

THE BARN DOOR
NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL BARN ALLIANCE
SPRING 2008 VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Early Barn Contract

Submitted by The Dutch Barn Preservation Society, from "Early Records of Albany",
vol. 3, pp. 424-25

Contract of Harmen Bastiaensen to build a barn at Kinderhook for Jan Maertensen:

On this 8th day of February 1675 appeared before me, Adriaen van Ilpendam, notary public residing in New Albany, and before the afterwritten witnesses, Harmen Bastiaenz of the one part, and Jan Maertenz of the other part, who in love and friendship are agreed in manner following, to wit: Harmen Bastiaenz acknowledges that he has undertaken to build for Jan Maertenz at Kinderhoeck a barn fifty feet long and twenty-six feet wide, with an extension on each side, ten feet deep and running the full length of the barn, and at each end a gable with sloping peak; furthermore to make in said barn five bents with five loft beams, of which five bents three are to have brackets, and double door at the front end of the barn and one door in each of the extensions, a horse manger forty feet long and all the inside work that belongs to a barn, except the floor, and properly to put on the rafters of the roof. The contractor promises to begin to work thereon next March of this year and not to stop before the work shall be completed. The employer promises to furnish the contractor with a man for one month to help rough-hew the timber; furthermore the employer shall provide all the materials so that the contractor shall not wait for them, and when the work is completed, the employer promises to pay to the contractor for the work done thirty-one good, whole, salable beaver skins, or wheat or other wares at market price, with which, if they suit him the contractor is to be content: but on condition that he shall give the contractor in hand three mudde of wheat so soon as he begins the work, to be deducted from the aforesaid stipulated sum, and furthermore pay the half next winter. The aforesaid contracting parties mutually promise to execute and perform the aforesaid conditions, binding thereto their respective persons and estates, nothing excepted, subject to all lords, courts, tribunals, and judges. In witness whereof they have subscribed this with their own hands, in Albany, dated as above.

HA[R]MEN BASTIAEN[S] This is the mark + of JAN MAERTENSZ, made by himself As witnesses: Hendrick Rooseboom, Roloef Jansen-- Quad attesor: Adriaen van Ilpendam, Not. Pub.