



Perseñ

for kids

House

**An activity booklet for kids created by the
Ulster County Clerk's Records Management Program**

**Nina Postupack, County Clerk
2010**

Matthewis Persen House

(The oldest house in Ulster County c.1661)



74 John Street, Kingston, NY 12401

**Hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday-Saturday
(Memorial Day to Labor Day)**

**Hours: Saturdays 10am-2pm
(Labor Day to Thanksgiving)**

Or By Appointment

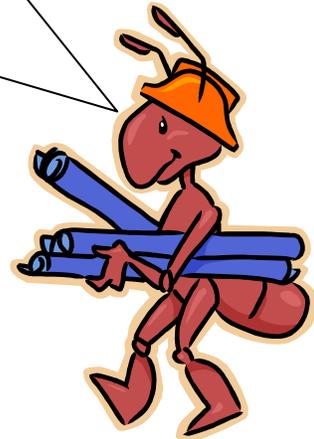
I'm Archie the Ant and I am here to guide you through the Persen House for Kids. If you haven't been to the house for a tour we welcome you to go, don't worry it's FREE!

The house is located on the corner of Crown and John Streets, and did you know that it is the ONLY intersection in the United States with four pre-revolutionary stone houses? This packet will include all the information you need to complete the activities inside and give you some background information on the oldest house in Ulster County.



Background

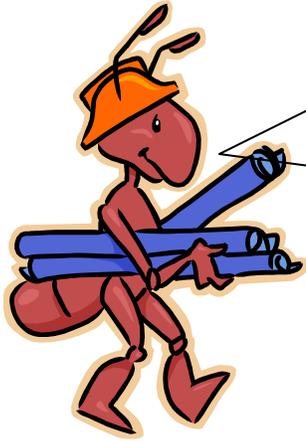
The Matthew Persen House was built in 5 phases. Phase 1 started in 1661 and Phase 5 was completed in 1999. The house was built of wood in 1661. It was a small house with an attic and a basement. The first person to occupy the home was Gysbert Van Imbroch. Gysbert was a barber and a surgeon. He lived in the home with his wife, Rachel, and their three children. In 1663 the house was burned in a Native American attack, this was the first of two burnings the house has been through. The house was then rebuilt of stone.



The house was built inside the stockade. The stockade was a big wooden fence that surrounded a part of Uptown Kingston. It was used to keep the settlers safe.

Around 1669, a new stone addition was added to the house. It made the house twice as big! Then, in 1698, a barn was added. What kind of animals do you think they would have had? Cows, chickens, horses, goats, or other animals? Later, they turned the barn into a kitchen! Isn't that crazy? The stone wall in the kitchen was crumbling, so to preserve it they numbered each stone and put it back exactly as it was. I hope they learned to count and number in school!





In 1735, the big room in the house was added. Here two brothers, Adam and Cornelius Persen, had a tailor shop. A tailor shop was where you went to get clothes made or fixed. Cornelius had a son and named him Matthewis. The house was named after Matthewis because he was the longest living resident; he lived to be 80 years old. Wow, that's impressive! Matthewis opened a tavern in the house. The house must have been very noisy then.

In the mid 1800's, a man named Dr. John Goodwin owned the house. He had a drugstore also known as an apothecary and a grocery store in the house. He must have been very busy. Dr. Goodwin installed wallpaper in this part of the house and a piece is still there after 200 years. The company that made the French wallpaper still exists and you can buy the same pattern.



Ulster County bought the house in 1914, and added a brick addition in 1922. The house was then used for offices, like the County Nurse, 4-H, and Cornell Cooperative. In 1999, they had to move everyone out of the building, because it was about to fall down! They then restored the building, and made it safe. They did an archeological dig where the kitchen was and found over 20,000 artifacts! Wow, that's a lot! One artifact they found was a bodkin and there are only two in New York State. A bodkin is an ornamental hair piece.



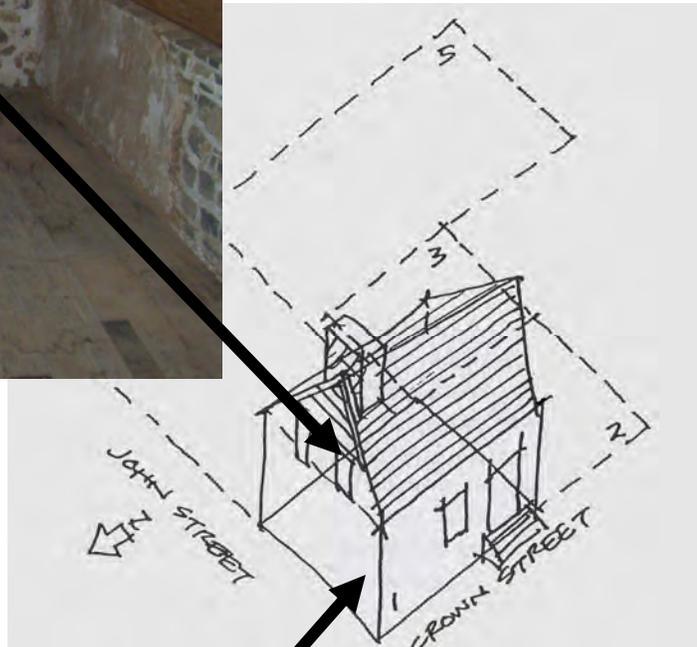
Bodkin

Archie has been working hard to get through each of the 5 phases. While preparing this packet he seems to have gotten stuck on some pages.

Can you find 32 Archie the ants throughout the packet?



Phase 1 Upstairs



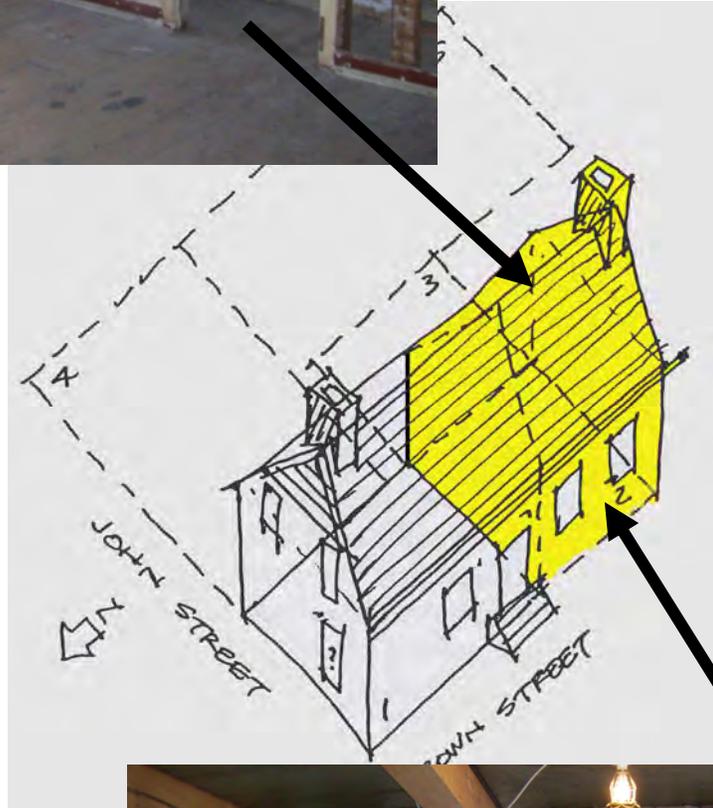
Phase 1 Downstairs





Phase 2 Upstairs

This was Matthewis' bedroom

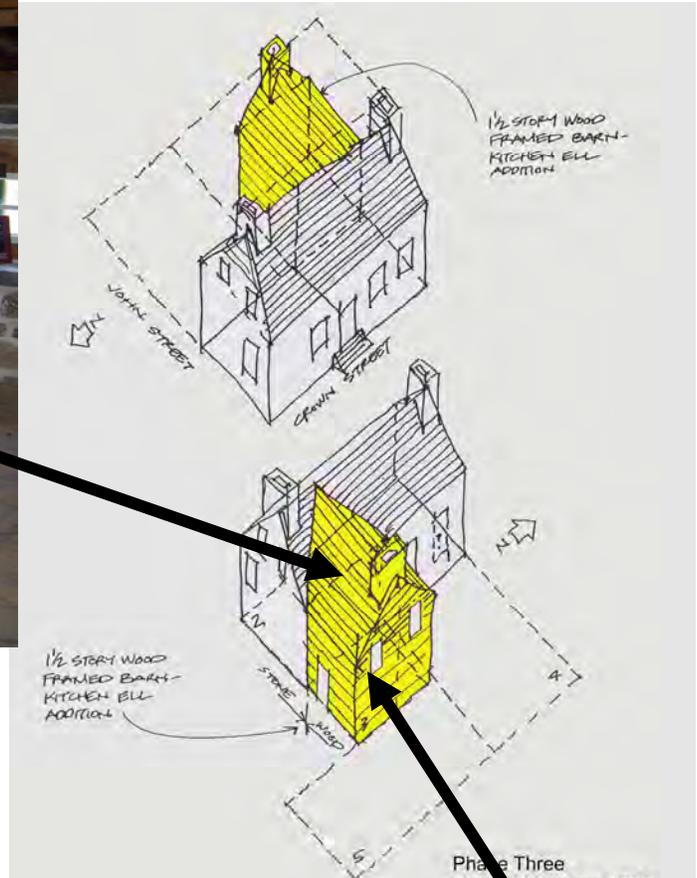


Phase 2 Downstairs

Dr. John Goodwin had a grocery store and apothecary here



Phase 3 Upstairs



Phase 3 Downstairs

This is where they did the archeological dig and found over 20,000 artifacts

They also found a stockade post hole here, but it is now covered by a temporary floor.



Artifacts

These are just a sample of the 20,000 artifacts they found in Phase 3.



Cannonballs

Native American projectile points



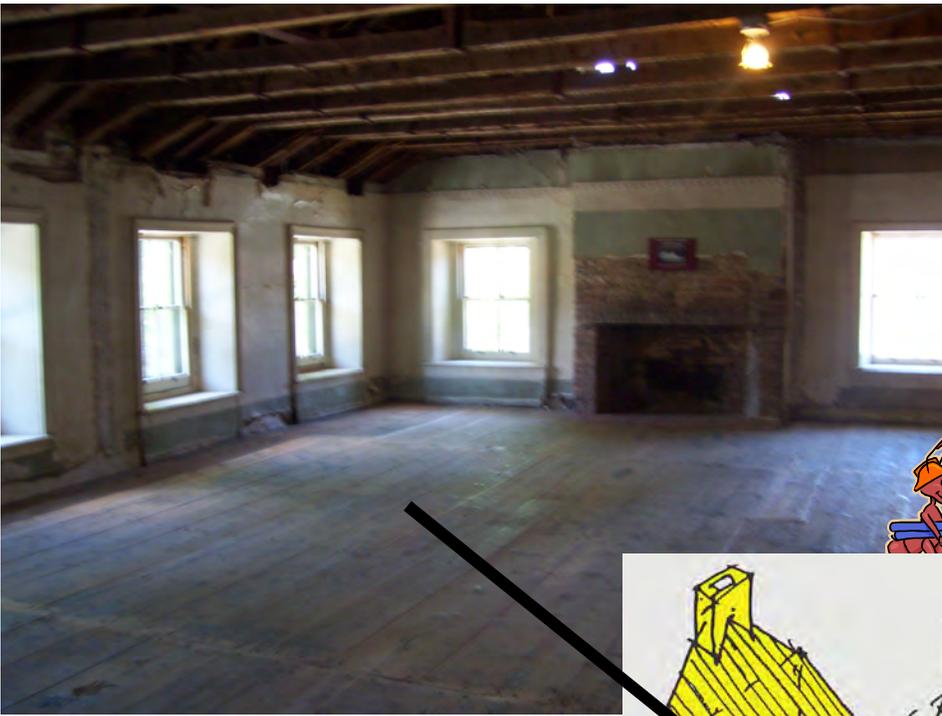
Archaic (All Pre-Contact) iron category was found in all the archaeological excavations, and is present in the group. This is due to the substantial wall structure built on the fact that the earliest groups already used iron, or the soil that contains Native America.



Delft Tiles

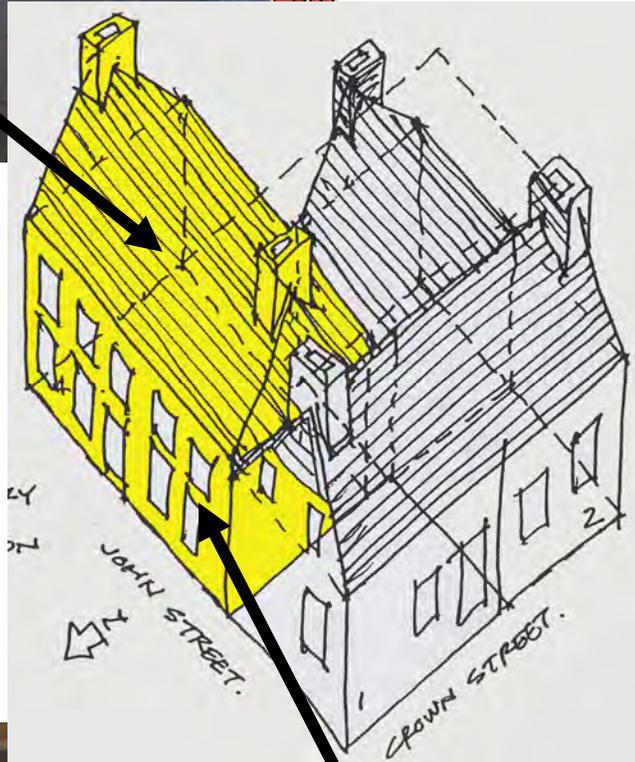


Domino



Phase 4 Upstairs

This was the main room
for the tavern



Phase 4 Downstairs

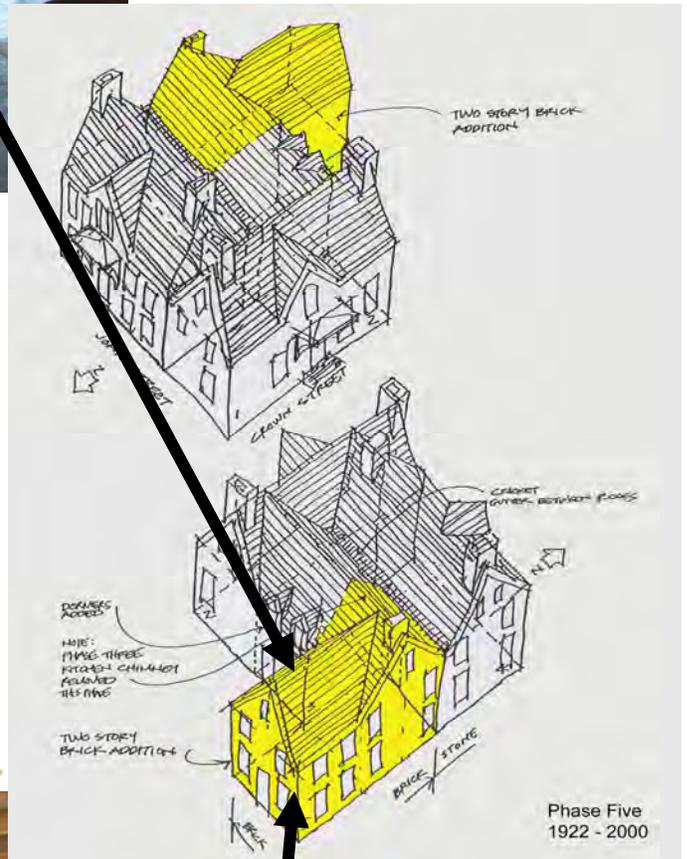
This area was the
tailor shop for
Cornelius and his brother
Adam





Phase 5 Upstairs

Ulster County added this phase in 1922.



Phase 5 Downstairs



See the discoloration?
This is where we believe a shed was once attached, and the darker stone was exposed to the elements of the weather as well as smoke damage.



Archie the Ant here, and I am going to march through the events of the Persen House

Timeline of the Persen House

- 1661 The house is built. Gysbert Van Imbroch and wife Rachel live in the house with their three children; Lysbet, Johannes, and Gysbert
- 1663 House burned in a Native American attack
- 1666 The Van Imbroch children live in the house with their guardian
- 1669 Phase 1 completed and Phase 2 starts
- 1688 Robert Bickerstaff owns the property
- 1689 Robert Bickerstaff and his wife Elizabeth transfer the property to Thomas Hall, Elizabeth's eldest son from a previous marriage
- 1698 Phase 2 completed and Phase 3 is started and Thomas Hall transfers the property to Teunis Tappen
- 1724 Teunis Tappen's will dated June 12, 1724
- 1728 Christopher Tappen (brother of Teunis Tappen) transfers property to Anthony Slecht
- 1734 Cornelius Persen marries Catharina Dyrk Oosterhout
- 1735 Anthony Slecht transfers property to Cornelius Persen and Phase 3 completed, Phase 4 begins
- 1737 Adam Persen marries Catalyntje Swart
- 1739 Matthewis Persen is born
- 1735-1769 Families of Cornelius and Adam Persen (both tailors) live in the house
- 1769 Cornelius Persen's will dated August 8, 1769, wherein he leaves his house and properties to his four children
- 1770 Matthewis Persen buys out his brothers' and sister's shares of the house. He is now the sole owner, and begins to operate a public house or tavern

- 1777 One house and one barn belonging to Matthew Persen are listed as having been destroyed in the burning of Kingston by the British
- 1778 Phase 4 completed (modified 1778-1850 and again 1850-1922)
- 1819 Estimated date of death of Matthew Persen (80 years old)
- 1820 Dr. John Goodwin has a grocery store and apothecary in the wing on John St.
- 1830 Hiram Radcliff is granted a grocery license for the house on the corner of John and Crown. He is most likely renting the building
- 1837 Henry Myer, John Van Buren and others (many married to nieces of Matthew Persen) transfer the property to Hiram Radcliff
- 1914 Charles Romeyn, who lives on 64th Street in New York City, transfers house to County of Ulster
- 1922 County adds brick addition (Phase 5). Farm and Extension Services as well as the local 4-H club, and later the Cornell Cooperative Extension occupy the building
- 1964 Persen House is the subject of a Kingston Board of Supervisor's meeting. Renovations discussed as well as the option of moving the Agricultural Extension into the new County Building
- 1999 Cornell Cooperative Extension is relocated for emergency roof stabilization
- 1999-2003 Archeological dig recovers over 20,000 artifacts
- 2000 Historic Structures Report prepared to establish basis for restoration of house
- 2007 Opened for public tours



Gothic Revival

C. 1850



This window located in the upstairs of Phase 4 is known as a gable. It was added around 1850 during the Gothic Revival.

This picture shows the outside of another gable located between Phase 1 and Phase 2



Activities

True or False

Trivia

Word Scramble

Word Search

Crossword Puzzle

Critical Thinking



TRUE or FALSE

1. The Persen House was built in 1662.
True False
2. The first family to occupy the Persen House was the Persen family.
True False
3. The archeological dig recovered over 20,000 artifacts.
True False
4. Matthewis Persen lived to be 80 years old.
True False
5. The Persen House was burnt more than once.
True False
6. The house was originally built of stone.
True False
7. The company that made the french wallpaper still exists?
True False
8. The stone wall in the kitchen was restored by taking each stone out and numbering them to be put back exactly as it was.
True False
9. The Persen House is located at an intersection, which is one of two with 18th century stone houses on all four corners.
True False
10. Matthewis Persen was the first of the Persen family to occupy the house.
True False



I'm getting antsy let see what you've learned by answering these trivia questions.

1. Who was the longest resident of the Persen House?
2. The Persen House was built in phases how many were there?
3. What is the most interesting personal artifact recovered from the Persen House excavations? Hint: there are only 2 in New York State.
4. How many years after the house was built in 1661 was the house burnt in a Native American attack?
5. What was Gysbert Van Imbroch besides a surgeon?
6. What were 2 businesses the Persen House used to be?
7. How many artifacts were recovered from the archeological dig?
8. What year did the Persen family start living in the house?
9. What did Dr. Goodwin leave behind?
10. In what phase is a stockade post hole located?

**T
R
I
V
I
A**



I seem to have misspelled these words; can you unscramble them and help me figure out the fun fact below?

1. **tgiknnso**

----- -----

2. **ryGtsbe**

----- -----

3. **leapawrpl**

----- ----- -----

4. **estMhawti**

----- -----

5. **rsleut yucton**

----- -----

6. **dnokbi**

----- -----

7. **ticsaatf**

----- -----

8. **alonbc anl**

----- -----

Hint: It was once an Apothacary

Word Scramble



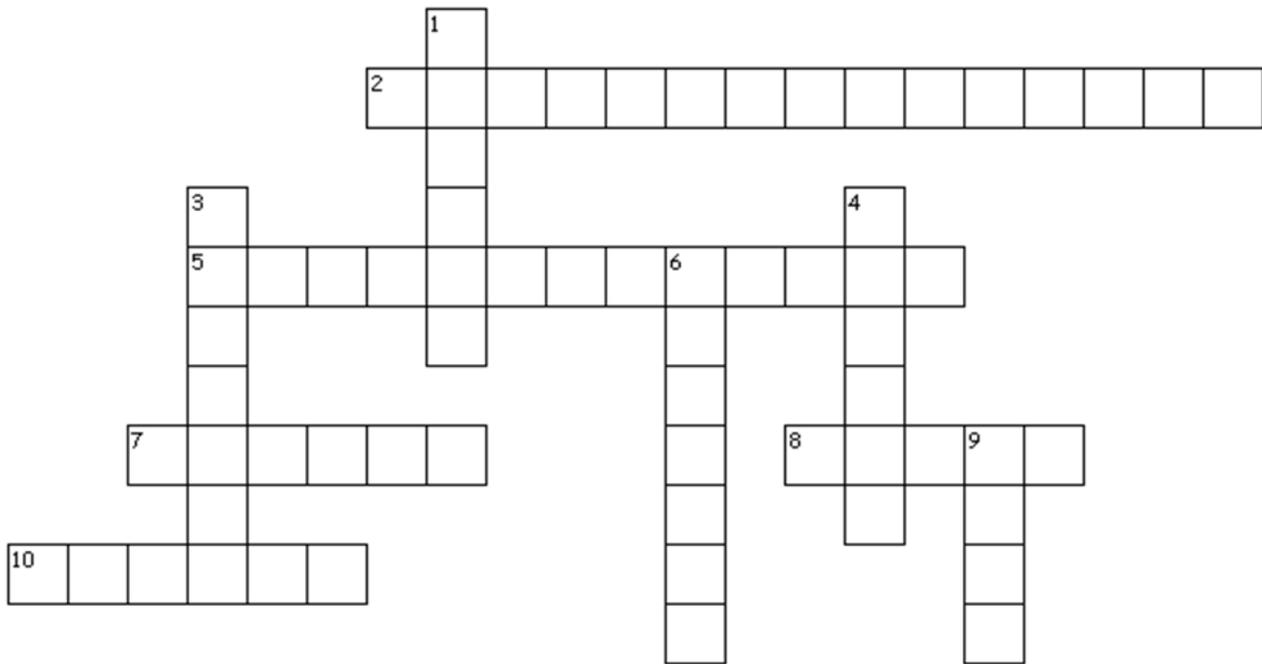
FIND THE ARTIFACTS

L B X G B C W U G I S X B E X
Z F E O A Y M L M E J Y O O D
U S I A K V A A H K L S N I P
C J C E D S E S K Z C L E C A
C L Y C S S U J V W G L S Q B
N S A W A R R O W H E A D S D
M O A Y B P E Z X J W B G L E
X R T R P S N G Q F T N X X L
E T I E V I N X W V E O Y J F
I A F X K S P O O N S N R Q T
H D C D I H R E T H Q N E Z T
S E O N I M O D S T X A T P I
Y B T C D L C N U A U C T X L
P B T G G B X N M S H B O T E
C I M J W I S B W J T W P A L

ARROWHEADS
BEADS
BODKIN
BONES
BUTTONS
CANNONBALLS
CLAYPIPES
DELFTTILE

DOMINOES
GLASSWARE
HAIRBRUSHES
KEYS
PINS
POTTERY
SPOONS

Crossword Puzzle

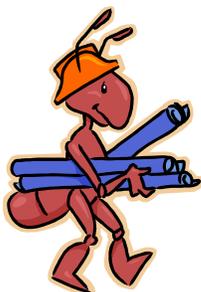


Across

2. The house is named after this person.
5. An _____ dig recovered over 20,000 artifacts
7. An ornamental hair piece
8. The house is located on John and _____ Streets
10. The house was built in 5 _____

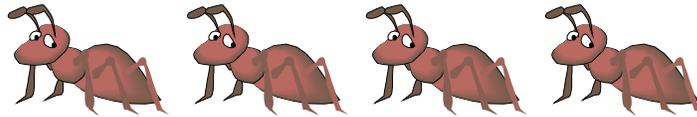
Down

1. These were added during the Gothic Revival
3. Cornelius Persen and his brother were _____
4. Matthewis turned the house into a _____
6. Name the person to occupy the house in 1661
9. The Persen House was originally built of _____



Shhhh...

Don't tell, but here are the answers to check your knowledge.



True/False

1. **False:** It was built in 1661
2. **False:** The first family to occupy the house was the Van Imbroch family.
3. **True**
4. **True:** Matthewis Persen was the longest resident of the house, which is where it got its name from.
5. **True:** It was burnt in 1663 by a Native American attack and then again in 1777
6. **False:** It was originally built of wood. After the Native American attack it was built of stone
7. **True:** The company still prints the same pattern. It is a high end paper
8. **True**
9. **False:** The intersection at Crown and John Streets is the ONLY intersection in the United States with four 18th century stone houses on each corner
10. **False:** Cornelius Persen was the first of the Persen family to occupy the house. Matthewis was born in 1739.

Trivia

1. Matthewis Person. He lived in the house from 1739-1819, 80 years.
2. There were 5 phases. Phase 1 started in 1661 and phase 5 was completed in 1999. 338 years.
3. A Bodkin. There are 2 in New York State. One is located in the Persen House which is metal and the other is located at the museum in Albany, that bodkin is wood.
4. 2 years. The house was burnt in a 1663 Indian attack.
5. Gysbert Van Imbroch was a barber and a surgeon.
6. The Persen House was at one time a tavern, drug store or an apothecary, a grocery store, as well as many offices, such as the 4-H Club, the Agricultural Department, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and County offices (prior to the county office building on Fair St.
7. Over 20,000 artifacts were recovered.
8. 1735
9. The French wallpaper located in phase 2 above the door.
10. Phase 3. The Kitchen

Word Scramble

1. Kingston
2. Gysbert
3. Wallpaper
4. Matthewis
5. Ulster County
6. Bodkin
7. Artifacts
8. Cannonball

Final Solution: Persen House

```
+ B + + + + + G + S + B + +
+ + E + + + + L + E + + O + +
+ + + A K + A + H + + S N I P
C + + E D S + S + + + L E + +
+ L Y + S S U + + + + L S + +
+ S A W A R R O W H E A D S D
+ + A Y B + + + + + B + + E
+ R + R P S N + + + + N + + L
E + I + + I N + + + + O Y + F
+ A + + K S P O O N S N R + T
H + + D + + + E T + + N E + T
S E O N I M O D S T + A T + I
+ B + + + + + + + + U C T + L
+ + + + + + + + + + B O + E
+ + + + + + + + + + + P + +
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ARROWHEADS

BEADS

BODKIN

BONES

BUTTONS

CANNONBALLS

CLAYPIPES

DELFTTILE

DOMINOES

GLASSWARE

HAIRBRUSHES

KEYS

PINS

POTTERY

SPOONS

Word Search

Crossword puzzle

Across

2. The house is named after this person. **Matthewis Persen**
5. An **Archeological** dig recovered
7. An ornamental hair piece **Bodkin**
8. The house is located on John and
10. The house was built in 5 **Phases**

Down

1. These are added during the Gothic Revival. **Gables**
3. Cornelius Persen and his brother were **Tailors**
4. Matthewis turned the house into a **Tavern**
6. Name of the person to occupy the house in 1661.
Gysbert
9. The Persen House was originally built of **wood**.

Critical Thinking

1. In 1735 Cornelius Persen and his brother Adam were tailors and had a tailor shop.
2. The discoloration on the stone. The stone work not covered by the shed is darker.

**A Publication of the Ulster County Clerk's
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