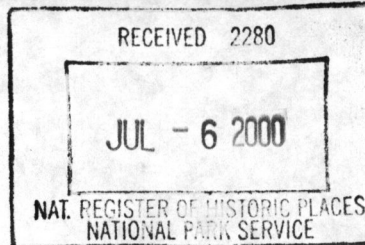


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Riders Mills Historic District

other names/site number Mosher Mills

2. Location

street & number New York Route 66, Bachus Road, Riders Mills Road [] not for publication

city or town Chatham [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Columbia code 021 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J.W. Adams
Signature of certifying official/Title

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

20 June 00
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
[] see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Edson A. Beall

date of action

8/2/00

Riders Mills Historic District

Columbia County, New York

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
20	4	buildings
8		sites
1		structures
		objects
29	4	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling, secondary structure

EDUCATION/ school

AGRICULTURE/ agricultural field

INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial- late 18th century; Georgian

Mid- 19th century- Greek Revival

Late Victorian- Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation fieldstone

walls wood, brick

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Section 7 Page 1

Riders Mills Historic District

Name of Property

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7. Narrative Description

The Riders Mills Historic District is located in the Town of Chatham in Columbia County, New York. It is centered along a small section of Kinderhook Creek, which runs from central Rensselaer County to the Hudson River. The hamlet was established near the confluence of the Kinderhook and Green Brook. The land close to the creek is fairly level, but quickly begins to rise a few yards from the river bed. Most of the land in the district is hilly, with small plateaus on the tops of the hills. While much of the land in the hamlet was once farmed, today most of the fields have been reclaimed by forests and meadows. Most of the residences are screened from one another by trees or by the topography. Just outside the boundaries of the district is a modern natural gas pumping station and a small residential subdivision built for the workers at the station. There are a few scattered farm sites outside of the district which may or may not have been associated with the hamlet, but in most cases the houses are modern or have lost their integrity through modernization.

Riders Mills Historic District is made up of the remnants of the once thriving hamlet of Riders Mills. Originally settled around Kinderhook Creek for the water power provided to the mills. The hamlet grew in the early to mid-nineteenth century into a busy community. After a flood in 1869 washed away most of the businesses along the creek, Riders Mills became first a farming community, and later a weekend community for residents of New York City. Many of the residences in the district are located along what is now New York Route 66, which runs along the Kinderhook. The other properties are located up a hill to the south of the creek along what is now Riders Mills Road. These two roads have been in existence since the earliest detailed map of the area, dated 1851.

The district has nine contributing primary buildings and eleven contributing outbuildings. One non-contributing residence has been moved into the district, and three farm buildings are recent additions. There are also eight known archeological sites in the district, mostly the foundations of mills and residences. In addition, the bridge over Kinderhook Creek, which connects the two sections of the hamlet, is considered contributing to the district. The buildings represent styles including late Colonial, Greek Revival, Italianate, and nineteenth century

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Section 7 Page 2

Riders Mills Historic District

Name of Property

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vernacular. The outbuildings are mostly late-nineteenth century gambrel-roofed or gable-roofed barns, all of which are associated with farmhouses.

Buildings

Jonathan Rider House- circa 1806. A two-story, center hall country Georgian house with a wing extending backwards from the east end of the back of the house. This house retains much of its original detailing (woodwork, doors, floors, windows) in the main part of the house. Attached to the west end of the house is the Thomas B. Rider House, a three-story vertically organized town house built ca. 1853. This house has a basement kitchen, with a formal Greek-style parlor on the main floor and bedroom on the second floor. The rear wing of this house was originally a separate building, probably part of the mill complex. This wing was moved and attached to the building sometime between 1853 and 1873. Immediately behind the house is a contributing late Victorian gambrel-roofed barn, a smaller contributing gabled-roof livestock barn, and a new non-contributing shed-roof pole barn.

Eseck Mosher House- ca. 1780. This is the oldest extant house in the hamlet. It is a one-and-one-half-story center hall colonial with a one-story wing extending from the west end of the house. The pine floor boards in the house are held in place with large locust pins driven through the flooring into supporting beams. The exterior of the house is decorated with country Victorian trim and a small front porch. There is one contributing barn and one non-contributing barn behind the building.

Jonathan B. Rider House- ca. 1848. A large Greek Revival house with a symmetrical façade and a porch extending to the rear of the house. This house is largely unaltered both in terms of its basic plan and in terms of its interior detailing. There are two gable-roofed mid-19th century barns behind the house.

Weston Rider House- ca. 1880. A two-story country Victorian house with a gabled roof and a symmetrical façade. Wings extend back from the southwest end of the house. There is a center dormer on the front façade above the main entrance. A large gambrel-roofed barn is located behind this house.

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Riders Mills Historic District
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Riders Mills Schoolhouse- ca. Late 18th, early 19th century. One-story gabled-roof brick building with a wood shingled roof. This one-room brick schoolhouse with a barrel vaulted ceiling was in use until the 1950s as a school. It still retains many of its school furnishings, including blackboards, chairs, and books. It is currently used by the Riders Mills Historical Society.

T.S. Reynolds House- pre-1851. Two-story vernacular Greek Revival house with a cross-gabled roof, five bays, and a center-entrance with a Victorian porch. A small gable-roofed addition extends from the east façade of the building. The property has three contributing frame gable-roofed barns associated with it, as well as an early twentieth century contributing barn built out of stone-faced brick blocks.

C.C. Roberts House- pre-1851. Two-story vernacular Greek Revival house with a side gabled roof, five bays, and a small gabled portico roof above the center entrance. A large front gabled addition extends from the rear of the building. A shed-roofed porch extends from the northeast façade. A small, non-contributing gable-roofed garage is associated with the building.

Non-contributing residence- One-story building moved into the district from Rensselaer County.

Simeon Mickle Saloon- ca. 1860s. One-and-one-half-story L-shaped vernacular building, formerly a saloon. Small original windows are located along the upper floor, just below the cornice. There is a small screened porch addition on the northwest façade. A gable-roofed garage is located to the northwest of the building.

J.L. Holt House- site of blacksmith shop- pre-1871. One-and-one-half-story vernacular gable-roofed building with small one-story gable-roofed additions on both side elevations. Original massing and fenestration are intact, as are the Greek Revival cornice returns. There is a large non-historic addition to the northwest of the building, attached to the main structure through the small addition.

Structure

Riders Mills Bridge- ca. 1948. Single span one-lane bridge over Kinderhook Creek.

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Archeological sites

Foundation of E.W. Oliver House- pre-1858. Just to the west of the Mosher House were a house and barn occupied in 1873 by E.W. Oliver. The house was built in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century and was apparently destroyed ca. 1900.

Covered Bridge Abutment-ca. 1800. A stone bridge abutment stands on the north side of Kinderhook Creek, all that remains of the wooden truss covered bridges that stood at this location until 1948, when the last one was carried away by a storm.

Site of the Mosher/Rider Mill Complex- late 18th and early 19th century. Located between the Jonathan Rider House and Kinderhook Creek, the mill complex was developed in the 18th century by Eseck Mosher and operated by the Riders and others until destroyed in the flood of 1869. There were two mills on the north side of the creek, one for processing wool, and one for grinding grain. The small Greek Revival style wing attached to the rear of the Jonathan Rider House (Thomas Rider section) was probably part of the complex.

Foundation-stone Quarry- ca. 19th century. At the top of the hill northeast from the large barn behind the Jonathan Rider House is a pit which resulted from the quarrying of stone apparently used in the foundations of several of the houses in Riders Mills. This pit is now partially filled with 19th and 20th century household trash.

Alexander Dam and Mill Site- ca. mid-19th century. About 2000 feet from the center of the hamlet of Riders Mills, at a sharp S-curve in the Kinderhook, was a dam and a mill. Little is presently known about this site. In 1869 this land was sold by Thomas Rider to Daniel Alexander "with the right to build a dam across the creek. . . fourteen feet above low water mark."

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Riders Mills Historic District
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Site of the Second Jonathan B. Rider House- pre 1873. The Beers maps of 1873 and 1888 show a house owned by J.B. Rider between Green Brook and Riders Mills Road. The foundation of this house is clearly visible today from Route 66. This house may have been part of the cooperative cheese factory run by the Riders.

Site of Rider's Saw Mill- Late 18th to Early 19th century. On the south end of the dam in Riders Mills was a saw mill, operated until mid-century and likely operated until the flood of 1869. It is likely that all of the Rider Houses were built of lumber sawn at this mill.

Slater Mill Site- pre-1878. Shown on the 1878 Town Map is a dam and saw mill operated by G. Slater, Miller. This probably was one of the saw mill sites indicated on the Burr maps.

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by historic American Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: _____

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Agriculture ; Settlement
- Architecture; Industry
- Archeology/Historic- Non-Aboriginal
- Community Development
- Education

Period of Significance:

ca. 1800- 1948

Significant Dates:

1802, 1869, 1948

Significant Person:

Jonathan Rider

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

unknown

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Riders Mills Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its role as a commercial milling community during the early to mid-nineteenth century in the town of Chatham, Columbia County, New York. Jonathan Rider came to the budding community by 1802 and purchased land and mills along Kinderhook Creek. His development of the mills led the hamlet to become a small but thriving community until 1869, when a flood swept all of the mills down the creek. The Rider family decided not to rebuild, and the hamlet gradually subsided into a small farming community. Remnants of the heyday of the community remain in buildings such as the blacksmith's shop and residence, the tavern, and the schoolhouse.

The historic district is also significant under Criterion C for its collection of intact nineteenth century architecture. While all of the houses in the hamlet did not survive, eight primary residences representing styles ranging from late Colonial, Greek Revival, and Italianate are represented. The district also has a fine collection of ancillary buildings, including a number of intact nineteenth century gambrel-roofed and gable-roofed barns.

In addition, Riders Mills is significant under Criterion D for its potential archeological sites. Although all of the mills were lost in 1869, the foundations remain. There is also an archeological potential from some of the residences that are no longer standing in the community. There is also evidence of a stone quarry and the covered bridge and abutments that crossed Kinderhook Creek until 1948.

For the first half of the eighteenth century, the land that became Riders Mills was still unsettled land. In 1743-44, just a couple of miles upstream from what became Riders Mills along Kinderhook Creek, David Brainard was a missionary to the Mahican Indians who lived along the creek at that time. In his diary, he describes this area as a wilderness and mentions having to go twenty miles on horseback to Kinderhook for supplies. The only other European inhabitants he mentions are the Scottish couple with whom he lived.

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The title to this area in northeastern Columbia County was in dispute in the middle of the eighteenth century between the Van Rensselaer family, who made a general claim to the area but who had not occupied the land, and New Englanders who had moved "peacefully and unhindered" into the area. In an effort to settle the dispute, in 1774 a group of settlers petitioned King George III of England to recognize their claim to this area.

The reason people came to the area seems clear. Water power, both from Kinderhook Creek and Green Brook, was exploited early. The land along the Kinderhook is well drained and productive. The eighteenth century Quaker Meeting House in nearby Rayville was likely important in attracting Quaker settlers.

The only eighteenth century resident of the future Riders Mills community about whom anything is known is Eseck Mosher. He presumably built the Mosher House, the dam on the creek, and the early mills at this site. When he came to the area is not know, but some have suggested that he came soon after the Revolutionary War. An 1801 assessment of road maintenance work gives an idea of the value of his real estate. The road work was apportioned to the males of the town of Chatham. The average assessment was four man-days work; Mosher was assessed eight days work, indicating that his property was worth considerably more than that of the average resident of the town.

Mosher's mills stayed in the family until 1824 when Samuel Mosher sold that "certain farm, mill and mill lot" (112 acres) to Jonathan Rider for "43000 and the farm." Included in the sale were "the saw mill, grist mill, fulling mill and carding machines, water and water courses, mill privileges, dams, machinery, tackel and apparel belonging. . . to said mills respectively."

The Jonathan Rider family dominated the hamlet of Riders Mills from 1802, when Jonathan purchased a large block of land and moved to the area, until 1948, when the Rider family sold the two large farms that comprised most of the land in Riders Mills. It was during the nineteenth century that Riders Mills reached its greatest importance in terms of its economic and cultural impact.

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Jonathan Rider was born May 14, 1780, in Dartmouth, Bristol County, Massachusetts. He was the youngest of ten children born to Benjamin and Freeborn Rider. In 1802 or a few years earlier, Jonathan Rider, along with his wife Marsy, his father and one child moved to the town of Chatham. In 1802 Thomas Brown sold to Jonathan Rider, for the sum of \$1750, 103 acres of land along Kinderhook Creek, adjoining the Mosher property. The plot description of this lot includes the phrase "leaving J. Rider and P. Roberts land on west" indicating that Jonathan Rider was already living in this area before purchasing this land in 1802.

Over the next 20 years, Jonathan Rider's family grew to 9 children (the two youngest Thomas and Jonathan B. born in 1823) and his land holdings grew to more than 400 acres. Major additions to the 103 acres purchased in 1802 include: 89 acres purchased from Peter Roberts in 1818, 58 acres purchased in 1824 from Eliza Smith, 112 acres and the mill purchased from Samuel Mosher in 1824, and 25 acres from Barton Hustead in 1838. These purchases expanded the family's holdings to include most of the land that is known today as Riders Mills.

The Burr map of Columbia County of 1829 and again in 1839 prepared by the Surveyor General of the state of New York shows both the saw mill on the southeast side of the Kinderhook and the grist mill on the northwest side of the creek. It also shows two additional saw mills further upstream on Green Brook. Inspection of this map shows that there are only a few other communities in all of Columbia County, and, relative to other hamlets in this county, Riders Mills was quite prosperous and much more important commercially than it is today.

The 1850 census records give detailed information about the Riders and some of their enterprises in Riders Mills. It is clear that the Riders were principally farmers. In 1850, the census records show that the 400 acre farm of Jonathan Rider was valued at about \$18,000 and was the fourth or fifth largest and most prosperous farm in the town of Chatham. These records show that the Riders had horses (4), cows (12), oxen (4), and swine (20), and produced modest amounts of many foodstuffs, including potatoes (60 bushels), buckwheat (35 bushels), butter (1000 pounds), cheese (300 pounds), hay (80 tons), and "market garden" vegetables (\$100); these crops were probably raised primarily for family use. Their principal product was sheep (600). They also produced substantial amounts of oats (3000 bushels), and Indian corn (600 bushels).

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At the time of the 1850 census, the Riders no longer owned the grist mill on Kinderhook Creek. After owning it for 13 years, Jonathan Rider sold it along with the Mosher house in 1837. It changed hands several times and in 1850 was being operated by George Palmer. According to the census, this grist mill employed 4 people (paid \$25 each per month) and was making a profit of \$3500 per year producing flour and meal.

The 1855 census shows that the saw mill was still being operated by the Riders, but was a smaller operation than the grist mill. It employed one person, who was paid \$26 per month, produced 50,000 board feet of lumber, and made a profit of \$700 per year. The 1855 census also shows that Jonathan Rider's two youngest sons, Thomas and Jonathan B., both of who had just built homes in Riders Mills, were prosperous enough to employ servants.

By mid-century Jonathan Rider was growing old and would clearly have needed help to continue operating his farm, mill, and other enterprises. Most of his nine children married and left Riders Mills. His daughter Freeborn did not marry; she stayed with her father most of her life, until she was needed in Brooklyn to help care for a relative. Jonathan's two youngest sons, Jonathan B. and Thomas, were the only Rider children to live out their lives in Riders Mills.

Both Thomas and Jonathan B. were well educated and had attended private schools and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). After RPI, Thomas studied law at Harvard; he was admitted to the bar and practiced law in New York City for a few years. Jonathan B. received an engineering degree from RPI and practiced land surveying, among other activities.

A year after receiving his RPI degree in 1847, Jonathan B. married and returned to Riders Mills. He built a house on the hill across the Kinderhook from his father's home, completing it in 1848. In addition to farming, Jonathan B. practiced surveying, and for varying periods of time, served as Chatham Town Supervisor, postmaster, census enumerator, notary public, and railroad commissioner. Thomas received his law degree in 1849, and in 1852 he returned to Riders Mills with his wife to become a farmer.

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Riders Mills Historic District

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Since establishment of the hamlet by Eseck Mosher during the late eighteenth century, Kinderhook Creek had been vital to the establishment of the various mills and enterprises in the town. This abruptly came to an end in 1869 when a flood washed away the three mills. The destruction was so complete that residents decided not to attempt to salvage the operations. The Rider family decided to concentrate on the farm, and gradually the employees of the mills left the area and the commercial life of the hamlet slowly disappeared.

By the time Hamilton Child published his *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Columbia County* in 1871, there is no mill industry and very few individuals listed who were not associated with farming. It appears that a saloon was still in operation by S. B. Mickle in the hamlet, as well as a blacksmith shop owned by J.L. Holt and a meat market and a general store operated by C.C. Roberts. While not listed by the gazetteer, a cheese factory was also operating on the east side of the creek and most likely run by the Rider family. The 1871 Commercial Directory includes the following entries for Riders Mills:

Commercial

B.H. Ashley, house and sign painter
John L. Holt, blacksmith
D. Johnson, cattle drover
Simeon Mickle, saloon
Isaac M. Pitts, Prop. Henry Clay Stallion
T.C. Reynolds, Carpenter and farmer, 60
T. B. Rider, Post master and farmer, 175
William K. Rider, meat market
Charles C. Roberts, General Merchant

Resident

E.W. Oliver, resident

Farming (the number is farmed acreage)

Mrs. Ashley, farmer, 10
P. Flynn, farmer leases, 175
Charles Miller, farmer
Allen D. Pitts, farmer (with Isaac D. Pitts), 115
J.B. Rider, farmer, 175
Frank Roberts, farmer, 64
Peter M. Rogers, farmer, 150
Thomas H. Smith, farmer, 88

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Loomis Thornburger, farmer leases, 150

Within this list no mention is made of any of the previously existing mills that had played such an important role in the development of Riders Mills. By 1871 Riders Mills had passed its peak in commercial industry and was well on its way to becoming purely a rural farming community. Of the nine names listed under "Commercial," six of them were either farmers or shared a family name with one of the hamlet's farmers. The 1873 map of the center of Riders Mills shows Mickle's saloon, J.L. Holt's blacksmith shop and house, C.C. Robert's store, and the residences of J.B. Rider, E.W. Oliver, T.B. Rider, P. Flynn, and J.C. Collins, a retired farmer who may have moved to Riders Mills from North Chatham after 1871.

John L. Holt is listed in the 1873 Beers Atlas as "J.L. Holt, Carriage and Waggon Builder, Jobbing and Blacksmithing promptly attended to." In 1942, Elsa Corbitt, then renting the Jonathan Rider House, interviewed Mr. Holt, John Holt's daughter. She relayed the story about how, during the flood of 1869, the covered bridge at Riders Mills was carried away and John Holt had the job of returning the bridge: "They had to cut all of the rods (the nuts were rusty because of the years) and Mrs. Holt's father, the blacksmith, had a big job welding them together. It (the bridge) was taken all apart, numbering all the beams, and (he) put it together again. It is the same bridge today."¹

According to the 1873 Beer's map, Simeon Mickle lived in the small house next to Holt's wagon shop along the Kinderhook, and presumably this was also where his saloon was located. Wm. K. Rider was the son of Jonathan B. Rider, and it seems likely that he ran his meat market out of one of J.B. Rider's homes.

Charles C. Roberts' store and residence is clearly identified on the 1873 Beers map of Riders Mills. This map also lists: "Chas. C. Roberts, General Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes, Notions & c." The 1888 map shows C.C. Roberts running a mill at this location.

¹ Elsa Corbitt Notebook. This bridge was carried away during high water in 1948; this time it was not restored. A new bridge has been spanning the creek ever since.

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The Rider family maintained a presence in this hamlet until the middle of the 20th century, but it was not the dominant presence of a century earlier. Most of the land that Jonathan Rider had acquired early in the 19th century remained in the Rider family. When Jonathan died in 1866, his farm was divided into two farms: one largely on the north side of the Kinderhook, including the original Jonathan Rider House, which became the property of Thomas; the other farm was on the south side of the creek, and became the property of Jonathan B. Rider. Thomas built his house so that it shared one wall with the Jonathan Rider House. It was designed to resemble a city townhouse, similar to what might have been found at the time in New York City. Today the house is connected directly to the Jonathan Rider House.

Of the two farms, the Jonathan B. Rider farm was larger and had more productive land. It was seriously farmed by Jonathan B. and his wife, and later by his son Weston until it was sold out of the Rider family in 1948. This event was noted in an article in the *Chatham Courier* on May 6, 1948: "When Weston Rider, the popular mayor of Riders Mills moves from his home in that hamlet sometime early in May, the house will be without some member of the Rider family under its roof. Weston Rider will have gone from the place where he was born 85 years ago and has made his home ever since. " Weston Rider moved to an apartment in the second Jonathan B. Rider house, where he lived the rest of his life. During his lifetime Weston built his own house in the Italianate style down the road from his father's residence.

The Thomas Rider farm became the summer home of his son Edward Rider who was a very successful mortgage broker in Brooklyn. Edward purchased the farm in 1889 and apparently was responsible for the several remodelings that occurred at this time. There are a number of photographs of the Jonathan Rider House and farm taken during this period which show it was extremely well kept and it appears to be more of a leisure farm than a real working farm. The easy transportation to New York City afforded by the Harlem Rail Extension Rail Road, which had a station just a mile up Riders Mills Road, made it possible for Edward Rider to enjoy a summer home in Columbia County 80 years before many people who today are adopting that life-style. He was perhaps one of the first of the now famous "weekenders."

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Columbia County, New York

County and State

The Riders Mills Schoolhouse was originally built on land given for this purpose by the family of Jonathan Rider and was one of the first one-room schoolhouses to be built with New York State financing. Records indicate " a small portion of public monies was allotted for the building of a school in Northern Columbia County." The small room had a chunk stove in the center of the room with the pupil desks placed around it. Prominent students of the school include Frank Rider, president of the Los Angeles Rose Ball; J. Rider Cady, Chairman of the 1896 Republican State Convention; John M. Rider, a New York attorney; and Horace Peaslee, an architect who designed the grounds and landscaping for President Dwight Eisenhower's Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, farms. The schoolhouse is now owned by the Riders Mills Historical Society.

Today the hamlet of Riders Mills is made up of eight houses, four of which were once residences of the Rider family. A fifth, the T.S. Reynolds House, was owned by a carpenter and farmer in the hamlet. Two additional small former commercial buildings survive as residences; the S. B. Mickle House, which was once a saloon, and the J.L. Holt House, which was owned by the village blacksmith. The C.C. Roberts House was owned by a member of one of the earliest families in the community. Charles C. Roberts operated a general store next to his home and later ran a small mill on Kinderhook Creek. The district also includes the early nineteenth-century schoolhouse.

The Riders Mills Historic District offers a unique glimpse into the evolution of architectural styles in a small milling community. From the late colonial style seen in the Eseck Mosher House and Jonathan Rider House, through the Greek Revival style represented by the Jonathan B. Rider House, the C.C. Reynolds House, and the T.S. Reynolds House, and ending with the Italianate style in the Weston Rider House, the most prominent architectural fashions are represented. Vernacular buildings such as the Riders Mills Schoolhouse, the Simeon Mickle Saloon, and the J.L Holt House complete a picture of life in a small, wealthy community in Columbia County, New York, through the course of the nineteenth century. The hamlet, while no longer home to either mills or Riders, still retains a strong sense of community, which is enhanced by the pride the residents feel for their historic buildings and intact setting.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Riders Mills Historic District

Name of Property

Columbia County, New York

County and State

9. Bibliography

Beers, D.C. Atlas of Columbia County, Philadelphia, 1873.

Churchill, Melissa and Nancy Davis. Comprehensive Reconnaissance Level Survey of Historic Structures in the Town of Chatham, New York. State University of New York at Albany, May 1990.

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Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer and Business Directory of Columbia County, New York. Syracuse, 1871.

Ellis, Franklin. History of Columbia County. Philadelphia: Everts and Ensign, 1878.

Lanford, William. History of Riders Mills. n.p.

Spafford, Horatio Gates. A Gazetteer of the State of New York. Albany: H. C. Southwick, 1813.

Riders Mills Historic District
Name of Property

Columbia County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 200 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>618459</u>	<u>4704706</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>618340</u>	<u>4703169</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>618411</u>	<u>4703518</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>617977</u>	<u>4703163</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stacia L. Partin, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization NYS OPRHP Field Services Bureau date April 12, 2000

street & number Peebles Island telephone (518) 237-8643 ext. 3265

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Riders Mills Historic District
Name of Property
Columbia County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the legal lot lines as delineated on the attached county tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated includes all of the remaining houses associated with the hamlet of Riders Mills during the mid to late nineteenth century. While the community may have contained more open farmland, the hamlet was never incorporated, and therefore no solid boundary lines were ever set. The nominated district boundaries include the land associated with the farmhouses and the schoolhouse, which were the primary buildings in the town throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Additional UTMs

Easting: 5. 617459
6. 617327
7. 617594
8. 618009

Northing: 5. 4703504
6. 4703830
7. 4704526
8. 4704619

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 11 Page 1

Riders Mills Historic District
Name of Property
Columbia County, New York
County and State

11. Form Prepared By:

William Lanford
Box 23
Malden Bridge, NY 12115

Riders Mills Historic District

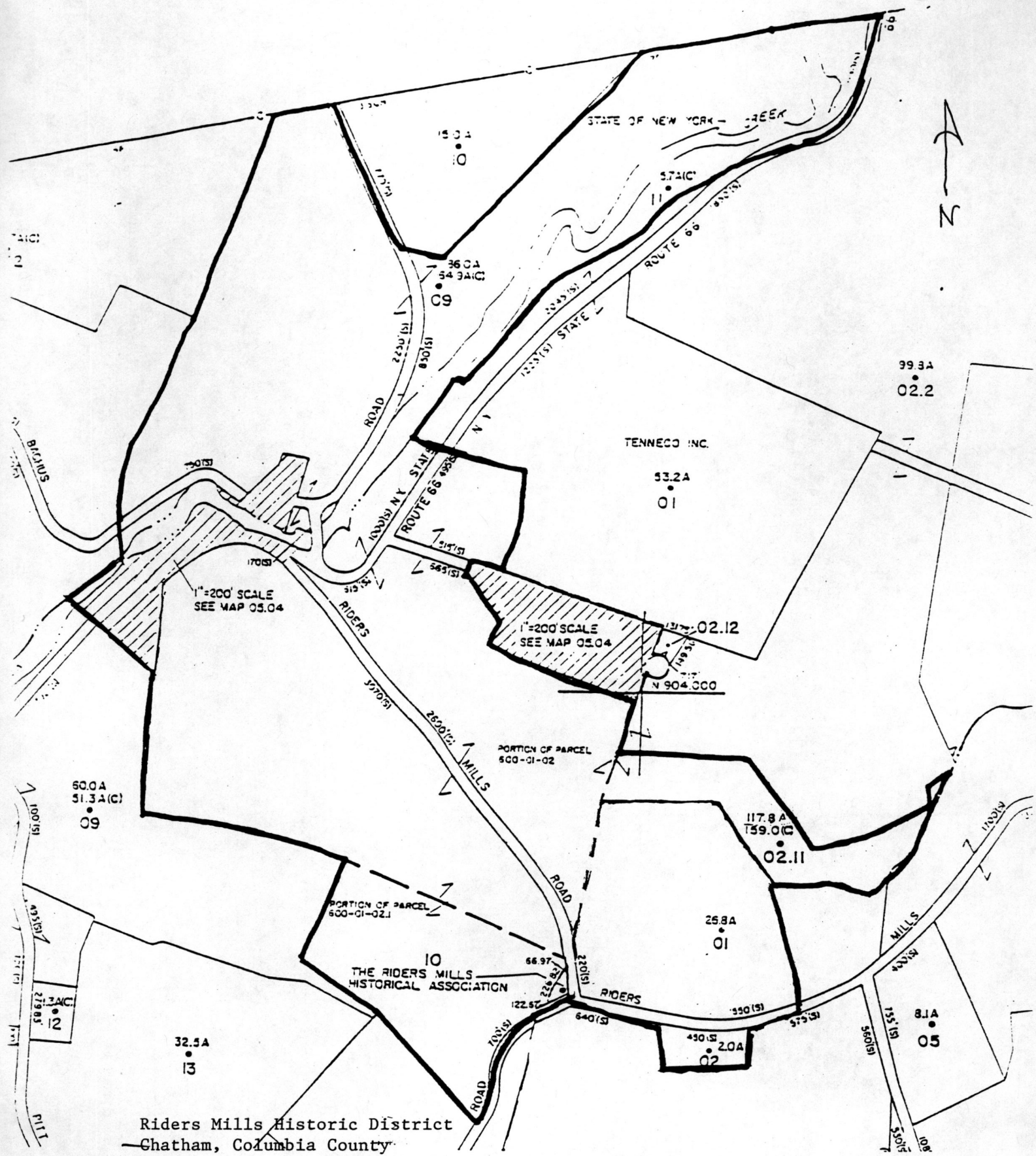
Chatham, Columbia County, New York

Photographer: Stacia Partin

April, 2000

Negatives: NYS OPRHP, Field Services Bureau

1. Jonathan Rider House, looking north.
2. Barns behind Jonathan Rider House, looking north.
3. Eseck Mosher House, looking north.
4. Jonathan B. Rider House, looking southwest.
5. Jonathan B. Rider House with outbuildings, looking southwest.
6. Weston Rider House, looking southeast.
7. Riders Mills Schoolhouse, looking west.
8. T.S. Reynolds House, looking south.
9. C.C. Roberts House, looking south.
10. Simeon Mickle Saloon, looking northwest.
11. J.L. Holt House, looking northeast.
12. Riders Mills Bridge, looking northeast.
13. Bachus Road, looking east toward district.
14. View south from Bachus Road, showing Kinderhook Creek and Mickle and Holt Houses.
15. Riders Mills historic marker in front of Eseck Mosher House, looking west.



Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia County

Heavy black outline defines boundary of nominated property

Property Tax Map

Assembled from maps available at County Clerk's office, 1988.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Riders Mills Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 7/06/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/20/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000877

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/2/00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Ridew Mills Historic District

31 017 NNNN --- 3IMR00 ELITE PHOTO

Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

①



39 017 NNNN --- 31MRR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

②



29 017 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Ridew Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

③



53 016 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

④



48 016 NNNN --- 31MRR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑤



53 017 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑥



35 016 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑦



27 016 NNNN --- ZIMR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

8



59 016 NNNN --- 31MRR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑨



956

13 012 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑩



67 016 NNNN --- ZIMR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

①①



41 016 NNNN --- ZIMR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

12



12 012 NNNN — 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑬



21 012 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., NY

⑭

NEW YORK

RIDERS MILLS
KNOWN AS MOSHERS MILLS
PRIOR TO 1900. HOME OWNED
BY ESECK MOSHER EARLY
SETTLER AND OWNER OF SAW,
GRIST AND "FULLING" MILL.

STATE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT BOLD

38 017 NNNN --- 31MR00 ELITE PHOTO

Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co., Ny

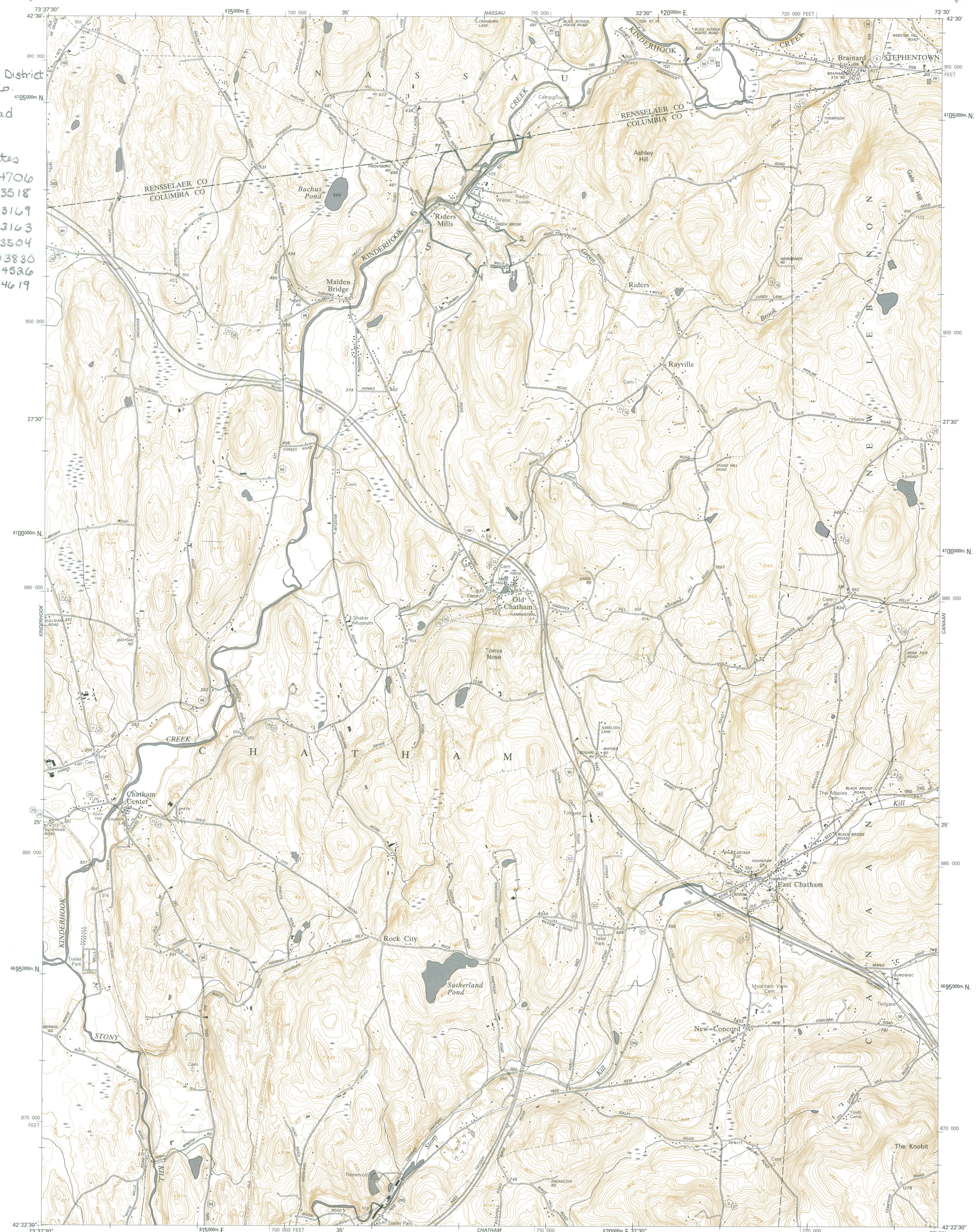
15



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EAST CHATHAM QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES

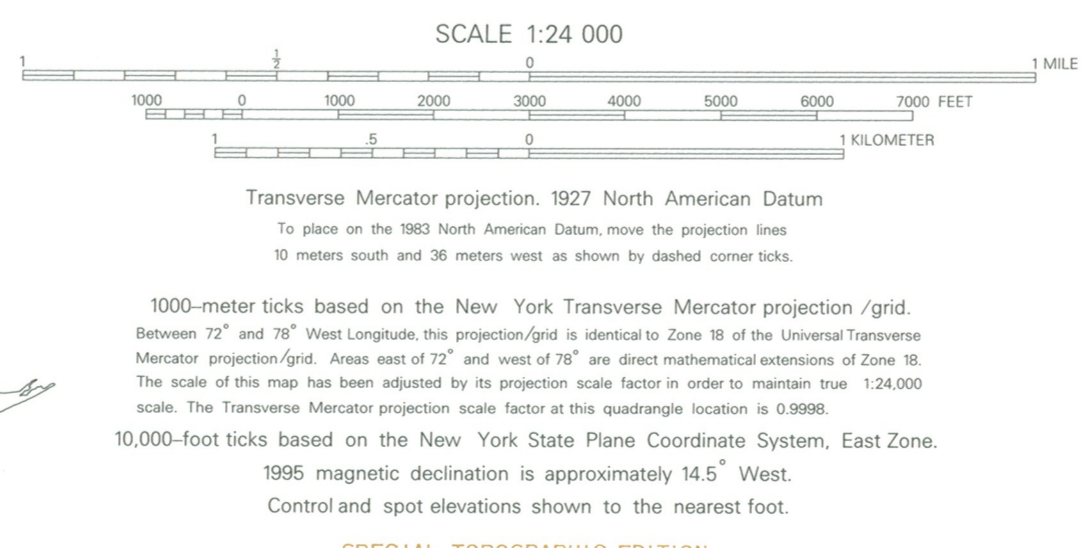
Riders Mills Historic District
Chatham, Columbia Co.
New York
East Chatham Quad
Scale 1:24000
UTM Coordinates
1. 18/618459 4704706
2. 18/618411 4703518
3. 18/618340 4703169
4. 18/617977 4703163
5. 18/617459 4703504
6. 18/617327 4703830
7. 18/617594 4704526
8. 18/618099 4704619



Published by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
Map base from 1953 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.
Map revisions made using aerial photographs dated 1993, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil and public land boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Gray tint indicates developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Darker gray tint indicates open water features.
Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.
Correspondence concerning this and other Department of Transportation maps should be directed to: Map Information Section, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Building 4, Room 105, Albany, New York 12232-0415.
Revisions by C.H. Ziel



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



BOUNDARIES:

State	.....
County	.....
Town or City	.....
Incorporated Village	.....
State / Federal Land	.....

ROADS:

Posted Touring Route	.....
Interstate	.....
U.S.	.....
State	.....
County	.....
Bicycle	.....
State Highway (SH) number and limit	.....
County road	.....

Interchange number
Divided:
Wide mail
Narrow mail or barrier
Undivided:
4 or more lanes
Less than 4 lanes
Vehicle track; trail