



## **Odell Tavern**

### **Statement of Historical Significance (Long Version)**

August 25, 2021

Researched and compiled by  
The Irvington Historical Society Preservation Committee

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Irvington, New York

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## Introduction:

The structure commonly known as the “Odell Tavern” sits in the northeast corner of a 10-½-acre, privately-owned parcel, located at 100 South Broadway in Irvington, New York.<sup>1</sup> The original small, square, stone structure built in 1693 is still visible as part of the outer, east wall of the building. Wood framed additions with clapboard siding, including a lean-to section in the rear for additional space, were added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and reach up the gentle hillside towards the west. Facing south, the house has a covered porch across the front, topped by dormer windows above.

The charming house is a prime example of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Colonial or “Dutch American” architecture.<sup>2</sup> The Odell Tavern, however, is also a living testament to important historic, economic and architectural developments. These include: (i) early settlement patterns during the colonial period of Westchester County, (ii) the operations of the manor system at Philipsburg Manor, (iii) the practice of slavery in the mid-Atlantic region, (iv) the experience of the Revolutionary War in the no-man’s land between the lines, (v) regional development during the New Republic and Market Revolution, (vi) the gentrification of the Hudson River Valley in the early nineteenth century, and (vii) Irvington’s rise to prominence in

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<sup>1</sup> The property, which is owned by 100 South Broadway LLC, is Town of Greenburgh Tax Parcel No. 2.130-63-1 and can be seen on Section 002.130 of the Tax Map of Town of Greenburgh. The property is bordered on the east by South Broadway, on the north by Dows Lane, on the west by the Old Croton Aqueduct and on the south by Clinton Avenue. In addition to the Tavern, the property includes a large 19th century barn, groomed lawns and gardens, and a four-story Bedford stone mansion situated atop the small hillside historically referred to as Odell’s Hill.

<sup>2</sup> American scholars have long recognized “Dutch Colonial” as a specific architectural style of the Dutch settlers in and around New York. *See, e.g.,* Aymar Embury, II, *One Hundred Country Houses* (Century Co. 1909), at 74. Because of the heterogeneity of New Netherlands, however, which produced a new style of architecture distinct from that practiced in the Netherlands, architectural historian David Steven Cohen has suggested the term “Dutch American” to describe such architecture. David Steven Cohen, *The Dutch-American Farm*, (NY: NYU Press 1992), at 33-64, hereinafter (“*The Dutch-American Farm*”); *see* Firth Haring Fabend, *New Netherland in a Nutshell; A Concise History of the Dutch Colony in North America* (Albany, NY: New Netherland Inst. 2012), at 117 (hereinafter “*New Netherland*”). For purposes of this submission, we will refer to the original architectural style of the Odell Tavern as “Dutch Colonial”.

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the twentieth century as a suburban retreat for wealthy New Yorkers. The Odell Tavern also stands today within a network of other, well-known extant historic sites, which together speak to the experiences of various peoples and historical changes during several important eras in the history of the village, county, state and nation. These sites, of which Odell Tavern shares direct historical associations, include: Philipse Manor Hall (Yonkers), Philipsburg Manor Upper Mills (Sleepy Hollow), the Old Dutch Church and Burying Ground (Sleepy Hollow), Washington Irving's Sunnyside (Tarrytown), Odell House – Rochambeau Headquarters (Hartsdale), and Sherwood House (Yonkers).

The Odell Tavern is an essential and unique “living museum” right in our midst, and its historical resonance is amplified by its position within the larger network of historic structures in the region. The historical and architectural significance of the Odell Tavern, as well as its role in the local and regional development of Westchester County and the lower Hudson River Valley, makes it a prime candidate for designation as a Local Historical Landmark for the Village of Irvington.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For additional, background sources on the history and architecture of the Odell Tavern, see Frank E. Sanchis, *American Architecture: Westchester County, New York: Colonial to Contemporary* (North River Press, 1977) (hereinafter “*American Architecture, Westchester County*”); Mary Agnes Parnell, “What Makes A House Worthy of Preservation? Two Houses in Danger: Harmse-Odel Tavern and Washington-Rochambeau Headquarters,” May 4, 1976, unpublished ms., in folder “Odell House, Hartsdale,” Westchester County Historical Society, Elmsford, N.Y. (hereinafter, “*What Makes A House Worthy of Preservation*”); Marcius D. Raymond, ed., *Souvenir of the Revolutionary Soldiers' Monument Dedication At Tarrytown, N.Y., October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1894* (Tarrytown, N.Y. 1894), at 79-88 (hereinafter, “*Soldiers' Monument*”); Polly Anne Graff & Stewart Graff, eds., *Portrait of a Village: Wolfert's Roost, Irvington-on-Hudson*, ed. (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY: Washington Irving Press, 1971), at 12-14; Judith Doolin Spikes and Anne Marie Leon, *Then & Now: Irvington* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub. 2009), at 11; Arthur C. Lord, “The Odell Inn and Farm,” *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester Historical Society*, 5:4 (October 1929), at 87-90; William S. Hadaway, “The Odell Inn, Farm and Family,” *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester Historical Society*, 6:4 (October 1930), at 95-103; Historical American Buildings Survey, “Odell Inn, South Broadway, Irvington, Westchester County, NY,” HABS NY-4109, available at <https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.ny1164.sheet/?sp=1> (hereinafter, “*HABS Survey*”).

## Historical Significance:

With an original stone structure completed in 1693, the Odell Tavern is a rare, surviving example of traditional Dutch Colonial architecture. It is one of the few remaining homes in Westchester originally constructed by a Dutch settler, and the additions made by subsequent owners during the 18<sup>th</sup> century speak to a diverse range of early-American historical, economic and architectural trends. While the history of this building began in the colonial era, its significance rose to new heights during and after the American Revolution. Throughout this span of time, lasting more than a century, the building and property reflected changing cultural, economic, and land-use traditions within Westchester County and played a significant role in the early history of the United States.

The original structure that forms the core of the Odell Tavern was constructed around 1693 on land that was part of Philipsburg Manor, a large English manor located north of New York City and owned by Frederick Philipse (1626-1702), a Dutch-born carpenter. Beginning in 1672, Philipse had made several large land purchases along the east side of the Hudson River, including land formerly owned as a Dutch patroonship by Adriaen van der Donck under the auspices of the Dutch West India Company. In 1693 Philipse was granted a royal charter for this 52,000-acre estate and named the first Lord of Philipsburg Manor.<sup>4</sup> Philipse and his heirs leased most of their manor property to tenant farmers of a variety of European backgrounds, collecting rent payments typically in the form of wheat and grains.

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<sup>4</sup> Acting on behalf of King William III, Colonial Governor Benjamin Fletcher granted this royal charter on June 12, 1693, and named Frederick Philipse the first Lord of the “Manor of Philipseborough”. See George E. Waring, Jr., *Report on the Social Statistics of Cities, Dept. of the Interior, Census Office* (Gov. Printing Off. 1886), at 607. In later years, the name was shortened to “Manor of Philipsburg” or, alternatively, to “Manor of Philipsburgh” or “Philipse Manor”. See J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Westchester County*, Vol I (L.E. Preston & Co. 1886), at 398 (hereinafter, “*History of Westchester, Vol I*”).

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In 1693 Jan Harmse (1658-1741) built a one-room, square, stone structure on a tenant farm in Philipsburg Manor. Captain Jan Harmse was born in New Amsterdam in 1658, the son of Harmen Janazen Van Lennep (or Lemming), a Dutch West India Company employee, and Margaret Meyring. Jan Harmse married Aeltje Abrams in 1680, and they lived in Queens near Newtown until sometime in the 1690s.<sup>5</sup> A tanner by trade, Harmse served as a captain in the militia during the French and Indian War, and was a member of the Old Dutch Church in Tarrytown. The Harmses had four children, all of whom died young except for their son Harmen.<sup>6</sup>

Sometime in the early 1690s, Jan Harmse and his wife moved to and occupied a leasehold on Philipsburg Manor near the eastern shore of the Hudson River and along the west side of the Queen's Road, a public highway connecting New York City to Albany.<sup>7</sup> (The Queen's Road was later known as the King's Highway after it was improved in 1723 during the

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<sup>5</sup> See Adrienne Welty Boaz, *Specific Ancestral Lines of the Boaz, Paul, Welty & Fishel Families* (Otter Bay Books, LLC 2014), at 320-322 (hereinafter "*Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Families*"); "Van Lennep Family", Grenville C. Mackenzie, *Families of the Colonial Town of Philipsburgh*, unpublished transcript, Vol. I (Tarrytown, N.Y., Sleepy Hollow Restorations 1976), at 740 (available at Westchester County Historical Society, Elmsford, N.Y.) (hereinafter, "*Families of Colonial Philipsburgh*").

<sup>6</sup> Harmen Conklin would later take the surname of his wife, Margaret "Grietje" Montross/Montras, and become known as Harmen Montross. *Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Family*, *supra* note 5, at 248, 278, 322; *see also Families of Colonial Philipsburgh*, *supra* note 5, at 14.

<sup>7</sup> In 1703, the Provincial Legislature enacted an Act "for the laying out Regulating Clearing and preserving Publick Comon highways thro'out this Colony." Colonial Laws N.Y. 1:532, Chap. 131. This Act authorized, *inter alia*, a "Publick and Common General Highway" extending from King's Bridge, which connected upper Manhattan to the Bronx, to Albany. *See Historical Development of Westchester County – A Chronology*, Vol. I (West. Cty. Emergency Work Bur. and the Works Progress Administration 1939), at 144, available at the Westchester County Archives; C.G. Hine, "The New York and Albany Post Road", *Hine's Annual*, Book I (1905), at 1, available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=coo1.ark:/13960/t71v63h1c&view=1up&seq=1> (hereinafter, "*Hine's Annual*"). In 1693 Frederick Philipse built King's Bridge, a toll bridge over the Spuyten Duyvil Creek at the southern end of the Bronx, thereby connecting, for the first time, Manhattan Island with the mainland and the road north to Albany.

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reigns of George I and George II.)<sup>8</sup> Harmse used the stone structure he built as a farmhouse and store, and possibly as an inn.<sup>9</sup>

In around 1743 Matthys Conklin and his wife, Feytie “Sophia” Mabie, took over the leasehold for the property.<sup>10</sup> Matthys Conklin was the son of Deliverance Conklin (born in Rye to English settlers around 1670) and Engeltje Buckhout. Deliverance Conklin and Engeltje Buckhout married in 1695, and moved to Philipsburg Manor around 1697, likely in the interior of the county along the Pocantico River.<sup>11</sup> Matthys Conklin and his wife Sophia Mabie were likely able to take over the lease of the Harmse property because of Matthys’ family relationship with the Buckhout family, who were also tenant farmers at Philipsburg Manor.<sup>12</sup>

Sometime after taking up residence, the Conklins doubled the size of Harmse’s stone house by adding a second room on the west side of the building. A stone tablet with an inscription on the western side of the south-facing wall includes the initials, “C,” “M,” and “S,” along with the date of “May 8, 1746.”<sup>13</sup> The letters likely refer to Matthys and Sophia Conklin, as well as either the date they took up occupancy or the date they expanded the house. With its

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<sup>8</sup> Over the years, this public highway has also been named and referred to as the Highland Turnpike and/or the Albany Post Road, and is today Broadway (Route 9).

<sup>9</sup> *Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Family*, *supra* note 5, at 320-23; *Hine’s Annual*, *supra* note 7; John Cornelius Leon Hamilton, *Poverty and Patriotism of the Neutral Grounds: A Paper Read Before The Westchester County Historical Society Upon the One Hundred and Twenty-Third Anniversary of the Battle of White Plains*, dated October 28, 1899 (Press of J. Hittle 1900), at 7-8 (hereinafter, “*Poverty and Patriotism*”).

<sup>10</sup> *Families of Colonial Philipsburgh*, *supra* note 5, at 141.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 139.

<sup>12</sup> Matthys Conklin’s grandfather on his mother’s side, Matthys Janszen Buckhout (born about 1649 in Leiden, Holland, arriving in New Amsterdam in 1663), served as constable and collector for Frederick Philipse’s Upper Mills. Matthys Conklin’s uncle Jan Buckhout (1682-1785), served in the French and Indian War as a militia captain, and owned a large leasehold next to the Harmse farm for many years (extending from the Hudson River east along today’s Station Road through and Harriman Road). *Id.* at 141.

<sup>13</sup> Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (Dover Publ., Inc. 1965), at 310 (originally prepared in 1929 under the auspices of The Holland Society of New York) (hereinafter, “*Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley*”); *Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Family*, *supra* note 5, at 321.

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advantageous placement along the King's Highway from New York City to Albany, the Conklins probably used the building as a tavern. An almanac by Nathaniel Ames of Boston, dated 1771, mentions the Conklins' tavern as the second stop out of New York on the road to Albany and Quebec.<sup>14</sup> In 1750 the Conklins left Philipsburg Manor and moved to Orangetown, Rockland County.<sup>15</sup>

In 1756, the Harmse-Conklin leasehold was taken over by Jonathan Odell (1730-1818), who was married to Margaret Dyckman (1732-1783). The Odells descended from English ancestors, who had married into Dutch families such as the Dyckmans and the Vermilyes; the Odell family reportedly spoke the Dutch language and acted in the manners of the Dutch rather than the English. Jonathan Odell and Margaret Dyckman formerly lived on a leasehold farm of 300 acres on Anthony's Nose in Van Cortlandt Manor, but sometime after the birth of their second son John in 1756 they moved to the Harmse-Conklin house (*i.e.*, the Odell Tavern) in Philipsburg Manor. The rest of their children Isaac, William, Abraham, Jane, Jemima and Rebecca, were born while the family lived in the Odell Tavern.

In the years leading up to the Revolutionary War, the Odell Tavern and surrounding farm operated in ways typical of the larger tenant farms in Westchester County in the late eighteenth century. Philipsburg Manor and its tenant farmers prospered during this period, with the population of the Manor increasing from 60 in 1712, to 170 in 1760, and to 272 in 1776.<sup>16</sup> For example, in 1757 John Martlings of Philipsburg Manor advertised a 200-acre farm with

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<sup>14</sup> Nathaniel Ames, *An Astronomical Diary: Or Almanack For The Year Of Our Lord Christ 1771* (Portsmouth, New Hampshire: D. & R. Fowle 1771); "The Odell Inn at Irvington", *The Chronicle of the Historical Society of the Tarrytowns, Inc.*, No. 16 (September 1963), at 2-4 (hereinafter, the "Odell Inn").

<sup>15</sup> *Families of Philipsburgh*, *supra* note 5, at 141.

<sup>16</sup> Sung Bok Kim, *Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York; Manorial Society, 1664-1775* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), at 241 (hereinafter, "*Landlord and Tenant*").

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improvements including “a good large dwelling House, having 3 rooms on a Floor,” with a large kitchen, “a good cellar with a store above it,” an orchard, and “a large commodious Barn.”<sup>17</sup>

Similarly, James Barnerd operated the Bunch of Grapes Inn, and his tenant farm consisted of 300 acres of land, with 20 acres of orchard and two large gardens “well stored with a Variety of Peaches, Pears, Plums, Currants, and English Cherries of the best sorts, with several large Beds of Asparagus, all in good Fence.” Barnerd’s site also featured 200 acres of mowing, plow and pasture lands, 80 acres of well-timbered woodland, while a brook and springs provided water. Improvements on Barnerd’s tenant farm also included a new, large barn and stable, with horse stand and hay loft, plus several out houses. The main house included three rooms, kitchen and milk room on the first floor, plus five bedrooms on the second floor, along with a good cellar, and “a thirty Feet Piazza before the whole house, well finished.”<sup>18</sup> Jonathan Odell’s farm was likely similar to these.

The location of Jonathan Odell’s farmhouse along a brook (Barney Brook), adjacent to the main road, and bordering the Hudson River, likely offered it a number of advantages as both a tenant farm and a site for a roadside tavern, serving travelers passing through Westchester. As part of Philipsburg Manor, Jonathan Odell’s tenant farm also participated in the regional and global economic networks of which the Manor was a part. Agricultural products from the various tenant farms were processed by enslaved labor at the mills located at both the manor houses on the Saw Mill River (Philipse Manor Hall, Yonkers) and at the Upper Mills on the Pocantico River (Sleepy Hollow). Processed products would be shipped to markets in New York City and across the globe, and goods, including enslaved persons, would be imported.

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<sup>17</sup> *New-York Gazette: or, Wkly, Post-Boy*, May 9, 1757, cited to in *Landlord and Tenant*, *supra* note 16, at 257.

<sup>18</sup> *New-York Gazette and Weekly Mercury*, December 12, 1768, cited to in *Landlord and Tenant*, *supra* note 15, at 257-258; see also Field Horne, *Westchester County: A History* (Elmsford, N.Y.: Westchester Cty. Hist. Soc. 2018), at 43 & n. 23 (hereinafter, “*Westchester County: A History*”).

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The Odell Tavern played a significant role in the local events of the Revolutionary War, and the Odell family served the patriot cause and contributed to the American victory and independence. All of the Odell sons and at least one enslaved African owned by the family fought against the British crown. When volunteers were called for in the summer of 1776 on the Parade Ground at Tarrytown, nineteen-year-old John Odell, son of Jonathan, was the first one to step up.<sup>19</sup>

During the war, the Odell Tavern became the seat of New York government for a day: after the British defeated George Washington's Continental Army at the Battle of Long Island on August 17, 1776, the New York Committee of Safety's members fled British-occupied New York City and began travelling up the eastern shore of the Hudson River. On August 31, 1776, they stopped at "the house of Mr. Odell, Philipse's Manor."<sup>20</sup> Here, they received a communication from General George Washington and Colonel Jeromus Remson of the Kings and Queens County Militia, which discussed the use of militia and troops in the wake of the defeat at Long Island. The Committee of Safety drafted a reply to Washington to outline plans for employing militia who were driven from their homes by the British, to fortify a defense around the area above King's Bridge north of Manhattan, and to recommend the formation of the militia under Colonel Remsen of Long Island. They also resolved that residents of New York City should drive their cattle, horses, hogs and sheep into the interior so as to prevent their seizure by the

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<sup>19</sup> *Soldiers' Monument*, *supra* note 3, at 88. The second and third volunteers were members of the Requa family. Amos C. Requa, *The Family of Requa, 1678-1898* (Peekskill, NY: 1898), at 52. Various sources identify this regiment as under the command of Sybout Acker, Samuel Drake, or Stephen Oakley.

<sup>20</sup> *History of Westchester, Vol I*, *supra* at note 4, at 398.

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British.<sup>21</sup> Thus, for that one day during the summer of 1776, the Tavern was the seat of the New York State government.

The Odell Tavern continued to play an important role throughout the War for Independence, particularly in the often overlooked, partisan war that raged between the lines of British-occupied New York City and the Continental Army's positions in the Hudson Highlands. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1776, the combined British and Hessian troops left White Plains and marched toward the Hudson River, where their warships could provide protection. They set up a camp stretching from the Hudson River to the Saw Mill River on the morning of November 6<sup>th</sup>.<sup>22</sup> General Vaughan of the British army encamped for six days, from November 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, on Odell's Hill, the high ground west of the King's Highway and adjacent to the Odell Tavern. During this encampment, British and/or Hessian troops cut down Jonathan Odell's orchards, destroyed almost 1,000 bushels of wheat, and killed all of Odell's hogs.<sup>23</sup> Jonathan Odell, along

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<sup>21</sup> The Committee members included Colonel Pierre Van Cortlandt of the Third Westchester County Militia and future Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, Colonel Kiliaen Van Rensselaer of the Fourth Albany County Militia, Robert R. Livingston of Dutchess County, Abraham Yates, Jr. of Albany County, and William Duer of Charlotte County. After their meeting at the Odell Tavern, the members of the Committee (minus Colonel Remson who took up position with General Clinton at King's Bridge) moved north to the Croton River and finally to Fishkill, where they reconvened on September 2. See *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the State of New York, 1775-1776-1777*, Vol. I (Thurlow Weed 1842), at 602-04; Otto Hufeland, *Westchester County during the American Revolution, 1775-1783* (privately printed, 1926; reprint, Harrison, NY: Harbor Hill Books 1974), at 80-81; *Soldiers' Monument*, *supra* note 3, at 80. Copies of these original Committee of Safety documents can also be found online at "General Orders, 31 August 1776," Founders Online, National Archives, last modified March 30, 2017, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-06-02-0143>. [Original source: The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 6, 13 August 1776-20 October 1776, ed. Philander D. Chase and Frank E. Grizzard, Jr. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994, at 171-177].

<sup>22</sup> Carl Leopold Baurmeister, *Revolution in America; Confidential Letters and Journals 1776-1784 of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian Forces*, trans. Bernhard A. Uhlendorf (NJ: Rutgers, 1957), at 67; see also William Faden (engraver), Claude Joseph Sauthier (cartographer), *A plan of the operations of the King's army : under the command of General Sr. William Howe, K.B. in New York and East New Jersey, against the American forces commanded by General Washington, from the 12th of October, to the 28th of November 1776, wherein is particularly distinguished the engagement on the White Plains, the 28th of October* (London: W. Faden, 1777), Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, New York Public Library, available at: <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-f074-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99#item-data>; Captain Johan Ewald, *Diary of the American War: A Hessian Journal*, trans. by Joseph P. Tustin, ed. (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press 1979).

<sup>23</sup> Jackson Odell, September 30, 1845, Vol. II (1845), at 163, 182 (available at Westchester County Historical Society, Westchester County Archives, Elmsford, N.Y.); see also *Soldiers' Monument*, *supra* note 3, at 80-81.

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with his neighbors Jacob and Abraham Storms, Tennis Cronk, and Garret Lent, was arrested and taken as prisoner to the Sugar House prison in New York City. While the four neighbors died in prison from poison said to have been placed in their food, Jonathan Odell escaped through the kindness of a friend who brought him provisions every day. Allegedly the men were treated poorly by the British because their sons were all active or serving as soldiers in the patriot cause for independence.<sup>24</sup> Odell's Hill, behind the Odell Tavern on the river side, was a frequent location for British and Hessian forces to occupy during the remainder of the Revolutionary war. John Grave Simcoe's Queens Rangers occupied the site in July of 1777 and again in June of 1778.<sup>25</sup>

Jonathan Odell served in Col. Samuel Drake's Third Regiment of the Westchester County Militia, and several of Jonathan's sons and nephews served as principal members of the Westchester Guides, who proved indispensable in helping the Continental Army navigate across the rugged Hudson Valley terrain. John Odell, as well as his brothers Isaac, Abraham and William, and his cousins Isaac Odell and Abraham Dyckman, all acted as Westchester Guides, mounted volunteers who assisted Continental officers.<sup>26</sup> After the regular armies withdrew following the invasion of 1776, Westchester County became an embattled no-man's land between the lines of the British in New York City and the Continental outposts in the Hudson

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General Vaughan later became infamous when, on October 16, 1777, he burnt Kingston, New York, at that time the capital of New York State, in an attempt to relieve pressure on General Burgoyne's British forces at Saratoga.

<sup>24</sup> Jackson Odell, September 18, McDonald Papers, Vol. II (1845), at 159-160 (available at Westchester County Historical Society, Westchester County Archives, Elmsford, N.Y.); *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, Vol. VIII (The Biographical Soc. 1904) (Odell, Jonathan).

<sup>25</sup> John Graves Simcoe, *Simcoe's Military Journal; A History of the Operations of a Partisan corps, Called the Queen's Rangers, Commanded by Lieut. Col. J.G. Simcoe, During the War of the American Revolution* (New York: Bartlett & Welford, 1844) [First edition, Exeter, England, 1787], at 101, 148.

<sup>26</sup> John MacLean McDonald, "The Westchester Guides in the War of the Revolution," in *The McDonald Papers*, ed. William S. Hadaway, 2 vols. (1845), reprinted in *Publications of the Westchester County Historical Society*, Volumes IV and V (White Plains, NY: Westchester Cty. Hist. Soc. 1926), 1: at 66-97; Frederick C. Haacker, "The Westchester Guides," *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester Historical Society*, 30:2 (April 1954), at 60-64.

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Highlands. The Odell Tavern and the Odells witnessed much of this warfare. In July of 1778, when General Washington and the Continental Army returned from New Jersey, John Odell, Isaac Odell and their cousin Abraham Dyckman again took on the dangerous role as mounted guides to the Continental Army, which was then encamped at White Plains. John Odell said of the region during the period 1778-1779, "It was unsafe for any who were friends of their county to remain in that part of the country at that time." In the summer of 1780 John Odell also served in the Mohawk Valley.<sup>27</sup> In 2004, a bronze marker was placed by the Hudson River Patriots Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at the Odell Tavern, commemorating its role during the Revolutionary War.<sup>28</sup>

The Odell Tavern is linked through the lives of its inhabitants not only to the Revolutionary War, but also through the continuing service of the Odell family in later American wars. After the Revolution, John Odell became a colonel in the militia, and he purchased the house in present-day Hartsdale that had served as General Rochambeau's headquarters during the six-week encampment of the combined Franco-American armies in the summer of 1781. In that house, Generals Washington and Rochambeau conceived the plan to trap Cornwallis in Yorktown, the success of which effectively ended the war.<sup>29</sup> Thus, the Odell Tavern shares a

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<sup>27</sup> John Odell, Pension S. 28,830. *See* Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, Publ. No. M804 (NARA), available at <https://www.fold3.com/image/27240566>

<sup>28</sup> The marker recites: "The Odell Tavern: according to tradition this building was used as a tavern and also served as the Odell home. The patriot, Jonathan Odell and his wife Margaret Dyckman live here. Their sons, John, Isaac, and Abraham were Westchester guides, and their son Jacob was a post rider for the Committee of Safety during the war for American Independence (1775- 1783). The Odell's home was a site of a meeting of the Committee of Safety, Aug 31, 1776; marker placed June 19, 2004 by Hudson River Patriots Chapter, DAR in appreciation of the restoration of this building." Marker #1056b, Applied June 1, 2001, Dedicated June 19, 2004. *See* New York State Organization, NSDAR, "NY State Historic Markers," available at: <http://www.nydar.org/historic-preservation/ny-state-historic-markers.html>

<sup>29</sup> Built in 1732, the Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters building served as the headquarters for the Comte de Rochambeau and his French Forces from July 6, 1781, to August 18, 1781. During that time, General George Washington and the Continental Army camped nearby in Ardsley. The two generals met and surveyed Westchester and the Bronx and received intelligence about British Army and Navy strength in Manhattan. After receiving word from French Admiral de Grasse that his fleet would assist them in Virginia, they made the crucial decision not to engage the British in New York, a battle that they likely would have lost. Instead the two forces of over 7,000 soldiers crossed the Hudson River at night and marched their combined armies to Yorktown, Virginia where they

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connection to and is part of a regional network of surviving structures (including Washington's headquarters at the Miller House and the Purdy House in White Plains) that help tell the story of the achievement of American independence. In addition, John Odell's descendants served in nearly every American war from the War of 1812 to World War I.

The Odell Tavern also serves as witness to the history of slavery and of enslaved Africans in America. During the British encampment on Odell's Hill in 1776, Hessian soldiers hanged Caesar, who was enslaved by Jonathan Odell, because he refused to tell where his master had hidden the hogs. The process they used was called "half-hanging," and entailed soldiers stringing up prisoners in a noose, but instead of allowing the noose to break the man's neck and kill him, soldiers allowed the noose to strangle the man for a short time before letting him down again. During the Revolutionary War, both sides conducted half-hangings, but Tories in Westchester often used the method to force local farmers to identify the location of food and other valuables.<sup>30</sup> After half-hanging Caesar two times, and cutting him down, they hanged him again before riding off. Caesar's life was saved, however, when he was cut down according to various accounts by either a neighbor's enslaved African or by two young girls from the Odell household.<sup>31</sup> As the story of Caesar demonstrates, the Odell Tavern is a surviving witness to the

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defeated Lord Cornwallis and won the war. See *Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters*, <https://www.odellrochambeau.org/>

<sup>30</sup> On the method of half-hanging, see Richard F. Welch, *General Washington's Commando: Benjamin Tallmadge in the Revolutionary War* (McFarland & Co., Inc. 2014), at 73; James Thacher, *Military Journal, During The American Revolutionary War From 1775 to 1783* (Hartford: Silas Andrus & Son, 1854), at 238.

<sup>31</sup> For different accounts of Caesar's hanging see J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Westchester County*, Vol II (L.E. Preston & Co. 1886), at 189 (hereinafter, "*History of Westchester, Vol. II*"); *Soldiers' Monument*, *supra* at note 3, at 80; Polly Anne Graff & Stewart Graff, eds., *Portrait of a Village: Wolfert's Roost, Irvington-on-Hudson*, ed. (Irvington-on-Hudson, NY: Washington Irving Press, 1971), at 20; Jack Young, "Hanged Three Times!," *Westchester Historian* 48:2 (Spring 1972), at 33.

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system of slavery as practiced in the mid-Atlantic region, and also to the presence, agency and contributions of persons of African descent in the United States.

After the Revolutionary War, many of the former tenants of Philipsburg Manor purchased their leaseholds from the Commissioners of Forfeiture, who re-distributed lands seized during the war from loyalists such as Lord of the Manor Frederick Philipse III. On December 6, 1785, Jonathan Odell bought the 463-acre farm for £1,203 16s.<sup>32</sup> He and his wife continued to run the property as both a tavern and an inn, catering to guests such as Alexander Hamilton, who often travelled north from New York City along the King's Highway. On at least one occasion, Hamilton stayed overnight at the Odell Tavern, and the next morning Colonel John Odell drove him to White Plains.<sup>33</sup>

Jonathan Odell lived on his farm until his death in 1818, deeding the homestead to his son, William. Over the next thirty years, different portions of the original Odell farm were sold off. In 1835, the southern part of the Odell farm, which was known as the "Cox Farm," was purchased by James Hamilton, the son of Alexander Hamilton, for his nearby estate.<sup>34</sup> A decade later the northern part of the Odell farm, which was known as the "Homestead farm" and included the Odell Tavern, was sold to Calista Crosby (whose father-in-law, Enoch Crosby, was a Revolutionary Soldier and spy, immortalized by James Fenimore Cooper in *The Spy: A Tale of the Neutral Ground*, 1821).

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<sup>32</sup> Harry B. Yoshpe, *The Disposition of Loyalist Estates in the Southern District of the State of New York* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1939), at 54.

<sup>33</sup> For a description of this stay by Hamilton see *The New York Tribune*, October 25, 1896, reprinted in John Rösch, *Historic White Plains; A History of the City of White Plains* (Harrison, NY: Harbor Hill Books, 1976 [White Plains, NY: Balletto-Sweetman, 1939]), at 173-174.

<sup>34</sup> On James Hamilton's acquiring this property see Maureen McKernan "The Odell Family," Peekskill, N.Y., *Evening Star*, Monday, August 14, 1951, online as part of "Old Families of Westchester" on The Van Tassel Family History Homepage, available at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vantasselfamilyhistoryhomepage/oldfamiliesofwestchester/odell.html>.

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In 1851, John Daniel Wendel purchased a twelve-acre parcel of the former Odell farm on the west side of Broadway, which included the Odell Tavern. Wendel's father, John Gottlieb Wendel, had been a partner with Jacob Astor in the fur business and, later, a real estate investor in New York City. The Wendel Family owned the Odell Tavern and surrounding property for over 80 years until 1931, when Ella von Echtzel Wendel, the last remaining daughter of John Wendel, died and left the property in her Will to Isabel G. Koss, a close family friend. The large Bedford stone mansion on the hilltop was built in 1938, designed by Aymar Embry 2d, who also designed the George Washington Bridge. Ms. Koss and her husband, Joseph N. Murray, owned the property and Odell Tavern until 1978. In 1978, the Executors of the Estate of Joseph N. Murray sold the property to David H. Griffin.<sup>35</sup>

In 1989, Griffin offered the Village of Irvington an opportunity to purchase the 10.5-acre estate, but the Village passed on the opportunity.<sup>36</sup> In 1999, Griffin sold the property to Steven and Caroline Niemczyk, who prevented the property from being converted into an assisted living center by Marriott, and who restored the Odell Tavern. They replaced the roof on the Odell Tavern, stripped 40 layers of paint from the Odell Tavern's front door, repaired the wooden window frames, and reinstalled the original 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century glass panes before renting it to Mr. Giles Harper, a restoration project coordinator at nearby Lyndhurst.<sup>37</sup> In 2014 the

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<sup>35</sup> Because of the long ownership by the Murray and the Griffin families, the property is often referred to as the "former Murray-Griffin Estate."

<sup>36</sup> In his offer to the Village, Griffin announced that he would be willing to sell his property for less than the \$5.5 million he said he would ask for on the open market. Griffin, president of Griffin International, a soil consolidation and de-watering company headquartered in Yonkers, told officials he was making the offer because he did not want the property developed. Village officials decided that village taxpayers could not afford to purchase the property, as it would cost \$4 million to \$6 million, which was almost equal to Irvington's entire annual budget of \$5 million. A citizens group - the Land and Landmarks Committee - was formed to support acquisition of the property, but time seems to have simply passed on before the Village could acquire it. Tessa Melvin, "Tempting Offer in Irvington, but How Should Village Respond?" *New York Times*, October 29, 1989.

<sup>37</sup> Carin Rubenstein, "Supersized, From the Biggest to the Tallest," *New York Times*, November 9, 2003. *See also* Arthur C. Lord, "The Odell Inn and Farm," *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester Historical Society*, 5:4

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Niemczyks sold the 10.5-acre property to its current owner, 100 South Broadway, LLC, which operates the Monte Nido Rivertowns Residential Eating Disorder Treatment Facility on the property.

## **Regional Development Significance:**

The Odell Tavern and its surrounding property reflect and illustrate the economic, infrastructure, and public health developments across the Lower Hudson Valley region. These developments, which are evident in the changes to both the Tavern's physical structure and its socio-economic uses, are directly related to its location adjacent to the King's Highway, currently known as Route 9 or Broadway, and more broadly to its strategic position in the lower Hudson River Valley.

Before the King's Highway was built in 1703, Jan Harmse's original one-room stone house was used as the homestead for a family farm. The property, like many Dutch farms up and down the Hudson Valley, included agricultural fields and outbuildings for the maintenance of horses, cows, hogs, and chickens. The rocky, sandy soil and uneven, hilly terrain of Westchester County often made for poor lands for farming wheat, but the soil along the eastern shore of the Hudson River, where the Odell Tavern was located, may have contributed to the success and prosperity of the tenant farms that made up Philipsburg Manor. During the period from 1730 to 1783, the leaseholds in Philipsburg Manor varied from 32 acres to over 400 acres, with the majority of leaseholds between 100 and 249 acres, and the average size at 187 acres and the largest parcel at 560 acres. Tenants of Philipsburg Manor who lived along the riverside

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(October 1929), at 87-90; William S. Hadaway, "The Odell Inn, Farm and Family," *The Quarterly Bulletin of the Westchester Historical Society*, 6:4 (October 1930), at 95-103.

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benefitted from a temperate climate, productive soil, and a location far from the frontier and hostile Native Americans, yet close to New York City and its markets, where they could sell their surplus products at high prices and obtain a constant stream of products or luxuries from across the Dutch and English global trade networks. Before 1730 farmers exploited every bit of low-land in a virtual single-crop economy in which they cultivated mainly winter wheat, while on the side they grew oats, rye, Indian corn, buckwheat and potatoes. Rent was paid to the manorial lord using wheat, processed at the Upper Mills for shipment to New York City and global markets. After 1730, however, the emergence of fertile Albany County as the dominant wheat producer, and its rapid population expansion after the Queen Anne's War, meant that Westchester's generally poorer soil and reduced snowfall to protect the wheat from the region's severe winter frosts would prove no match for the farms around Albany in quantity and quality. Further, the rapid growth of New York City created a demand for food, especially meat and dairy, a demand which Westchester farmers met. Therefore, by the 1750s, much of Westchester had shifted from single-crop production of wheat as both product and currency to meet rent payments, to a cash economy focused on livestock and dairy products for a growing New York City market.<sup>38</sup>

The majority of Westchester's rocky landscape, while poor for wheat farming, was well-suited to grazing. While some of the northern manor farms remained with the single-crop wheat economy, many Westchester farmers began to market cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, butter and cheese to New York City. As wheat production in Philipsburg Manor was eclipsed by the wheat trade from the Albany region, the sale of meat and dairy to New York City markets led to an influx of cash among Philipsburg Manor tenants, which they used to pay rent for their

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<sup>38</sup> *Landlord and Tenant*, *supra* note 16, at 188-93.

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leaseholds. In addition, Frederick Philipse III, who inherited the Manor in 1751, stepped away from the family's commercial tradition and styled himself a gentleman, depending on income from real estate rather than agricultural production. He leased out the two gristmills that had been founded, expanded and managed by his ancestors. Grain became simply one of a farmer's products, and therefore a less desirable means of payment. Cattle droving became a profitable enterprise, and cattle and other farm products, in addition to Westchester's strategic location, made Westchester a valuable and highly-contested asset during the Revolutionary War.<sup>39</sup> The Odell Tavern, situated almost halfway between the Philipse Manor House and the Upper Mills, is a surviving witness of the changing prosperity of these Philipsburg Manor farms in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Odell Tavern is also witness to the history of slavery as practiced in the mid-Atlantic states, and a physical reminder of the global trade network that enabled slavery. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a substantial portion of New York's economic wealth was produced by the slave trade and slave labor. In New York City in 1703, for example, 41% of households owned enslaved persons and, as a result, New York developed some of the toughest slave laws of the thirteen colonies.<sup>40</sup> Census numbers for Westchester in 1771 list 18,315 whites and 3,430 "Negroes," of which about 80% were enslaved persons and 20% were free.<sup>41</sup> Along the lower Hudson River, many of the tenant farmers who held leaseholds at Philipsburg Manor owned

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<sup>39</sup> *Landlord and Tenant*, *supra* note 16, at 188-93; *see also* Jacob Judd, "Westchester County," in *The Other New York; The American Revolution Beyond New York City, 1763-1787*, ed. Joseph S. Tiedemann and Eugene R. Fingerhut (Albany, NY: State Univ. of N.Y. Press, 2005), at 108.

<sup>40</sup> Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland; A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009), at 56.

<sup>41</sup> John Curran, *The Attack At Peekskill By The British In 1777; And The Role of the Fort Hill Site During the War of Independence* (Peekskill, NY: Office of the Historian at the Peekskill Museum, 1998), X, note 61; *see also* Charles Strange, "One Hundred years of Negro Slavery," *Westchester Historian* (Winter 1968), at 3-8.

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enslaved persons, who performed household duties and fieldwork that contributed to the prosperity of Philipsburg Manor.

It is possible that the Odells bought their enslaved persons from the Philipse family, who conducted a large business in the slave trade and who used enslaved persons to process agricultural products from their tenants at the Manor's mills. Historians have used enslaved person names and naming patterns to determine slavery's origins, and it appears that Frederick Philipse's enslaved persons at the Upper Mills consisted of a variety of ethnicities, but were likely natives of Western Africa who experienced slavery first in the West Indies, specifically Barbados, as part of the slave trade that the Philipses conducted from Madagascar.<sup>42</sup>

Much of the productive bounty of Philipsburg Manor came from the slave trade, and the use of enslaved labor in agriculture by both the manor lords and the tenants was extensive. The Philipses were one of the largest families of owners of enslaved persons in the colonial north and, over the years, several generations of enslaved persons lived on the Philipses' estate. At the time of his death in 1749, Adolphus Philipse owned twenty-three enslaved persons in the Upper Mills (Sleepy Hollow), in addition to the enslaved persons he kept in New York City. Adolph Philipse's property also included "2 Cats of nine tails," a type of whip commonly used in the military and in slavery. As of February 12, 1749, twenty-three "Negros" were on the Manor and were listed and sorted in the estate record according to their gender, age, and ability to work, closely followed by a list of cattle and other chattel and personal property. In contrast, the personal property listed in the "Negro House" amounted to "2 old rip saws," "1 old broken Iron

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<sup>42</sup> "There Were Pirates at Philipsburg Manor . . . Really?", *Historic Hudson Valley*, <https://hudsonvalley.org/article/there-were-pirates-at-philipsburg-manor-really/>; "Frederick Philipse Explained", *Everything Explained*, [http://everythingexplainedtoday/Frederick\\_Philipse/](http://everythingexplainedtoday/Frederick_Philipse/).

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pott,” and “some Rubbish,” a small and less valuable collection of personal goods than owned by the Philipse family.<sup>43</sup>

Federal census reports, correlated with the 1785 map<sup>44</sup> of the four farming households located in what would later become the Village of Irvington (the Ackers, Dutchers, Buckhouts/Jewells and Odells), can be used to track the number of enslaved persons from the date of the first census in 1790 to the abolition of slavery in New York State by 1827.<sup>45</sup> The 1790 federal census reported 12 enslaved persons at the four local farms, broken down by household and number: Jonathan Odell (four), Abraham Acker, Sr. (three), William Dutcher (one), and John Jewell (four).<sup>46</sup> Just outside the boundaries of these local farms, other tenant farmers also owned enslaved persons: Philip Livingston just south of Dobbs Ferry (six), Israel Honeywell further east in what would become Ardsley (six), and Glode Requa, Jr. just to the north at what would become Lyndhurst (nine). In addition, Daniel Wiltsie, who lived south of Jonathan Odell and a small part of whose property might be considered to be part of the present village of Irvington was listed in 1790 as having 10 household members including one enslaved

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<sup>43</sup> Mark Boonshoft, “The Material Realities of Slavery in Early New York,” New York Public Library, April 12, 2016, online at: <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/04/12/slavery-early-nyc>

<sup>44</sup> See *Map of Part of The Manor of Philipsburgh in the County of Westchester, N.Y.*, dated 1785, John Hill, Surveyor, revised by M.K. Couzens 1880 (West. Cty. Archives), available at <http://collections.westchestergov.com/digital/collection/forfeiture/id/108/rec/9>.

<sup>45</sup> Determining exactly which head of household is being referred to in the federal census records can be difficult. Local families often intermarried, the use of similar first names across generations was a frequent occurrence, and the census did not list addresses. This is a particular problem with the Acker family, of which there were several households throughout Greenburgh and several generations of “Abraham Acker,” as well as with the Buckhout family, whose patriarch John “Jan” Buckhout died in 1785 at 103 and left 240 descendants. See, e.g., Robert Indorf, “The Eckers”, *The Roost*, Vol. 3 No. 2/3 (Irv. Hist. Soc. June/September 1979). Thus, determining which Acker or Buckhout lived within the boundaries of today’s Village of Irvington is challenging. Nonetheless, a rough numerical construction can be made.

<sup>46</sup> Bureau of the Census, *Heads of Families At The First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790, New York* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1908), at 198 (hereinafter, “1790 Census”).

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person.<sup>47</sup> Other prominent local men who would become leaders during the Revolutionary War also owned enslaved persons after the war, including Israel Honeywell (six), Thomas Thomas (eleven), William Paulding (two) and Peter Post (four). Of the 205 heads of households in Greenburgh in the 1790 census, 46 households had at least one enslaved person, with a total of 114 enslaved persons in Greenburgh as of 1790.<sup>48</sup> Thus, about 22% of Greenburgh households had enslaved persons shortly after the war, comparatively more than other settlements in Westchester such as Cortlandt Town or Bedford.<sup>49</sup>

The 1800 federal census reported a total of 1,581 people in town of Greenburgh including 16 free Blacks and 109 enslaved persons.<sup>50</sup> It listed 13 enslaved persons on the local farms: John Jewell (seven) and Jonathan Odell (six). The 1800 census also listed enslaved persons owned by an Abraham Acker (one) and two different Buckhouts (total of four) but it is not clear where these individuals lived in Greenburgh.<sup>51</sup>

The 1810 Census listed eleven, and potentially thirteen, enslaved persons among the local farms that made up what would become Irvington: Jonathan Odell (five), William Dutcher (two), John Jewell (four) and an Abraham Acker (two).<sup>52</sup> (Again, it is not clear whether this is

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<sup>47</sup> *Id.*, at 198.

<sup>48</sup> *Id.*, at 198-99.

<sup>49</sup> Cortlandt Town, which had 330 households and only 33, or 10%, of these Town households had enslaved persons. Similarly, in Bedford Town, which had 408 households and 20, or 0.05%, of these households had enslaved persons. *Id.*, at 195-199.

<sup>50</sup> “United States Census, 1800”, Database with images, *FamilySearch*, available at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R8D-8QQ?wc=3V1X-N3V%3A1585148702%2C1585148733%2C1585148749&cc=1804228> (citing NARA microfilm publication M32, New York, County of Westchester, Town of Greenburgh (National Archives and Record Administration, n.d.)).

<sup>51</sup> *Id.*

<sup>52</sup> “United States Census, 1810”, Database with images, *FamilySearch*, available at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYB8-L2D?wc=QZZZ-M2V%3A1588180303%2C1588180795%2C1588183609&cc=1803765> (citing NARA microfilm publication M252, New York, County of Westchester, Town of Greenburgh (National Archives and Record Administration, n.d.)).

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the Abraham Acker whose farm was along the Hudson River just north of the Dutcher farm.) John Jewell's entry in the 1810 census proves enlightening for possibly showing the gradual changes in the legal status of slavery in New York State. In 1810, the John Jewell household contained 18 members: five free white males under 25, one free white male over 45, four free white females under 25, and one free white female over 45. The 1810 census also listed the Jewell household as having four "Slaves" and three "other free persons."<sup>53</sup> This contrasts with the 1800 census in which the Jewells were listed as owning seven enslaved people.<sup>54</sup> The changes in the number of "slaves" and "other free persons" in the 1810 census could suggest that the Jewells started enacting the gradual emancipation that would later become New York State law.<sup>55</sup>

Enslaved persons of African ancestry did much of the farming work on the large tenant farms. Hessian officer Carl Leopold Baurmeister observed in 1776 on King's County, Long Island, "Near the dwellings are the cabins of the negroes, their slaves, who cultivate the fertile

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<sup>53</sup> "United States Census, 1810", Database with images, *FamilySearch*, available at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SO-GYB8-L2D?wc=OZZZ-M2V%3A1588180303%2C1588180795%2C1588183609&cc=1803765> (citing NARA microfilm publication M252, New York, County of Westchester, Town of Greenburgh (National Archives and Record Administration, n.d.)).

<sup>54</sup> Based on all of these census records, it appears that, of the four original farms that essentially became the Village of Irvington, the Odell farm and the Buckhout/Jewell farm had the largest number of enslaved persons living and working on them in the post-Revolutionary War period. Perhaps this merely reflects the integrity or durability of the households, as the Ackers and Dutchers families appear to have divided up their farms and, to some extent, their younger generations dispersed after the Revolutionary War, while the Buckhouts/Jewells and Odells maintained the core of their large farms through the 1830s. It is also possible, however that the enslaved labor on the Buckhout/Jewell and Odell farms contributed to the integrity and durability of those two large farms.

<sup>55</sup> By the 1820 census, there appears to have been at most three enslaved persons recorded among the farms that would later become Irvington. A John J. Buckhout was listed as owning two enslaved persons, and a Daniel Dutcher was listed as owing one enslaved person; the entry for Abraham Acker indicated he had no enslaved persons in his household. It is not clear, however, whether this listed John Buckhout, Daniel Dutcher and Abraham Acker lived within the area that would become Irvington or somewhere else in Greenburgh. "United States Census, 1820", Database with images, *FamilySearch*, available at <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YY1-SSZ4?wc=3L7E-ZGC%3A1586986403%2C1586986450%2C1586986455&cc=1803955> (citing NARA microfilm publication M33, New York, County of Westchester, Town of Greenburgh (National Archives and Record Administration, n.d.)).

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land, herd the cattle, and do all the rough housework. They are Christians and are purchased on the Guinea Coast, and sold again among the white people for from 50 to 120 New York pounds a head.”<sup>56</sup> The situation was likely the same in Philipsburg Manor. There are no known records of the slavery practices on the Odell property, but a comparison can be made to the Odell’s neighbors – the Requas, who owned several farms to the north (at the location of today’s Lyndhurst), and the Buckhouts, who owned the farm immediately to the north of the Odell Tavern. Glode Requa, Jr.’s farm estate inventory of 1807 suggests that the enslaved Africans (nine as of the 1790 census) mastered animal husbandry, given the many cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and oxen listed, and that they used axes and other iron tools to clear the land and build a house, an ox cart, and furniture. Stored wheat and a half-grinding stone indicates that the individuals planted, harvested, and ground wheat. Barrels of cider suggest they also maintained an apple orchard.<sup>57</sup> The will of Jan Buckhout, Matthys Conklin’s uncle, suggest that enslaved persons, like other property, were passed down in the family, and Jan Buckhout’s 1774 will shows that he bequeathed Hannah, an enslaved person, to his second wife, Deborah. Enslaved persons performed essential services, but also could serve as a badge of status and were used as valuable property in transactions trading for land and farms, and as security for mortgages and to raise cash or repay debts.<sup>58</sup>

It is possible that the relationship between owners and their enslaved persons were closer and more personal at Philipsburg Manor than either in the southern plantation system or at other mid-Atlantic locations. Unlike other enslaved person owners, the Philipse family did not rename

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<sup>56</sup> Carl Leopold Baurmeister, *Revolution in America; Confidential Letters and Journals 1776-1784 of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian Forces*, trans. Bernhard A. Uhlendorf (NJ: Rutgers, 1957), at 45-46.

<sup>57</sup> Cathy Sears and Sarah Cox, “Our Town and Slavery,” *The Irvington Historical Society Roost* 20:1 (Winter 2019).

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

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their enslaved persons, and they had a propensity to keep older enslaved persons.<sup>59</sup> Further, in New York and New Jersey, “enslaved African Americans were often woven into the family circle, albeit on unequal terms.”<sup>60</sup> Enslaved people and their owners worked, sat and drank together, sang and danced together, and worshiped together and slept together. Due to their “long-forced cohabitation in Dutch households,” enslaved persons of African descent were immersed in Dutch language and culture, as testified to by advertisements for runaway enslaved persons which announced that the fugitives spoke Dutch.<sup>61</sup>

Enslaved Africans were likely also versed in religious aspects of life, such as the Dutch Reformed Church and its community celebrations, particularly the two-day Dutch celebration of *Paas* (Easter), and *Pinkster* (Whitsunday). Pinkster in particular became embedded in African American life and culture, and enslaved Africans and free blacks both shared in and shaped Pinkster, which persisted into the 1870s in African American culture until it died out amongst the whites of Dutch heritage.<sup>62</sup> With respect to the after-life, however, social and racial distinctions remained, As white settlers who participated in the religious life of the community were buried on the grounds of the local churches, such as the Old Dutch Church north of Tarrytown. African

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<sup>59</sup> Dennis J. Maika, “Encounters; Slavery and the Philipse Family, 1680-1751,” in Roger Panetta, ed., *Dutch New York -The Routes of Hudson Valley Culture* (Fordham U. Press 2009) (hereinafter, “*Dutch New York*”); see also Graham Russell Hodges, *Root and Branch: African Americans in New York and East Jersey, 1613-1863* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999); A.J. Williams-Meyers, *Long Hammering: Essays on the Forging of an African American Presence in the Hudson River Valley to the Early Twentieth Century* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1994); Myra B. Young Armstead, ed., *Mighty Change, Tall Within; Black Identity in the Hudson Valley* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003); Jacob Judd, “Frederick Philipse and the Madagascar Trade,” *The New-York Historical Society Quarterly* 55 (October 1971).

<sup>60</sup> Joyce D. Goodfriend, “Why New Netherland Matters,” in Martha Dickinson Shattuck, ed., *Explorers, Fortunes & Love Letters; A Window on New Netherland* (Albany, NY: New Netherland Institute, 2009), at 153-156.

<sup>61</sup> *Id.*

<sup>62</sup> *Id.*

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Americans, on the other hand, were buried in unmarked graves, such as the ones located on the property of Odell's neighbor Jan Buckhout.<sup>63</sup>

Even as urban elites, New England transplants, and Quakers moved into the Hudson River Valley in the late 1700s, Dutch settlers maintained their use of enslaved labor to perform agricultural work. During attempts to abolish slavery in the post-war years in New Jersey and New York, Dutch holders of enslaved persons maintained their pro-slavery views and came under fire from moral reformers – Dutch farmers used their political clout to resist emancipation, making New York and New Jersey the last two states to free enslaved persons. Thus, the Odell Tavern, which was closely connected to these Dutch farming practices, testifies to both the history of slavery and to the African American experience in New York and stands today within a network of African American heritage sites in Westchester.

The Odell Tavern is also a surviving example of tavern culture and economy in Westchester County during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Odell Tavern's economic development was shaped by its location along the King's Highway leading from New York City to Albany. In 1703 when the King's Highway was completed,<sup>64</sup> increasing travel and trade along the road north from New York City encouraged the Harmse family, who owned the property, to turn the stone house into a general store. The Road Commissioner's Book of November 13, 1723, described the Harmse property as one of the farms along the King's Highway, while a store account dated 1736 provides a record of the prices and articles kept for sale during this period. The entry "Aen Matthis Concklin betault voor drank," suggests a sum paid by Matthias Concklin

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<sup>63</sup> *History of Westchester County, Vol II, supra* note 31, at 189-90. In 1939, the *Irvington Gazette* reported that, "human skulls and bones were dug up" from this "almost entirely forgotten" burial ground in 1895 when excavation of the Cosmopolitan magazine building site was underway. "Old Negro Burying Ground Was Famed In Early Days Of Village", *The Irvington Gazette*, dated August 24, 1939, p. 1, col. 2.

<sup>64</sup> *Hine's Annual, supra* note 7, at 1.

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for a drink, and “Aen Noeg en ½ bossel tarwe,” (and to the same a ½ bushel of wheat) suggests that Concklin also traded for ½ bushel of wheat.<sup>65</sup> It is possible that this entry refers to the same Matthias Concklin who would later occupy the house after Harmse, suggesting a familiarity among residents and that economic patterns paralleled social networks.

Before the Market Revolution precipitated by the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, most transactions of farmers with fellow farmers or with merchants simply did not need cash since almost all of the products needed by farmers could be acquired simply by trading goods or services. Exchanging goods was also a way to establish their reputation and credit in the community, as they had to make face-to-face exchanges in person. Close to New York City, however, and facing competition from grain farmers in Albany, farmers may have begun to adapt to a cash economy, as contemporary record books suggest.<sup>66</sup>

The Harmses no doubt sold store items to the local farmers at Philipsburg Manor, as well as to travelers along the King’s Highway heading to and from New York City.<sup>67</sup> As the King’s Highway attracted more travelers in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the general store soon grew into a colonial tavern. This shift had taken place by 1743, when John Harmse died and Mattys Concklin, and Concklin’s wife Feytie “Sophia” Mabie took over the leasehold for the property.<sup>68</sup> The Concklins doubled the size of the stone house by adding a second room on the west side of the building, and by the late 1740s or early 1750s the couple was operating the property as a

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<sup>65</sup> *Poverty and Patriotism*, *supra* note 9, at 7.

<sup>66</sup> Transaction record from *Poverty and Patriotism*, *supra* note 9, at 7-9. On Hudson Valley farmers’ economic activity before the Market Revolution, see Thomas S. Wermuth, *Rip Van Winkle’s Neighbors; The Transformation of Rural Society in the Hudson River Valley, 1720-1850* (SUNY Press, 2001).

<sup>67</sup> *Poverty and Patriotism*, *supra* note 9, at 7.

<sup>68</sup> This transformation may have taken place even before Jan Harmse died. For one reference to the Harmse’s using the tavern as an inn, see *Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Family*, *supra* note 5, at 321.

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tavern and inn. The structure's social, economic, and political role continued to expand under the Odells, as the Odell Tavern became a well-known stopping point on the King's Highway, one of the main routes used by cattle drovers. Cattle buyers purchased cattle from farmers, and drovers headed for New York City stopped at various inns and taverns, with the cattle foraging in the open fields near the inns.

The Odell Tavern was likely similar to other taverns that participated in regional economic development along the Albany Post Road. As many as 11 taverns existed in the town of Philipsburgh, a term sometimes used to describe the northern part of Philipsburg Manor. Taverns along the stretch of the Albany Post Road that today make up Irvington included the Bunch of Grapes Inn, the Acker Inn, and the Odell Tavern. Until he drowned in a boating accident on the Hudson River in 1768, James Barnerd ran The Bunch of Grapes Inn on the Albany Post Road at a site 12 miles equidistant from King's Bridge in the south and from the Croton River to the north (roughly in today's Irvington).<sup>69</sup> The Acker Inn was another tavern in present-day Irvington along the Albany Post Road. After the Revolutionary War, militia soldier Abraham Acker 3<sup>rd</sup> married Jemima Dutcher, and they lived on the old Acker farm just north of the old William Dutcher farm, itself just north of the Odells, and they set up the Acker Inn on land they purchased from the Committee of Forfeitures in 1785.<sup>70</sup> The Acker Inn became famous as the stopping place of the noted men of the day, including frequent guests such as General Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, General Aaron Ward, and Major General Brown.<sup>71</sup> It

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<sup>69</sup> *New-York Gazette and Weekly Mercury*, December 12, 1768, cited in *Landlord and Tenant*, *supra* note 16, at 257-258; *Westchester County: A History*, *supra* note 18, at 43.

<sup>70</sup> See *Map of Part of The Manor of Philipsburgh in the County of Westchester, N.Y.*, dated 1785, John Hill, Surveyor, revised by M.K. Couzens 1880 (West. Cty. Archives), available at <http://collections.westchestergov.com/digital/collection/forfeiture/id/108/rec/9>.

<sup>71</sup> *History of Westchester, Vol II*, *supra* note 31, at 233; *Soldiers' Monument*, *supra* note 3, at 107.

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is likely that these travelers also passed by the Odell Tavern and/or spent time there as well, as it likely served a comparable function and similar clientele. In an advertisement by a post-rider of the “Constitutional Post Office” in the *New York Journal and Advertiser* in 1775, notice is given that newspapers and letters will be left at various taverns along the way, one of them “Owdles.” Abraham Odell, son of Jonathan Odell, served as a post-rider as of November 2, 1776, and may have operated a blacksmith shop across the street from the Odell Tavern.<sup>72</sup>

The Odell Tavern is located about halfway between two of the milestones or guide stones authorized by Post-Master General Benjamin Franklin and set up in the 1760s: milestones 26 (embedded in a small stone wall at Mercy College on the border of Dobbs Ferry) and 27 (embedded in a stone wall north of Harriman Road). The Odell Tavern’s location today along Broadway, midway between these historical milestones, is a visible reminder of the importance of “the greatest street in the world” and the steps that New York took to become “The Empire State.” Thus, the Odell Tavern is not just a single structure, but a living witness that, when combined with the existing mile stones 26 and 27, offers a rich picture of the region’s economic development in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

After 1790, the Odell Tavern was used frequently as an inn for those traveling the stage lines from New York City to Albany. New Yorkers desiring to go to White Plains for court appearances or other business would often stop at Odell’s Tavern overnight, and Colonel John Odell (Jonathan’s son and the former Westchester Guide) would usually drive them to White Plains the following morning.<sup>73</sup> On one occasion Alexander Hamilton, who frequently traveled

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<sup>72</sup> *What Makes A House Worthy of Preservation*, supra note 3; *Journals of the Provincial Congress, Provincial Convention, Committee of Safety and Council of Safety of the state of New-York: 1775-1775-1777*, 2 vols. (Albany, NY: Thurlow Weed, 1842), 1: 694-695.

<sup>73</sup> *Soldiers’ Monument*, supra note 3, at 81-84; *The McDonald Papers*, ed. William S. Hadaway, 2 vols. (1845), reprinted in *Publications of the Westchester County Historical Society*, Volumes IV and V (White Plains, NY: Westchester Cty. Hist. Soc. 1926), 1: at 87.

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from New York City to Albany, stayed overnight at the Odell Tavern and the next morning was driven to White Plains by Colonel John Odell. As they approached White Plains, Hamilton is reported to have requested a side trip to Chatterton Hill, and to have explained that it was the first time he had visited the spot since the battle of 1776. After arriving upon the crest of the hill, Hamilton supposedly pointed out the various positions of the contending forces on the day of the battle, and described how his battery was handled when the British were charging up the steep slope of the hill from the Bronx River.<sup>74</sup>

In the mid-1830s, another important infrastructure project of the Early Republic again shaped, and was shaped by, the Odell Tavern property: The Croton Aqueduct. In 1832 when cholera first reached New York City, residents began clamoring for a clean water supply from beyond the city's limits. The following year plans for the Croton Aqueduct began, and the route for the underground water tunnel ran directly across the property that had once been part of Jonathan Odell's farm; the owners at the time, James W. Robinson and Peter Weatherby, were forced to sell a portion of the property for the construction of the Croton Aqueduct. The Odell property thus played a role in the growth, development, and sanitation of nearby New York City.

As this brief history illustrates, the small one-room farmhouse that eventually became the Odell Tavern changed significantly as infrastructure developed throughout the Hudson Valley both before and after the American Revolution. What began as an isolated subsistence farm expanded into a store and tavern and eventually into an inn and postal depot as the roadway just steps from its front door developed from a rural "highway" into one of the major postal road

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<sup>74</sup> This story was reported in *The New York Tribune*, October 25, 1896, reprinted John Rösch, *Historic White Plains; A History of the City of White Plains* (Harrison, NY: Harbor Hill Books, 1976 [White Plains, NY: Balletto-Sweetman, 1939]), at 173-174. The account may be apocryphal, however, as it is generally believed that Alexander Hamilton was not present at the Battle of White Plains; nevertheless, the desire of the population to associate Alexander Hamilton with the region speaks to the importance of the Odell Tavern as a location or setting for the famous American.

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between New York City and Albany. Land from the property next to the Odell Tavern used for the construction of the Croton Aqueduct played a role in delivering clean water and healthier lives to a booming metropolis. The structure and purpose of the Tavern both reflected this changing economy while supporting the development of the entire New York Metropolitan region.

### **Architectural Significance:**

The Odell Tavern is the oldest, extant building in Irvington, with parts of its existing stone structure dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and its later, wooden additions dating from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>75</sup> The original section of the house exemplifies architectural trends of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch colonial period, when the eastern shore of the Hudson River just north of New York City consisted of the vast tenant farms of Philipsburg Manor. Dutch immigrants from Holland and other nearby Lowland provinces had settled on these farms in the mid-1600s and built simple, utilitarian farm houses for their families.

Today, the few remaining Dutch Colonial homes in the Lower Hudson Valley are in various states of preservation.<sup>76</sup> In her 1929 review of Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley, Helen Wilkinson Reynolds specifically described the Odell Tavern as “a perfect example of

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<sup>75</sup> Various sources describe the architectural details of the Odell Tavern. See *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley*, *supra* note 13, at 298-99; *Odell Inn*, *supra* note 14, at 1-4; *American Architecture, Westchester County*, *supra* note 3, at 19-20. The Harmse/Odell house has been surveyed, measured, and recorded as part of the National Park Service’s the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS No. NY. 4109). See *HABS Survey*, *supra* note 3.

<sup>76</sup> Two examples of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch Colonial structures in lower Westchester that retain much of their original appearance and historic architectural character are Philipse Manor Hall, built ca. 1682 in Yonkers, and the Jan Harmse Farm House – which later became the Odell Tavern – built ca. 1693 in what is now Irvington.

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Dutch farmhouses that were seen on Philipse Manor in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.”<sup>77</sup> The Odell Tavern is thus a rare surviving example of a late 17<sup>th</sup>-century and 18<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch farmhouse, and possibly only one of the two remaining farmhouses – the other being the Sherwood House in Yonkers (built around 1740 by Thomas Sherwood) – constructed at Philipsburg Manor. Because the Odell Tavern’s structure was modified several times to meet the changing needs of its residents, it is valuable as a virtual record of evolving architectural styles as they changed to reflect shifting settlement and economic patterns in Westchester County. As such, the building embodies and reflects unique and significant architectural features and design that support its eligibility for designation as a National or Local Historic Landmark.

The original structure of, and the later additions to, the Odell Tavern reflect the changing architectural patterns in the Hudson Valley during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The style and method of construction for rural Dutch Colonial buildings was generally brick or stone walls, sometimes combined with wood framed additions and weatherboard siding, and a gabled roof with one or both lower slopes flared in a graceful extended eave that curved into the roof plane without a sharp break, sometimes expanding over a porch. Early rural examples had side-gabled roofs and little or no flared eave overhangs. After about 1750, extended flared eaves became more popular in Dutch Colonial construction within the southerly region of the Hudson Valley, most often along south elevations to protect from the elements, with upgraded stucco applied over the original stone walls of front facades. Casement windows and shed or gabled dormers in roofs were also common features in early Dutch construction in the Hudson River

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<sup>77</sup>Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley Before 1776* (Holland Society of New York 1929), quoted in *American Architecture, Westchester County*, supra note 3, at 19.

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Valley where comfort and simple domestic functions were the basic criteria for constructing homes.<sup>78</sup>

The Odell Tavern was originally built in 1693 as a farmhouse by Jan Harmse (1658-1741), born in New Amsterdam to parents who had emigrated from The Netherlands. The original dwelling was a single room consisting of a low, square structure with four thick, stone walls.<sup>79</sup> The walls were built using two-foot thick fieldstone on foundation walls of stone, constructed with sand-clay mortar (later repointed with lime-mortar). The floors were built using two-and-half-inch-thick chestnut wood. The gable ends were made of local field stones of mixed natural size, serving as bearing walls for the timber wood framework supporting the roof.<sup>80</sup> A canted door (hatchway) over a bulkhead near the front entrance leads to the cellar. The house had an attic that was accessible by a ladder, and a fireplace that was built into the center of its northern wall. Harmse's original stone structure forms what is now the eastern portion of the building, and the east wall of the original stone structure is still visible, surrounded by later wood framed additions with clapboard siding (*see* Fig. Nos. 2-5).

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<sup>78</sup> *See generally* Roderic H. Blackburn, Geoffrey Gross, Harrison Frederick Meeske, and Susan Piatt, *Dutch Colonial Homes in America* (Rizzoli Inter. Pub. 2002); Gerald L. Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home – Inside and Out* (Houghton Mifflin Books 2004); *American Architecture, Westchester County*, *supra* note 3; Virginia Savage McAlester & Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide To American Houses* (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. 2000); *Dutch New York*, *supra* note 50; Joyce D. Goodfriend, Benjamin Schmidt, and Annette Stott, eds., *Going Dutch: The Dutch Presence in America, 1609-2009* (Brill Acad. Pub. 2009); Harrison Frederick Meeske, *The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses* (Fleischmanns, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 1998, reprinted 2001); *Dutch Houses in the Hudson Valley*, *supra* note 13; *The Dutch-American Farm*, *supra* note 2; Clifford W. Zink, Dutch Framed Houses in New York and New Jersey, *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Winter 1987), at 265-94; Aymar Embury, II, *One Hundred Country Houses* (Century Co. 1909), at 74-92; Aymar Embury, II, *The Dutch Colonial House* (McBride, Nast & Co. 1913).

<sup>79</sup> Nearly all materials of early Dutch settler homes in the lower Hudson River Valley were locally obtained, connecting each house to its place. Clay was commonly used to form bricks and pan tiles along the Hudson River, and stone was plentiful throughout New Jersey and along the Hudson *Valley*, while weatherboards and wood shingles predominated on Long Island. Along the Hudson River from Yonkers to Sleepy Hollow, combinations of granite and field stones made up much of the building material for structures.

<sup>80</sup> *See HABS Survey*, *supra* note 3.

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Because it was originally a square shape made of stone, it is likely that the Harmse farmhouse may not directly reflect the Dutch-influenced structural bent-frame system that consisted of “H”-bent braces, constructed of two vertical posts connected by a large anchor beam. This “anchor-bent” method consists of a series of wood structural bents standing on sills and joined to each other at their tops by horizontal plates from which pairs of roof rafters rise, braced by collar beams, to form the roof structure. Many Dutch Colonial homes featured this system of timber framing, carried over from the northern European medieval building tradition. Based on previous surveys, reports, and visual inspection, however, it is difficult to determine whether the original Harmse farmhouse was constructed with this type of anchor-bent framing tradition. The stone walls of the Harmse farmhouse, however, were built higher than the horizontal framing of the main ceiling/attic floor assembly, which provided for more attic space. This suggests that the original structure likely used framing influenced by the anchor-bent system, but instead of wooden “H-bent” braces, timber framing was supported on notches cut into the interior sides of the thick stone bearing walls. A more detailed field survey will be necessary to verify this hypothesis.<sup>81</sup>

The actual shape of the original roof of the Harmse farmhouse is not known. Based on the Historical American Buildings Survey documents (*see* Exhs. 7 & 8) and recent visual site observation, it is likely that the original Harmse house likely had a simple medieval gabled roof with no flared overhangs. It appears that the original roof was replaced with one that had very slightly flared overhanging eaves that became merged with the later additions. The roof pitch is shallower than earlier Dutch buildings, likely due to the availability of locally sourced wood shingles for use as roofing material rather than thatch or clay tiles (pan tiles), which necessitated

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<sup>81</sup> Without further field surveys, the exact method of original framing cannot be confirmed. The existing roof form, however, accommodates occupancy of the upper level.

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steeper roofs. This change in design is considered to be typical of rural Dutch Colonial tenant farm house construction in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The simple structure of the original Harmse house, built using native stone and other indigenous materials and emphasizing economy, convenience, and security, is indicative of the early Dutch settlement period in Westchester, when fortified homes or “castles” were built. According to Frank E. Sanchis’ review of historic architecture in Westchester County, the original one-room stone structure “would have been a smaller version of the manor house at Upper Mills.”<sup>82</sup> Jan Harmse’s square, stone home was also similar to Wolfert Eckert’s stone cottage built around 1685 approximately a mile north of the Harmse farmhouse (later becoming “Sunnyside,” the home of Washington Irving).<sup>83</sup> The Harmse home was also similar to “typical one-room tenant houses on Hudson Valley manors” as described by Harrison Meeske, including the common features of stone walls, wooden gables and wooden shingle roof, with later additions of a Flemish overhang, and lean-to shed at the rear.<sup>84</sup> Although the original Harmse home shared its castle-like basic structure with the Philipse Manor House (Yonkers) and the contemporary manor house at Upper Mills (Sleepy Hollow), the larger size of the manor houses highlights the differences between the manor homes maintained by the Lord of Philipsburg Manor and a farm house maintained by a tenant farmer.

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<sup>82</sup> At times, the structure at Upper Mills was called “Philipse Castle,” signifying this early attempt at protective homes with small windows using native stone, as a protective measure against Native Americans and other perceived hostiles. *Ancestral Lines of the Boaz Family*, *supra* at note 5, at 321; *American Architecture, Westchester County*, *supra* note 3, at 19.

<sup>83</sup> Jacob Van Tassel later owned this stone house prior to and during the Revolutionary War. Washington Irving, who purchased the house in 1835, described it as “a small stone Dutch cottage.” *See* Letter from Washington Irving to Peter Irving, dated July 8 1835, in *Letters*, Volume II, 1823-1838, ed. Ralph M. Aderman, Herbert L. Kleinfeld and Jenifer S. Banks, *Complete Works of Washington Irving*, Volume 24 (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1979), at 834-835; *History of Westchester County*, *supra* note 28, 234-235.

<sup>84</sup> Harrison Frederick Meeske, *The Hudson Valley Dutch and Their Houses* (Fleischmanns, NY: Purple Mountain Press, 1998, reprinted 2001), at 121.

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Sometime around 1746, after Harmse's death, Matthias Conklin, a descendant of English and Dutch settlers, took over the Harmse house and leasehold. Conklin effectively doubled the size of structure by building a wood-framed addition, clad with 'weatherboard,' onto the west façade. A later wood frame lean-to expansion with clapboard siding was constructed on the north elevation of the original structure, and, at some point, the front façade on the southern wall was covered in stucco. Conklin also made related alterations that included a new roof and enclosed stair to the attic.<sup>85</sup> Based on previous documentation, a recent visual site survey and appended photographs, the house maintains many of its original, distinctive characteristics and methods of construction, reflecting the use of indigenous materials and craftsmanship of Dutch Colonial farmhouses.

Conklin's modifications of the Odell Tavern reflect the adaptation of English architectural features to older, existing Dutch-built farmhouses and the changing patterns of domestic life. Although the resulting architectural style is often referred to as "Dutch Colonial" because of the dominance of Dutch customs on the building of New Netherlands,<sup>86</sup> architectural historian David Steven Cohen has applied the term "Dutch American" to these structures, because such architecture drew from a variety of styles over time, and was not a single transplant from the Netherlands.<sup>87</sup> In the river valleys of New Jersey, and the upper Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, the use of the term Dutch dates from 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but the architecture itself represents a new and distinct regional culture that developed in the century after the fall of New Netherland, a culture that combined Dutch and English floor plans, framing, and roof styles

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<sup>85</sup> *American Architecture, Westchester County*, *supra* note 3, at 20.

<sup>86</sup> Heleen Westerhuijs, "New Netherland's Architecture," in Gajus Scheltema and Hellen Westerhuijs, eds., *Exploring Historic Dutch New York* (Museum of the City of New York, Dover Publications, 2011), at 95-99; Aymar Embury, II, *One Hundred Country Houses* (Century Co. 1909), at 74-92.

<sup>87</sup> *See supra* note 2 (discussing David Cohen's suggestion that this style should be referred to as "Dutch American").

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in a new hybrid form, unique to the area.<sup>88</sup> Early Dutch-influenced floor plans disappeared over time. As farm houses grew in size, Dutch settlers began to lose traditions from Holland and the surrounding Lowlands and to incorporate new styles used by other European settlers of various backgrounds.

Sean E. Sawyer writes, “As transportation and communication networks developed and Dutch farm families gained access to a broader range of markets and goods, patterns of daily living shifted and resulted in an increased differentiation of spaces within the house.”<sup>89</sup> As the community became wealthier and families grew, back bedrooms were often added to the original one-room houses, and most commonly a larger side addition was added. Common, multiple-use spaces were realigned and designed to create dedicated cooking, dining, socialization and sleeping spaces. The former central hall, or “best room” could become a buffer between public and private spaces within the home. The original unit could then be converted into a wing for servants or a growing family. With the large room accepting visitors, additions and upstairs sections could become private bedrooms.

Dutch architectural styles remained longest in the rural areas of the Hudson River Valley. In areas closer to New York City, the center of English power and influence in the region, homebuilders chose to adopt popular, modern English trends in architecture.<sup>90</sup> The adaptation of English styles may have come from the intermarriage of the families, such as the English

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<sup>88</sup> Compare Aymar Embury, II, *One Hundred Country Houses* (Century Co. 1909), at 74-92, with *The Dutch-American Farm*, *supra* note 2, and *New Netherland*, *supra* note 2, at 117. See also Sean E. Sawyer, “Constructing the Tradition of Dutch American Architecture, 1609-2009,” in *Dutch New York*, *supra* note 50, at 93-135.

<sup>89</sup> Sean E. Sawyer, “Constructing the Tradition of Dutch American Architecture, 1609-2009,” in *Dutch New York*, *supra* note 50, at 93-135.

<sup>90</sup> Heleen Westerhuijs, “New Netherland’s Architecture,” in Gajus Scheltema and Hellen Westerhuijs, eds., *Exploring Historic Dutch New York* (Museum of the City of New York, Dover Publications, 2011), at 95-99.

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Conklins and the Dutch Buckhouts, but adopting English styles also reflected upward mobility. As the English arrived, wealthy Dutch elites adapted their architectural styles, including a more Georgian style of two-story house, and differentiating the rooms of the home for various functions, but the lack of resources and a preference for the ways of their grandparents contributed to a maintenance of the Dutch styles.<sup>91</sup>

Differentiated spaces became fitted into the Odell Tavern. According to recent survey reports, the upper story of the Odell Tavern is divided into five bedrooms and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century bathroom. Some accounts suggest that the upper story bedrooms were used as guest rooms in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the structure was used as an inn. The stone ledge in the largest upstairs room is the roofline of the original circa 1693 building. The addition of a second floor also necessitated the altering or rebuilding of the roof. New roof styles were adapted to cultural norms of Hudson Valley farms that often have extended eaves along the primary façade, regulating light and temperature. Extended eaves, also called spring or bell-cast eaves, were also sometimes used. These extended eaves nearly always appeared on the southern exposure of houses to help regulate heat; low-angle sunlight penetrated under the eaves in winter, while in the summer the overhanging eave blocked the high, summer sunlight.<sup>92</sup> A porch across the front of the Odell Tavern is supported by six hexagonal shaped wood columns with simple coved crown-mold capitals and plain chamfered pedestal moldings.

Other additions to the house may have been made at the 1746 date or later, and reflect continued architectural trends, including Romanticist and Victorian decorative features. A gabled dormer on the northerly roof slope appears to match the front dormers except that its

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<sup>91</sup> Sean E. Sawyer, "Constructing the Tradition of Dutch American Architecture, 1609-2009," in *Dutch New York*, *supra* note 50, at 93-135.

<sup>92</sup> Sean E. Sawyer, "Constructing the Tradition of Dutch American Architecture, 1609-2009," in *Dutch New York*, *supra* note 50, at 108.

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windows have been modified to comply with the New York State Building Code. Eaves of the main roof have decorative, carved wood vergeboards, and matching, running trim features are applied to the porch eaves and along the open rakes of the gabled dormers. Vergeboards were hand-crafted picturesque elaborations influenced by the English Gothic Revival and the Romantic Period, and were often crafted by carpenters to improvise quaintness and added as popular stylish embellishment. Largely confined to small domestic buildings, the jig-sawed trim was made popular through plans in publications by Andrew Jackson Downing, and was used in Carpenter Gothic and Folk Victorian architecture during the mid-to-late nineteenth century in North America.

While the windows in the original Harmse farmhouse were most likely leaded casement windows typical of early rural Dutch settlement structures, they were replaced by double hung sashes with twelve-over-twelve, eight-over-eight, and six-over-six panes (lights) depending on the dimensions of the openings, when the wood framed additions were constructed. At some time later, windows on the south and west façades were replaced by six-over-six sashes. In the early 2000s, the then-current owner repaired and restored the surviving windows. Today, the early twelve-over-twelve and eight-over-eight remain exemplified on the east façade and are visible from Broadway (*see* Fig. Nos. 1 & 4).

Other features of Dutch Colonial architecture are represented in the Odell Tavern. A brick chimney protrudes through the roof where the fireplace is located in the center of the of the original Harmse stone structure and may be a replacement of an original stone chimney<sup>93</sup> that was probably part of an earlier “jambless” fireplace, which was later replaced with a more modern (at the time) English style standard brick fireplace. Another brick chimney emerges

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<sup>93</sup> *HABS Survey, supra* note 3.

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through the ridge of the portion of roof that was extended over the west addition. This older chimney was built to serve a brick fireplace and beehive oven in the then “new” kitchen.

The Odell Tavern also has a wide Dutch door with hardware typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch cottages. The Dutch split or double door consists of two horizontal parts which could be opened and closed separately, like a stable door. The upper portion could be opened to let in sunlight and fresh air, while the bottom remains shut to keep children inside and animals out. The shut lower half also created a social barrier, allowing conversation with, but not entrance to, passersby. It is made of boards, set vertically, cut across the center, and hung by hand wrought iron hinges. Above it is a row of small panels of glass (*see* Exhs. 4 & 10). The Dutch door, fireplace, and other architectural components of the Odell Tavern were documented in the spring of 1936 for the Historic American Building Survey.<sup>94</sup>

According to a report done in 1990 by members of the Irvington Lands & Landmarks Committee Barbara Sciulli & Lenore Munigle, as part of a proposed application for State and National Register of Historic Places, the interior of the Odell Tavern retains many structural and architectural details of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>95</sup> For example, the tap room on the east end of the building is a portion of the original 1693 Harmse farmhouse structure. The front door’s exterior has been treated with moldings, stiles, and rails of a Georgian style paneled door, due to English influences. This improvement, along with window upgrades likely occurred when the additions were constructed (*see* Fig. Nos. 2 & 6).<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> *Id.*

<sup>95</sup> *Draft Building-Structure Inventory Form*, dated April 25, 1990, prepared by Barbara Sciulli and Lenore Munigle, available at the Local History Room, Irvington Public Library.

<sup>96</sup> *Id.*

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The expansion of the house in the Post-Revolutionary War period, serving perhaps not only as a home and a roadside tavern but as an inn, also reflects the Odell Tavern's adapting uses. After Jonathan Odell's death in 1818, the farm passed to his son William, who was later referred to as the "Inn-Keeper" of the Tavern at the time he sold the property ten years later.<sup>97</sup> In the following antebellum era, the creation of the Erie Canal and the commercial development of New York City meant that Westchester farmers increasingly shifted away from grain and wheat production, and specialized further into dairy and meat. More importantly, the region became seen as a haven for "gentleman farmers" such as James Alexander Hamilton and Washington Irving, and then by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century for businessmen of New York City to establish summer homes in the area. Thus, the history of the structure of Odell Tavern itself became involved with the land around it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Architecturally, the Odell Tavern underwent few additional changes, as farmers and businessmen preferred building new structures, leaving the Odell Tavern in a relatively untouched state for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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<sup>97</sup> See Indenture, dated May 13, 1829, between David Acker and Harriet C. Acker and Peter Acker, recorded in the Westchester County Clerk's Office, Land Records Division, at LIBER 36 PAGE 382.

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# Village of Irvington

## Odell Tavern

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- Exhibit 3 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 2 of 10 Sheets.

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- Exhibit 4 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 3 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 5 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 4 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 6 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 5 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 7 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 6 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 8 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 7 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 9 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 8 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 10 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 9 of 10 Sheets.
- Exhibit 11 Odell Inn - WPA Off. Proj. No. 65-1715, Survey No. NY 4109, Sheet 10 of 10 Sheets.

Figure 1



PLATE 107

*Farmhouse on the former Philipse Manor,*

August 25, 2021

Figure 2



Figure 3



August 25, 2021

Figure 4



August 25, 2021

Figure 5



August 25, 2021

Figure 6



August 25, 2021

Figure 7



August 25, 2021

Figure 8



August 25, 2021

Figure 9



August 25, 2021

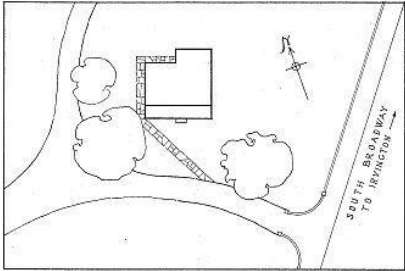
Figure 10



# Exhibit 1

**· ODELL · INN ·**  
SOUTH BROADWAY  
IRVINGTON  
NEW YORK

.

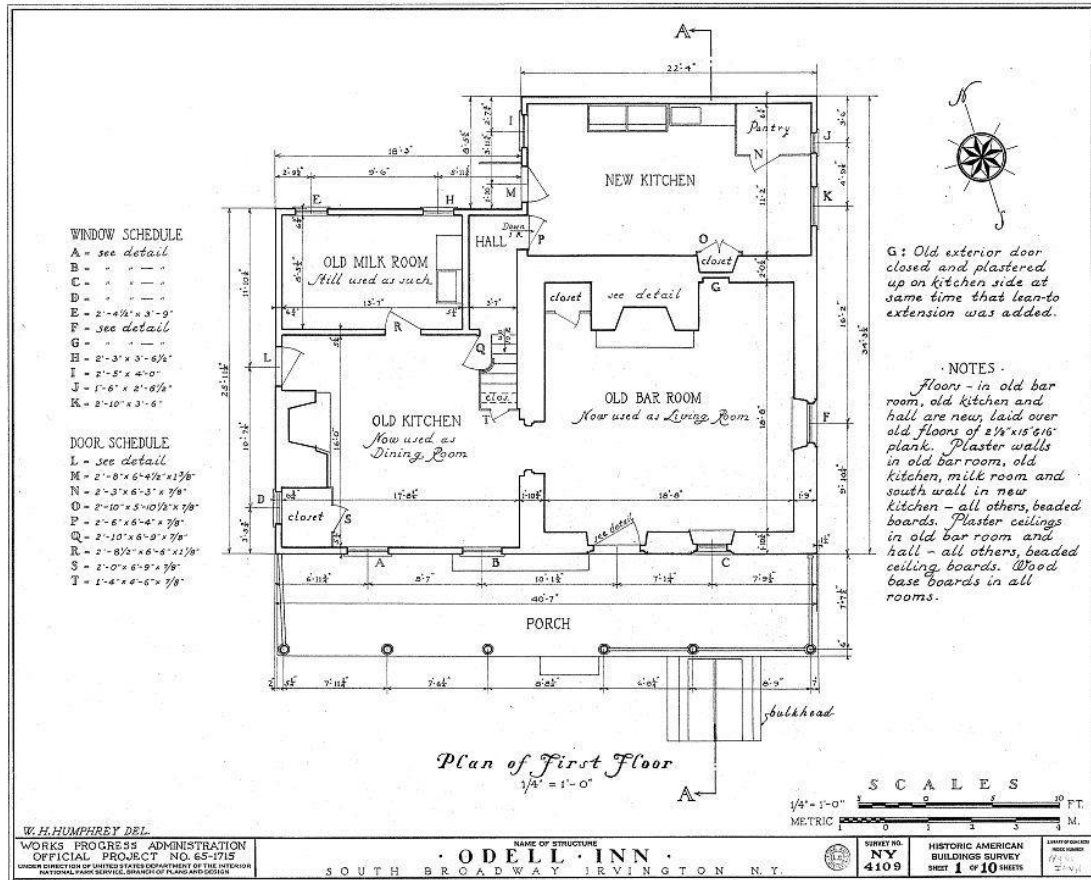


LOCATION MAP

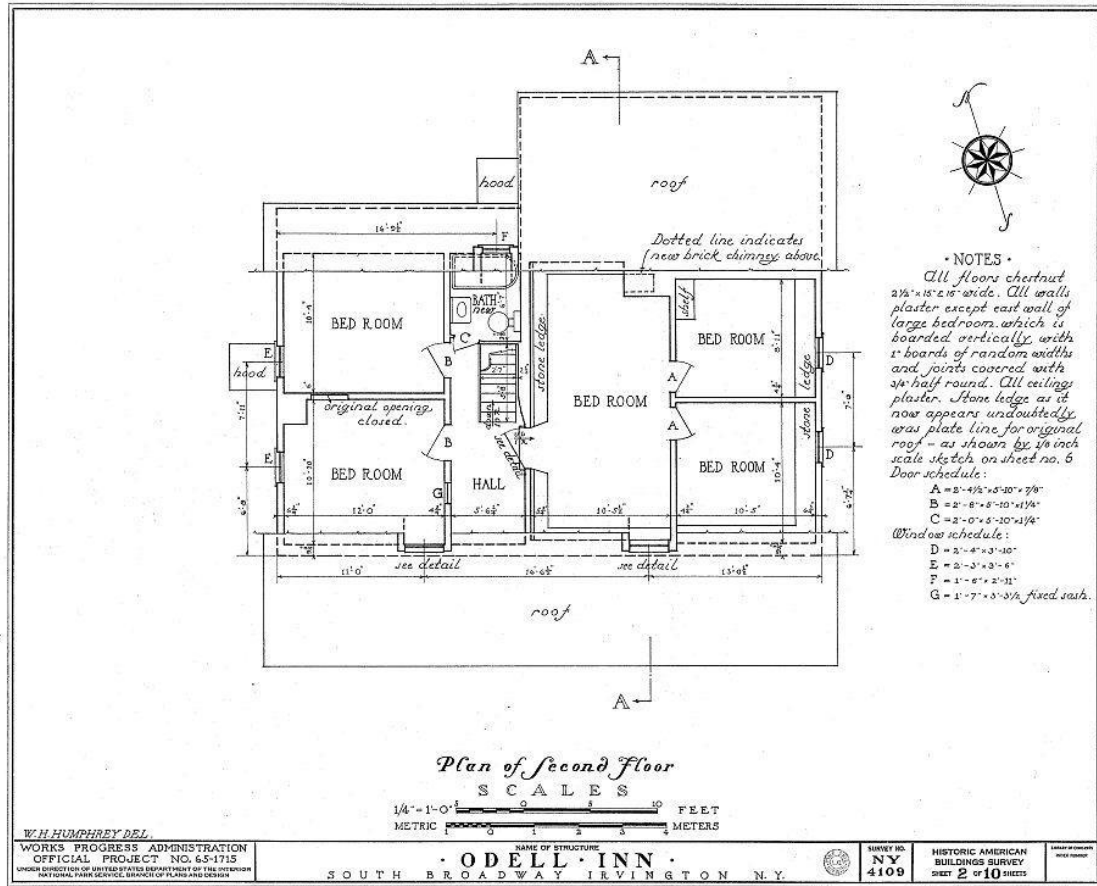
ORIGINAL BUILDING ERECTED 1693  
BUILDER & OWNER - CAPT. JOHN HARMSE

<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN</p>	<p>MEASURED: MARCH 1936 DRAWN: MAY 1936 MEASUREMENTS CHECKED: W. H. HUMPHREY</p>	<p>DRAWINGS APPROVED: <i>Richard W. Worthington</i> DRAWINGS APPROVED: <i>W. H. Humphrey</i> ACCEPTED FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: <i>W. H. Humphrey</i></p>	<p>DISTRICT NO. N.Y. 4 DISTRICT OFFICER: WATFIELD WENDELL - DISTRICT OFFICER 120 WEST 44<sup>TH</sup> STREET - NEW YORK N. Y. FIELD PARTY: KATARRELL, JOSEPH - ALLY THEIST W. H. HUMPHREY</p>	<p>SURVEY NO. <b>NY</b> <b>4109</b> 10 SHEETS</p>	<p>INDEX NO. NY 60117 1-</p>
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# Exhibit 2

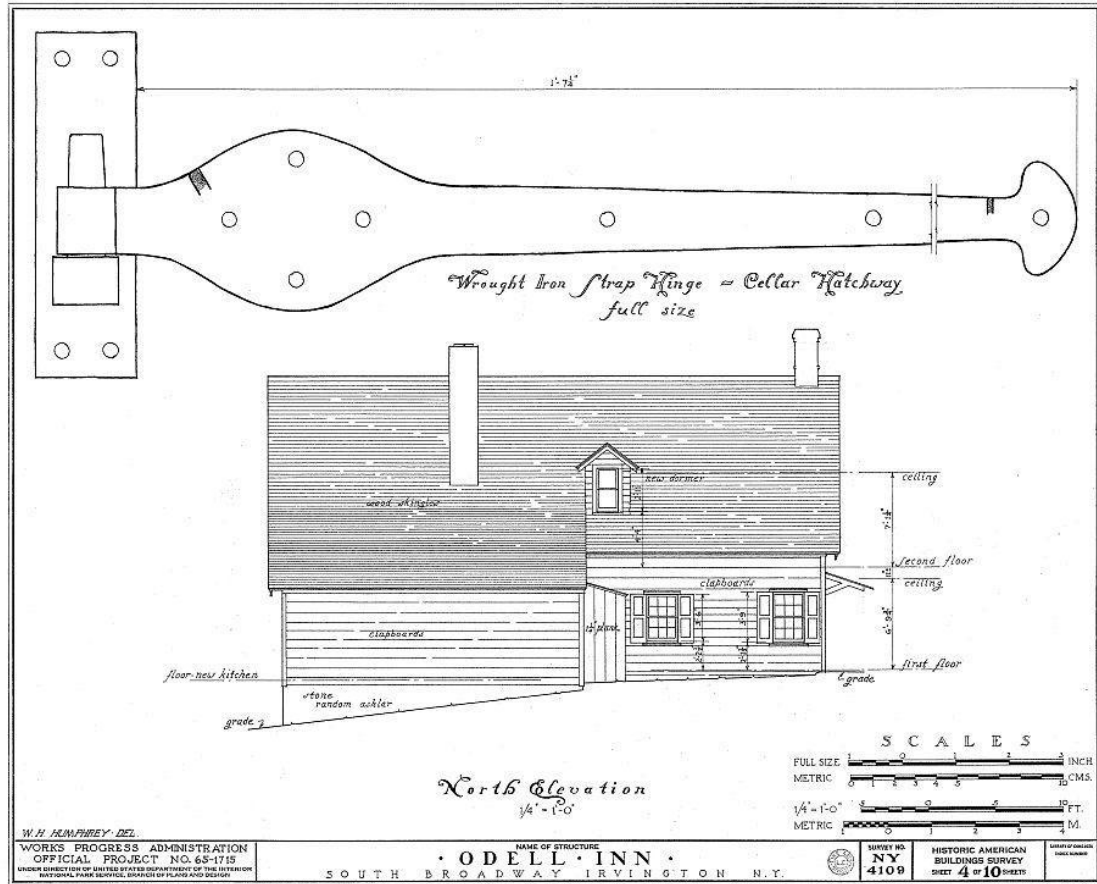


# Exhibit 3

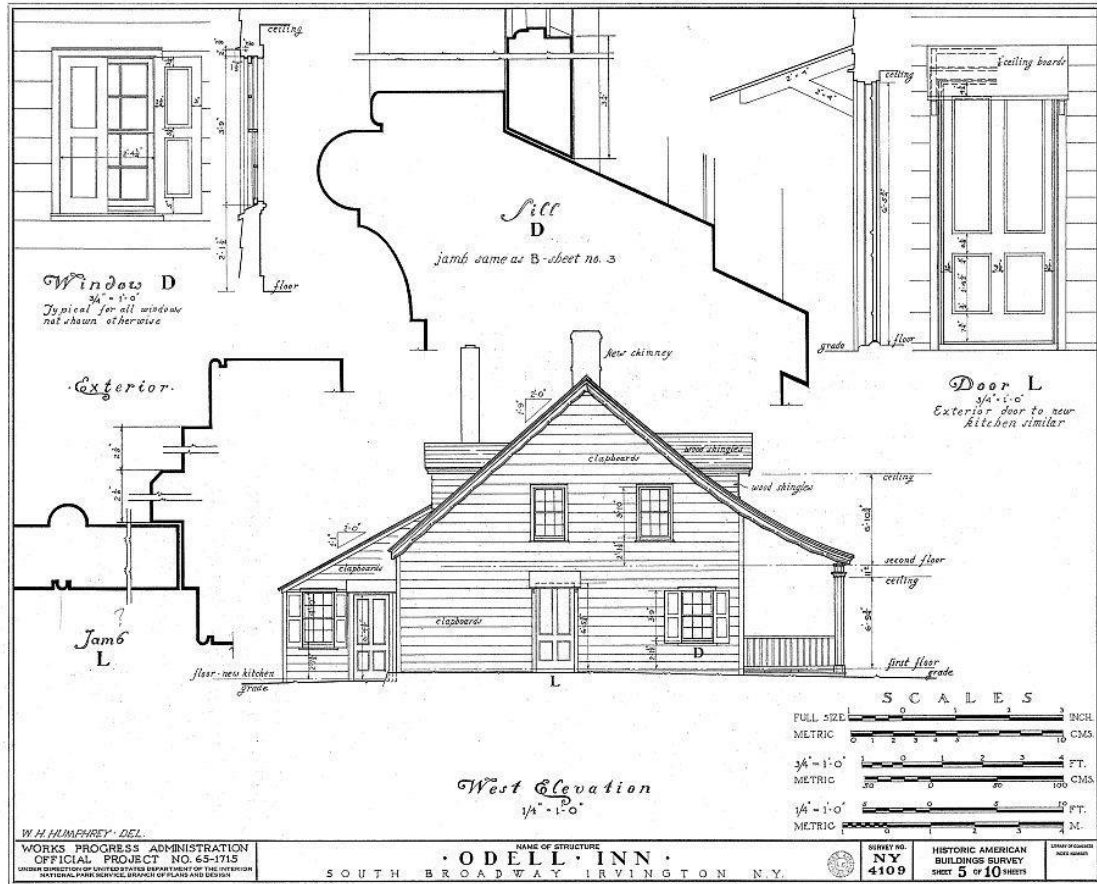




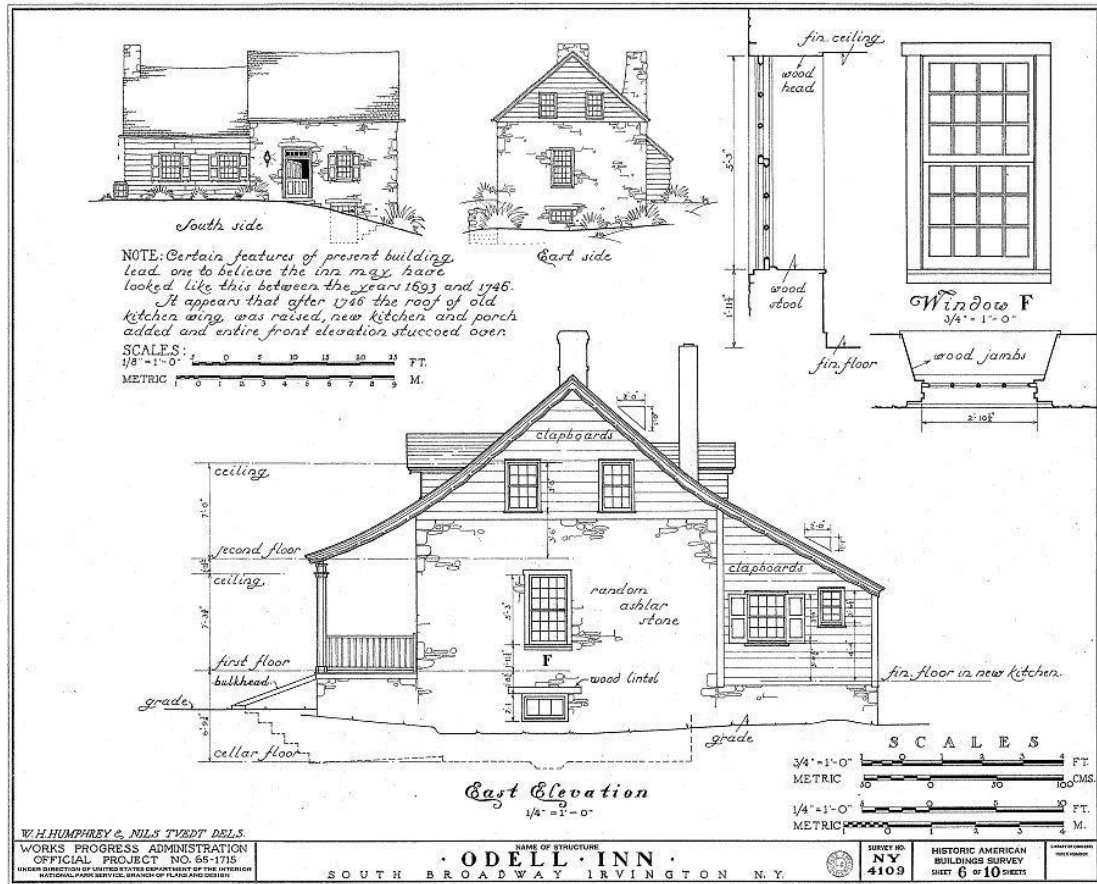
# Exhibit 5



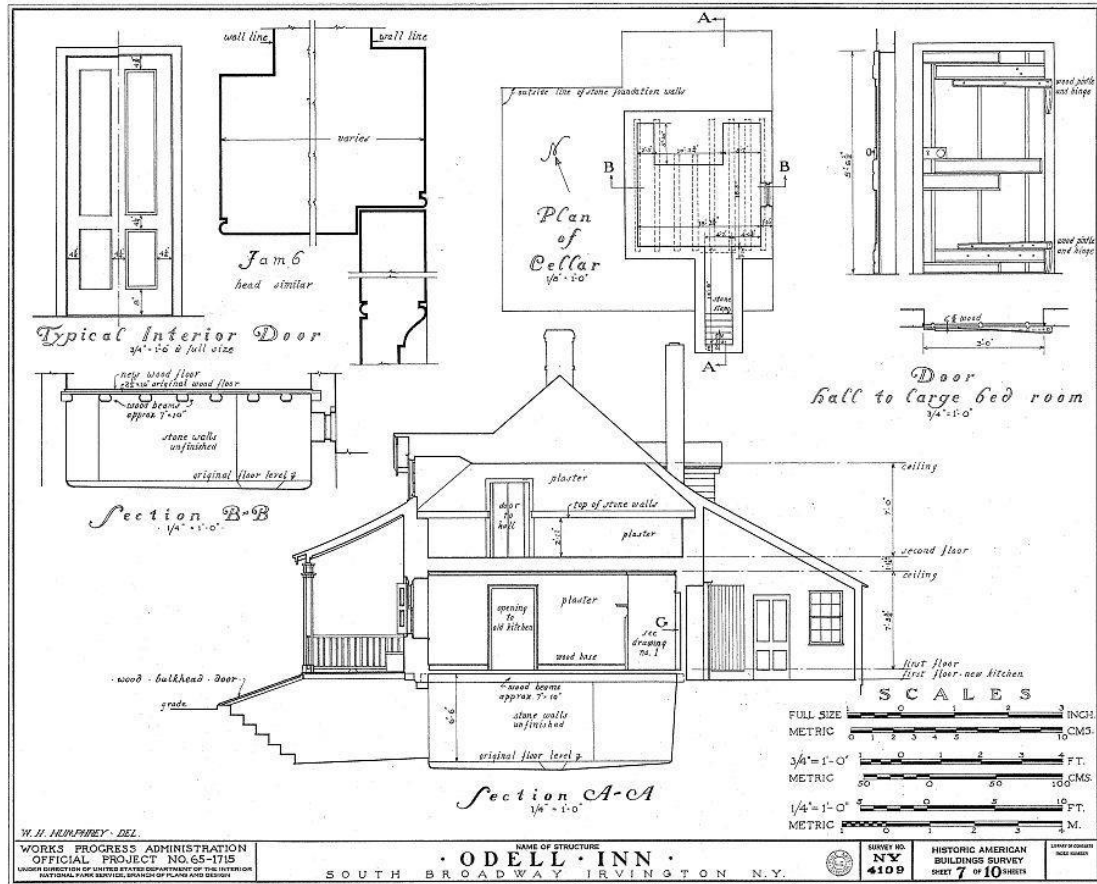
# Exhibit 6



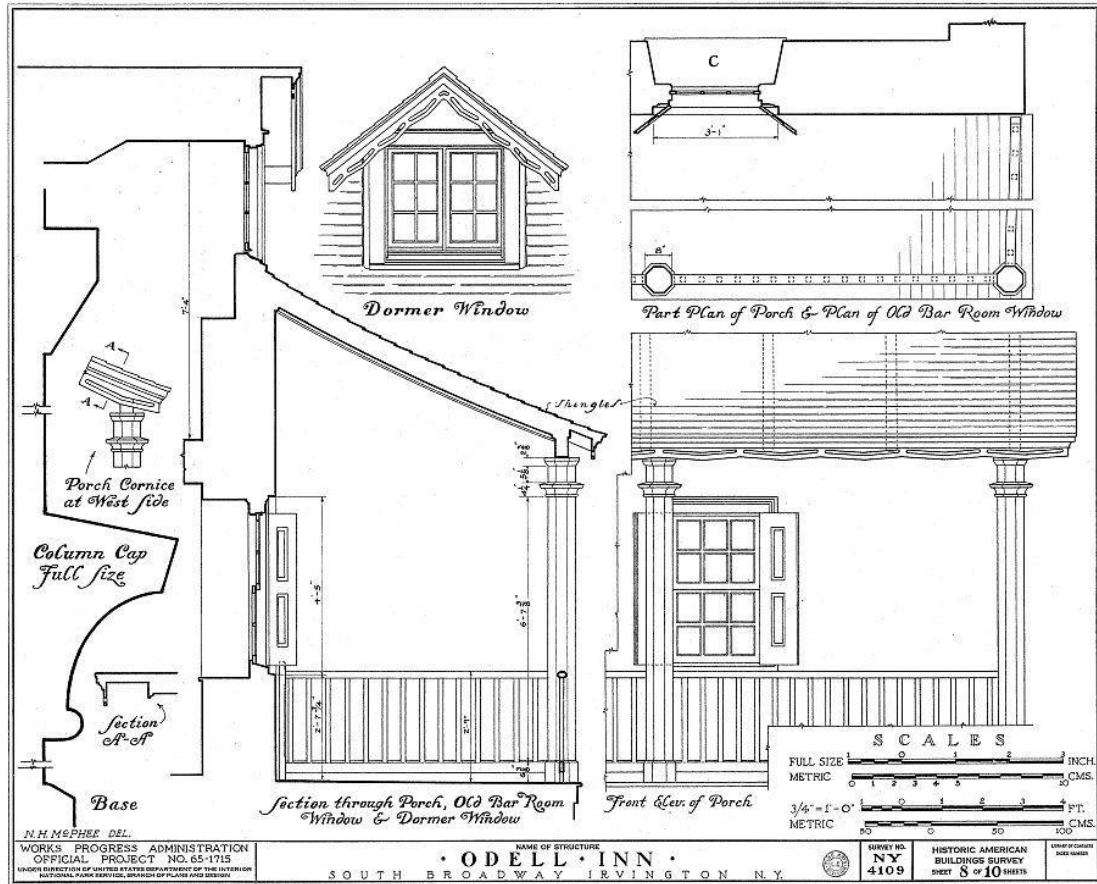
# Exhibit 7



# Exhibit 8



# Exhibit 9



# Exhibit 10

