A preliminary report on the tree-ring dating of the Peter McCutcheon House, Bethlehem, Albany County, New York

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The samples were recovered from the building and sent to me by David Moyer of Birchwood Archaeological Services, Sidney Center, NY.

ABM sample numbers	CAT# on samples	Provenience	Ring count	Begins	Ends	Notes
Early Phase, 1735:						
7	42	Collar tie with waney edge	p+ 38W	1698	1735W	Hewn
12	72	Central rafter, possible waney edge	p+113+1v	1622	1735+v	Hewn
8	57	Possible rafter, 1/2 of #56	p+ 53+1v	1680	1733+v	Hewn
16	89	Floor joist, squared	p+ 98+1v	1631	1729+v	Hewn
15	87	First floor floorboard*	p+ 86+1vv	1613	1699+vv	Vertical*
Middle Phase, 1764 or soon after:						
18	108	Fireplace mantle S basement	p+ 68+1v	1696	1764+v	Hewn
20	113	First floor joist (noted as first floor beam below) S #4 - S wall	p+ 86+1vv	1676	1762+v	Hewn
13	77	Beam, unknown, red with bead	p+ 88v	1676	1761v	Planed
10	70	First floor floorboard, with groove*	1+ 61+1vv	1701	1763+vv	Vertical*
11	71	Floorboard or possible rafterboard?*	p+ 62+1vv	1692	1754+vv	Vertical*
9	58	Second floor floorboard, with groove*	p+ 50+1vv	1695	1745+vv	Vertical*
Late Phase, 1786-87:						
17	107	Exterior lintel above basement door	p+113W	1675	1787B	Hewn, *Quercus* sp.
1	3	Lintel above South door				Hewn
2	6	Lintel above Central door				Hewn
1 & 2	3 & 6	Both lintels were cut from one tree	p+100W	1687	1786W	
3	10	Ridge pole (noted as “rafter post” below)	p+128+1W	1658	1786W	Hewn
6	37	Prob. Rafter	p+ 69+1v	1716	1785+v	Hewn
19	110	First floor joist (noted as first floor beam below) S #2	p+112+1v	1664	1775+vv	Hewn
5	36	Unknown; probable collar tie	p+ 65+1vv	1709	1774+vv	Hewn
Undated as of 13 Apr 2010:						
14	86	First floor floorboard	p+ 86+1vv	undated		Vertical*
4	29	First floor floorboard #17	p+127+1v	undated		Vertical*

Above is a list of the samples and their placement in time. All are *Pinus rigida* with the exception of ABM-17, as noted above. See figures below for an illustration of their relative placement in time and their absolute dates as compared to a regional pitch pine chronology from around Albany, NY. The presence of bark (B), waney edge (W), and sapwood in the samples indicated the outer rings' closeness to the bark; a "v" indicates that, due to presence of sapwood rings, the outer ring is close to the waney edge, just below the bark; a "vv" indicates there is an unknown number of rings missing. The boards (vertically sawn, and noted above with asterisks) are placed in the group in which their dates are included, but none has any sapwood; I think ABM-15 was part of the original group, but ABM-9, 10, and 11 were probably added in the late building phase.

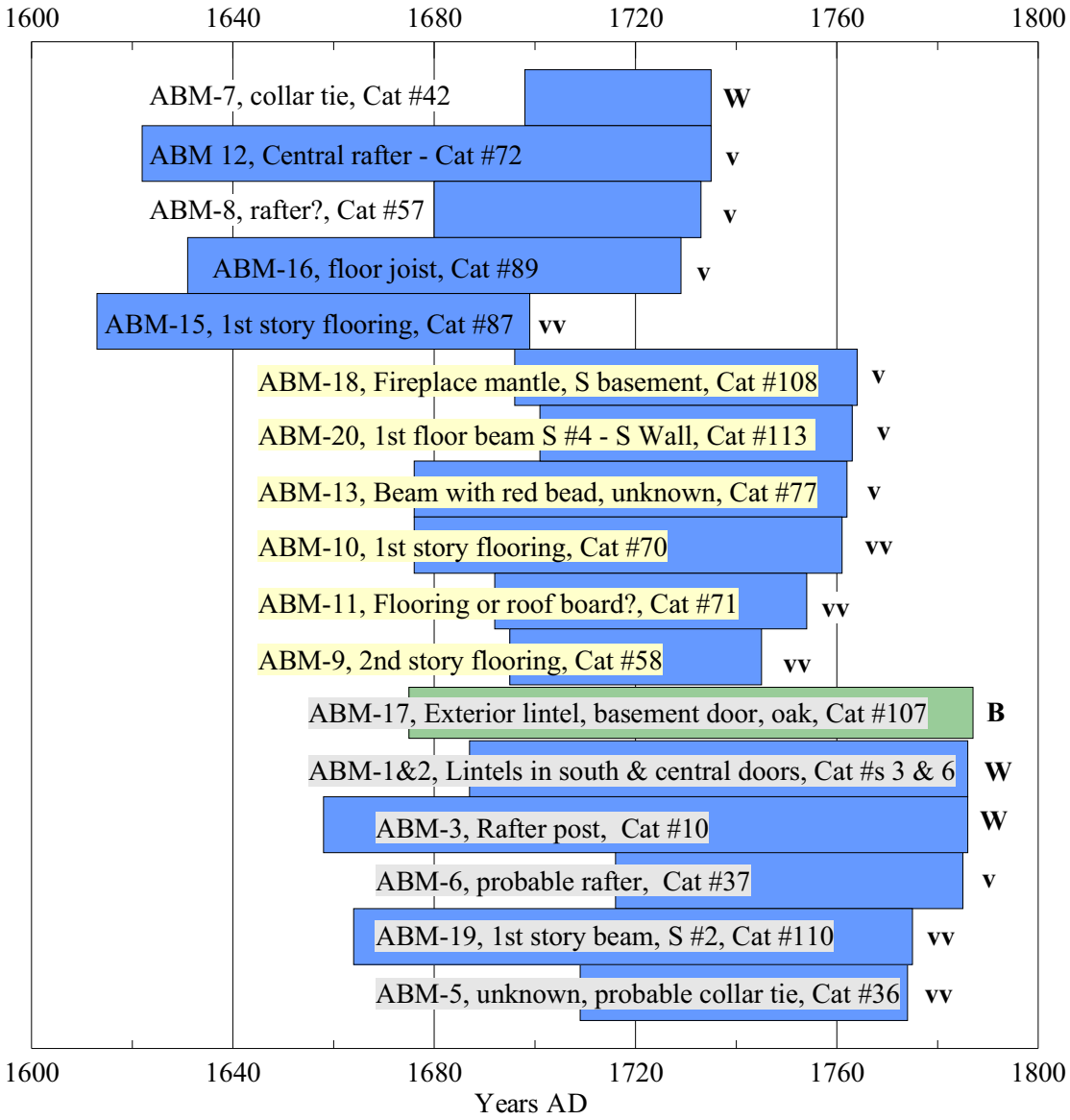

Figure 1. Here are the ranges of dates covered by each dated sample. Blue bars are the pitch pines; the green bar represents the one oak sample. The letters on the right side of the bars are explained in the text above.

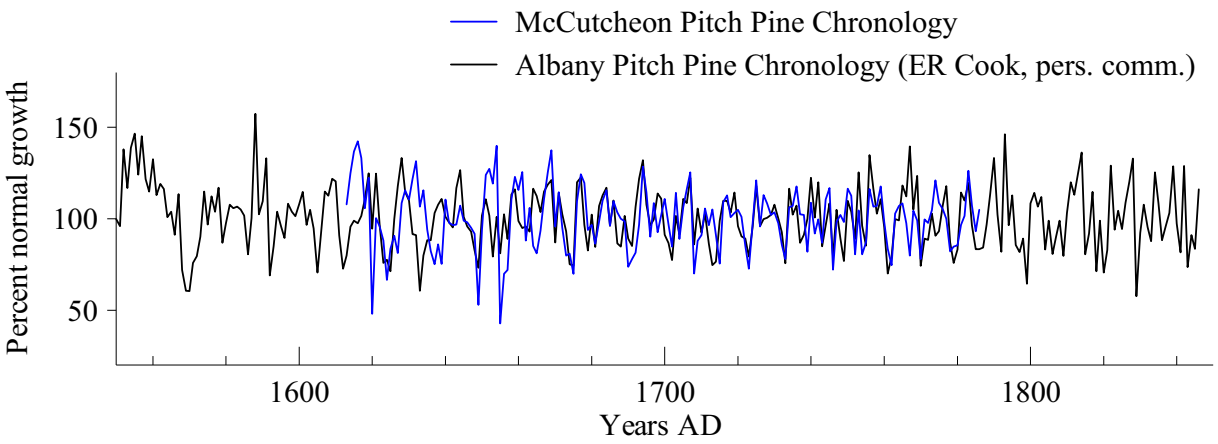

Figure 2. Above are the McCutcheon pine chronology and a regional pitch pine chronology from samples found in six other buildings around Albany, NY. Both the visual comparison and statistical tests indicate that this is a secure crossdate at the 95% level.