

# 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: Krom-Rosenkrans Farm, 234 Airport Road
2. COUNTY: Ulster                      TOWN/CITY: Rochester                      VILLAGE: Whitfield
3. **DESCRIPTION:**

This resource contains the following parcels and components.

Map ID#	Parcel No.	Address	Acreage	Components
1	72.2-2-12.1	234 Airport Road	92.98	Stone house, barn, outbuildings, farm land



View of Krom-Rosenkrans Farm from south.

3. **DESCRIPTION:**

The Krom-Rosenkrans Farm is located on the east side of Airport Road where it corners sharply westward at the top of an elevated plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. The neat rectangular dimensions of the 93-acre parcel (the leg extending south along Airport Road has been lately added) suggest that it was surveyed in the subdivision of a larger parcel, but the details of its formation are not yet known. The 72-acre farmstead described in an 1890 deed likely originated at least with Solomon Krom (1754-1838) by 1790, but possibly earlier with his father, Hendrick Krom, who settled in Rochester following his marriage to Johanna Quick in 1742. (See inventory form for adjoining Krom-Davis-DeWitt Farm.) The property passed from owners named Krom to those named Rosenkrans with the marriage of Helena Krom, Solomon's granddaughter, and John Rosenkrans around 1866, with their son Herman Rosenkrans finally selling it out of the family in 1933

The buildings of the farmstead are arranged on the west side of the lot close to the road and include a stone house appearing to have been built in the last half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a Dutch barn of similar date as the house but so far enlarged and altered as to be discernable by its remaining timber framing. Other features are much more recent additions. The stone house was substantially altered over time and has undergone an extensive restoration by the current owners. There are two entrances on the south (front) façade, which would have entered the two first-floor rooms, a design not uncommon in the region. This configuration was an attempt to provide symmetry to front facades without inserting a central passage and maintaining individual entrances to the two rooms on the interior. There may also have been a basement kitchen with an entrance where a window is now located at the east corner of the front façade; the grade has been altered so that the east end of the basement is no longer exposed. A wood frame wing was added to the west end of the house during the latest restoration.

The essential H-bent framing pattern of the Dutch barn is extant, and it is oriented on a north-south axis typical of such buildings. Enough remains to document that the roof was framed by a principal rafter method that was unusual in the region. (A principal rafter system, which is more English in origin, employs large, widely-spaced rafters running from the walls to the ridge with smaller rafters running between purlins in between.) Much of the wall framing was removed when cross-gable wings were added to the east and west sides, and the old frame was repaired with new members at this time or later. This alteration was a novel approach to enlarging and adapting the Dutch barn from its original function of curing and processing wheat to a new use of storing hay for livestock. A wing attached to the northeast corner of the enlarged barn was a cow house added to accommodate a small dairy herd.

The buildings are assembled at the western end of a large, flat open space well-suited for crops. There is a wooded section in the southeast corner, and another wooded area is located just east of the house where a rocky knoll is located on the northern boundary line. Some of the back acreage and a field added to the farm south of the barn are still kept under cultivation. The earliest farm statistics are found in the 1860 U.S. Census when John Rosenkrans was reported as farming 125 improved acres and 25 unimproved acres, indicating that he was using more land than traditionally associated with the farm. (He may have been renting the additional land.) In that year, the farm was involved with animal husbandry. It supported three horses, four milk cows, two beef cattle, and 12 swine. Its reported value (\$7,000) placed it in a better category of farms, yet it had a small animal population. No sheep were counted, but they were generally raised on hillside farms, unlike this one, where crop land was less available. The present open landscape would have been compartmentalized into a number of smaller fields that were planted with oats, rye, buckwheat and corn, all of which largely went to animal feed. Flax was also grown, which went to textile production. Ten tons of hay were produced in 1860, which would have provided feed and bedding for his small herd, perhaps with some excess for market. In addition, Irish potatoes were grown for human and animal consumption. Butter was the principal market product. The 480 pounds of butter churned on the farm was not an exceptional amount, and the waste products would have been fed to the swine. Animals were slaughtered for meat, some for home consumption and some for sale. Poultry and orchard products were not recorded in 1860, but they would have made an important contribution to the

farm's income.

The house and farm buildings on the Krom-Rosenkrans Farm no longer function as part of a traditional agricultural enterprise; however, some of its land continues to be farmed by others, while the rest is put to use to support the owner's pet horses. In its current condition the historic agricultural setting is preserved. The historic house and barn link the property to its agricultural origins in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Farm Features (numbers relate to site plan at end of form)

1. Stone House, built c. 1750, restored & enlarged, c. 2000
2. Barn, c. 1750, c. 1840
3. Tenant cottage, c. 1900, c. 2000
4. Stable I, c. 2000
5. Stable II, c. 2000
6. Pool & pool house, c. 2000

Chain of Ownership

1. Hendrick Krom, c. 1742, first settler on Krom land in Town of Rochester
2. Solomon Krom (1754-1838) & Maria Bush
3. Martin S. Krom (1803-1849) & Maria Jane Osterhoudt
4. Maria Jane Osterhoudt Krom, widow of Martin S. Krom
5. Helena Krom Rosenkrans, daughter of Martin S. & Maria Krom, wife of John Rosenkrans, from 1860
6. Herman Rosenkrans, son of John & Helena Rosenkrans, purchased in 1890
7. Charles TerBush, purchased in 1933
8. Robert L. & Naomi B. Banks, purchased in 1944
9. Terry-Chris Farms, Inc., purchased in 1964
10. Eugene Szecsody, purchased in 1966
11. Robert & Eileen Rominger, purchased in 1996

4. **SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Krom-Rosenkrans Farm is historically and architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century farmstead that has evolved over a 250-year period. Based on the perceived age of the stone house, the farm appears to have been established by Hendrick Krom, who settled in the Town of Rochester around 1750. Krom was born in Kingston in 1718, the son of Dirck Krom and Eva de La Montagne. His paternal grandparents, Gysbert Willems Krom and Geertie VanVliet, both were born in The Netherlands. He married Johanna Quick in 1742; she was the daughter of Jacobus Quick and Francisca Consalus of Kingston. The Krom's third son, Solomon (1754-1838), was the next owner. He married Maria Bush (1774-1827) around 1800 and by 1810 census records indicate their farm was quite productive and prosperous as they owned four slaves and employed two free blacks. Ten years later, however, with Solomon aged 66 years, only family members were enumerated in the household. His son, Martin S. (1803-1849) assumed proprietorship of the farm and married Maria Osterhoudt around the time Solomon died in 1838. When Martin died in 1849, his widow and their only child, Helena, remained on the farm. Within a few years, Helena Krom married John Rosenkrans, who moved in and rejuvenated the agricultural enterprise. Born in 1836, he was the son of Herman and Ann Rosenkrans and grew up in the neighborhood. Helena K. Rosenkrans retained title to the farm, and in 1890 sold it to her son, Herman, for 1,350 dollars. Herman had married Cora Barley in 1886, and by 1900 only they and their three children constituted the household. His mother and younger brother Leroy were living at the time in Rosendale where the latter was employed in the cement works. Yet in 1910 the census enumeration for Herman Rosenkrans's household included his mother, by then 74 years of age.

In 1933 Herman Rosenkrans, who was then a widow living alone, sold the farm to Charles Ter Bush of Ellenville. Eleven years later, Charles and Nina Ter Bush conveyed the property to Robert L. and Naomi B. Banks. Eugene and Matild Szecsody purchased the farm in 1966. Eugene Szecsody died in 1995 leaving his widow the surviving tenant by entirety. The current owners, Robert and Eileen Rominger, purchased the property from Matild Szecsody in 1996.

In 1860 the farm was valued at \$7000, which ranked it in the upper 10% of farms town-wide. By this time the agricultural economy was based in dairy production, with butter being the principal market product. This production level and property value actually increased towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Unlike with farms on the bottom lands in the town, it does not appear that production on this upland plateau evolved into market gardening. Poultry-raising became a significant commercial enterprise, and although the property no longer has poultry houses, in 1880 the farm produced 300 eggs. Also, in that year 200 apple trees were inventoried, which produced 800 bushels of apples.

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

#### CHRONOLOGY

c.1750 Hendrick Krom married Johanna Quick and settled in Rochester

Hendrick Krom, b. 1718 in Kingston

m. (1742) Johanna Quick, b. 1719 in Kingston, m. in Rochester

##### CHILDREN

John H., b. 1747 in Marbletown, m. Esther Hester Leroy

Antje, b. 1749 in Rochester, m. Petrus P. Enderly

Cornelius, b. 1752 in Rochester

Solomon (1754-1838), m. Maria Bush

Maria, b. 1755

Hendricus, b. 1756, m. Elizabeth Crispell

Jacob (1759-1837), m. Catrina Crispell

Martinus (1761-1806), twin,

Reuben (1761-1847), twin, m. Cornelia Doyle

*This farm appears to be part of a larger tract where the Krom family first settled in Rochester, with Hendrick Krom, his wife, Johanna Quick, a Rochester native, and their family living in the stone house or its predecessor. Hendrick Krom was born in Kingston in 1718, the son of Dirck Krom and Eva de La Montagne. His paternal grandparents, Gysbert Willems Krom and Geertie VanVliet, both were born in The Netherlands. Johanna Quick was the daughter of Jacobus Quick and Francisca Consalus of Kingston.*

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

Solomon Krum

2 free white males 16+ years

3 free white females

Solomon Krum Jr

1 free white male 16+ years

1 free white female 16+ years

1 slave

*Based on later documentation, it would seem that the farm descended to Hendrick Krom's son Solomon. Two heads of households of that name are listed in the census for Rochester (along with Gysbert, John and Reuben Krom) and there is no way to distinguish between them. In the first case, Solomon Krom's household may have included his parents (who would have been in their seventies if living) as well as his wife and/or sisters and brothers, or other related or unrelated women. Solomon may have been married to Mary Bush at this time—their wedding date is not recorded—and they were yet to have children. Alternatively, he could have been enumerated as Solomon, Jr. to distinguish him from an older relative of the same name. In this instance, the household contained Solomon, his wife, Mary, and a slave.*

Solomon Krom (1754-1838)  
m. Maria Bush (1774-1827)

CHILDREN

Hendrick S. (1801-1849), m. (1819), Elizabeth S. Burger

Martin S. (1803-1849), m. Maria Jane Osterhoudt, dau. Kryne Osterhoudt &  
Jannetje Jansen

Maria, b. 1808

Johanna (Hannah), b. 1810, m. Joshua Hoornbeck

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

Solomon Krum

1 free white male 16-25 years [unknown]

1 free white male 45+ years [Solomon, age 46]

2 free white females 45+ years [wife Maria & unknown]

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

Solomon Krum

2 free white males under 10 years [sons Hendrick & Martin]

1 free white male 45+ years [Solomon, age 56]

1 free white female under 10 years [daughter Johanna]

1 free white female 26-44 years [wife Maria]

2 other free persons

4 slaves

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

Solomon Krum

1 free white male 16-18 years [son Martin]

1 free white male 45+ years [Solomon age 66]

2 free white females 10-15 years [daughters Maria & Johanna]

1 free white female 45+ years [wife Maria Bush]

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

Solomon Krum

2 free white males 20-29 years [son Martin & unknown]

1 free white male 70-79 years [Solomon, age 76]

1 free white female 15-19 years [daughter Johanna]

1838 Solomon Krom died.

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

Martin Krum 2<sup>nd</sup>

1 free white male 30-40 years [Martin, age 37]

1 free white female under 5 years [daughter Helena]

1 free white female 10-15 years [unknown]

1 free white female 20-30 years [wife Maria, although age 34]

1849 Martin Krom died.

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

Mariah Krom, 44, \$7,000 in real estate

Helena C. Krom, 12

Jonathan Osterhoudt, 20, laborer

*Maria Jane Osterhoudt Krom was born in 1806, the youngest daughter of Kryne Osterhoudt (1758-c.1832) and Jannetje Jansen (1766-c.1840), who lived on the Osterhoudt Home Farm on Lower Whitfield Road (see farm inventory form for this property). She remained on the farm with her only child, Helena, and relative Jonathan Osterhoudt helping with the labor. Production statistics were not found for the farm on the census schedule.*

1856 Helena Krom married John Rosenkrans in the Reformed Dutch Church in Accord.

Helena Krom (1837- )

m. (1856) John Rosenkrans (1836-1891)

CHILDREN

Mary DeWitt (1857-1916), m. Isaac Hornbeck Addis of Whitfield

Martin Krom, b. 1859

Herman M. (1861-1939), assumed ownership of farm

Viridenell (1866-1949), m. (1887) Mary Esther Van Vliet, res. Saugerties

Jennie L. (1869-1900), res. Kripplebush

Lizzie (1872-1891), died of Typhoid Fever

Henry M. (1875-1950), m. (1893) Minnie Krom of High Falls

Leroy, b. 1877, res. Rosendale in 1900

*John Rosenkrans (1836-1891) was the son of Herman Rosenkrans (1783-1856), who was born in New Jersey and moved to the Town of Rochester when he married Ann DeWitt, daughter of*

*Henry DeWitt and Margaret Schoonmaker of Accord. John Rosenkrans took over management of the Krom farm.*

1858 Map of Ulster County: "Mrs. Krom"

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

John Rosenkrans, 24, farmer, real estate value illegible  
Helena, 22  
Mary D, 3  
Martin, 7/12  
Maria Krom, 55  
James Vandemark, 18, farm laborer

Agricultural Production

125 improved acres  
25 unimproved acres  
\$7,000 cash value of farm  
\$100 value of farming implements & machinery  
3 horses  
4 milch cows  
2 other cattle  
0 sheep  
12 swine  
\$615 value of livestock  
150 bushels of rye  
20 bushels of Indian corn  
400 bushels of oats  
50 bushels of Irish potatoes  
30 bushels of buckwheat  
480 pounds of butter  
10 tons of hay  
50 pounds of flax  
2 bushels of flax seeds  
\$82 value of animals slaughtered

1868 Deed, 5/28/1868, 149:375

John Rosenkrans and Hellenah, his wife, to Jacob Beesmer, in consideration of \$500, a parcel consisting of 30 acres bounded on the NW, SW and NE by lands of Martin Krom, deceased; SE by heirs of Elias Depuy.

*This conveyance documents the sale of 30 acres from the Krom Farm. An accompanying deed inked the same day likely served as a mortgage (149:374). John Rosenkrans had purchased the same parcel from Cornelius and Esther W. Depuy for \$1,200 in 1858 (106:36). Depuy had obtained the land that year in a court or estate transaction with Benjamin B. Hoornbeck acting as referee on behalf of Wynche Davis, relict of Richard R. Davis, who was releasing her dower rights to seven parcels (104:204). This deed describes the 30-acre parcel as "partly cleared and partly woodland."*

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

Rosenkranse John, 35, farmer  
Nellie, 32, housewife, \$9,000 in real estate, \$2,000 personal estate  
Mary, 13, at home  
Hermon, age illegible, at home [Martin?]  
Randall, 4, at home  
Jane L, 1, at home  
Krom Maria, 64, at home  
Terwilliger Mary, 14, at home  
Lefever Sarah, 55, keeping house  
Isaac, 22, at home

Agricultural Production (John Rosenkranse)

141 improved acres  
0 unimproved acres  
\$9,000 cash value of farm  
\$250 value of farming implements & machinery  
\$7 wages paid  
0 horses  
6 milch cows  
6 other cattle  
3 sheep  
5 swine  
\$400 value of livestock  
0 bushels of rye  
200 bushels of Indian corn  
300 bushels of oats  
60 bushels of Irish potatoes  
60 bushels of buckwheat  
900 pounds of butter  
15 pounds of wool  
40 tons of hay  
\$30 value of animals slaughtered  
\$1,000 value of farm production

*Unless it is an enumerating error, Sarah Lefever and her son, Isaac, were living in the Rosenkrans household in 1870, and the two families may have been operating the two farms (and two houses) jointly. Alternatively, the Lefever farm was rented at this time pending its sale to William Rider in 1874 (190:358). See Domino Farm Form*

1880 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester

Rosencrans, John, head, 44, b. NY, farmer  
Helena, wife, 43, b. NY, housekeeper  
Herman, son, 18, b. NY, laborer  
Verdon L., son, 16, b. NY, at home  
Jane L., daughter, 11, b. NY, at school  
Lizzie, daughter, 8, b. NY, at school  
Henry M., son, 6, b. NY

Leroy, son, 3, b. NY  
Addis Mary B., daughter, 23, b. NY  
Bell, granddaughter, 2/12, b. NY

Agricultural Production  
70 improved acres  
0 unimproved acres  
\$4,000 cash value of farm  
\$300 value of farming implements & machinery  
\$500 value of livestock  
\$25 cost of building and repairing fences  
\$0 amount paid in wages for farm labor  
\$1000 value of all farm production  
25 acres grass lands mown  
30 acres grass lands not mown  
25 tons hay  
4 horses  
4 milch cows  
10 other cattle  
4 calves dropped  
2 cattle sold living  
600 pounds butter  
0 sheep  
6 swine  
33 poultry on hand  
300 eggs produced  
10 acres planted in rye  
200 bushels of rye  
5 acres planted in Indian corn  
260 bushels of Indian corn  
2 acres planted buckwheat  
40 bushels buckwheat  
1 acre planted in Irish potatoes  
60 bushels of Irish potatoes  
200 apple trees  
800 bushels apples  
\$150 orchard products

1884 Herman M. Rosenkrans married Cora Barley in the Reformed Dutch Church in Accord

Herman M. Rosenkrans (1861-1939)  
m. (1884) Cora Barley (1884-1822), dau. Josephus Barley & Elizabeth Rider of Whitfield  
CHILDREN  
Margaret B. (1885-1914)  
Goldie E. (1887-1928), m. (1911) LeRoy M. Dunn  
Albert B. (1890-1901)

1890 Deed, 3/31/1890, 291:188  
Helena C. Rosencrans, & husband, John R., to Herman Rosencrans  
In consideration of \$1,350, 72 acres

- 1900 New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester  
Rosencrance Herman, head, 38, married 16 years, b. NY, farmer, owns  
Corrie, wife, 40, 3 of 3 children living, b. NY, none  
Maggie B., daughter, 15, b. NY, at school  
Goldie E., daughter, 12, b. NY, at school  
Albert B., son, 10, b. NY, at school
- 1900 New York, Ulster County, Town of Rosendale  
Rosenkranz Helena, 66, widow  
Leroy, 22, son, single, laborer, cement works
- 1910 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester  
Rosencranz Herman, head, 48, married 26 yr., b. NY, farmer, general farm  
Cora, wife, 50, 2 of 3 children living, b. NY, none  
Margaret, daughter, 24, b. NY, none  
Goldie, daughter, 22, b. NY, none  
Helena, mother, 74, widow, 5 of 8 children living, b. NY, none
- 1920 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester  
Rosencrans Herman, head, 58, b. NY, farmer, general farm  
Cora, wife, 59, b. NY, none  
Martine Lloyd, 16, b. NY, farm laborer
- 1930 U.S. Census, New York, Ulster County, Town of Rochester  
Rosencrans Herman, owns farm, 69, widow, b. NY, farmer, general farm
- 1933 Deed, 4/11/1933, 564:278  
Herman Rosenkrans (not married), Accord, to Charles TerBush, Ellenville
- 1944 Deed, 3/31/1944, 640:345  
Charles & Nina TerBush to Robert L. & Naomi B. Banks
- 1964 Deed, 11/20/1964, 1160:484  
Marshall C. Lipton, referee, to Terry-Chris Farms, Inc.
- 1966 Deed, 11/22/1966, 1190:1114  
Terry-Chris Farms, Inc. to Eugene Szecsody

- 1996 Deed, 6/23/1996, 2598:69  
In consideration of \$225,000, Matild Szecsody, Accord, to Robert & Eileen Rominger,  
Brooklyn, 92.682A
- Being a portion of that conveyed by Eugene Szecsody, Accord to Eugene & Matild Szecsody,  
11/20/1975 (1346:1008), 70 acres more or less. Eugene Szecsody died 7/23/1995 leaving  
Matild Szecsody surviving tenant by entirety.

**5. SOURCES:**

- Accord NY. Friends of Historic Rochester. Historical and genealogical source materials.  
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6. MAPS



The boundary of the existing farmstead and associated land is outlined in a heavy black line. Source: Ulster County Planning Department, On-line Parcel Viewer.



7. Stone House, built c. 1750, restored & enlarged, c. 2000
8. Barn, c. 1750, c. 1840
9. Tenant cottage, c. 1900, c. 2000
10. Stable I, c. 2000
11. Stable II, c. 2000
12. Pool & pool house, c. 2000

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



View of house from south, tenant cottage on left, barn on right.



View of barn from NW, house on left, tenant cottage on right.



View of house from SE.



View of house from SW



View of house from NE.



Detail of south façade of stone house



View of barn from NW.



View of barn from SW.



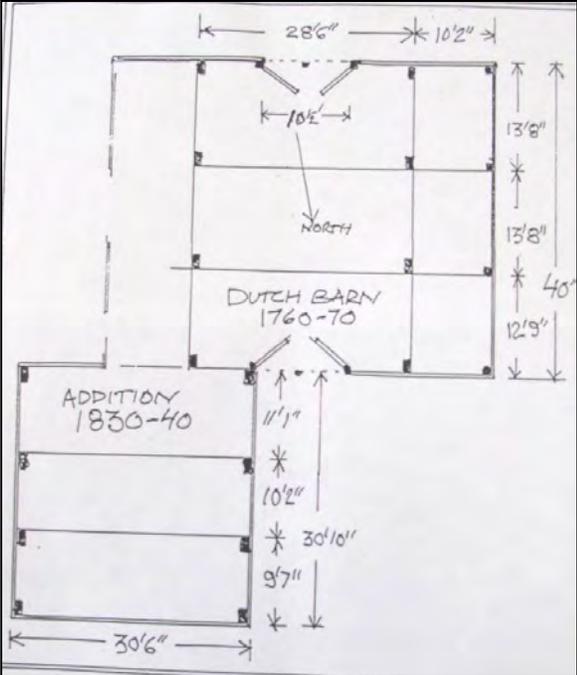
View of barn from NE.



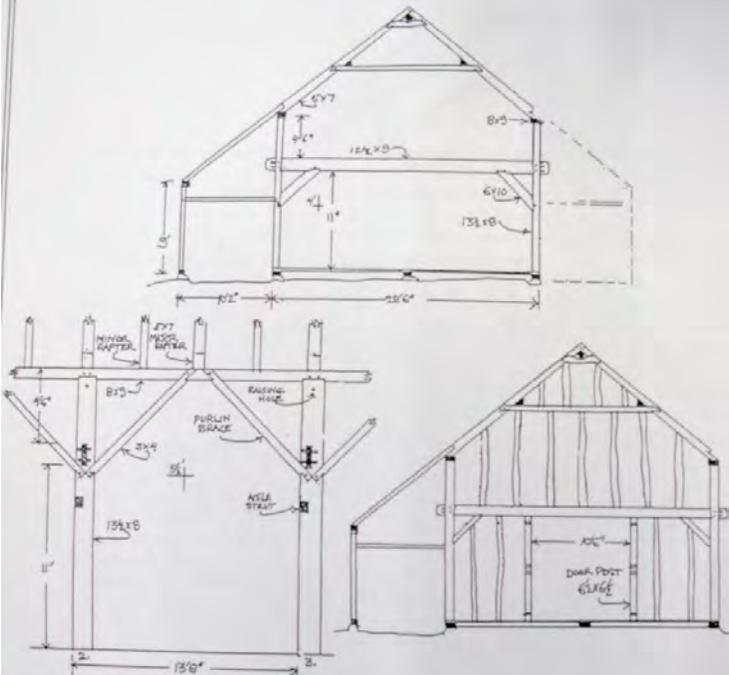
View of barn interior looking north and showing remaining Dutch barn framing.



View of barn interior looking south and showing Dutch barn framing



Plan of barn from Rochester barn survey report



Barn sections and details from Rochester barn survey report



View of meadow SW of house



View of garden and fields east of barn.



View of corral and fields east of barn.



View of lawn south of house and fields to east.