George Dodds - William Rodger House

299 Triangle Road, Hammond, St. Lawrence County, New York

AN IMAGINED CIRCA-1857 VIEW / DARK-GRAY PAINT STUDY



Interpretive reconstruction: based on the named 1949 newspaper photograph and the modern view of the house at 299 Triangle Road. Revised with a fuller stone stair and lower ground beneath the windows. Wood shingles, glazing, paint and fine detail are imagined; this is not a photograph from 1857. See pages 4-5.

A house built for Dodds, later owned by Rodger

The historical sources describe a native sandstone farmhouse built for George Dodds shortly after his 1838 land purchase; the heritage-tour guide attributes its construction to the Rodger brothers. William Rodger bought the house and its 102.72-acre parcel on January 4, 1857. Born in Kelso, Scotland, in 1814, he came to Hammond in 1831 and married Isabel Shiell in 1848. The building probably dates to about 1838-39. The imagined date of 1857 marks William's purchase, not the construction of the house. [1, 2]

The house and its owners

Reported history from the supplied 1949 newspaper article and heritage-tour clipping.

William Rodger: 17 June 1814 - 26 June 1891

The tour guide gives Kelso as his birthplace and 1831 as his arrival in Hammond. Lane records his 1848 marriage to Isabel Shiell and his will providing a life interest for his widow, followed by the property passing to their son James H. Rodger. [1, 2]

15 Jan 1838	George Dodds buys 102.72 acres from George Parish. The guide says the Rodger brothers build his stone house shortly afterward; Lane estimates about 1839.
1856-57	William buys an adjoining 48.70 acres from George Parish on 1 October 1856, then the Dodds house and 102.72-acre parcel on 4 January 1857. The combined farm totals 151.42 acres.
1891-1903	William dies in 1891. James H. Rodger dies without a will on 6 November 1902. His widow Adelaide and siblings inherit; within a year Adelaide conveys her interest to George H., Leslie R., Agnes O. Rodger and Ella Rodger Thrall.
1 Mar 1905	The Rodger heirs sell the house, buildings and 151.42 acres to Alexander Nelson for $7,845.76.
1910-25	Nelson contracts to sell on 23 August 1910 and dies on 26 August 1916. His executor conveys the property to William A. Laidlaw on 20 July 1925 under the contract; price $6,500.
2 Oct 1934	Laidlaw sells to Alvin R. Smithers.
10 Feb 1940	Smithers transfers the property and other land to his daughter Margaret Smithers Wheater, wife of Charles B. Wheater.
13 Jul 1948	Margaret deeds the property to Arnold and Ella Bass under a contract made about four years earlier. They are the owners named in the June 1949 article.

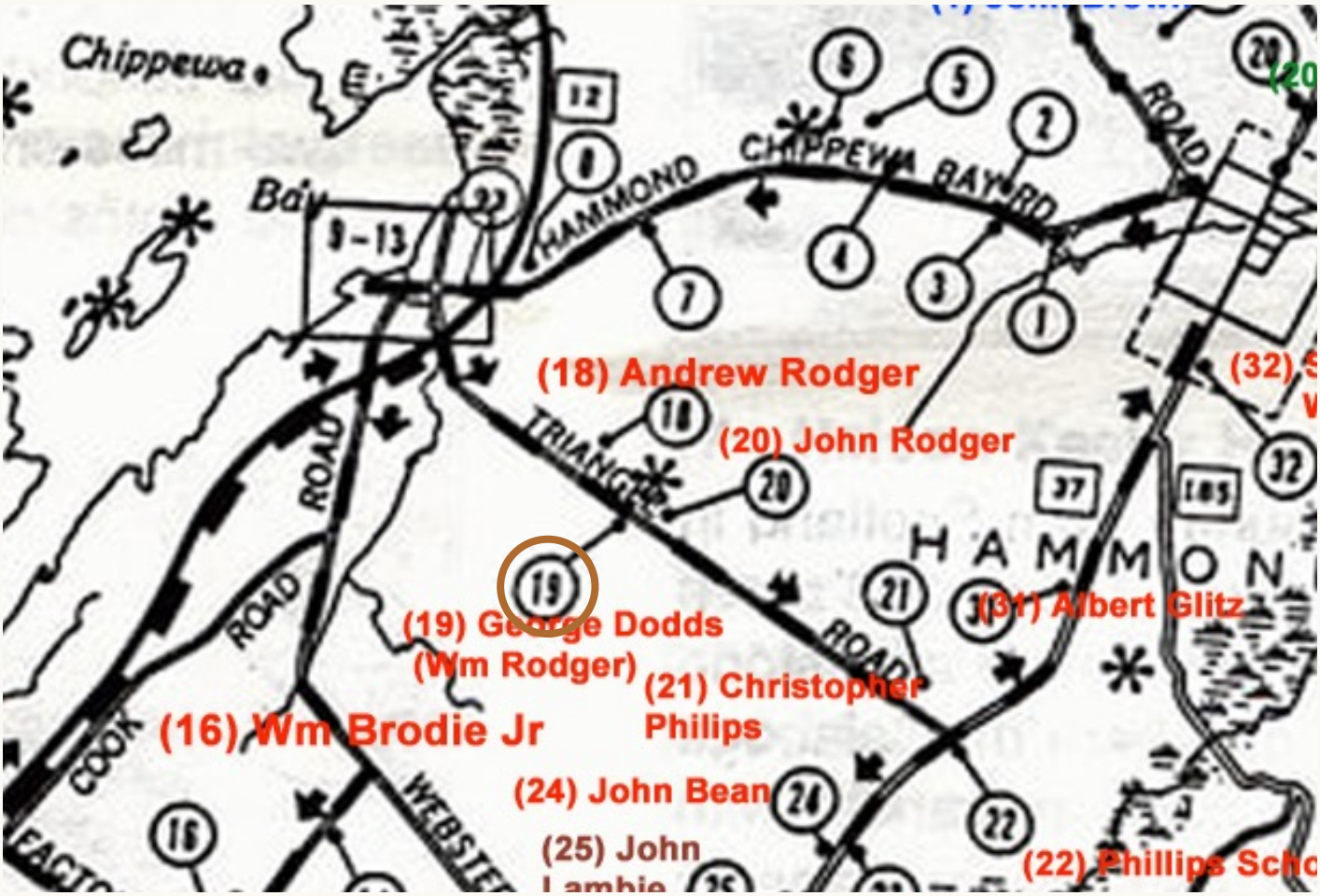
Earlier land history. Lane traces the farm to a 28,871-acre tract acquired by David Parish on 12 September 1814. He also notes William once owned part of the neighboring Seguin farm. [1]

Reading the dates. The article says William held the house for “about 41 years,” although its stated 1857 purchase and 1891 death dates span about 34 years. The dated events are retained here; the duration needs checking against deeds. Ownership after 1948 has not been established in this dossier.

Finding it on the map

Heritage-tour stop 19 / Chippewa Bay - South Hammond route

The house is at **299 Triangle Road, Hammond, New York.** On the heritage-tour map it is stop 19, George Dodds (Wm Rodger), near stop 18, Andrew Rodger, and stop 20, John Rodger. The orange ring highlights its printed tour-stop number. [3]



Enlarged detail from the supplied annotated Hammond Heritage Tours map, pp. 24-25. Existing colored labels are retained. Ring added for this reference.

Location record

Address: 299 Triangle Road, Hammond, New York.
District: Little Kelso, St. Lawrence County.
Historic location: Lane places the house across Triangle Road from the Joseph Eugene Seguin / John Rodger house. [1]
Photographic reference: the supplied Google Street View image of 299 Triangle Road. Its broad entrance and facade spacing correspond to the newspaper view.

Use the route name as well as the stop number: the two heritage tours reuse numbers. This is the southern route’s stop 19, George Dodds (William Rodger).

Reconstructing the historic exterior

The evidence and the interpretive choices behind the selected dark-gray version.



Named newspaper photograph, no. 362.
Photo and caption: David F. Lane, 1949. [1]



299 Triangle Road / supplied Google Street View.
Panorama capture date not established.

Building form	The newspaper guides the viewpoint, entrance, roofline, two chimneys and left wing. The 299 view supports the facade comparison. The wing's presence in 1857 is not established.
Steps and ground	The enlarged newspaper detail suggests about five steps. The illustration uses a fuller stair and lower ground beneath the left windows; exact levels and dimensions are not measured.
Roof	Weathered wood shingles are an imagined period option. Both supplied views show a seamed roof; they do not establish its material in 1857. Metal roofing also predates 1857. [1, 4]
Joinery and paint	Paneled door, small-pane sash and dark charcoal-gray paint across the woodwork are selected interpretations. Exact 1857 glazing, profiles and colors are unknown. Stone remains unpainted.
Modern features	The recent deck and construction posts, ladder, utility lines and poles are omitted. Landscaping and generated fine masonry detail are illustrative, not recovered evidence.

The earlier rendering based on 362-362new3.jpg has been replaced. That photograph remains unassigned; it is not a reference for the illustration on page 1.

Sources and credits

[1] David F. Lane, “George Dodds House in town of Hammond,” Old Houses of the North Country, no. 362, Watertown Daily Times, 25 June 1949. Supplied scan; Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library / New York Heritage. Digital record. Facsimile on page 6.

[2] Hammond: A Historical Tour of a Scottish Heritage Community, entry 19, p. 28; R. T. Elethorp Historical Society. Complete pp. 28-29 via Hammond Historical Museum. [3] Supplied annotated tour map, pp. 24-25.

[4] National Park Service, Preservation Brief 4: Roofing for Historic Buildings (1978), pp. 2-3. General roofing context only. Illustration: AI-generated with reference images and revisions directed by Rutherford Rodger, 2026.

Keeping the references distinct

The selected reconstruction uses the newspaper and the supplied 299 Triangle Road view.



Named historical reference. Newspaper no. 362 identifies the George Dodds house. Its entrance has a broad surround. [1]



Unverified color reference. The narrow door opening, thinner eaves trim and exterior block chimney differ from the newspaper view.

Modern reference used for this study



Detail of the user-supplied Street View screenshot; viewport cropped for comparison. Google attribution and the displayed address are recorded here.

299 Triangle Road
Hammond, New York

George Dodds - William Rodger House, shown in the supplied Google Street View image. The broad doorway, window spacing, cornice and chimney arrangement correspond to the newspaper photograph.

This view replaces the unverified color photograph as the modern reference. The panorama capture date is not established.

Brochure correction: on the complete page 28, the photograph beneath entry 19 is captioned **“20 John Rodger House.”** Its caption was missing from the supplied crop. It is not William's reference photograph. The tall, two-story “Dodd's Home” is also a separate building. The Little Kelso sign describes an earlier family log-house site. [2]

The 1949 source

David F. Lane / Watertown Daily Times / 25 June 1949 / No. 362

Old Houses of the North Country —No. 362



—Photo and Caption by David F. Lane

GEORGE DODDS HOUSE IN TOWN OF HAMMOND

Across the Triangle road from the Joseph Eugene Seguin sandstone house published last week is another old native sandstone house, that of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bass, in the Scotch settlement of the town of Hammond. The two houses are of about the same vintage, having been built about 110 years ago. This house, of simple architectural style, occupies a farm of 151.42 acres, the land having been a part of the 28,871-acre tract purchased by David Parish on Sept. 12, 1814.

This farm is made up of two parcels, one of which consists of 102.72 acres and the other of 48.70 acres. George Dodds, one of the early Scotch settlers of the town of Hammond, purchased the larger of these two parcels from George Parish Jan. 15, 1838, and on Jan. 4, 1857, sold it and the house to William Rodger. On Oct. 1, 1856, Rodger bought the second parcel of 48.70 acres from George Parish and added it to the first.

Like George Dodds, William Rodger was also a Scotchman, was born June 17, 1814, and in 1848 was married to Isabel Shiell of the town of Hammond. Rodger, it will also be recalled, owned a portion of the present Seguin farm at one time. William Rodger owned the above house and larger parcel of its farm for about 41 years.

When he died on June 26, 1891, he willed his widow a life use of it and provided that after her death it should go to a son, James H. Rodger. The latter died intestate on Nov. 6, 1902, and the title to the 151.42-acre farm with this stone house and buildings went to his widow, Adelaide, and to a sister and brothers.

However, in less than a year, she conveyed her interest in the property to George H. Rodger, Leslie R. Rodger, Agnes O. Rodger and Ella Rodger Thrall, brothers and sisters of James H. Rodger.

They retained the property approximately a year and a half and then on March 1, 1905, conveyed the house, buildings and 151.42 acres to Alexander Nelson for $7,845.76. Mr. Nelson remained in possession of the premises until his death on Aug. 26, 1916.

Pursuant to a contract which he had executed Aug. 23, 1910, it was conveyed by his executor on July 20, 1925, to William A. Laidlaw, prominent town of Hammond merchant, owner of several farms and onetime assemblyman. Under the terms of that contract Mr. Laidlaw paid $6,500 for the place, and kept it until a few weeks before his death, selling it to Alvin R. Smithers on Oct. 2, 1934.

On Feb. 10, 1940, Mr. Smithers transferred it and other lands to his daughter, Margaret Smithers Wheater, wife of Charles B. Wheater. On July 13, 1948, in accordance with a contract entered into about four years before she deeded it to Arnold and Ella Bass, the present owners. Mrs. Bass was the former Miss Ella Childs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rella Childs of Kendrew. She is a graduate of the Rensselaer Falls High school and the Ogdensburg Business school, and for a time was secretary to Attorney Edmund Fitzgerald of Ogdensburg. Mr. Bass attended the Hammond schools and follows the occupation of farmer.

Alvin R. Smithers, retired Hammond farmer, died April 8, 1940, at the age of 73. William A. Laidlaw, who died Nov. 29, 1934, aged 63, was born in the town of Macomb June 12, 1871, taught school for a time, married Adelaide Hartman of Redwood Dec. 23, 1902, operated stores at Redwood and Hammond, was a St. Lawrence county assemblyman in 1922, 1923 and 1924, was president of the St. Lawrence county Dairymen's League and was identified also with the G. L. F.