above the barn retains its original configuration, in addition to some early functional features such as stall partitions.

At this point little is known about the history of the barn, the farmstead or the families that occupied the farm. The property appears to be identified as that of P.I. Voorhees on the 1873 map of Somerset County, which is also noted on the 1989 County Survey Form. It is also identified as such on the 1850 Somerset County Land Map, although in neither case are any outbuildings identified on the map. In 1989 the owner was identified as Mr. Untamo.

Although currently privately owned by the Sena Family, the donation of the barn by the Sena Family to The Friends of the Jacobus Vandever House is pending. The Friends of the Jacobus Vandever House, a nonprofit organization that has restored the circa 1772 home and maintains the property as an educational and community resource, is seeking a Certificate of Eligibility for the barn in order to be eligible to apply for historic preservation grant funding from the Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant Program. The goal of the grant is to dismantle and store the barn and complete construction documents for its eventual reconstruction at the Jacobus Vandever Site.

According to the Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant Guidelines, the relocation of buildings is not an eligible activity unless all of the following standards are met:

1. Relocation is necessary to preserve the historic resource.
2. The relocation re-establishes the property's historic orientation, the immediate setting, and the general environment.
3. The State Historic Preservation Officer determines that the property, as relocated, will continue to meet New Jersey Register criteria.

In response to these three standards:

1. A review of the photographs accompanying the COE Questionnaire clearly shows that the building is threatened in its current situation. It has not been maintained. Other outbuildings on the site have already succumbed to the lack of use and maintenance. The current owners are willing to donate the barn to the Friends in order to ensure its preservation. The owners have stated their intention to demolish the barn if the proposed project is not completed.
2. The *Historic Landscape Report* completed by HMR Architects recommends the reconstruction of an early-nineteenth century barn on the site of the Jacobus Vandever House which is interpreted to circa 1813 as a way of improving the interpretation and programmatic use of the site. A number of historic outbuildings, including a barn, have been documented to have existed on the site in 1813. The siting of the barn in its new location would be consistent with its current siting and orientation as well as known patterns of Dutch-American Farmsteads. As a public undertaking on a New Jersey Register Listed property, all work to reconstruct the barn on the Jacobus Vandever site would be reviewed by the NJ Historic Preservation Office pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act, including the review of the project for possible impacts on archaeological resources at the new site.
3. As required by number two, the NJ Historic Preservation Office will review the proposed relocation to ensure that as relocated the barn will continue to meet New Jersey Register eligibility criteria for architecture and Criteria Consideration B for relocated buildings.

The proposed project will likely be a three-phase project. The first phase includes the documentation of the barn through photography and annotated measured drawings, the dismantling and storage of the barn, and schematic design and construction documents for the reconstruction of the barn at the new site. The second phase will include the construction of a new foundation, reconstruction of the frame and the enclosure of the barn with new siding, a roof and doors. The third phase will include the completion of finishes and building systems. The goal of the project is to provide a four-season venue for the museum's growing number of events and educational programs, as well as an exhibit space for the extensive, never-before-seen collection of Revolutionary War artifacts uncovered during the archaeological dig at the site of the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment.

The 1989 survey form recommends that the Dutch barn is eligible for listing as part of a Multiple Property Nomination. It is our understanding that there is no existing multiple property nomination for Dutch barns and that in order for a building to qualify for such a listing it also has to be individually eligible under the same criteria. As such, we suggest that the Voorhees-Sena Dutch Barn is eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers under Criterion C as an excellent example of New World Dutch Barn framing practices.

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HPO Log# 16-1217-1
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State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

TEL. (609) 984-0176 FAX (609) 984-0578

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Governor

BOB MARTIN

Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO

Lt. Governor

April 4, 2016

CERTIFICATION of ELIGIBILITY

Kurt Leasure
HMR Architects
821 Alexander Road, Suite 115
Princeton NJ 08540

Dear Mr. Leasure:

This letter is in response to your request for a formal certification of eligibility for the Voorhees Dutch Barn currently located at 858 Old York Road in Branchburg Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. The preliminary application that you have submitted has been reviewed. We thank you for taking the time and the effort to prepare the application.

Based on a review of available documentation, it is my opinion that the Voorhees Dutch Barn is individually eligible for listing in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of a Dutch barn.. Dutch barns often exhibit the following characteristics: a structural frame consisting primarily of H-shaped bents, lined up longitudinally; steeply pitched gable roof and low side walls; nearly square floor plan, wagon doors on both gable end; and massive crossbeams spanning a wide center aisle. The Voorhees Dutch Barn exhibits a sufficient number of these characteristics to exemplify the type.

It is my understanding that there is a desire to move the barn onto the property of the Jacobus Vandever House (located at 3055 River Road, Bedminster, Somerset County, New Jersey), which is owned by the Bedminster Township and listed in the New Jersey & National Registers of Historic Places. The Voorhees Dutch Barn would be also be eligible under Criterion C at this proposed location. Please note that pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act, the move would require prior authorization. An application for Project Authorization is available online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/2protection/njrreview.htm>.

If you wish to pursue registration, please contact Andrea Tingey of my staff at either (609-984-0539) or Andrea.Tingey@dep.nj.gov. To help expedite our review and response, if additional consultation with the HPO is needed regarding the nomination of this property, please reference the HPO project number (16-1217 in any future call, emails, or written correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in New Jersey's irreplaceable historic resources.

Sincerely,

Daniel D. Saunders
Administrator &
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

Help Us Grow!

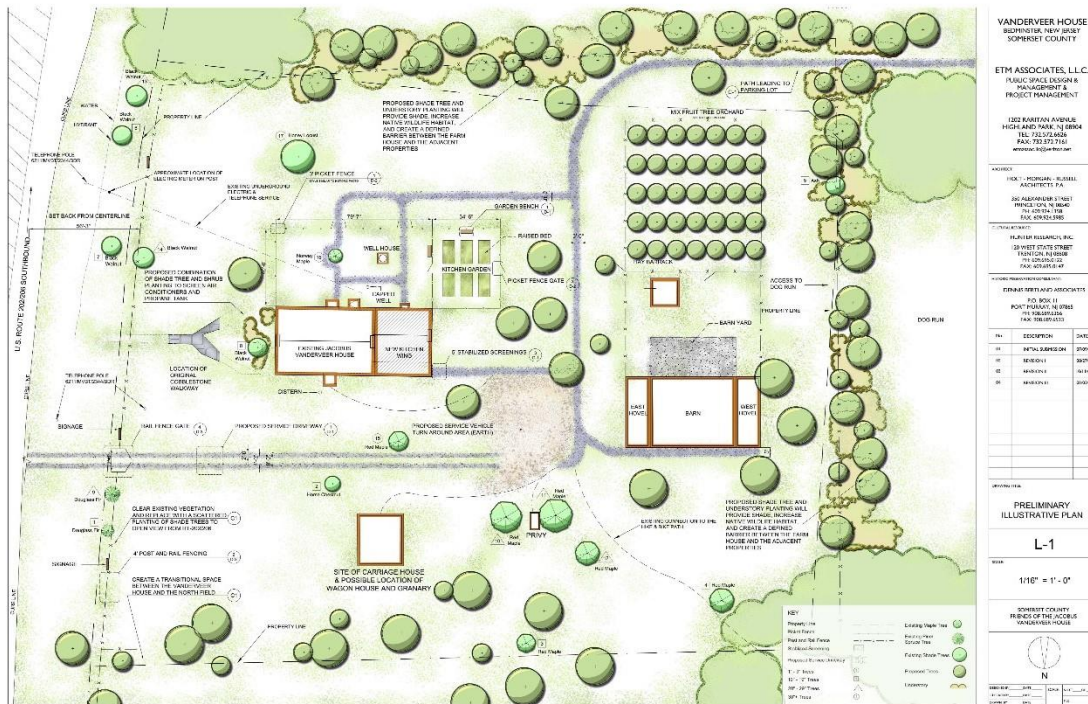
Capital Campaign To Develop Jacobus Vanderveer House Farmstead

The Jacobus Vanderveer House was part of a 500-acre working farm. In the coming years, the Friends hope to recreate the late 18th Century/early-19th Century farmstead, a critical next step in fulfilling the Friends' mission to establish a small, but important museum complex with outbuildings and walkways to complement the restored c. 1772 house. The goal is to provide visitors with a more meaningful experience and further interpret the contributions of General Knox, the Vanderveers, Colonial life and the Jacobus Vanderveer House as a key site in the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area.

The proposed project would include several 18th Century-style structures, such as a large Dutch Colonial barn (to provide much-needed space for our rapidly growing education and leadership programs), wagon house, hay barrack, smoke house, privy, and well house along with traditional landscape features, such as a kitchen garden, historic walkways and an orchard. The plan builds upon earlier research commissioned by the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House, including the 2006-2008 Historic Landscape Report and Site Master Plan, headed by historian Dennis Bertland and generously supported by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

In 2015, The Friends made strides toward the realization of the Master Plan. A generous lead gift from the Peter R. and Cynthia K. Kellogg Foundation in late 2014, made possible the installation of the historic walkways during the summer of 2015. Proceeds from the May 2015 French Alliance Ball also supported the future development of the Jacobus Vanderveer Farmstead.

The Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum Site Master Plan



Detailed rendering of the proposed project prepared by ETM Associates, LLC in collaboration with Mr. Dennis Bertland, Holt-Morgan-Russell Architects, PA, and Hunter Research, Inc. (2006-2008)



An acrylic on canvas interpretation of the kitchen garden, historic walkways, and outbuildings of the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum by artist Kate Kelly.

Using Computer Aided Design technology, Summit resident Robert Weeks, developed renderings of the hay barrack, kitchen garden and a bird's-eye view of the proposed Jacobus Vanderveer House Farmstead.



To learn more about The Friends' Capital Campaign for The Jacobus Vanderveer House Farmstead, please contact President Robin Ray at (908) 581-6239 or email r.ray@verizon.net