

# HISTORIC FARMSTEAD INVENTORY FORM



NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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DATE: October 2010

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ORGANIZATION (if any): Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission

**IDENTIFICATION**

1. NAME OF FARMSTEAD: Appeldoorn Farm, 4938 Rt. 209
2. COUNTY: Ulster                      TOWN/CITY: Rochester                      VILLAGE: Accord
3. **DESCRIPTION:**

This resource contains the following parcels and components.

Map ID#	Parcel No.	Address	Acreage	Components
1	77.1-1-8.1	4938 Route 209	139.51	Stone house, barn, farm outbuildings stone garage, stone recreation building, tenant houses (2), landscape features, farm land, woods



View of Appeldoorn stone house, 1756 & 1937 and setting from southeast

3. **DESCRIPTION:**

The building compound is set back from the public road reached by a picturesque tree-lined lane. Two massive cut limestone posts frame the entrance, once having gates now gone. A mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wood frame tenant house, with a wide front dormer in the Gothic taste that then pervaded the region, stands sentry west of the gateway. The lane runs perpendicular to the highway, bending westward at the vanishing point to approach the house. On the east side of this curve, Howard C. Sykes built a stone —Game House” with a great room to contain the trophies he had collected as a big-game hunter. Stones and timbers from the nearby DeWitt house, which the Sykes brothers bought with 80-acres of neighboring land in 1937, were used in the construction. Kingston architect, Myron Teller, who had made a name for himself with creative Colonial Revival-style —restorations” of stone houses in the county, modeled the recreation building after the nearby Schoonmaker house. After bending westward, the lane emerges from its wooded setting into an open vista with an expansive field stretching south- and west-ward. Midway in this vista, on a ridge above the floodplain of the North Peterskill is the old stone house with dramatic views in every direction.

Teller was also called upon to enlarge and aggrandize the interior of the historic house, which was likely in serious disrepair after years of tenancy and deferred maintenance. The project was one of the architect’s major accomplishments. According to William B. Rhoads in his recent publication on Teller & Halverson, Teller was pleased to have the commission because, as he wrote in 1939, it was —one of the early American grants with a homestead lived in by a descendant as it was handed down through the generations and exemplifies the homing instinct of the Ulster County Dutch folk.” From this experience, he went on to achieve his masterwork at Brykill in Brunswick, which was similarly commissioned by a Bruyn descendant coming home. At Appeldoorn Farm, Teller stabilized the stone exterior of the old house, constructed a large wood-frame rear addition and designed new Colonial Revival-style interiors—based on Ulster County models—appropriate to a 20<sup>th</sup>-century country house. The exterior is distinguished by a new entrance with sidelights and transom framed by an elegant pedimented porch in the —Ulster County Dutch” style. Windows were replaced and solid shutters added to return the house to its perceived Colonial appearance, and dormers—a defining Teller feature—were added to the roof to improve living conditions in the attic.

From the house, the lane continued to the barnyard where it turned into a field road. Originally, farm functions would have centered on a Dutch barn, that is, the steep gable-roof aisle barns typical of the area when wheat was the primary commercial crop. Based on other documented 18<sup>th</sup>-century farmsteads in the county, this barn would have been later adapted to accommodate cows and hay when the farm economy shifted to butter production after the Revolutionary War. Dairy farming continued to be the main agricultural occupation into the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the current gambrel roof barn was built, probably on or near the site of the Dutch barn it replaced. (It is likely the Dutch barn survived until the turn-of-the-century when the existing barn was constructed; barns were not replaced with much frequency.) The innovation corresponds with the shift in product from butter to raw milk. Concrete foundations in the ground east of the barn indicate the location of accessory sheds and, perhaps, a silo, now gone. The existing metal stanchions were added by tenant farmer in 1948. An addition on the south side of the barn contains a milk tank added when a sealed vacuum milking system was installed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Few additional farm buildings were needed for the function of the farm. A poultry house, which is another iconographic form of the turn-of-the-century farmstead when the demand for egg production, particularly from summer boarding houses, provided valuable income for the farm. (There may have been more than the existing small poultry house currently located near the barn.) Machinery and storage sheds were common. None survive here. One located south of the barn was replaced in 1937 with a stone-fronted garage and workshop designed by Myron Teller. A one-story, three room cottage south of the barn was built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century to house farm workers.

Following the Sykeses’ elevation of the farm to the status of a country retreat, the farm evidently was maintained to provide a scenic rural setting for the buildings and recreational activities, such as annual autumn

pheasant shoots. The modest scale of the barn shows that they had no ambition to support a model farm on the property. Tenant farmers were employed until 1969 to maintain a resident dairy herd with the requisite corn and hay fields and pastures. The fields occupied the relatively flat zones south of the house and west of the farmyard, with the low-lying areas along the North Peterskill north of the house used for pasture. A large field exists in the northeast quadrant of the parcel; an airport occupies the southern edge of this expanse along the tree line of the woods that envelops the rest of the old DeWitt property. The barn and pasture continues to support a small herd of beef cattle, and the fields are still planted annually in hay and corn.

### Historic Features

1. Stone house built c. 1756 with wood frame sections and interiors added in 1937. The story-and-a-half stone house has a gable roof and a five-bay front façade with a center entrance. A stone carved with the initials B.V.S. (for Benjamin Schoonmaker) and the date 1756 is positioned above the windows on the west side of the façade. Construction stages and decorative changes typical of stone houses have not been identified; most evidence was removed or concealed in the 1937 "restoration" of the house. The entrance and porch, windows, dormers and brick chimneys were added as part of the 1937 renovation.
2. Barn built c. 1905. The wood frame building has a balloon frame composed completely of sawn elements and a patent truss gambrel roof. Exterior siding, doors and windows are intact. The roof utilizes Shawver or plank trusses to span the width of the barn and remove posts from the haw mow, which were obstacles to hay handling machinery. (Named for John L. Shawver, who published plans in *Plank Frame Barn Construction* in 1904.) Rows of metal stanchions flank a center aisle with a large loft above for hay.
3. Poultry House. The small wood frame building with a shed roof was built about the same time as the barn (early 20<sup>th</sup> century). The exterior with wood siding is essentially intact.
4. Farm Worker Cottage built c. 1905. The wood frame dwelling is presently unoccupied. It has a gable roof that slopes over a wide porch on the north side of the building overlooking the low land along the creek. There are three connected rooms in the interior with a privy enclosed at the east end of the porch.
5. Garage & Workshop, 1937. This one-story gable-roof building reputedly replaced a machinery shed previously in this location, which is in a depression on the south side of the barn yard. It has stone walls on its north and east sides and wood frame walls on the other. The stone may have come from the DeWitt house, which was torn down and its stone and timber salvaged for the Game House (#6). A stone carved with initials V Y V W and the date 1775 is located at the base of the east wall, which also contains two garage bays with swing doors and a pedestrian entrance recessed under an overhang supported by stone wing walls on the sides. The wing wall on the north side is incorporated into a stone retaining wall along the north side of the depression. A stone post is engaged to the north wall near the east end, where a wood rail fence once terminated; a second stone post located north of the building, where the driveway enters the field east of the barnyard, is the other terminus of this missing fence. A narrow room partitioned on the north side of the building's interior is fitted out as a workshop. Myron Teller's distinctive reproduction Colonial hardware is extant on exterior and interior doors.
6. Game House, 1937. Like the garage (#5) this building was constructed with stone walls on the two most visible sides (south and east) and wood frame on the other two. The stone and timbers exposed on the interior were salvaged from the nearby DeWitt house, which by 1937 was in a near-ruinous state. As designed by Myron Teller, the one-story principal south façade has a center entrance flanked by two windows in the manner of the old Schoonmaker house. A smaller stone ell is attached to the east end; large brick chimneys distinguish the gable roof. The interior of the main section contains a large hunting trophy room illuminated by an unusual two-story metal-framed bay window on the north side.

7. Tenant House, c. 1851. Located at the highway end of the driveway, this story-and-a-half with a five-bay façade and a center entrance appears to have been built soon after its occupants Catherine Schoonmaker and David R. Elting were married. The broad central wall dormer is a feature of the period.
8. Gate Posts, 1937. Although no particular documentation survives, these features probably were built by the Sykeses in 1937.
9. Henry DeWitt House cellar hole. Located in the woods near the highway at the east end of the parcel, this house was demolished in 1937 and scavenged for stone and timber materials for new construction at Appeldoorn Farm. Also site of barn.
10. Airport, 1937. Concrete block hangar and landing strip built by the Sykes. Also two manufactured homes added to the site later.

#### Chain of Ownership

1. Benjamin Schoonmaker
2. Cornelius B. Schoonmaker I
3. Cornelius B. Schoonmaker II
4. Cyrus Schoonmaker
5. Alice Schoonmaker Sykes
6. Howard C. Sykes & Edward P. Sykes
7. Appeldoorn Realty Corp
8. Catherine Van Diest
9. Open Space Conservancy, Inc.

#### 4. **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Appeldoorn Farm is historically and architecturally significant as a distinctive example of a farmstead that has evolved over a nearly-300-year period. Established by Benjamin and Catrina Schoonmaker in c. 1722, the farmstead remained actively engaged in agriculture for over two centuries, until being adapted into an architecturally significant country retreat in 1937. Originally comprising about 80 acres, on the northern slope of the Rondout Valley, the area of the property was doubled in that year with the incorporation of an abandoned neighboring farmstead with an equally early history. The Schoonmaker stone house was restored and expanded with additions to function as a country house. An abandoned two-story stone house on the annexed DeWitt property was demolished and its stone and timbers used in the construction of new buildings on the estate, then known as Appeldoorn Farm. The Kingston architectural firm, Teller & Halverson, supplied the plans for the renovations and new construction, including a replica stone building to be used for recreation. Farmland has remained in use and provides a scenic rural setting for the estate.

Benjamin Schoonmaker (1702-1776) was one of the last sons of Jochem Hendrickz Schoonmaker (c.1655 – c.1730) who was one of the trustees of the Town of Rochester when it was organized in 1703. His grandfather, Hendrick Jochemsz (or Jochemsen), had arrived in Albany from Hamburg, Germany by 1653, which was the year he married Elsie Janse. He was an innkeeper there, but soon moved his family to Wiltwyck (Kingston) where he became a prominent figure and officer in the local militia. Benjamin married Catrina Depuy, the daughter of another town trustee, Moses Depuy, in 1722, which is likely the time they set up their own homestead. The stone house contains a date stone for 1758, but it may incorporate earlier sections or have replaced an older wood frame dwelling. By 1850, when Benjamin and Catrina's grandson Cornelius B.

Schoonmaker (1783-1860) and his family occupied the farm, it contained 65 acres valued at \$3,300, which ranked it as a middling farm in the town. By this time the agricultural economy was based in dairy production, with butter being the principal market product. Average farm production was recorded through the 1800s, and by the end of the century, it appears to have been in a declining condition, like many old farms in the region. The fourth-generation owner, Cyrus Schoonmaker (1820-1911), was a merchant living in New York City. His sister, Helena and her husband, Abram Markle seem to have been the family in residence on the farm. It is not clear who occupied the stone house in this period, as the Markles lived in a newer house on the road, which now stands at the gateway to the Appeldoorn estate. Another sister, Catherine Ann, and her husband David Elting, lived next door and probably also derived their income from the farm. One innovation made during this period was the construction of the existing model dairy barn that probably replaced an old Dutch barn adapted from its original function as a wheat-processing facility to housing milk cows and the increasing amounts of hay required for their feed and bedding.

When Cyrus Schoonmaker died in 1911, the farm was left undivided to his children in a practice typical of the period. By this time, the property had been given the name Appeldoorn Farm. Through a number of transactions and informal arrangements, the two sons of Cyrus and Henrietta Schoonmaker's daughter Alice, obtained at least principal owner status of the property. Alice had married English-born wool merchant Walter C. Sykes, and was wealthy enough to buy out or support with life tenancies her surviving brothers and sisters. Both their sons, Howard and Edward, were bankers and successful in their own rights. The Sykes were both sophisticated and wealthy enough to conceive of remaking the historic old family farm into an elegant country retreat, and in 1931 they hired the Kingston architectural firm of Teller and Halverson to plan a "restoration."

By this time, Myron S. Teller (1875-1959) and Harry Halverson (1891-1988) were already well established as Kingston's leading architects and they specialized in a picturesque Colonial Revival style that extended to the restoration and modernization of historic stone houses that were being bought for their antiquarian value by New Yorkers looking for country retreats. Little is known about Myron Teller's architectural training and apprenticeship—he attended Cooper Union in New York City—and by 1900 he had opened a practice in Kingston, where he had been born and raised. Halverson was a junior partner, born in Brooklyn to Norwegian-immigrant parents who soon after moved to Kingston. Halverson received an architectural degree from Syracuse University. Teller was fascinated with old stone houses, documenting a number of them for the Historic American Building Survey, and writing a booklet on them for the Ulster County Historical Society. He also started a business with blacksmith George Van Kleeck producing reproduction iron hardware modeled on the design of samples found in historic stone houses. Teller produced plans for restoring numerous stone houses, but Appeldoorn farm allowed him the rare opportunity of working on a scheme for an entire country estate. It is one of his more significant works.

The Schoonmaker stone house was enlarged with wood frame additions and "restored" with new Colonial Revival interiors elaborating on the iconic features of beamed ceilings, wide board floors, fireplaces and wood trim. In its altered state, the house is an architecturally significant example of Teller's work and of the expression of historic preservation in the early-20<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival period. In 1937 the Sykeses bought the neighboring farmstead associated with Jacob H. DeWitt, which contained its own 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone house and barn (possibly a Dutch barn), by then abandoned and in deteriorated condition. The house was demolished and its stones and timbers used to build a new Game House on the property where Howard Sykes displayed his hunting trophies and other memorabilia. Stones from the DeWitt house probably also were used in the stone walls of a garage also designed by Teller. The Sykeses owned the property until 2005, when the farm finally passed out of Schoonmaker family ownership. The property exists essentially unchanged from this important period when it became a country retreat. In 2010 the Open Space Land Conservancy bought the farm to preserve the historic landscape.

The following chronology provides a more precise account of the property's history.

## CHRONOLOGY

1722 Benjamin Schoonmaker and his wife, Catrina Depuy, established a homestead on land later to be known as Appeldoorn Farm.

*Benjamin Schoonmaker (1702-1776) was one of the last sons of Jochem Hendrickz Schoonmaker (c. 1655 – c. 1730) who was one of the trustees of the Town of Rochester when it was organized in 1703. His grandfather, Hendrick Jochemsz (or Jochemsen), had arrived in Albany from Hamburg, Germany by 1653, which was the year he married Elsie Janse. He was an innkeeper there, but soon moved his family to Wiltwyck (Kingston) where he became a prominent figure and officer in the local militia.*

*Family lore states that his young son, Jochem Hendrickz, was captured by the Indians during the Wiltwyck Massacre in 1663 and was tortured and disfigured by them. In 1679 Jochem Hendrickz married Petronella Slecht, daughter of Cornelius Barentsen Slecht and Tryntje Tysen Bos. Slecht also was an officer in the citizens' militia and was a close associate (and probably good friend) of Hendrick Jochemsz, who died in 1683.*

*Jochem Hendrickz and Petronella Slecht moved to Mombaccus soon after their marriage and established a homestead there. At least one account (Schoonmaker Genealogy) speculates that this homestead may have been located at Appeldoorn Farm, but it is more likely that it was on the south side of the Rondout near the family cemetery outside Accord. Petronella died within ten years, having given birth to five children, and Jochem Hendrickz married for a second time in 1689 to Antje Hussey (1670-1752) daughter of Frederick Hussey and Margaret Bos of Marbletown. Together Jochem Hendrickz and Antje Hussey begat 11 more children. Their seventh child was named Benjamin, and he would later establish a farm on the north side of the Rondout, later to be named Appeldoorn Farm by his descendants.*

*The patent for the Town of Rochester was granted in 1703, a year after Benjamin's birth, with his father and his eventual father-in-law, Moses Depuy, among the trustees. By this time, the family had adopted the surname Schoonmaker. Benjamin Schoonmaker married Catrina Depuy, daughter of Moses Depuy and Maria Wynkoop, in 1722. No deed has been located for the transaction by which Benjamin obtained title to the land on which settled, but its proximity to Moses Depuy's homestead suggests that it came to him through his wife.*

Benjamin Schoonmaker (1702-1776)  
m (1722) Catrina Depuy, dau. Moses Depuy & Maria Wynkoop

### CHILDREN

Zusanna, b. 1722, m. Johannes Rosekrans of Minisink  
Antje, b. 1724, m. John Van Campen Jr. of —Pagokwarie”  
Jacobus, b. 1725, died young  
Maria (1727-1754), m. Johannes Bruyn  
Daniel (1729-1757)  
Benjamin Jr. (1729/32-1754) m. Antje Depuy  
Joseph b. 1733  
Johannes (1735-1754)  
Moses (1738-1751)  
Cornelius (1744-1805), inherited farm

1758 Date stone on front façade of stone house reads: BSM An D 1758

1773 Will of Benjamin Schoonmaker

1<sup>st</sup>: I give and bequeath unto my son Cornelius Schoonmaker all my lands and real estate situate, lying and being within the limits of the town of Rochester with houses, buildings, edifices, barns, orchards, gardens, fences, breakwaters, water courses, easements, profits, involvements, heridaments, and appurtenances.

ITEM 1: I give unto my wife Jenneke [a second wife?] the use of one room in the west end of my house and one cellar and two bedsteads with everything thereunto belonging and so much of my household goods as she shall have need of and my negro wench Buta and use of my garden so long as she shall remain here and further it is my will that my said son Cornelius Schoonmaker or his heirs shall pay every year unto my said wife the sum of 9 pounds lawful money of New York and keep for her two milk cows and sell for her every year a half a scheppel of flax seed so long as she shall remain here.

ITEM: and further all the rest and remainder of my personal estate not herein particularly given and bequeathed I do give and bequeath to my said son Cornelius Schoonmaker

... I ordain my son and Jochem Schoonmaker, Jr. [Benjamin's brother] executors of my last will and testament. Cornelius Schoonmaker shall pay over to my grandson, Benjamin Schoonmaker, jr., son of my son Benjamin Schoonmaker, deceased, one year after my decease, 600 pounds lawful money of New York. I also give and bequeath to my said grandson Benjamin Schoonmaker, Jr. my negro Wiet and my wench Jinny.

*Cornelius B. Schoonmaker was the only son of Benjamin Schoonmaker surviving at his death.*

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker (1744-1805)

m (1767) Helena Van Alst Bassett (1747-1803), born NYC, dau. of Stephen Bassett & Ann Milledge

CHILDREN

Helena (1768-1804), m. (1791) Garrett Van Wagenen

Catherine (1770-1855), m.1 (1791) Benjamin Hornbeek, m.2 Conrad Bevier, Napanoch

Antje, b. 1772, m. (1795) Charles Brodhead, New Paltz

Stephen Bassett (1775-1840), m. (1799) Catherine Schoonmaker

Sarah Ann, b. 1780, died age 1 month, 2 days

Maria (1781-1847), m. John D. Chambers, Marbletown

Cornelius Benjamin (1783-1860), m. (1811) Rachel W. Garrison

1790 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius Schoonmaker

1 free white male 16 years and upwards [Cornelius]

2 free white males under 16 years [sons Stephen & Cornelius]

4 free white females [wife Helena and daughters Catherine, Antje & Maria]

9 slaves

1800 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius Schoonmaker

1 free white male 10-15 years [unknown]

1 free white male 16-15 years [son Cornelius]

1 free white male 45+ years [Cornelius]

1 free white female under 10 years [unknown]  
2 free white females 16-25 years [daughter Maria & unknown; wife Helena not recorded]  
5 slaves

*The distribution of the family across these age groups is imperfect in this case. The young children listed in the household along with two young women of child-bearing age suggests a widowed daughter may have returned home. Also, there is no age group for Cornelius's wife, Helena, who would have been 53 years of age in 1800, three years before her recorded death date.*

1810 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker  
1 free white male 26-45 years [Cornelius, age 27]  
1 slave

*This is the first census entry for Cornelius B. Schoonmaker II (1783-1860). His father and namesake died in 1805 leaving him in sole possession of the farm and a single slave. His mother, Helena, passed away in 1803. He would marry Rachel Westervelt Garrison of Paterson, New Jersey the following year and start a family. They were married in 1811 in the Reformed Dutch Church of Hackensack.*

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker (1783-1860)  
m. (1811) Rachel Westervelt Garrison, dau. Gerrit Garrison & Amrgaret Doremus, Paterson NJ  
CHILDREN  
Cornelius Benjamin (1812-1902), m.1 (1835) Ann Garrison, Paramus NJ; m.2  
Rachel Emeline Van Riper; died Warren Point NJ  
Garret Garrison (1815-1893), m.1 Hannah Van Velsor, m.2 (1875) Elizabeth  
Hasbrouck Schoonmaker Markle  
Stephen Bassett (1818-1902), m.1 (1846) Maria Hornbeck Schoonmaker; m.2 (1866)  
Leah M. Vandermark  
Cyrus (1820-1911), m. (1846) Henrietta Parsons  
Maria Margaret (1823-1899), m. (1844) Jacob DeWitt Schoonmaker  
Helen Bassett (1826-1894), m. (1852) Abram Markle  
Catherine Ann (1829-1882), m. (1851), David Elting  
Jemema Garrison (1832-1850)  
Rachel Garrison (1836-1851)  
Richard, b. 1847, adopted per listing in 1855 census

1820 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker  
3 free white males under 10 years [sons Cornelius, Garret & Stephen]  
1 free white male 26-44 years [Cornelius, age 37]  
1 free white female 16-25 years [wife Rachel]  
1 person engaged in agriculture

1830 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker  
1 free white male 5-9 years [son Cyrus]  
2 free white males 10-14 years [sons Garrett & Stephen]  
1 free white male 40-49 years [Cornelius]  
2 free white females under 5 years [daughters Helen & Catherine]  
1 free white female 5-9 years [daughter Maria]  
1 free white female 30-39 years [wife Rachel]  
1 free white female 50-59 years [mother-in-law?]

1840 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker  
1 free white male 20-29 years [son Stephen or Cyrus]  
1 free white male 50-59 years [Cornelius]  
1 free white female under 5 years [daughter Rachel]  
1 free white female 5-9 years [daughter Jemena]  
1 free white female 10-14 years [daughter Catherine or Helen]  
1 free white female 15-19 years [daughter Maria]  
1 free white female 40-49 years [wife Rachel]  
2 persons employed in agriculture

1850 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Cornelius B. Schoonmaker, 66, farmer, real property = \$8,500  
Rachel, 55, b. NJ  
Helena B., 23  
Catherine A., 20  
Rachel, 14, idiot deaf  
Jamima G., 17  
Richard, 3 [listed as adopted in 1855 NYS census]

Agricultural Production

55 improved acres  
10 unimproved acres  
\$3,300 cash value of farm  
\$45 value of farming implements & machinery  
2 horses  
4 milch cows  
4 other cattle  
18 sheep  
8 swine  
\$365 value of livestock  
50 bushels of rye  
75 bushels of Indian corn  
15 bushels of oats  
5 pounds of wool  
50 bushels of Irish potatoes  
74 bushels of buckwheat  
520 pounds of butter  
10 tons of hay

1 bushel of grass seed  
8 pounds of hops  
\$15 value of home manufactures  
\$65 value of animals slaughtered

*At \$3,300, this farm was of middling value among the 240 recorded in the town. Those of lowest value—assessed in the hundreds of dollars—were relatively few in number, and they probably mostly were for subsistence of people whose occupations were other than farmers. Ten farms were valued at \$10,000 or more, with the highest assessment being \$20,000 for Wessel B. Westbrook's 1,700-acre farm. Thus the Benjamin Schoonmaker homestead farm was small in size (65 acres) and, at best, average in production when compared to others in the town. The \$8,500 of real property assigned to Cornelius B. Schoonmaker in the population schedule evidently takes the stone house into account; he also may have owned other property not considered part of the farm. These values would have been volunteered by the householder, so their accuracy was subjective with informants over- or under-estimating value to reflect whatever image they wished to project.*

1858 Map of Ulster County  
Property labeled: C.B. Schoonmaker

1860 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

David R Elting, 29, merchant, \$1,300 real property, \$350 personal property  
Catherine Ann, 29  
Jemima, 8

Rachel Schoonmaker, 66, \$2,900 real property, \$525 personal property  
Cornelius, 76, farmer  
Helena, 33  
Abram M., 30, farm laborer [Helena's husband, Abram Markle]  
Milton D., 3 [Helena's son]  
Richard, 15

*Rachel Schoonmaker had assumed head-of-household status due to her aging husband who died later in the year. Daughter Helena remained on the farm with her husband, Abram Markle Schoonmaker (the family genealogy identifies his surname only as Markle), and their young son. Rachel's adopted son, Richard, still lived with her. There is no entry for the farm in the 1860 census agricultural schedule indicating that there was no particular production to record. Cornelius's will names only his wife, Rachel, and sons Cyrus and Cornelius, both of whom lived in New Jersey. Cyrus and Cornelius appear to have divvied up their father's real estate, with Cyrus ending up with the bulk of the farm and his brother getting a grist mill site and other lands on the south side of the Rondout. Cornelius and Rachel's daughter Catherine married merchant David R. Elting in 1851 and they took residence in a new house built on the highway at the gateway to the farm.*

Cyrus Schoonmaker (1820-1911)

m. (1846) Henrietta Parsons (1824-1888), dau. Joseph Parsons & Mary Catherine Jolly, NYC

CHILDREN

Eugenia Montague (1861-1926), m. (1885) Richard Charles Christopher

Mary, n.d., did not marry

Georgia (1871-1921), did not marry

Josephine, died young

Eunice Augusta, died c. 1938, did not marry  
Edward Cyrus m. Mary Elizabeth Sage  
Alice Adele (1866-1936), m. (1890) Walter Henry Sykes, res. Manhattan  
Howard Elbert, did not marry, died c. 1937  
Ellis, did not marry, died 1915

*According to the Schoonmaker Genealogy, Cyrus Schoonmaker (1820-1911) had made his way to Paterson, New Jersey by 1836 (age 16 years) where he presumably worked in commerce. He then made his way to New York City where he evidently met and married in 1846 Henrietta Parsons (1824-1888), daughter of Joseph Parsons, a street inspector, and Mary Catherine Jolly. In 1861 Cyrus traded in imported goods from China, Japan, France, England and Russia. No trace of him or his family has been found using census search engines on Ancestry.com. Cyrus and Henrietta maintained ownership of the family farm in Rochester, and later one or more of their children resided there, in particular Howard, who is listed in the 1920 census as the owner and farmer, and Eunice, who was granted life tenancy by her surviving siblings in 1928.*

1869 Deed, 27 Nov 1869, 161:113-119  
Cyrus and Henrietta Schoonmaker to Cornelius B. Schoonmaker, a resident of New Jersey. In consideration of \$5,000... six tracts of land including a 20-acre parcel containing the —dwelling house that formerly belonged to Cornelius Schoonmaker, deceased, the barn, grist mill and mill dam, and other outbuildings and the house lot and the orchard north of the house;” another parcel northeast of the first one going to the bounds of Henry DeWitt, Jr.; and lots on the farm of Jacob Dewitt, which was partitioned in 1860.

*These parcels were deeded back to Henrietta Schoonmaker, and they were later conveyed to her heirs. The deed’s reference to lots in the 1860 division of Jacob DeWitt’s farm is informative.*

1870 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Markle Abram, 44, farmer, real estate: \$3,500, personal estate: \$400  
Hellena, 44, housewife  
William, 17, laborer  
Rachel, 9, at home  
Dinah, 7, at home  
Jacob, 6, at home  
Cornelius, 4, at home

Agricultural Production

77 improved acres  
\$3,000 cash value of farm  
\$400 value of farming implements & machinery  
\$300 wages paid  
2 horses  
4 milch cows  
5 other cattle  
15 sheep  
3 swine  
\$400 value of livestock  
60 bushels winter wheat

25	bushels of rye
200	bushels of Indian corn
150	bushels of oats
45	pounds of wool
50	bushels of Irish potatoes
300	pounds of butter
7	tons of hay
\$70	value of animals slaughtered
\$700	estimated value of all production

*It appears that Rachel Schoonmaker's daughter, Helena, and her husband, Abram Markle continued to work the farm after she passed away sometime in the 1860s, although the title for the property remained with her brothers Cyrus and Cornelius. The small wood frame house on the highway was denoted with "AMarkle" on the 1875 map of the town indicating that they had taken up residence in there, just west of the house built for Helena's sister, Catherine, and her husband David R. Elting at the time of their marriage in 1851. The Eltings are recorded at this location in the 1860 Rochester census, but could not be found in the 1870 enumeration; by 1880 they were living in Kingston where David was employed as a retail grocer. The Markles remained in the town and, presumably, on the family farm.*

*Farm production in 1870 differed little from 1850, leaving it in the middling group of farms in the town. Who was occupying the stone house is not clear. The 1875 map connects cryptic initials to it: "S.C.S." that have been impossible to decipher. Neither Cyrus Schoonmaker, nor his brother, Cornelius, was living in the town. The condition of the dwelling is not known.*

- 1875 Atlas of Ulster County, Rochester Map  
Stone house labeled: S.C.S.  
A. Markle on highway  
D. Elting on highway
- 1880 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester
- Markle Abram, 53, farmer  
Hellena B, 53, wife, housekeeper  
Rachel G, 19, daughter, housekeeper  
Dina M, 17, daughter, at home  
Jacob E, 16, son, laborer  
Cornelius, 14, son, at school  
Smith Nora A, 10, niece, at school
- U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, City of Kingston, Prince Street  
Elting David R, 49, retail grocer  
Catherine, 49, wife, keeping house  
Markle Rachel, 19, niece, keeping house

*The Markles likely were still working the farm. It is interesting to note that Rachel G. Markle was enumerated in both her family's household in Rochester and in the Elting's in Kingston. By 1900 (the 1890 U.S. census was destroyed by fire) Abram Markle was a 74-year-old widower boarding with two sisters, Mary Thompson and Florence Green, and recorded as a farm laborer, probably on the farm where he had toiled his entire life. Ten years later, he was living in his daughter Rachel's household. She had married William Thompson, whose sister,*

*Mary, also lived with them. This suggests that the proprietorship of the family homestead had passed to the next generation, although in 1920 the census locates the Thompsons on Mill Road.*

1920 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Schoonmaker Howard E., head, 49, single, owns, farmer, general farm

*Howard E. Schoonmaker is the only heir of Cyrus and Henrietta Schoonmaker located in the census for Rochester*

1928 Deed, 19 Sept 1928, 534:49

Alice A. Sykes, widow, Englewood NJ to Howard C. Sykes, Englewood NJ and Edward P. Sykes, 345 E. 68<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan

In consideration of love and affection... undivided 2/9<sup>th</sup> of farm land formerly owned by Henrietta Schoonmaker, wife of Cyrus Schoonmaker, deceased, situated in Accord, Town of Rochester, Ulster County, and known as Appeldoorn, and the buildings and improvements thereon, and the wood lot located in St. Josen, Ulster County, consisting in all about 90 acres. Said property being all property located in the township of Rochester formerly belonging to Henrietta Schoonmaker or Cyrus Schoonmaker, her husband, both deceased, and which passed to the children of said Henrietta Schoonmaker and Cyrus Schoonmaker as heirs-at-law, which said 2/9ths interest passed to the grantor as one of the heirs-at-law of Henrietta Schoonmaker and Cyrus Schoonmaker and by last will and testament of Georgia Schoonmaker, another heir-at-law... and by a certain conveyance made unto the grantor and others by Howard E. Schoonmaker on 12 April 1925 (540:189)... Subject to a life estate held by Eunice A. Schoonmaker, another heir-at-law in an undivided 1/7<sup>th</sup> interest in said farm lands by last will and testament of Georgia Schoonmaker.

*Cyrus and Henrietta Schoonmaker's youngest daughter, Alice Adele Sykes began consolidating her siblings' shares in the family farm, which she transferred to her two sons in 1928. Although this conveyance does not appear to account for all the fractional interests in the farm, from this point on, Howard C. and Edward P. Sykes, behaved as controlling owners, if not absolute owners, of the property. How the other shares were obtained or managed is not known. Only Alice, Eunice and Howard were tenants in common in 1928. In a second deed dated two days earlier (534:56), Alice A. Sykes conveyed to her sons a 15.3-acre parcel on the east side of the road leading into the farm, that she had obtained from her brother Edward C. Schoonmaker in 1927 (524:7). She also deeded two smaller parcels — "a the north side of the public highway leading from Kingston to Ellenville" to her sons by a third instrument dated 19 September 1928 (534:57).*

Alice Adele Schoonmaker (1866-1936)

m. (1890) Walter Henry Sykes (1849-1926), wool merchant, NYC, son of Walter Sykes of Huddersfield, England & Anne Perry; Walter H. Sykes was a widow and father of a son by his first marriage.

CHILDREN

Howard Calvin Sykes (1892-1966)

m1. (1912), Jeannette C. McIlwayne, no issue

m2. (1920) Laura Parsons Lyon (1894-1979), dau. Tracy Lyon & Frances Gilbert, res. Englewood NJ

Children: Walter H. (b. 1921), Howard C, (b. 1923) and Laura L. (b. 1929)

Edward Perry Sykes, b. 1896, m. (1923) Elizabeth C. Boland in Binghamton NY, res. NYC  
Children: Edward P. (b. 1926) and Ruth C. (b. 1929)

*Howard C. Sykes was a stockbroker and president of the New York Curb Exchange. Earlier he had been the manager of Standard Oil Company's Asian Sector based in Penang, China. An avid sportsman, he traveled world-wide hunting and fishing, securing many trophies for himself and various natural history museums.*

1900 U.S. Census, New York, Manhattan, District 852  
Sykes Walter H., 40, head, married 10 yrs., b. England, arr US 1875, manufacturer  
Alice A., 35, wife, 3 of 3 children living, b. NY  
Howard C., 6, son, b. NY  
Edward P., 4, son, b. NY  
Walter H., 20, son, b. NY, clerk  
Hughes Ella H., 28, servant, b. VA, black

1920 U.S. Census, New York, Manhattan, District 1058  
Sykes Walter H., 70 [sic], head, b. England, woolen goods  
Alice A., 53, wife, b. NYC  
Howard C., 26, son, banking  
Edward P., 24, son, banking  
Hughes Ella H., 45, servant, b. VA, black

*Alice Adele Schoonmaker Sykes recorded as the mother of three children in 1900 by the addition of a 20-year-old son, Walter H., who must have been her husband's child by his previous marriage. The later whereabouts of this step-son is unknown, and he was not included in any later land transactions. The Sykes lived at various Manhattan addresses. After her husband's death, Alice Schoonmaker Sykes lived with her son, Howard, in Englewood, NJ.*

1930 Deed, 20 Dec 1930, 549:56  
Howard C. Sykes and Laura L. Sykes, his wife, residing at 475 Engle St., Englewood NJ, and Edward P. Sykes and Elizabeth C. Sykes, his wife, residing at 10 Birchwood St, Tenafly NJ, to Appeldoorn Realty Corp., 10 E. 40<sup>th</sup> St., NYC

Nine parcels comprising Appeldoorn Farm including lands.

*Howard C. Sykes and Edward P. Sykes, together with their friend and attorney, Herbert Duncombe, formed Appeldoorn Realty as a holding company. According to local historian Richard Rider, —These three, along with the Sykes' [sic] cousin, Howard E. Schoonmaker, a law partner in the firm, Sage & Schoonmaker, had been assisting their aging uncles and aunts for some time. Two maiden aunts, Mary and Eunice, were teachers and had formed a private school at 345 West End Ave. in Manhattan and it took some maneuvering to keep them afloat. Cyrus Schoonmaker was still in his comfortable residence at 311 E. 124<sup>th</sup> St. in Manhattan in June 1890 when his daughter Alice Adele married Walter H. Sykes in his large parlor [New York Times June 29, 1890]. We find him at another address in Manhattan in 1900, and by 1910, one year before his death, we find him at Appeldoorn Farm.*

1930 U.S. Census, New Jersey, Bergen Co., Englewood, District 53, entry 114/175  
Sykes Howard C., 37, head, b. NY (father b. England), stockbroker, rents, \$200/mo.  
Laura L., 35, wife, married 10 years, b. Minnesota (parents b. NY)

Walter H. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8, son, b. NY  
Howard C., Jr., 6, son, b. NY  
Laura L., 11/12, daughter, b. NJ  
Alice, 58, mother, widow, b. NY  
Smith Margaret, 23, waitress, b. Ireland  
Hughes, Ellen, 40, cook, b. VA, black  
David, Josephine, 18, nurse, b. NY (parents b. Czechoslovakia)

1930 Lee Rider was tenant farmer.

1931 The stone house was restored and expanded for Howard C. Sykes following designs by Teller & Halverson, architects, Kingston. According to an article in the *Kingston Freeman*, 7 November 1931, "The old beamed ceilings and wide board floors, long concealed, have been uncovered and brought back to light, fitted with hinges and latches hand forged in iron as in the Colonial days. Architects: Teller and Halverson, General Contractor: Stanley Hasbrouck of New Paltz, Painters: Hornbeck Bros. of New paltz, Plumbing and heating: Terwilliger Bros. of Kerhonkson, Electric: Edward Crissey of Hurley.

1937 Deed, 13 March 1937, 586:549  
Jansen K. Hoornbeck and Margaret K. Hoornbeck, his wife, residing in New York City, to Appeldoorn Realty Corp., 41 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> St., NYC

Five parcels, being part of the division of the lands of Henry DeWitt, Jr. and, later, Jacob DeWitt totaling approximately 80 acres, including Lot No. 1, or the house lot, of the DeWitt farm.

*This acquisition effectively doubled the size of Appeldoorn Farm adding land on the east side of the property, which now includes the woods and the large open space containing the airport. It was by this transaction that the Sykeses acquired the old DeWitt stone house, which was in ruins and immediately torn down with its materials reused in the construction of new buildings at Appeldoorn Farm*

1937 Howard C. Sykes retained Teller & Halverson to provide plans for a new stone building to function as a club house with a large room to display the owner's big-game hunting trophies. Stone and timbers for this building, and probably the garage, came from the DeWitt house and barn next door, which Sykes acquired and tore down.

*Kingston Daily Freeman, 29 July 1937*

—Howard C. Sykes is having erected a stone building of unique and attractive design. Teller and Halverson are the architects. The main purpose of the new building is to provide a large trophy room for housing the trophies secured by Mr. Sykes on numerous hunting trips after big game, as well as providing social and recreational facilities and also provision for housing of guests if desired. The main building will be about 44 feet square, with a wing about 26 feet square. The trophy room, which occupies most of the main building, is located on a lower level from the entrance hall, which will be reached by steps leading down into the room. An attractive feature will be the 12 by 14 foot window which will provide light an also a view of the distant mountains to the north. The room will be unceiled with overhead king pin [sic] trusses of old oak beams finished off with artistic iron. The new building will be constructed of

stones taken from the old stone house on the property adjoining that of Mr. Sykes. The latter having recently purchased the old house and the venerable barn at its rear. The old oak beams from the old barn will be used for the trusses in the new building. Mr. Sykes, accompanied by his wife and two sons is now hunting in Africa. They sailed for England about the middle of June, from which they took a plane to Africa, saving about two weeks time. They expect to return home about September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Sykes also has many trophies from hunting trips to Alaska and in the far west during the last two years.”

*Considering that stone was reused in the construction of the garage on the property, it is presumed that it was also built at this particular time.*

- 1948            Tenant farmer Charles Denhenshon renovated barn, adding metal stanchions for 30 cows. He rented the farm until 1969. Later fields were rented by DeWitt Kelder
- 2005            Deed, 1 April 2005, 4060:325  
Appeldoorn Realty Corp., c/o Nichols, 170 Hillside Ave., Englewood NJ to Katherine Van Diest, 285 W. Court St., Woodland CA  
Parcel I: subject to NYS drainage easement; subject to right to use of burial ground 36x24 ft. and –situate within premises heretofore conveyed by Jansen K. & Marjorie K. Hoornbeck to Appeldoorn Realty Corp, 3/13/1937 (586:549)  
Parcel II: excepting use of burying ground by family 74x36 ft. Parcel 3 below (180:390)
- 2010            Deed, 4910:190  
Katherine VanDiest to Open Space Conservancy, Inc.

##### 5. SOURCES:

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6. MAPS



The boundary of the existing farmstead is outlined in a heavy black line. The current parcel comprises lands associated with the Benjamin Schoonmaker homestead on the west (left) side and lands associated with Jacob H. DeWitt homestead on the east side. Buildings are concentrated at the eastern edge of the clearing on the west side parcel (see site plan below). The basement hole of the DeWitt house is still visible in the reforested area on the east side. The building group in the clearing in the northeast corner of the parcel represents the airport. Source: Ulster County Planning Department, On-line parcel Viewer.



Site plan. Numbers are keyed to list of historic components listed below. Source: Ulster County Planning Department, On-line parcel Viewer.

1. Stone House, with sections built in 1758 and 1937
2. Barn, c. 1905
3. Poultry House, c. 1905
4. Farm Worker Cottage, c. 1905
5. Garage & Workshop, 1937
6. Game House, 1937
7. Tenant House, c. 1865
8. Entry Gates, 1937
9. Airport landing strip and buildings (outside of map)

**7. PHOTOS: (Credit :all images by Larson Fisher Associates, 2010 unless otherwise noted)**



View of house from southeast



View of house from west



View of house from east



View south of house



View north of house



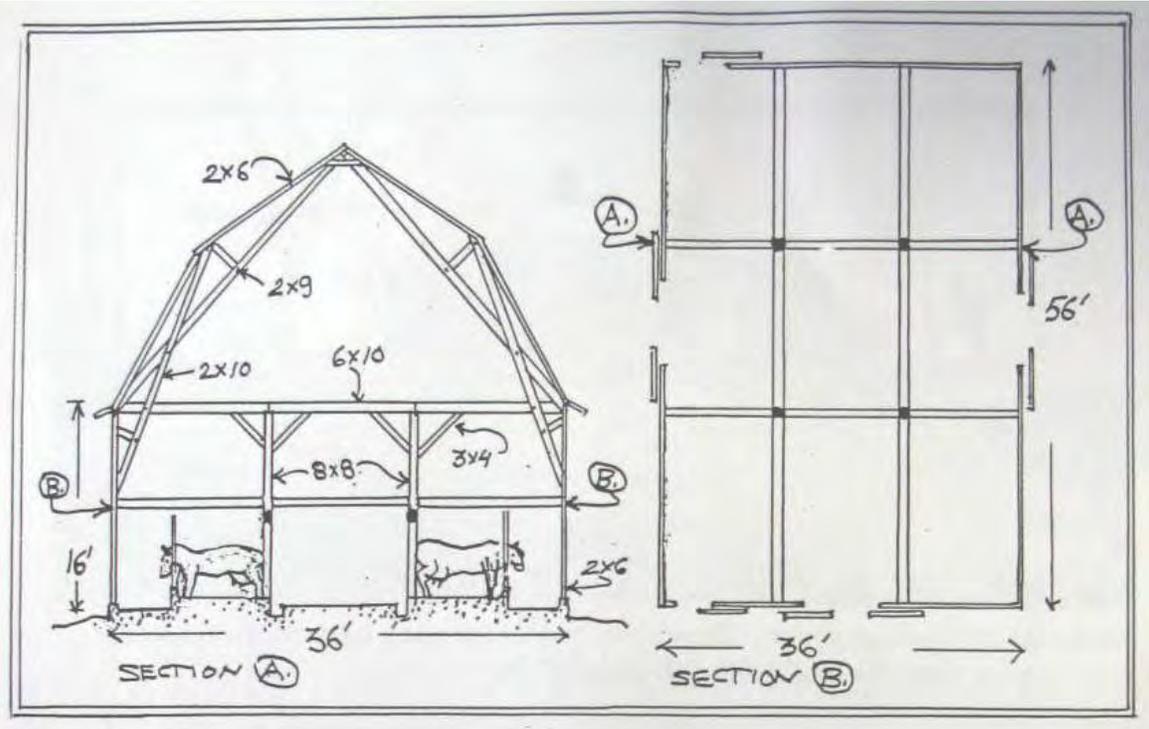
View west of house



View of barn from southeast



View of barn and poultry house from northeast



Plan and section of barn from Town of Rochester Barn Survey



View of barn interior



View of poultry house from southwest



View of farm worker cottage from northwest



View of barn and farm worker cottage from southeast



Lane leading east from barnyard



View of garage from east; wood and iron water pumps in foreground



View of barn and garage from southwest



View east of barn



View of Game House from southeast



View of Game House from northwest



View of gate posts at highway with lane and recreation building in background



View of tenant house at gate from southwest



View of Airport Road field from northeast



View of airport buildings from northeast; hangar on right and two dwellings on left.



View of landing strip from northeast