



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

Jim Greenfield Town Historian 283-6384

The Phillips/Vandenbergh House

In springtime, if you are driving north on Bloomingrove Drive at the corner of Jordan Road, you will probably notice sap buckets on the property of a stately white Greek Revival style residence with imposing white columns. Look more closely at the home and admire this house which was recognized in the book Architecture Worth Saving in Rensselaer County. It is probably the only house with this architectural style left in North Greenbush.

The house dates from 1843 when it was built by Joseph Phillips who purchased the property from his brother James. The land abutted the property of the Deuel family which was the maiden name of Joseph's wife Eliza.

Phillips was a prosperous farmer in North Greenbush and his three daughters grew up in this home. When Joseph died in 1871, the house was sold to Rutger Vandenbergh who had married Phillips' daughter Helen.

He continued to farm this land of his father-in-law. In September 1886 he was a victim of a terrible farming accident on his property.

A portable boiler, attached to a thresher was being readied in Vandenbergh's barn for use in his fields. The boiler exploded throwing bodies into the air and destroying the barn and its contents-the entire crop of the farm. The explosion killed David A. Phillips, the thresher's

owner, and Archie Hankle, the engineer. Rutger Vandenberg was described as "more or less injured".

There were no reports of any damage to the house, but with his crop destroyed and suffering from the injury which may have disabled him; it is probable that Rutger's farming days were over.

By 1900 Rutger and his wife were living with his brother James in the family homestead (the Brothers Restaurant, now Taco Bell on Vandenberg Avenue). In 1910 they were still living in Troy. By 1920, the Vandenberghs who were in their 70's lived with their daughter and son-in-law Wilber G. Sharpe, on what is now Manmoth Springs Road.

But what of the house on Bloomingrove Drive? It has had several owners in the past years, including the Lossoe family, a name familiar to many North Greenbush residents.

If you are driving by the house next spring, by all means, stop to buy some maple syrup and reflect upon this beautiful home and its history.