

Historic Huguenot Street Finishes Restoration on the Jean Hasbrouck House Roof



NEW PALTZ, NY (October 26, 2020) – After more than five years of planning and consultation, timber frame restoration, shingle installation, and more, Historic Huguenot Street is thrilled to announce the finished restoration of the roof on the Jean Hasbrouck House.

The Jean Hasbrouck House (ca. 1721) is a specific and rare example of traditional Dutch 18th-century architecture. The house's high-pitched gable roof spans twice the depth of other stone houses from the period and is one of a kind in the United States. The house was named a National Historic Landmark in 1967 and serves as the flagship house of seven historic house museums comprising Historic Huguenot Street's 10-acre National Historic Landmark District (awarded 1960).

Phase one of the project to restore the original 18th-century roof framing of the Jean Hasbrouck House (ca. 1721) began in June 2018. Phase one focused on the repair of damaged rafter feet on both the west and east slopes of the house, as well as frame connections on the interior in the 18th-century timber-roof frame. The timber-frame roof structure was repaired by seasoned professionals using historically appropriate materials and methods.



Phase one was informed by two-dimensional and three-dimensional structural analysis provided by Derek Trelsted of Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers completed in 2017. As a result, timber-frame experts Rudy Christian and Laura Saeger of Christian and Son, Inc., and Ian Stewart of New Netherland Timber Framing were brought in to ensure an historically appropriate and structurally sound solution to issues in the nearly 300-year-old roof framing. Their work began with a site visit in July 2017, during which they removed the lower two feet of roofing material to closely examine the rafter feet. This examination revealed rot where the feet of roughly half of the rafters meet the top plates on the west slope of the roof. Similar deterioration was noted on rafters on the east slope and, in particular, problems at the distinctive entry shed roof.



The final phase of the Jean Hasbrouck House roof restoration was completed in September 2020. Skilled craftsman working for Salem Preservation, Inc. carefully removed the old wood shingles, piece by piece, in an effort to preserve the 18th-century sheathing underneath. Before the all new Alaskan yellow cedar shakes were installed, new skip sheathing was added on top of the original sheathing. In this way, the new skip sheathing is hidden from view in the impressive two-story garret of the house, while additional air flow to the roof layers will extend the life of the new shakes. The Alaskan yellow cedar shakes were hand-picked for installation by the roofing team based on integrity of the material and thickness, further ensuring that the roof will last for many decades. New copper flashing was added around the brick chimneys to complete the project.

The completion of the roof restoration on the iconic Jean Hasbrouck House was only possible because of the dedication of the HHS Board and staff, restoration consultants, and hundreds of generous supporters, including individuals, foundations, and government agencies. “Now preserved for decades to come we are leaving a lasting legacy of which we should all be proud,” says Executive Director Liselle LaFrance. “Thank you to everyone who played a role—large or small.”



Images:

Completed Jean Hasbrouck House roof, September 2020

Laura Saeger of Christian and Son, Inc., works to restore the timber frame of the Jean Hasbrouck House roof, June 2018

Ian Stewart of New Netherland Timber Framing installs new framing to the front porch of the Jean Hasbrouck House roof, June 2018

Completed Jean Hasbrouck House roof, September 2020

All photos courtesy Historic Huguenot Street

About Historic Huguenot Street

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres comprising the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz settlement, including seven stone houses dating to the early eighteenth century. Historic Huguenot Street was founded in 1894 as the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical, and Monumental Society to preserve the nationally acclaimed collection of stone houses. Since then, Historic Huguenot Street has grown into an innovative museum, chartered as an educational corporation by the University of the State of New York Department of Education that is dedicated to

preserving a unique Hudson Valley Huguenot settlement and engaging diverse audiences in the exploration of America's multicultural past in order to understand the historical forces that have shaped America.

###

Frances Vigna
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
frances@huguenotstreet.org
(845) 255-1660 Ext. 102