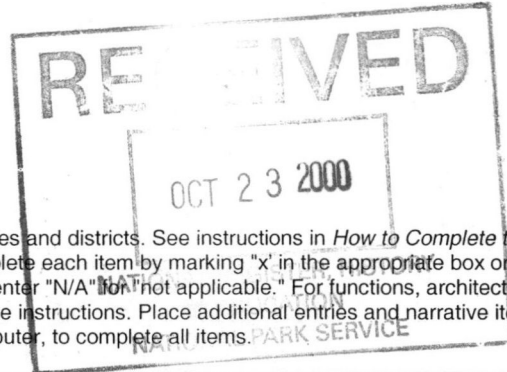


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Tarbell Building

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & town 2 Cortland Street  not for publication

city or town Marathon  vicinity

state New York code NY county Cortland code 023 zip code 13803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J.W. Allen, Dep. Comm'r for Hist. Preservation 22 Sept. '00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

11/22/00  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
01	00	buildings
00	00	sites
00	00	structures
00	00	objects
01	00	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

00

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE / TRADE

---

DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling

---



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---

COMMERCE / TRADE

---

DOMESTIC / multiple dwelling

---



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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

---



---



---

foundation STONE

---

walls BRICK

---

roof ASPHALT

---

other

---

**Narrative Description**

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

*Tarbell Building  
Marathon, Cortland Co., New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

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DESCRIPTION

The Tarbell Building, built in 1885, is a three story brick commercial building containing retail storefronts at the first story and a combination of storage and apartments on the second and third floors. The building is located at the corner of Cortland Street and Main Street in Marathon, a village on the Tioughnioga River approximately 20 miles south of Cortland in central New York State. The building is oriented west toward Cortland Street and occupies a small rectangular corner lot.

The Cortland Street façade consists of two adjacent storefronts supporting identical three-bay upper story walls. The storefronts are constructed with decorative cast iron columns and are bracketed by rock faced stone piers at the margins of the façade. Each storefront is three bays in width and features a recessed entrance. The storefronts feature a bluestone apron with bluestone steps. Each storefront includes a cast iron step at the edge of the entrance recess. Alterations include reversible window infills, and the removal of a balustrade and other decorative elements from the front porch. The second story level is divided into two identical three bay sections articulated by brick pilasters. Windows are recessed behind the wall plane and in each section consist of a centered segmentally arched window with a colored glass surround flanked by rectangular window units. Contrasting stone string courses above and slightly below the window lintels. The second story is capped by a terra cotta cornice and a stone shelf. Fenestration at the third story consists of a centered round arched window flanked by segmentally arched windows. All of the third story windows feature transoms. The round arched openings are decorated with mosaic tympanums. Stone string courses are present above and just below the arched window heads. The spandrels above the arched openings are filled with geometric mosaics featuring encaustic tiles. The two three bay wall sections are unified beneath a richly molded cornice supported by both major and minor brackets. The cornice is broken at the center to incorporate a triangular pediment. The pediment is decorated with mosaic tile and features a carved limestone tablet bearing the inscription "1885 TARBELL BUILDING" in raised relief.

The south elevation parallels Main Street. It is seven bays in length. A rock-faced stone foundation pierced with basement windows is exposed at this side. Exterior stairs lead to the basement at the west end of the elevation and are protected from the elements by an original shed roofed porch and a wooden balustrade. The first floor level contains one segmentally arched window near the center and a segmentally arched doorway at the east end. The latter provides access to the upper story apartments. The wall retains painted advertising bearing the message "SWIFT & CO. \* DRY GOODS \* CLOTHING, BOOTS & SHOES, GROCERIES." The second and third stories each feature six segmentally arched windows with stone sills and double hung sash windows. String courses define the arched headers and intervening wall panels. The elevation is capped by brick corbels which support a molded cornice.

The rear or east elevation was historically oriented toward an alley and is utilitarian in design. Window openings are segmentally arched. Doorways are present at the second and third floor levels recalling a period in the early twentieth century when the rear wall included wooden porches. A modern overhead garage door is present at the first floor. The north elevation is an unfinished brick party wall with a recessed light well near the center. The Tarbell building is currently adjoined by a one-story commercial building at this side.

The interior of the Tarbell Building incorporates retail space at the front of the first floor with office and storage rooms toward the rear, as well as an auto service garage. Stairs to the second floor are present at the southeast and northwest corners. Original finishes such as wood floors and a wood ceiling are present in most locations, although portions of the retail area ceiling currently feature suspended tiles. The second floor is largely unfinished, having been used for many years as manufacturing and storage space. The third floor has been rehabilitated for three apartments, retaining original doors with period surrounds and wainscoting.

**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 is 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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.)

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1885

**Significant Dates**

1885

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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 Buildings 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 Name of repository:

NYS Div. for Hist. Preservation, Waterford, NY

*Tarbell Building  
Marathon, Cortland Co., New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tarbell Building is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a distinctive and largely intact example of Queen Anne style commercial architecture in Cortland County. Built in 1885, the finely detailed business block reflects Marathon's late nineteenth century prosperity and optimism and stands as the finest example of commercial architecture in the village. The urban form and arrangement of the building are typical of commercial construction in larger villages during the last three decades of the nineteenth century, but are unusual in Marathon, a smaller and more rural community where frame construction and detached buildings predominated. The arrangement and elaborate detailing of the façade also reflects a more urban taste and outlook and suggests the work of an experienced, but as of yet unidentified, architect.

As an eclectic nineteenth century architectural expression, the Queen Anne style was first popularized by Richard Norman Shaw in Britain in the late 1860s. The style became popular in the United States following the Centennial Exposition of 1876. In its best examples, the style was characterized by an emphasis on picturesque form and richly textured and detailed wall surfaces. Decoration often combined medieval and renaissance motifs and involved the use of varied materials including brick, stone, terra cotta and wood. In urban commercial architecture, the style is characterized by lavish decoration and articulation of the façade, as evident in the Tarbell Building. The façade of this building is developed in three planes, articulated horizontally and vertically by pilasters, string courses and cornices, and features brick, stone, terra cotta and encaustic tile in its construction. Brick is manipulated to create imbricated soldier courses, corbel courses and both round and segmental arches giving the façade a rich and picturesque texture. The use of colored glass margins for the windows in the second and fifth bays of the building add color to the overall composition. Similar facades from the 1880s survive in the nearby cities of Cortland and Binghamton and it is reasonable to postulate that the architect of the Tarbell Building maintained offices in one of these cities. Miles F. Howe (1835-1916) of Cortland was one such architect. In addition to commercial buildings in Cortland, Howe designed the Queen Anne style Peck Memorial Library in Marathon (National Register, 1992) in 1894.

Marathon, along with much of Cortland County, was initially settled in the 1790s. The Town of Marathon was initially established as Harrison in 1818 but was renamed Marathon in 1827. The village of Marathon developed near the center of the town along the Tioghnioaga River. In 1854, the Syracuse and Binghamton Railroad was completed through the river valley encouraging continued development at Marathon. In 1861, the village was incorporated and in 1867-1868, a firehouse was built. Manufacturing facilities developed in the village including the Stockwell Wagon Company and after 1887, the Climax Road Machine Co.

The construction of the Tarbell Block was initiated by Gage Tarbell in 1885. Tarbell came to Marathon in 1880 to practice law and established an insurance business in Binghamton in 1884. He built the block and named it after himself the following year and placed his father-in-law's drygoods store, Swift & Company, in the first floor. Painted signage on the building's south elevation dates from Swift's occupancy in the Tarbell Building. Gage Tarbell's success in insurance eventually led him to the position of Second Vice President of the Equitable Life Assurance Company of New York.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Tarbell Building housed the Indian Inn and Restaurant. Porches were added to the rear or east elevation of the building. Oral traditions suggest that during the 1920s, cock fights were held on the building's roof and that a "speak easy" operated in the basement. In the 1950s and 1960s, the building served as a manufacturing facility for the NuMode Corset Company. During the 1970s, the Refrigerated Transport Company opened offices in the first floor and conducted manufacturing in the second and portions of the third floor. The current owners operate a retail auto parts store in the first floor and are in the process of rehabilitating the upper floors as residential apartments.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 415059 4699158  
Zone Easting Northing

2  
Zone Easting Northing

3  
Zone Easting Northing

4  
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

### 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 Mark Peckham; research and draft by Kathy Dennison, Marathon, NY  
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date July 2000  
street & number P.O. Box 189, Peebles Island telephone 518-237-8643  
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

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### 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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

---

### Property Owner

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

name/title Howard and Kathy Dennison  
street & number P.O. Box 585, 26 Mill St. telephone 607-849-3647  
city or town Marathon state NY zip code 13803

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**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, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

*Tarbell Building  
Marathon, Cortland Co., New York*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

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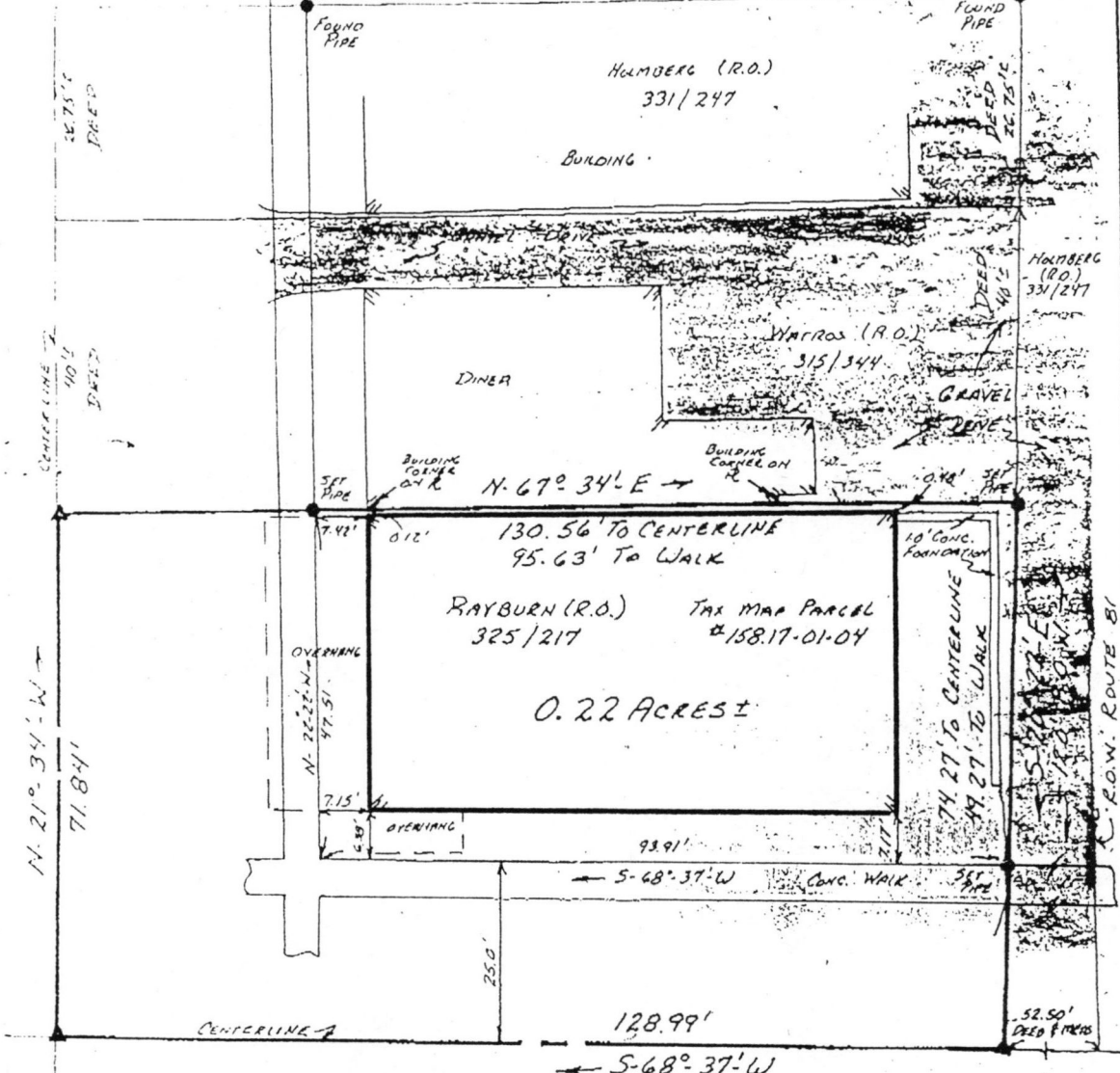
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the building lot currently owned by Howard and Kathy Dennison as illustrated in the attached 1978 survey map of the Lands of William B. Rayburn.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property is coterminous with the historic lot on which the subject building was built in 1885.

CORTLAND STREET (N.Y.S. ROUTE #11)



EAST MAIN STREET (ROUTE #221)

MAP SHOWING LANDS  
OF  
WILLIAM B. RAYBURN



*Milton A. Greene*

#2 CORTLAND STREET  
COUNTY OF CORTLAND  
SCALE: 1" = 20'

VILLAGE OF MARATHON  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
SEPTEMBER 14, 1978

MILTON A. GREENE  
P.L.S. #42000  
CORTLAND, N.Y.

Tarbell Building, Marathon, Cortland Co., N.Y.  
scale: 1" = 25'. Nat. Reg. bdy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tarbell Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Cortland

DATE RECEIVED: 10/23/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/06/00  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/22/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/00  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00001408

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 11/22/00 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



Tarbell Building  
Marathon, Cortland Co., New York

Photo by : K. Dennison, Marathon, N.Y. 2000

Neg. of : K. Dennison.

Photo No. 1 : Exterior, west and south  
elevations.



Tarbell Building  
Marathon, Cortland Co., New York

Photo by: K. Dennison, Marathon N.Y.  
2000.

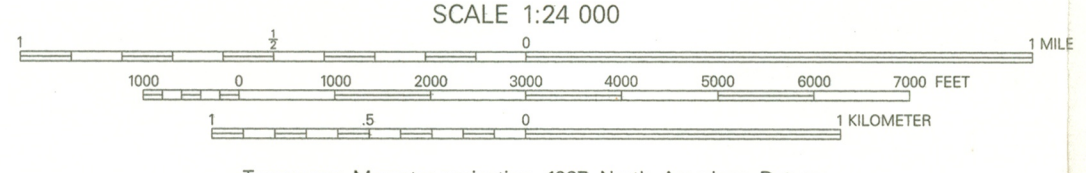
Neg. at: K. Dennison

Photo No. 2: Typical interior details  
showing doorway, door  
and wainscot.

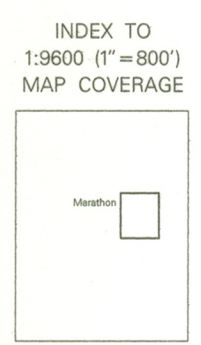


TABELL BUILDING  
MARATHON, CORTLAND CO., NY  
MARATHON QUAD  
UTM REFERENCE:  
12/415059/4699158

Published by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.  
Map base from 1950 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.  
Map revisions made using aerial photographs dated 1991, 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.  
Revisions by R.C. Faught



Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American Datum  
To place on the 1983 North American Datum, move the projection lines 8 meters south and 29 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.  
1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator projection /grid.  
Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this projection/grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator projection /grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.  
The scale of this map has been adjusted by its projection scale factor in order to maintain true 1:24,000 scale. The Transverse Mercator projection scale factor at this quadrangle location is 0.9997.  
10,000-foot ticks based on the New York State Plane Coordinate System, Central Zone.  
1984 magnetic declination is approximately 12.5° West.  
Control and spot elevations shown to the nearest foot.



- BOUNDARIES:**  
State .....  
County .....  
Town or City .....  
Incorporated Village .....  
State / Federal Land .....
- ROADS:**  
Posted Touring Route: .....  
Interstate .....  
U.S. ....  
State .....  
County .....  
State Highway (SH) number and limit .....  
County road .....  
Interchange number .....
- Divided:  
Wide mall .....  
Narrow mall or barrier .....
- Undivided:  
4 or more lanes .....  
Less than 4 lanes .....
- Vehicle track: trail .....

Contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1950 U.S. Geological Survey map. Datum is mean sea level.