

The Colonie Historical Oracle

Quarterly Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie

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July — September 2017

The Frederick Cramer House

Submitted by Mark T. Bodnar, Past President, HSTC



1982 photo of the Frederick Cramer House

Oftentimes questions surface regarding some of the older homes and buildings in the Town of Colonie. Typically, Kevin Franklin, our Colonie Town Historian, fields these inquiries and answers individual requests about the aging, historic properties within the Town. Recently, this writer was approached with an inquiry regarding an older structure, and with the help of Kevin, I was able to provide the information requested. In doing so, we

thought it would be appropriate to share the information of this property with our membership through the Historical Oracle.

Situated on Albany Shaker Road, near Everett Road, is a large brick house pictured above. When was this built? Who was the architect? What style of architecture is it? We hope this article answers most questions.

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

According to the Book of Deeds, the first owner of the property, which originally encompassed 76 acres, was Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1842. The property was then owned by Teunis & Catherine Van Vechten in 1848. Warren Kelly became the owner in 1864. Three years later it was owned by William & Susanna Van Antwerp, who kept the property until 1901, when Frederick Cramer, a widower became the owner. In 1925 the 76 acres was acquired by Jacob Krug, and in 1982 the property was owned by John and Anthony Audi, who resided on Exchange Street.

NOTE: Stephen Van Rensselaer, Teunis & Catherine Van Vechten, William & Susanna Van Antwerp and Frederick Cramer are all buried in Albany Rural Cemetery in the Town of Colonie.

HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

A review of the Building Structure Inventory Form dated June 11, 1982, reveals that the building was known as the **Frederick Cramer House**, located at 410 Albany Shaker Road in Loudonville.

The Frederick Cramer House is significant to the history of the Town as a distinctive example of post Civil War picturesque eclectic farmhouse architecture. Designed in 1877 by a prominent Albany architect, Ernest Hoffman, Jr., the house exhibits Victorian Gothic and Eastlake style details applied to a traditional central hall, two-story farmhouse form, but it was an unusual example of an architect designed farmhouse. Why? Because while many picturesque farmhouses were built to pattern book designs, only a few of the most prosperous farmers actually called upon the services of an architect. Built amid the late nineteenth century suburban development, the Frederick Cramer House and out-buildings reflect the prosperity and success that distinguished the Town of Colonie as an important agricultural provider for the growing urban community of Albany.



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Just search:

Historical Society Town of Colonie

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING & SURROUNDINGS:

In 1982 the property consisted of a farm house, farm fields and a vegetable stand. Despite the surrounding suburban residential neighborhood, the Frederick Cramer House at 410 Albany Shaker Road continued to retain a farm-like setting. Following subdivision during the twentieth century, the property's approximately four acre parcel was all that remained of the farm yard's original 76 acres.

The two story brick farmhouse was designed in the Victorian Gothic style. The house is "T" shaped: the front section is five bays wide and has a one story enclosed portico at the center entrance. All windows have stone heads and lentels. The gable roof of the front section has a central cross-gable, two gable dormers, and two symmetrically placed end chimneys. The gable ends, dormers and eaves are ornamented with massive wood trim that resembles structural members. The gable ends also have foliated wooden decorations and trim work consisting of pendants and finials. The front portico was added on in 1940.

The interior of the house retained the paneled, double front doors, grain-painted woodwork, and the finely carved and turned black walnut newel and balusters. By the time of the Building Structure Inventory Form in 1982, the house had been segmented into apartments.

Two clapboard barns, a clapboard shed and a concrete block garage were situated behind the house, and a vegetable stand was situated near Albany Shaker Road on what is now an empty lot on the south side of the property. South of the vegetable stand stood an old gas station, now the site of a Stewarts Shop on the corner of Albany Shaker and Everett Road.

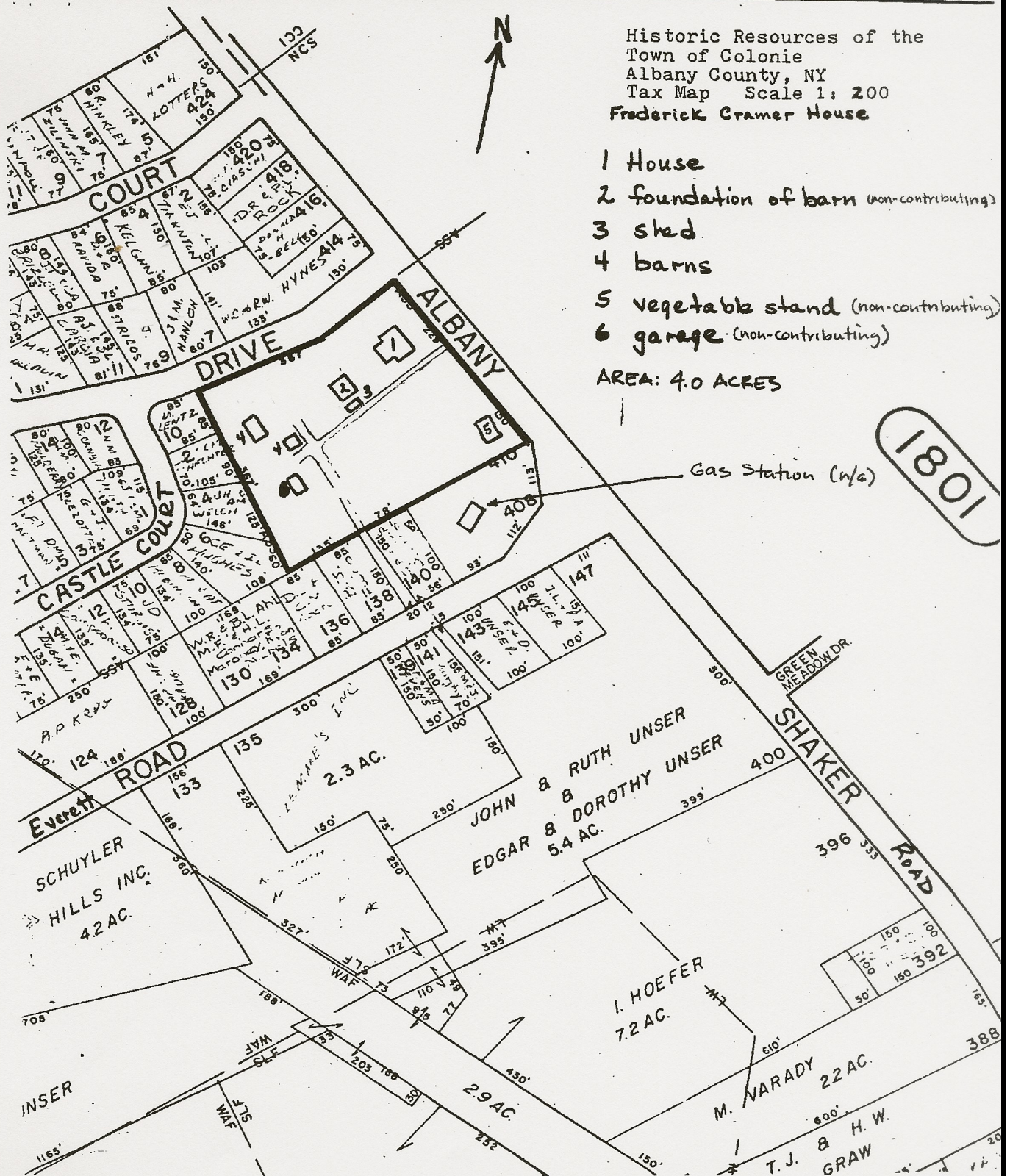
Welcome New Members!

The Historical Society of the Town of Colonie would like to welcome our newest members:

Talisa Foulks-Pounds; Richard Bovee; Martha & Ann Galloway; Alihan Alihan; Stephan Bielinski; Marjory Case; Elizabeth Erkes; Adam Vandenburg; Mark & Colleen Delay; Darcy Harding; and Patricia A. Frank.

Welcome Aboard!

TOWN TAX MAP



Tax Map of Frederick Cramer House, 1982

Yes, I would like to become a member of the Historical Society of the Town of Colonie, New York, Inc. in the classification I have checked or renew my membership as noted.

My annual dues payment in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues	Classification	Annual Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> Students and Senior Citizens . . .	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$100—\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250.00 & Up

Please accept my additional donation of \$ _____ as a gift to the Historical Society. *The Historical Society is a not-for-profit corporation.*

Name _____

Address _____

Cit/Town _____ Zip Code _____ Home Phone # _____

Cell Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

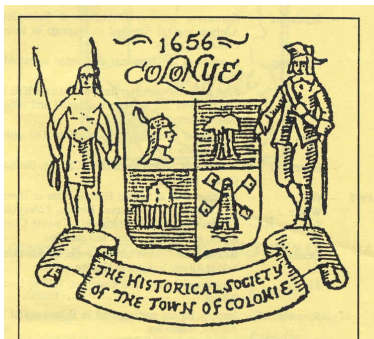
Please mail to Membership Chairperson c/o Historical Society, Memorial Town Hall, Newtonville, N. Y. 12128-0508

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF COLONIE

Kevin Franklin: Town Historian

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Historical Society Founded 1971

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Historical Places in the Town of Colonie brochure has been well received by our members. It is available to the public at information racks at libraries and other locations.

When you are at the Pruyn House visit our Exhibit Room on the second floor for the "Christmas Collectibles" display, featuring colorful antique Christmas post cards, toy replicas of a horse-drawn streetcar, and a side-wheel steamboat, and antique child's sleigh and antique sleigh bells. All items naturally, are from our collection.

Our upcoming membership meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th, at 2 pm at the Library. Our speaker is Jordan Loucks, a working archeologist, who will present: "Excelsior: The Immigrants That Built the Economy of Nineteenth Century New York." Mr. Loucks will focus on the economic development of the State of New York with special attention to the capital region.

Fran McCashion, President