

PARTIAL ANSWERS TO PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM FOR
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

1. Drovers Tavern
2. R. D. 2, Cazenovia, New York, Onondaga County, 13035.
3. Privately owned. Unoccupied. Up for sale presently and not used.
4. Melville Clark, Jr., 8 Richard Road, Wayland, Massachusetts, 01778
5. Onondaga County Courthouse, 401 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York.
6. None known.
7. A. Good.

B. Original.

C. Please see survey map. Sarasen.

D. Please see survey map. Sarasen.

E. Please see floor plans of Meehan.

F. Basement, main floor, upstairs, attic.

Wood frame with interlocking joints

Brick wall exterior painted white

Gable roof

Cornice: unknown

Dormers: none

Porches: 2 in front, east side of house

4 chimneys, one at south end of house, one in middle of house, one on east side of house, one on west side of house. See floor plans.

Alterations:

Original architect engaged in 1929 to make modifications was discharged and replaced by my mother Mrs. Dorothy Speich Clark, because the architect wanted to modernize the house too much, which would then lose its authenticity. All modifications, additions, subtractions, and the like listed below were due to my mother.

House:

1. Modifications made in the fall of 1929:

a. Fireplaces were uncovered, having been boarded up, and the Franklin stoves were removed from the house. These fed into the fireplaces. The very shallow fireplaces, whose backs slope toward the front and whose sides open towards the front, were tested and found to radiate much more heat than normal fireplaces and to have a much better draft. The chimneys were repaired, especially the one in the dining room. No fireplace was found associated with the chimney and mantelpiece in the living room. Instead of brick on the floor before the would be fireplace, there was wood. The cleanout underneath the chimney, which cleanout is in the basement, is normal and works. Further, this chimney works and is genuine.

b. The dirt floors in the basement were replaced with cement.

c. Numerous cupboards, shelves, and the like were built of wood in the basement.

d. Hot air heating for the north end of the house and steam heat for the south end of the house was installed. Oil heat.

e. 220 volt, 3 wire utility wiring was installed to the house. Single phase. 110 volt wiring was run throughout the house.

f. Two bathrooms upstairs, one bathroom on the main floor, and one in the basement were installed.

g. Plumbing was installed to all bathrooms, to the kitchen, to the two southmost rooms, to hose outlets, and to a cow barn destroyed years late by fire where the shed now "stands". The pump, sand filter, and storage tank were installed in the former cistern under the kitchen. Formerly a hand-operated pump stood in the kitchen above this cistern. The well outside the cistern is a dug well. Water runs into it through a lead pipe from a spring about a third of a mile away between Mr. Hall's house and what is now route 92. (It was then rout 20.)

h. A telephone was installed. Party line. Hand cranked type. Was located in stairwell to basement. (Since then, the house has been wired with telephone extensions appearing in the library on the main floor, the master bedroom and the sleeping porch upstairs.

i. The roof of the sleeping porch, i.e., the south west bedroom, was raised and French windows installed so the beautiful sunsets in the West could be seen. Originally this room was as the south east bedroom now is.

j. All wooden floors were sanded, the cracks between the boards were filled with a kind of putty, and varnished.

k. A slate floor was installed in the breakfast room. French windows were installed on the west side in this room.

l. A cement floor was installed in the kitchen. Numerous closets cupboards, and the like were installed. An electric stove, which is what the 220 volts was for, a dishwasher, and refrigerator were installed.

m. French windows were installed in the west wall of the basement. Originally, this was a very dark, damp place. I'm rather certain, but not absolutely, that this part of the wall had to be knocked out to make space for the windows.

n. A door was installed, together with a walkway, in the west wall in the basement. The wall had to be knocked out for this purpose.

p. The walls, which were originally plaster, in the main hall on the main floor, the library, the guest room, the 4 bedrooms upstairs in the north part of the house were covered with wall paper.

q. The dirt floor where the garage now is was cemented and a drain installed. Originally, this was an open woodshed. A door was installed on the east side of this originally open space.

r. Stairs and a catwalk were installed leading to two rooms above and to the north and south ends of the garage. I think, but am not absolutely sure, that these rooms were originally reached by ladders.

s. A clothes chute was installed between the upstairs north west bedroom and the furnace area in the basement.

t. A closet was installed in the main bedroom.

u. A cedar closet was installed in the attic.

v. A cedar closet was installed under the main stairs.

w. The roof was covered with green, cedar shingles.

x. Closets and bookcases were installed in the library. The closets near the fireplaces in all rooms are original.

y. Big spotlights were installed in the maple trees in front of the house and turned on by a switch in a small closet in the chimney of the north east bedroom.

z. A big oil tank was installed in the middle of the east lawn.

aa. Lights were installed in every room and outside the house.

2. Later modifications:

a. The electric stove was replaced with a wood stove in the late 1930's. The wood stove was shortly replaced with a gas stove ca 1940. Bottled gas was installed. Back lawn, near breakfast room.

b. The water was originally heated by the steam boiler. This furnace was replaced around WW II. A gas hot water heater was then installed I think. I'm not very sure of these dates, since I was not around then.

c. The dishwasher eventually wore out in the late 1940's. It was replaced with an ordinary sink.

d. The maple trees were afflicted with a private tornado in the late 1930's. Corn was twisted up. The roof was torn off the horse barn. Trees were down everywhere. The big flood lights were never restored.

e. In the 1930's and later, posts were installed

in the basement under the main floor to strengthen the structure.

f. Sometime in the 1950's I think, but am not at all sure, the big oil tank failed and was replaced with a smaller one in the potato crib in the north most part of the cellar.

g. The original wood shingles were covered with asphalt singles probably in the 1950's and again covered with new asphalt singles and tin along the edges in 1974.

h. In the middle 1950's I think the walkway leading from the west wall of the basement was covered over to make a little greenhouse.

i. In the middle 1950's the porch around the north and east side of the house became quite rotten. It was torn down and not replaced. At this time the wood floors of the two small porches still remaining on the east side of the house were replaced with cement.

j. Sometime in the 1940's the gravel driveway was covered over with tar.

Horse barn:

1. Modifications made in the fall of 1929:

- a. Windows were installed in the west and south walls.
- b. Electricity and lights were installed.

2. Later modifications:

a. Dirt was dug out from cellar and a foundation poured under the east side of the barn. The south, west, and north walls were pointed up with cement. We made a potato cellar in the basement. Early 1930's.

b. Part of the original floor was replaced on the main floor for safety reasons and trap doors installed through which we poured potatoes. The main floor was also used for drying grain.

Original cow barn:

1. Burned down in late July or August in the late 1930's because of a cigarette thrown in the hay the day before.

2. Covered over with a roof and used as a machinery shed.

New cow barn:

1. Built shortly after the original one burned - well away from the other barns and the house. We were able to save the original ice house, although part of the roof burned, but not the silo or milk cooler shed. We were very concerned about the horse barn and the main house too.

Ice house:

1. Made into a chicken house in the 1930's. We never used it for ice.

2. It nearly burned down when we lost the original cow barn. We lost a lot of chickens because the writer had difficulty getting them out of the house and in throwing them out, some hit on a door edge below. (Why is it chickens will never do what you want them to, like get out of a burning building? Otherwise, they would be all over the place.)

Corn crib:

1. Built by John McCall with some assistance of the writer in the middle 1930's.

Chicken house west of the library of the house:

1. Built by John McCall and the writer in the middle 1930's.

Grounds:

1. Modifications made in 1929:

a. A very dilapidated barn running east and west just south of the present and original outhouse was torn down. Tar was everywhere. There were tar barrels everywhere. It was a small barn somewhat longer than the ice house but not so high.

b. A water trough ran east and west at the south end of the horse barn and east thereof 20 feet or so. Water from the spring ran into this water

trough. It, a fence, the south end of the horse barn formed a barnyard principally for the original cow barn. All this was made into lawn in 1929 and a duck pond, which we filled with ducks and geese, at the west side of the barn yard. This water supply saved the horse barn and house from being destroyed by the cow barn burning down. Unfortunately, it is now dry, although it had water in it until after WW II. It used to have lots of water in it.

c. The area behind the horse barn to its west was made level for a tennis court, which was almost never used.

d. Originally East Pompey Hollow Road was dirt. We covered it with calcium chloride, which is deliquescent, to keep the dust down. Public authorities eventually took over this chore. The road was widened twice, the last time it was covered with tar. In the early days in the winter, the road was plowed with a team of horses that drew a sled to the milk station.

e. Originally, there were a lot of wooden pipes about 15' long, 15" in outer diameter, 10" or so inner diameter with beveled ends, one being male, the other female. They were not painted or treated with anything. I do not know what became of them.

f. A small swimming pool was dug west of the house and horse barn and between the two. In recent years it has been a lily pond. It was not used much as a swimming pool.

2. Modifications since 1929:

a. The lot north of the house to the west of route 92 was originally much lower than the house and quite wet. There was an apple orchard (Northern Spies) at the west end of the lot. This lot was filled in when the route 92 was widened to make the lot level with the land around the house. A driveway installed in 1929 in front to the north of the house was then covered over.

b. The cherry orchard west of the house at the north end of the lawn is now gone. It gave lots of cherries.

c. Some of the grapes around the cherry orchard are still there, although not as profuse as they once were. They defined the east and west bounds of the cherry orchard. All these good things were there originally.

d. The popular trees about the place were planted in the early 1930's. Many are now gone too.

e. The large blue balsam near the garage on the east side of the house was planted about 1939 when it was about 3' tall, being won by the writer for guessing the number of seeds of a Redwood tree in a quart jar at the New York State Fair. Its lower limbs were cut off by a fool in the 1950's.

f. A beautiful trumpet vine grew at the south east corner of the bigger porch. It was huge. I think it passed away during the 1950's.

g. A large apple tree with a huge leader missing leader stood at the south east corner of the driveway proper that goes directly in front of the house. It was struck by lightning in the 1930's I think and expired.

h. The pear trees in the back lawn were planted in the 1950's I think.

i. The pine trees all over the place, along the west side of East Pompey Hollow Road, between this road and route 92, to the east of route 92, to the west of the house were planted as a part of a conservation plan in the 1950's I think.

j. The maple tree outside the kitchen is original. West of the kitchen. The maple tree west of the sleeping porch was planted in the 1940's I think. At any rate it is not original.

k. A big willow stood just south east of the small swimming pool. Parts of it blew down in a wind storm. Eventually, it had to be sawed down completely about 1967.

m. Originally, a wood pile at least 5' high ran the complete length of the horse barn and covered completely the terrace just west of the horse barn. It took years and years to burn all this wood in our fireplaces. Mostly we used the one in the library and the dining room.

n. Originally there was a cattle lane leading from the original cow barn all the way west down to the lower lot. There were also rows of trees dividing the lower cultivated lot into four smaller lots. The CCC tore all these out, put in drainage ditches, and the like during the Great Depression.

Note well: My authority for all the above is my memory. My memory is especially solid for events that took place in 1929, slightly less solid for happenings during the 1930's, when I was home, and not so good for subsequent events when I would get home only during visits.

7G. Has been described to the extent I'm able in my answer to 7F. The mantel pieces are wood carvings. The walls of the dining room are wood (bare), and the boards are very wide. But so are they wide in the attic and the horse barn in places. The maple beams are hand hewed, the axes therefore being on the place originally. I sold them during the auction. The beams in the horse barn and the original cow barn were hand hewn. The risers of the stairs are quite high by modern standards. The front stairs are quite broad and bounded by a flimsy wooden rail that would never pass OSHA standards. The front door at the north end of the house has a lot of fancy carving. The glass was said to have been made on the place; some of it has been replaced with new glass. The old glass is sufficiently lousy that I'm prepared to believe it was indeed made there, but I have no proof. Likewise, the bricks, which are quite powdery, were said to have been made on the place and the next door neighbor says he can point out where they were made in the lower lots. But I have no proof of this either. The tar barrels were said to contain tar and the tar was said to be used to coat the feet of the fowl driven up the Cherry Valley Turnpike, later known as route 20, and later still known as route 92. But I have no proof. The wood pipes mentioned above were said to be for salt, but I have no proof. The sign above the garage, which is original, says "Entertainment for Travelers & Drovers", whence the name. I wonder what kind of entertainment was provided. My family was all musicians. The horse barn was filled with harnesses in 1929 when Dad bought the place. Many of the horse stalls have been taken out over the years.

8. A. Biographical information in depth can be provided for my father and mother and myself, but I doubt that anyone would be interested in that. I am unable to provide any information on the original owners or subsequent owners until my father and mother. Nor can I provide any history of the place.

8. B. I don't know anything about the social and economic forces that shaped the community's growth or development, and so on. I suppose the tavern was built where it was because it is about 14 miles, a day's travel by foot, from Syracuse and because it is at the bottom of the first big hill into Cazenovia. Nor am I in a position to do any historical research since I live in Massachusetts, work in Connecticut, and travel all over the US much of the time. Further, I'm not a historian.

9. The only bibliography I can provide is my memory for things that happened since 1929.

10. The original size of the property was about 189 acres. It seems to have been associated with a house and farm of some original 139 acres, which house

was completed in 1793. Drovers Tavern Farm now consists of about 150 acres, mother having sold off 4 lots at various times since 1960.

11. Melville Clark, Jr., 8 Richard Road, Wayland, Massachusetts, 01778, 617 655 0906, May 31, 1978.

Note a survey was made in 1929 by a Mr. Sarasen. Jack Cottrell has surveyed the lots sold since 1960.