

The Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum

*Raising the BAR(N)*



Capital Campaign To Raise An Early 19th Century Dutch Barn



JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE & MUSEUM  
BEDMINSTER, NEW JERSEY

During the winter of 1778-79, the Jacobus Vanderveer House was the home and headquarters of General Henry Knox, who commanded a military training academy in Pluckemin. The 1772 Dutch Colonial home is the only surviving structure associated with the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment, considered America's first military training academy and a precursor to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

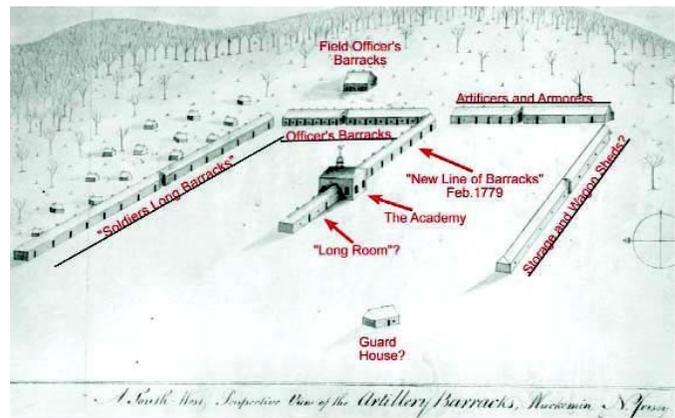
Since 1998, The nonprofit Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House have restored, developed and operated the Vanderveer property – significant in United States Revolutionary War military history – as a nationally important historic site and an educational and community resource.



General Henry Knox  
(1750-1806)



"Christmas 1778" by Thomas C. Houtz



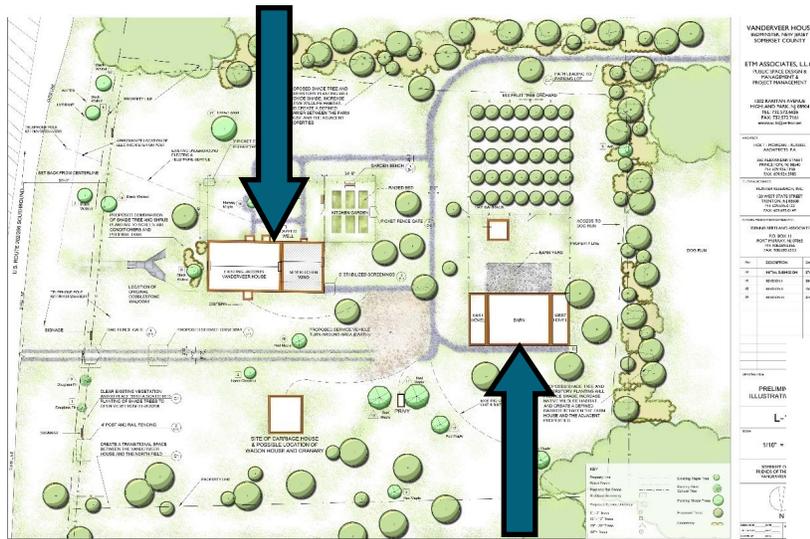
A drawing of the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment by Captain John Lillie (late 1778 or early 1779) with buildings identified

## Did You Know...?

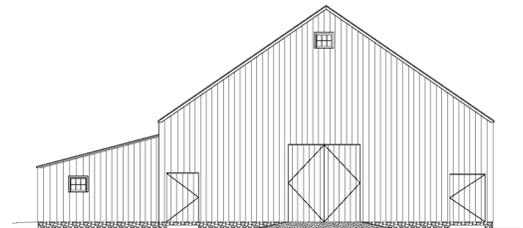
- \* Attendance at events and programs held at the Vanderveer House has grown 82% over the past 3 years (from 1,629 onsite visitors in 2014 to 2,967 onsite visitors in 2016). The number of school-aged children, visiting the Vanderveer House, has increased three-fold in that same period (from 367 to nearly 1,100).
- \* Public event space within the 1772 home is limited to a maximum capacity of 35 people and is located up a steep flight of stairs (making accessibility difficult for some visitors).
- \* Thousands of important Revolutionary War artifacts were excavated during the Pluckemin Archaeology Dig (1981-89) at the site of the Pluckemin Cantonment. These artifacts and their related documentation are currently being housed in a warehouse facility in Central New Jersey. They have never been seen by the community in which they were found, nor studied by a community of scholars.

To further its mission of restoring, developing and operating the Jacobus Vanderveer House property as a national historic site and an educational and community resource, The Friends of The Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum have launched a *Raising the Bar(N)* Capital Campaign to raise an early 19th century barn, which will become the centerpiece of a planned farmstead surrounding Bedminster's historic Jacobus Vanderveer House.

### Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum



Dutch Barn



### The Barn will:

- \* Provide much-needed, accessible space for the growing number of children and adults interested in learning more about our nation's history through our educational programming.
- \* Provide a secure, permanent exhibition space for Revolutionary War artifacts, where they will be available for interpretation by the nationwide community of American History scholars.
- \* Further the study of the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment of 1778-79 and its significance to our nation's history (an area of history that has been poorly interpreted and rarely examined for the past two centuries).
- \* Preserve Somerset County's Dutch-Colonial heritage.
- \* Create a unique venue for public, private and corporate events that will help financially sustain the historic property's future maintenance and operational costs.

### The Project Cost:

Approximately \$1.7 million to construct a barn 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. An addition to the barn will house a small catering kitchen, accessible rest rooms, and a coat room. The proposed farmstead will also feature a barnyard, as well as out-buildings, such as a hay barrack, smokehouse, and privy. To date, \$200,000 has been raised toward this goal.

# Raising the Bar(N)

Donate Now [www.jvanderveerhouse.org](http://www.jvanderveerhouse.org)



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#### Mission

*To restore, develop and operate the Jacobus Vanderveer House property, significant in United States Revolutionary War military history, as a nationally important historical site and an educational and community resource.*

The Friends received a general operating support grant from



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