

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 of eligibility for individual properties or 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 listed in 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 Kenyon Residences

other names/site number Twin Sisters

2. Location

street & number 60 and 62 Main Street not for publication

city or town Mt. Vision vicinity

state New York code NY county Otsego code 077 zip code 13810

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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.

Mike Carter ISAPD 1/7/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 this 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 2/26/04
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Kenyon Residences

Name of Property

Otsego County, New York

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	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwellings

HEALTH CARE/medical business/office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The Alfred B. and Minerva Kenyon Residence (60 Main Street) and the Isaac W. and Bathsheba Kenyon Residence (62 Main Street) are located on the east side of Main Street (NY 205) in the hamlet of Mt. Vision, town of Laurens, Otsego County. The town of Laurens is located in the south-central part of Otsego County. NY 205, the town's principal north-south route, follows the Otego Creek along the eastern edge of the town. The Otego Creek Valley, defined by CR 11 on the west and NY 23/205 on the east, is characterized by a series of intact historic farmsteads and has potential for designation as a rural historic district. The small hamlet of Mt. Vision, in the northeast corner of the town, is defined by an intact concentration of nineteenth-century buildings along both sides of Main Street. The hamlet itself also has potential for designation as a historic district. Within the hamlet, the Kenyon residences stand out for their nearly identical, sophisticated designs. Constructed by two brothers who were also builders, the residences are the only known examples of "twin" Greek Revival style buildings in the county. The buildings are adjacent to each other and relatively close to the road on small village parcels. Behind the houses, two barns, which are shown on a 1903 map of the area, fell in the second half of the twentieth century. The earthen ramp leading to the site of the barn at 60 Main Street is still visible. A contributing detached shed can be found behind the house at 62 Main Street and a non-contributing two-car garage is located at the rear of the property associated with 60 Main Street.

The Kenyon residences are relatively small two-story wood-frame buildings. Their most distinctive features are their temple form façades, characterized by Doric columns supporting over-scaled, elaborately embellished pediments. Although their designs and decorative features are nearly identical, their forms are slightly different. The residence at 62 Main features a center entrance, while 60 Main has a side-hall plan and a one-story wing perpendicular to the façade. Their floor plans also vary, reflecting their differences in exterior design. Research and site inspections indicate that the two buildings were originally constructed with identical facades and interior plans that were mirror images of each other. The residence at 62 Main retains its original exterior design and floor plan, while the residence at 60 Main has had two major exterior changes, the relocation of the

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main entrance and the addition of the side wing. These changes are also reflected in changes to the floor plan. In addition, No. 60 also features an added wing on the rear elevation.

Isaac W. and Bathsheba Kenyon House: 62 Main Street

The building at 62 Main Street is a rectangular, two-story, front-gable, wood-frame dwelling with wooden siding. The building sits on a continuous fieldstone foundation. The house was constructed in one phase, including the front house, rear kitchen ell, and attached shed, between 1839 and 1851. This date is based on its first appearance in deed records. The house first appeared on Otsego County maps in 1858. It is believed that all features were constructed in one phase because the foundation is continuous and the cellar underneath the kitchen ell extends beneath the main house for several feet.

The building's western (front) elevation is dominated by a large pedimented portico. Four fluted Doric columns support the pediment, which is adorned with multiple rows of dentils. The wood siding is flush board. Two corner pilasters are built into the building at the northwestern and southwestern corners. The façade at 62 Main Street is bilaterally symmetric. There are two six-over-six windows and one faux window (in a modern bathroom) on the second floor over two six-over-six windows and a single door on the first floor. The windows on the first floor have paneled wooden aprons below them. The door is centrally located with one window on either side. Evidence suggests that a chimney once protruded from the ridge line of the roof of the main portion of the house.

The southern elevation has nine bays. This elevation, which is also finished with flush board siding, can be broken into three sections: the main house at the western end, a middle section with a covered porch, and a kitchen and storage space at the eastern end. The western section is between two corner pilasters. There are four windows, six-over-six, not symmetrically placed. A stainless steel chimney projects between the two

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windows on the first floor. A hatch leads to the basement with stone steps and a stone retaining wall. There is a small window into the basement next to the hatch. A raised, inset, covered porch fronts the second (middle) portion of the southern elevation. Four squared columns support the roof of the porch. The wall at the back of the porch has a door with a window on either side. A shed dormer is located on the gable roof above the porch. On the eastern (rear) end of the southern elevation, there is only one window and the wooden siding is narrower than on the other sections.

The eastern elevation, or rear of the house, is rectangular and only one room wide. There is a small interior brick chimney on the northern side of the roofline. The eastern elevation is finished in clapboard and is divided into three bays. On the first floor there is a door in the northernmost bay and windows in the other two. There is another window in the gable, and the roofline has returns. It is believed that the rear section of the house originally housed a kitchen, pantry, and shed. The latter was only finished on the exterior, based on the dramatically different and noticeably newer interior finish on this section of the house.

The western section (front) of the northern elevation has flush board siding and two windows on the first floor and two on the second floor. In the middle (kitchen) section there are three windows, which were altered when the plumbing was installed, probably sometime in the twentieth century. This change can be seen in the cut and replacement of the clapboards on the exterior. Pilasters on the northern elevation correspond to pilasters on the southern elevation at the far western corner and approximately twenty-five feet from the façade.

The interior of 62 Main Street has a six-room over three-room layout. The first floor plan is defined by the center entrance, which opens directly into a large parlor that fills the front portion of the building. The building is unusual in that it was apparently designed without an entrance hall. Approximately fifteen feet from the front

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door is a step running north-south that divides the room. This, in conjunction with a large opening framed by pilasters, divides the large parlor into two distinct spaces.

The floor boards throughout the parlor are three and one-half inches wide. The room has five double-hung windows. All of the windows, except one window on the southern exposure, have the same eared wood moldings and paneled aprons. The opening leading into what was once the dining room has similar moldings as the four above-mentioned windows. In the northeast corner of the parlor is an enclosed stair. The stair is steep and narrow with a quarter turn. The banister is continuous from the landing to the second floor. A small room behind the stairwell connects with what was once the dining room.

The dining room was located in the middle portion of the house, adjacent to the inset, covered porch. The space, which now serves as a modern kitchen, has wooden flooring that is the same thickness as that in the front room. There is a large cabinet unit with a sink against the northern and eastern walls. The four windows in this room have the same molding as the four windows in the front room.

The eastern (rear) portion of the house is currently divided into a bedroom, laundry room, and closet or storage space. The only door on the eastern side of the kitchen leads into the bedroom. This room has five doors, two exterior and three interior. The room is rough with simple window moldings and aprons, and the walls are covered with unfinished boards. A door on the northern wall provides access to a storage space, which contains a staircase that leads to the second floor attic. Originally the eastern portion of the house was divided into a kitchen, a pantry, and a shed for the storage of wood or coal.

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The second-floor hall has only one window, which is decorated with the same moldings found in the front room downstairs. The hallway provides access to the bathroom, all of the bedrooms, and a cedar closet, which is adjacent to the eastern bedroom on the second floor and is beside the stairwell.

The second-floor front of the house is divided into two rooms. The room at the northwest corner is a modern bathroom. The bathtub is against the west wall in front of a faux window. The molding and apron around a single window on the north wall is plain with one board across the frame at the top. There is an opening in the ceiling above this space leading to the attic.

A bedroom occupies the southwest corner of the building. It has windows with the same moldings as the four windows in the front room on the first floor and the hall on the second floor. The ceiling is plaster and lath. A second bedroom on the southeast side has plain trim around the windows. The third bedroom can be accessed by following the hallway on the second floor towards the east (rear) end of the house. This room has been renovated since the house was constructed. The room is under the gable of the middle portion of the house and therefore has an angled ceiling. It has one long shed dormer on the south side. The dormer has one window opening that holds two sash with plain moldings and no apron. The back (easternmost) room on the second floor, which can be accessed through the closet in the east room on the first floor, is an unfinished attic space. The central wall that divides the closet and the bedroom downstairs comes through the floor in this room and intersects the roof.

The floor plan of the second floor appears to be original. Any alterations that were made did not involve replacing the floorboards. It is not believed that any walls have been moved, despite mismatched door and window trim in the bedroom on the southeast side of the main portion of the house.

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Alfred B. and Minerva Kenyon House: 60 Main Street

The building at 60 Main Street is a two-story, front-gable, wood-frame building with a one and one-half story wing perpendicular to the south elevation. The form of the building is a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style called an upright and wing. The building sits on a continuous foundation of fieldstone, which has windows into the basement. The front of the main portion of the house and the front of the wing both have flush board siding, as does the attached shed at the rear of the house. The remainder of the building is clad in clapboard. There is one exterior end brick chimney attached to the gable end of the wing and one exterior cement block chimney. Evidence suggests that a chimney once protruded from the ridge of the roof of the main portion of the house.

No. 60 Main Street was constructed in three phases. As built, the exterior form was identical to that of 62 Main Street (see above). During the second phase of construction, c1859, a three-room, one-and-a-half story wing was added to the south side of the building. If a side porch originally existed as at 60 Main Street, it was enclosed at this time. The interior floor plan was also changed to reflect the exterior changes. During the third phase of construction a shed was added to the eastern (rear) portion of the house.

The front elevation, at the western end of the building, is dominated by a large pedimented portico. Four fluted Doric columns support the pediment, which is adorned with multiple rows of dentils. Two corner pilasters are built into the building at the northwestern and southwestern front corners. The façade of 60 Main Street has three bays. A set of double glazed and paneled wooden doors with a transom occupies the southern bay on the first floor. These doors replaced a single door with the same transom and matching sidelights added during the second phase of construction. Five one-over-one double-hung windows complete the fenestration. The two on the first floor have paneled wooden aprons below them.

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The northern elevation of the house has four sections, three of which are identical to those at 62 Main Street: the main house at the western end, the middle section (most likely the original dining room—Room 105 on enclosed plan), and what was the original kitchen and pantry. A fourth section on the far eastern (rear) end of the northern elevation consists of a shed added to the rear of the house. According to Otsego County maps, the shed was built between 1858 and 1903. A small, inset, covered porch separates the eastern end of the original house from the shed. The porch includes a door into the building and a window on its western wall.

On the northern elevation, the western (front) end of the house is located between two pilasters, one at the northwestern corner of the building and one approximately twenty-five feet from the façade. Two windows on the first floor and two windows on the second floor of the western section are one-over-one. Both the middle section and the storage area have windows on the first floor only. The two first-floor windows in the middle section and the one first-floor window in the pantry are two-over-two.

At the eastern end of the building, one can see the gable ends of the roofs of the main portion of the house and the shed addition. The eastern elevation of the main portion of the house lacks the fancy pediment of the western elevation. The shed has one twelve-pane window on the first floor and a boarded up window in the gable. The southern elevation of the added shed (the rear section) has one window on the first floor and one door. The door has a hood with wooden decorative moldings in a diamond pattern. The middle section of the house, corresponding with the middle section on the northern elevation, has a gable dormer with two windows and two windows on the first floor.

A three-room, one-and-a-half story wing extends from the western (front) section of the southern elevation. The foundation for the wing is distinct from that under the rest of the house, suggesting that the wing was added at a

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later date. Deeds and map evidence also indicates that the wing is a later addition, built sometime between 1859 and 1868.

The western (front) elevation of the wing has a full-width porch with a shed roof supported by three Doric piers. The wing features a center entrance with a one-over-one window on either side. There are pilasters attached to the wing on the western corners of the porch that echo the shape of the square columns. The eastern (back) elevation of the wing has a gable dormer with two windows. There is a six-over-six window on the first floor on this elevation. The southern (side) elevation of the wing is the gable end with an exterior brick chimney and four windows, two on the first floor and two on the half-story. On the first floor the western window is larger than the eastern window, but both upper-story windows are the same size.

The interior of 60 Main Street differs from 62 Main Street in that it features a side-hall plan, the south wing and a rear shed addition. The main portion of the house features a three-room over eight-room layout. The main entrance opens to a side hall (Room 102) with a straight, open stairway. Three doors lead off the hallway: one to the southern wing, one to the northwest front room (Room 101), and one to the eastern (rear) portion of the house. The walls throughout the house are plaster and lath. A door in the north wall of the rear section of the hallway opens to the cellar stairwell.

The front room (Room 101) has three double-hung windows, each with two lights. All the windows have the same large eared decorative wooden moldings and paneled aprons. A large opening in the eastern (rear) wall of the northwest room leads to a smaller room within the main section of the house (Room 103). The opening has similar moldings to the windows and doors throughout the first floor. On the south wall of Room 103, a large cabinet set into the wall marks the location of the original stair. Further evidence of this stair, which rose over

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the cellar stair, can be seen from the basement. The location of this stair mirrored that of the existing stair in 62 Main Street.

Room 105 is located in the middle section of the house. It currently functions as the kitchen. Based on comparisons with 62 Main Street, it may have been the dining room. It is accessible both from the hall and from Room 103. The kitchen has wood flooring, alternating light and dark colors. There is a large cabinet unit with a sink on the eastern wall of the kitchen. Two doors on the eastern wall open to Rooms 106 and 107. On the northern side, Room 106 has one window and a small closet. On the southern side, Room 107 opens to a pantry with a window (Room 108). At the rear of the house, Room 107 opens to the attached shed (Room 112), an addition which is unfinished and appears to have been used for storage. This shed is open to the rafters and has a coal bin in the rear eastern portion. Much of the woodwork in the shed is charred from a serious fire.

The southern wing has three rooms on the first floor and one above. Room 110 is accessible only through the kitchen, but the main front room of the wing (Room 109) is accessible from the southern wing's porch and from the front hall. This room has the house's only fireplace. It is located in the southeastern corner of the room abutted to the eastern wall and made of brick. A door in the eastern wall connects to Room 109.

The second floor does not have as much livable space as the first floor, since a large portion of the eastern half of the second floor is attic space. A straight, open staircase with thirteen steps and a banister leads to the second floor hall (Room 202). A railing encircles the opening of the stairs on the second floor. The hall has ten-inch unfinished floorboards. All of the rooms on the second floor open into this hall.

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The northern side of the second floor has two adjacent bedrooms connected by a door (Rooms 201 and 203). Room 201 has ghosting in the floorboards indicating that changes have occurred. These changes suggest that the second floor plan originally mirrored that at 62 Main Street.

A twentieth-century bathroom is located roughly above Room 105 in the middle section of the house. It has a dormer on the south wall with two windows side-by-side. On the eastern (rear) wall, there is a door leading to the unfinished attic (Room 206). There is also a small door on the northern wall to a crawl space. The room is under the gable of the middle portion of the original house and therefore has an angled ceiling. The bedroom over the southern wing addition (Room 207) has a dormer with two windows on its eastern wall. The ceiling reveals only part of the pitch of the gable roof as it has been squared off in the center. The only door into the room is from the hall.

Physical evidence confirms that the two Kenyon houses once had similar first and second floor plans. When the wing was added to the house at 60 Main Street, presumably soon after Chauncey Wright purchased it in 1859, the interior of this house was extensively altered. The front door was moved from a central to side location, and a transom and sidelight were added. The large first-floor parlor with an enclosed quarter-turn stair in one corner was divided into a side hall and double parlors. A new open, straight-run staircase was installed in the side passage. If a side porch existed off the dining room, it was enclosed at this time. During these changes the floorboards were replaced throughout the first floor. The second floor also shows evidence of changes in room configuration due in large measure to the relocation of the stair. Later in the nineteenth or very early twentieth century, a shed was added to the rear of the house and the single front door and sidelights were replaced with double doors.

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Kenyon Residences

Name of Property

Otsego County, New York

County and State

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.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Period of Significance

C1839-C1849

Significant Dates

na

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

Isaac W. Kenyon and Alfred B. Kenyon

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Summary

The Kenyon Residences houses are significant as outstanding examples of mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival domestic architecture in Otsego County and as a rare example of a pair of matching structures in the region. The houses are believed to have been built c1839-49 by two brothers, Alfred Kenyon and Isaac Kenyon, who were house builders by trade. The residences are distinguished by their temple form facades, with Doric columns supporting over-scaled, highly embellished pediments. As originally built, the exterior designs were identical and the interior plans were mirror images. Although 62 Main Street retains its center entrance and interior plan with enclosed stair and no hall, 60 Main was altered within a decade of construction. In c1859, its original center entrance was relocated one bay to the south and, on the interior, a side-hall plan with stair was created. At the same time, the three-bay wing on the south side of the building was added. Despite these changes, the exterior designs are still remarkably similar and the pair presents a striking image amid the more modest collection of buildings that characterizes the small hamlet. Neither of the Kenyons lived in the houses for very long, and the contrast between their extravagant exterior designs and relatively restrained interior embellishment suggests that they may have been constructed as show houses, providing both shelter and advertisements for their business.

Town of Laurens

In 1776 a parcel of land, named the Otego Patent, was purchased from Native Americans with the permission of the governor of New York. In 1791 Otsego County was carved from this parcel. The town of Laurens was formed within Otsego County in 1810. By 1820, 463 households were established in Laurens. The hamlet of Mt. Vision has gone by a number of unofficial names including: Quaker Corner, Mosher's Corner and, most notably, Jacksonville, due to large support for Andrew Jackson in the 1832 presidential election. Bruce Wardell notes that "increased trade throughout the nation provided capital for new homes, businesses, farms, and small

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industries” in Laurens township in the early nineteenth century.¹ He also writes that “the villages of Laurens and Mt. Vision showed many signs of new growth during the 1840s.”² During the first half of the nineteenth century, New York experienced an economic boom with the completion of the Erie Canal. The Kenyon houses may represent the wealth and prosperity that came to small rural villages such as Mt. Vision as a result of increased access to transportation and communication. The Kenyons’ knowledge of Greek Revival style and level of craftsmanship suggests they were well-connected to current notions of fashion and style.

Isaac W. Kenyon and Alfred B. Kenyon

It is believed that the twin houses were built by brothers Isaac W. Kenyon and Alfred B. Kenyon.³ Census records indicate that both brothers were born in Otsego County in the 1810s.⁴ In 1839, Isaac purchased a plot of land in Mt. Vision from Voltair Merrell. Sometime during or after 1839, but before 1851, the land was divided into two plots, and records clearly show that 60 Main Street was owned by Alfred and 62 Main Street was owned by Isaac. In 1850, Alfred and his family were living at 60 Main Street. Alfred’s age at the time of the 1850 census was thirty-one and his occupation was listed as “house builder.” An unrelated person by the name of Charles St. John, age eighteen, also lived in the same house and was described as a “carpenter.” The 1850 census also records Isaac and his family as living in the town of Morris, suggesting that he had already sold the Mt. Vision home or functioned as its landlord. He was thirty-seven years old and listed as a “house joiner” by trade. Alfred and Isaac’s occupations as house builder and house joiner, as well as the fact that an additional carpenter was living with Alfred, enabled these men to build their own houses, probably at a much-reduced cost

¹ Bruce Wardell, *The History of Laurens Township*. (n.p.,1975), 49.

² Wardell, 76.

³ Because of their closeness in age revealed in census records, and the fact that both names appear on deeds, it is believed that Isaac and Alfred Kenyon were brothers. Local belief also supports this assertion. In addition, the 1860 New York State Census indicates that both men were born in Otsego County.

⁴ Evidence that Alfred obtained the land from Isaac appears in the deed from Alfred to Chauncey Wright. In the deed, the land description includes the words, “Reserving and granting the same privileges that is contained in the deed given by Isaac W. Kenyon to Alfred B. Kenyon . . .” (Book of Deeds 186, Otsego County Court House, Cooperstown, NY, 363.) The land description in a current

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for labor. In addition, the skill of the builders allowed them to construct residences with sophisticated designs without a great degree of wealth. In January of 1851, Isaac sold 62 Main Street to William Cheney. Eight years later, Alfred sold 60 Main Street to Chauncey Wright. Although no additional documentation of other work by the Kenyons has been discovered to date, there are a number of other houses in Mt. Vision that share elements of the nominated properties. These include several small three-bay residences with center entrances and at least one example with the distinctive over-scaled eared window enframements seen on the wing of 60 Main. None, however, features the Twin Sisters' dramatic temple form façades. Both brothers are buried in the Mt. Vision cemetery.⁵

The Chauncey Wright family owned 60 Main Street, along with other properties continuing south on Main Street, for over 100 years. Chauncey owned two buildings next to 60 Main Street prior to 1859, one being his residence and the other a store. By 1919 Dr. Milton C. Wright, Chauncey Wright's son, owned 60 Main Street and all of the other Wright family holdings on Main Street until his death in 1931. Locally, it is believed that Dr. Wright had a medical office in the wing of the house.

Design/Style

Specific elements of the Kenyon houses identify them as Greek Revival style. The porticos with fluted Doric columns and pilasters create the temple form. Dentil moldings, front-ended gables, and rectangular floor plans are classic elements of this style. The position of windows and doors on the façades and flush-board siding further exemplify Greek Revival architecture. The use of three bays on the façades, instead of five, is common in New York State Greek Revival style.

deed for 62 Main Street ends with the descriptive information "land being on the north half of the lot heretofore owned by the said Isaac W. Kenyon, . . ." (Book of Deeds 630, Otsego County Court House, Cooperstown, NY, 859.)

⁵ Mt. Vision Cemetery, Town of Laurens, Otsego County, NY. Available at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nyotsego/cemetery/mtvcemjm.htm>. Accessed October 16, 2003.

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Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Greek Revival style, particularly in government and commercial buildings, became symbolic of American cultural sophistication and patriotic spirit. Transferred to residences, the monumental style still inspired awe and signified prestige, but manifested itself in a less grandiose manner. In *Greek Revival Architecture in America*, Talbot Hamlin noted that the Greek Revival style is a truly American architecture, borrowing from classicism while employing contemporary architectural methods. In more recent scholarship, W. Barksdale Maynard discusses the emergence of the Greek Revival style in England around the turn of the nineteenth century, indicating that Greek Revival was not a unique American architectural style. However, he also observes that notes the Greek Revival in the United States embodied a distinctly American symbolism by representing “the American effort to domesticate and civilize a continent.”⁶

Although the temple form was used throughout central New York, other Greek Revival houses in the hamlet of Mt. Vision are significantly more simplified versions of the style, none of which incorporates the monumental portico [Figure 1]. Thus, although the Kenyon houses are unique in Mt. Vision because of their extravagant nature, they are part of a larger architectural trend in the region [Figure 2]. In *Landmarks of Otsego County*, Diantha Schull clearly states the significance of the Kenyon houses as buildings that “exemplify Greek Revival as it was expressed locally and throughout central New York.”⁷

Conclusion

The Greek Revival design of the Kenyon houses remains clear and intact. Although the exact construction history of the two houses awaits further research, the extravagant style of the buildings and their unusual twin designs provide the opportunity to make assumptions about their relationships to their original owners/builders. The survival of the buildings over time, despite years of neglect at 60 Main Street, attests to the fine

⁶ W. Barksdale Maynard, *Architecture in the United States, 1800-1850* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), 221.

⁷ Diantha Schull, *The Landmarks of Otsego County* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1980), 169.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

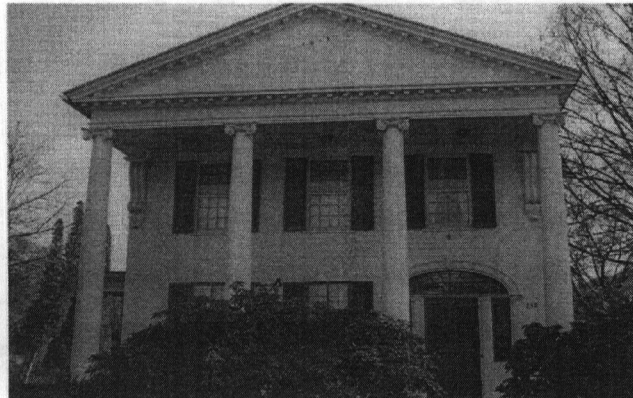
Section number 8 Page 5

workmanship of the Kenyon brothers. The Kenyon houses are significant historic resources in Mt. Vision and Otsego County.

Figure 1. As depicted in Recollections of Mt. Vision (p. 42) this house is a subdued version of the Greek Revival style more typical in Mt. Vision.



Figure 2. As depicted in Main Street Unadilla (p. 48), the Roswell Wright House in Unadilla, Otsego County, represents the temple-form of the Greek Revival style, similar to the Kenyon houses, found in central New York.



See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

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Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
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Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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Kenyon Residences

Name of Property

Otsego County, New York

County and State

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property** less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	495218	4713864
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

 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 Kathleen LaFrank, Program Analyst – see continuation sheet

organization New York State Historic Preservation Office date October 2003

street & number Peebles Island State Park, Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3261

city or town Waterford state New York 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 the 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, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Kenyon Family Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed tax map with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the original property associated with the residences.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego County, New York

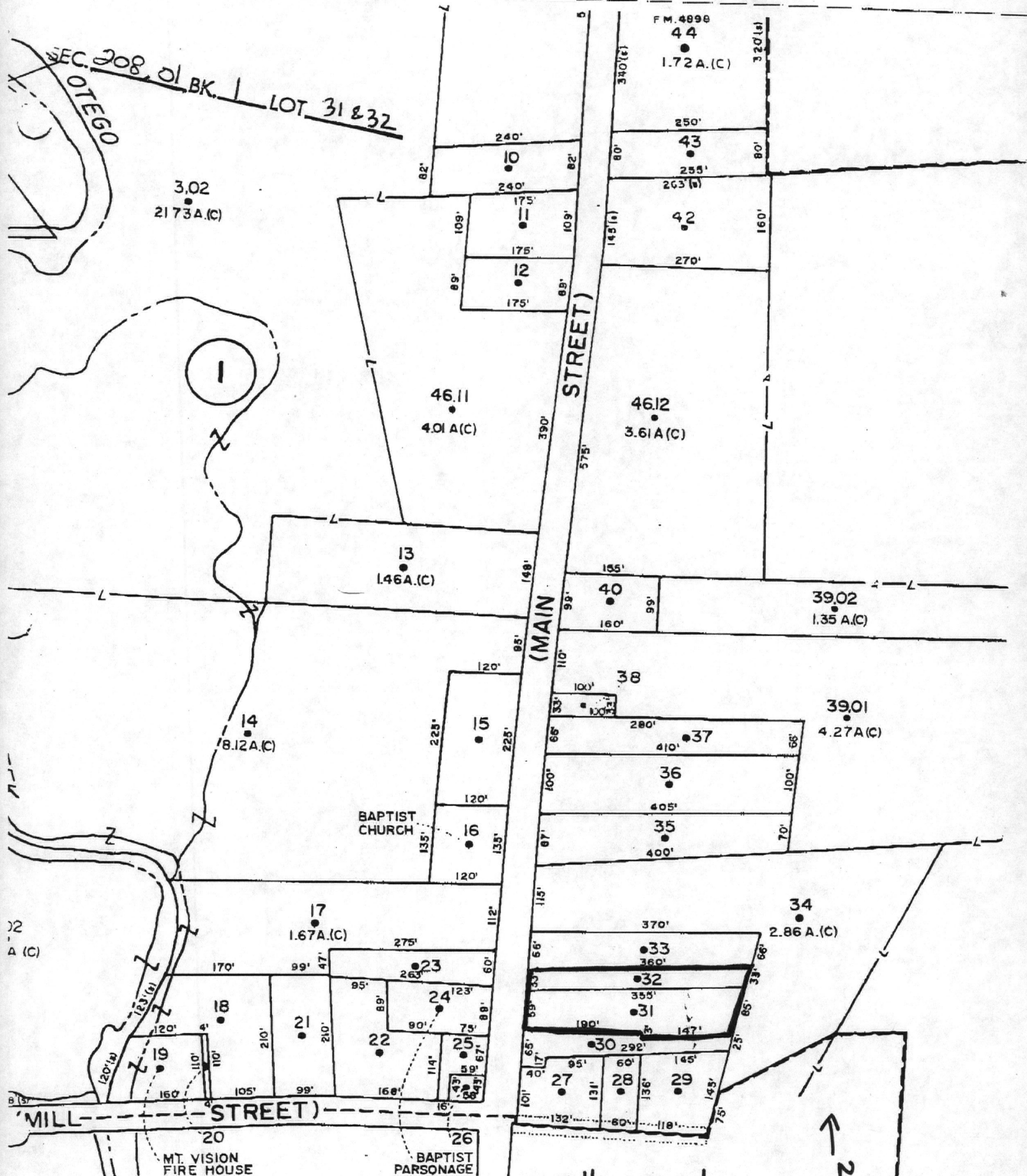
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1

Nomination prepared by:

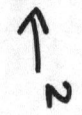
Material Culture Class, Fall 2003
Cynthia Falk, professor
Cooperstown Graduate Program
PO Box 800
Cooperstown, NY 13326
607-547-2586

See continuation sheet

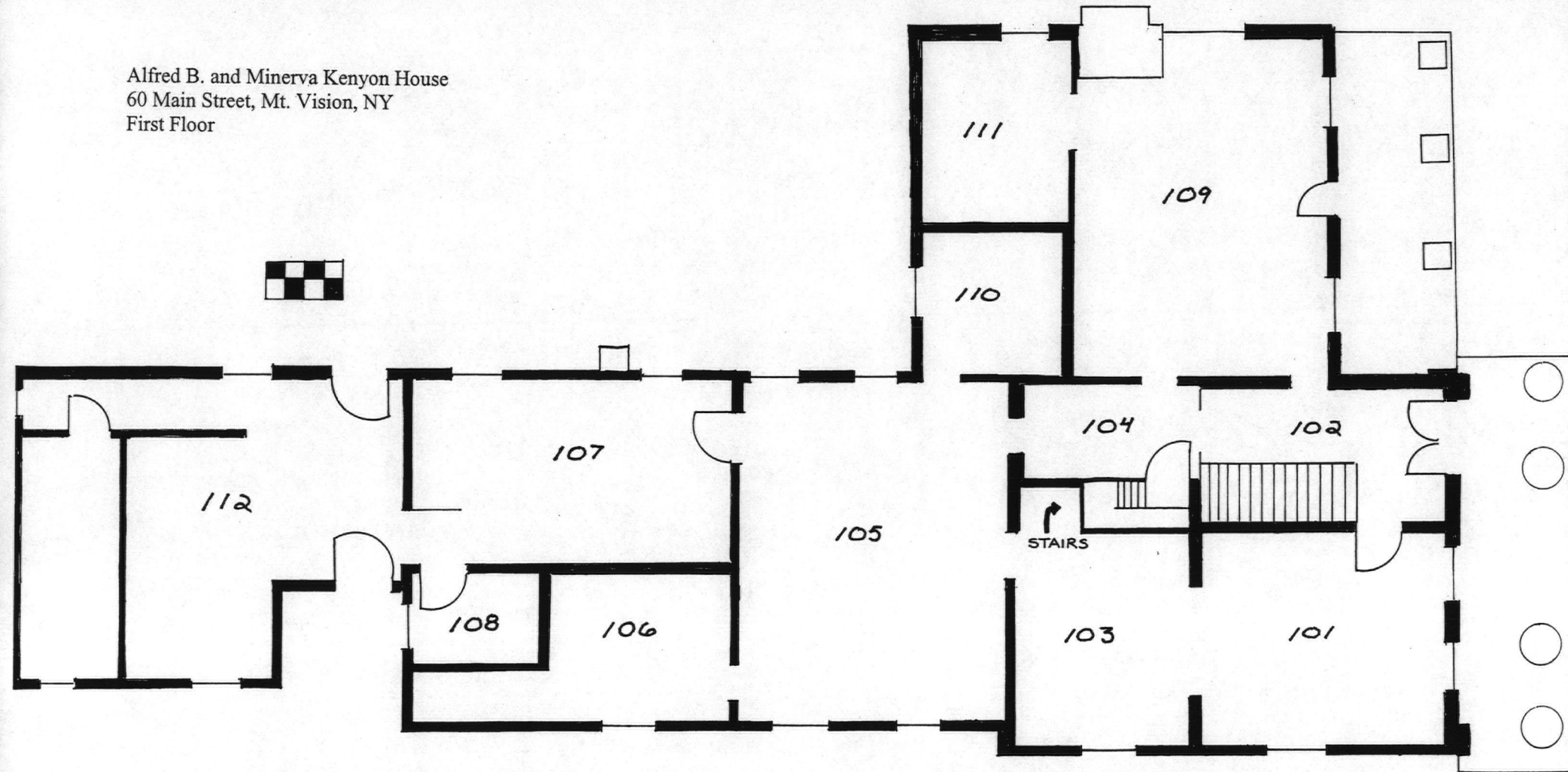


Kenyon Residences
 Mt. Vision, Otsego Co NY

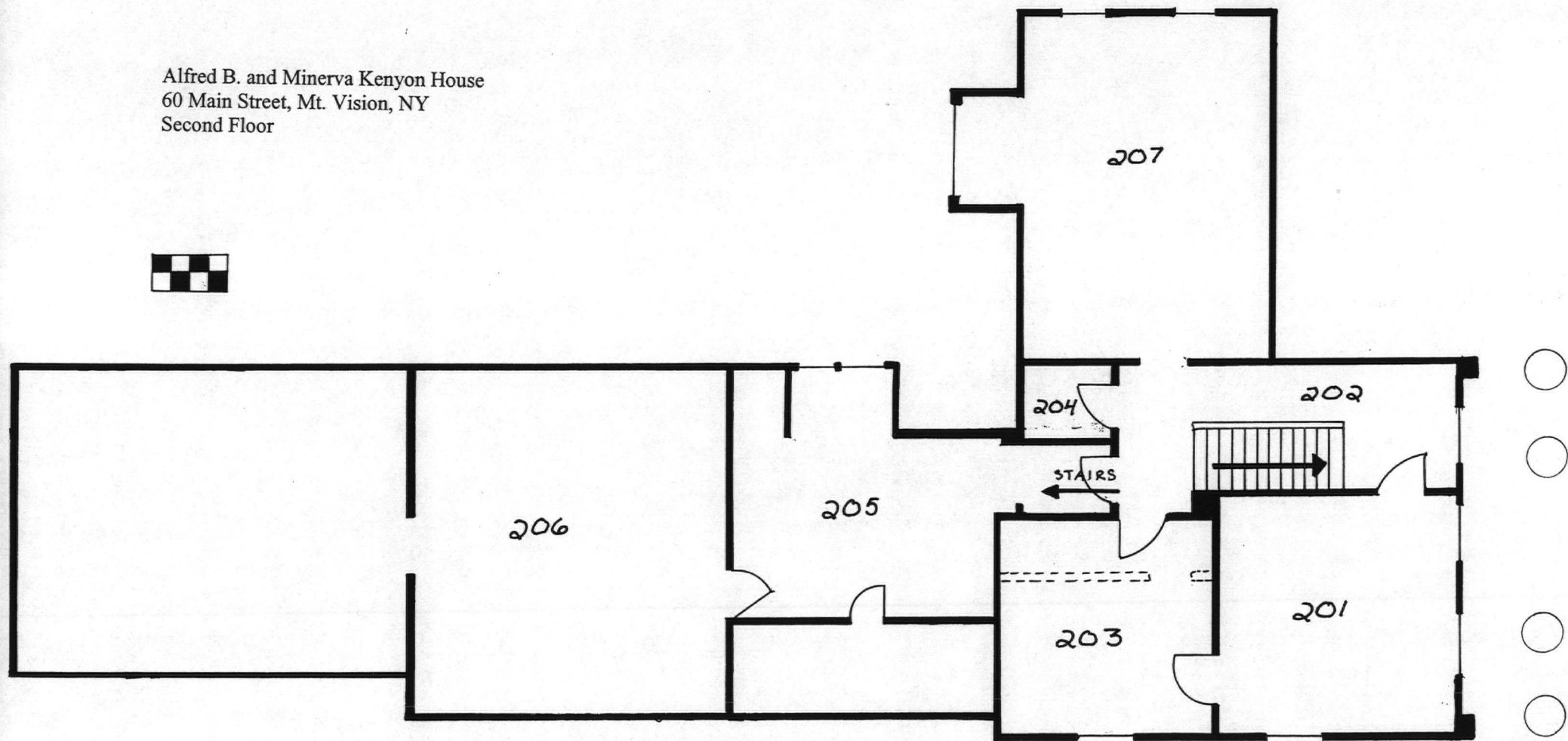
1" = 200'
 Boundary = heavy line



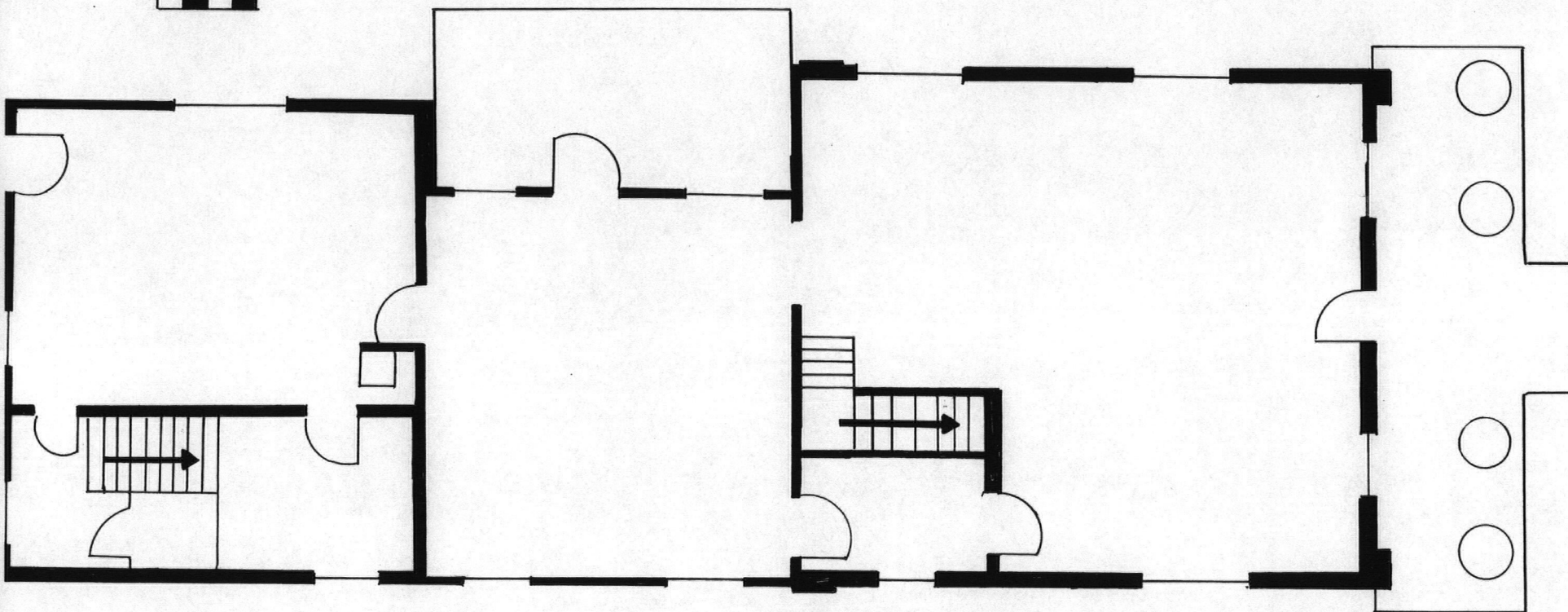
Alfred B. and Minerva Kenyon House
60 Main Street, Mt. Vision, NY
First Floor



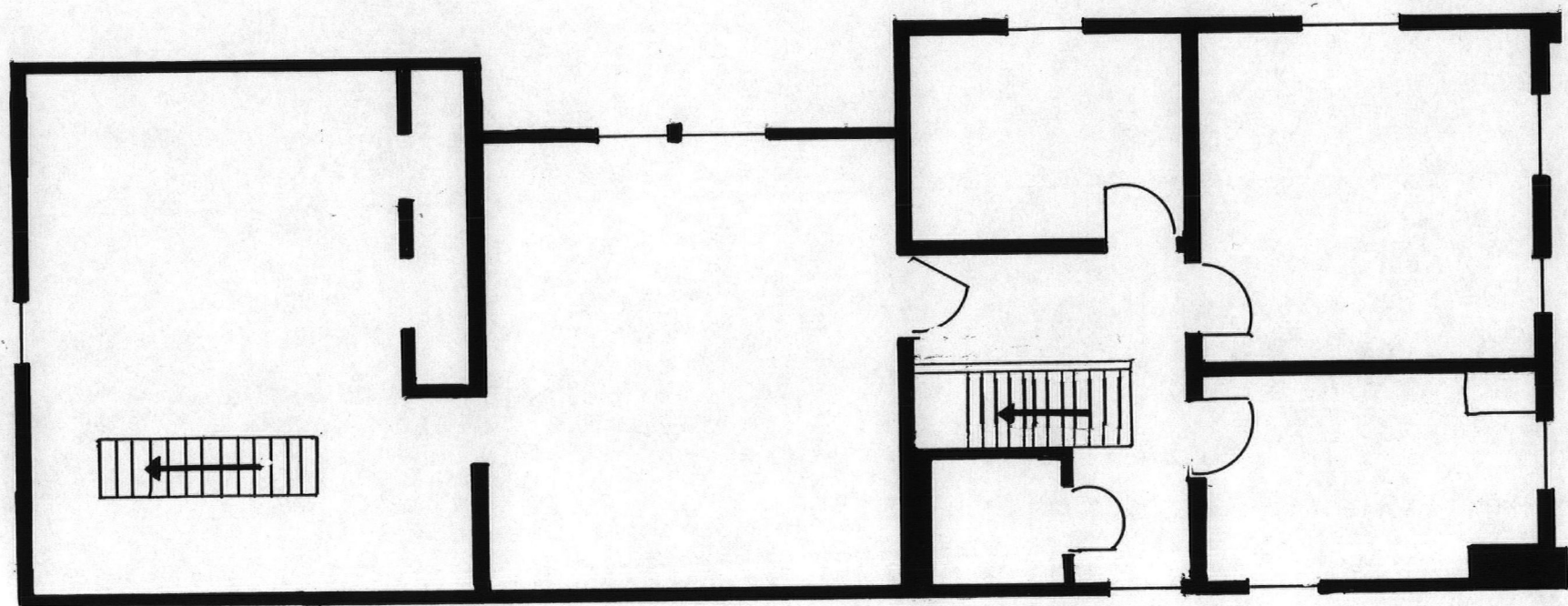
Alfred B. and Minerva Kenyon House
60 Main Street, Mt. Vision, NY
Second Floor



Isaac W. and Bathsheba Kenyon House
62 Main Street, Mt. Vision, NY
First Floor



Isaac W. and Bathsheba Kenyon House
62 Main Street, Mt. Vision, NY
Second Floor



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Kenyon Residences
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Otsego

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/11/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/26/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/29/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000093

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 2/26/04 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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co, NY.

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate Program
PO Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

view: 62 + 60 Main Street
looking southeast

#1



Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego Co, NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 62 Main Street

facade + south
elevation

#2



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 62 Main Street

South + East

elevations

#3



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co. NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 62 Main St

Interior, 1st floor

front parlour

looking toward

main entrance

#4



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co. NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

view: 62 Main
interior, rear parlor
w/ enclosed stair
on the left

#5



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co. NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

ref: Cooperstown Graduate Program
Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 60 Main
looking east

#6



Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego Co NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate Program

Box 800

Cooperstown NY 13326

view: 60 Main
west + north
elevations

#7



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co. NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 60 Main

interior, first floor,
near parlor

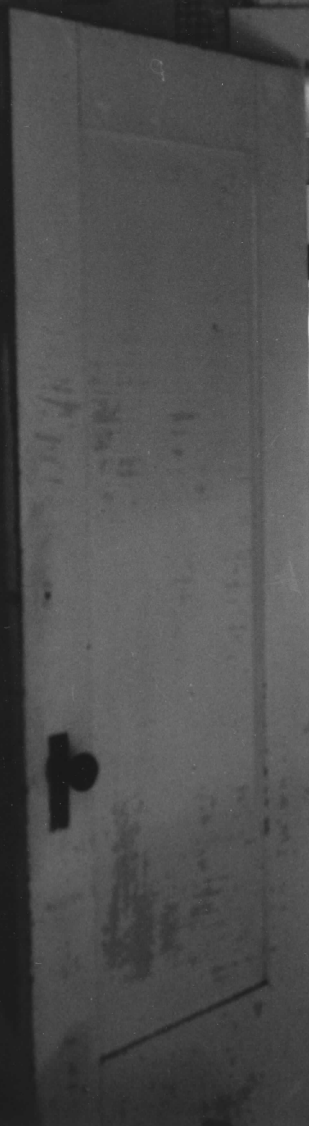
looking toward

former location

of enclosed

stair, to the
right

8



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

Cooperstown 13326

View: 60 Main
interior, 1st floor
looking at side
hall + main entrance
from the rear

9



Kenyon Residences

Mt. Vision, Otsego Co. NY

photo: Nicole Cox, 2003

neg: Cooperstown Graduate
Program

Box 800

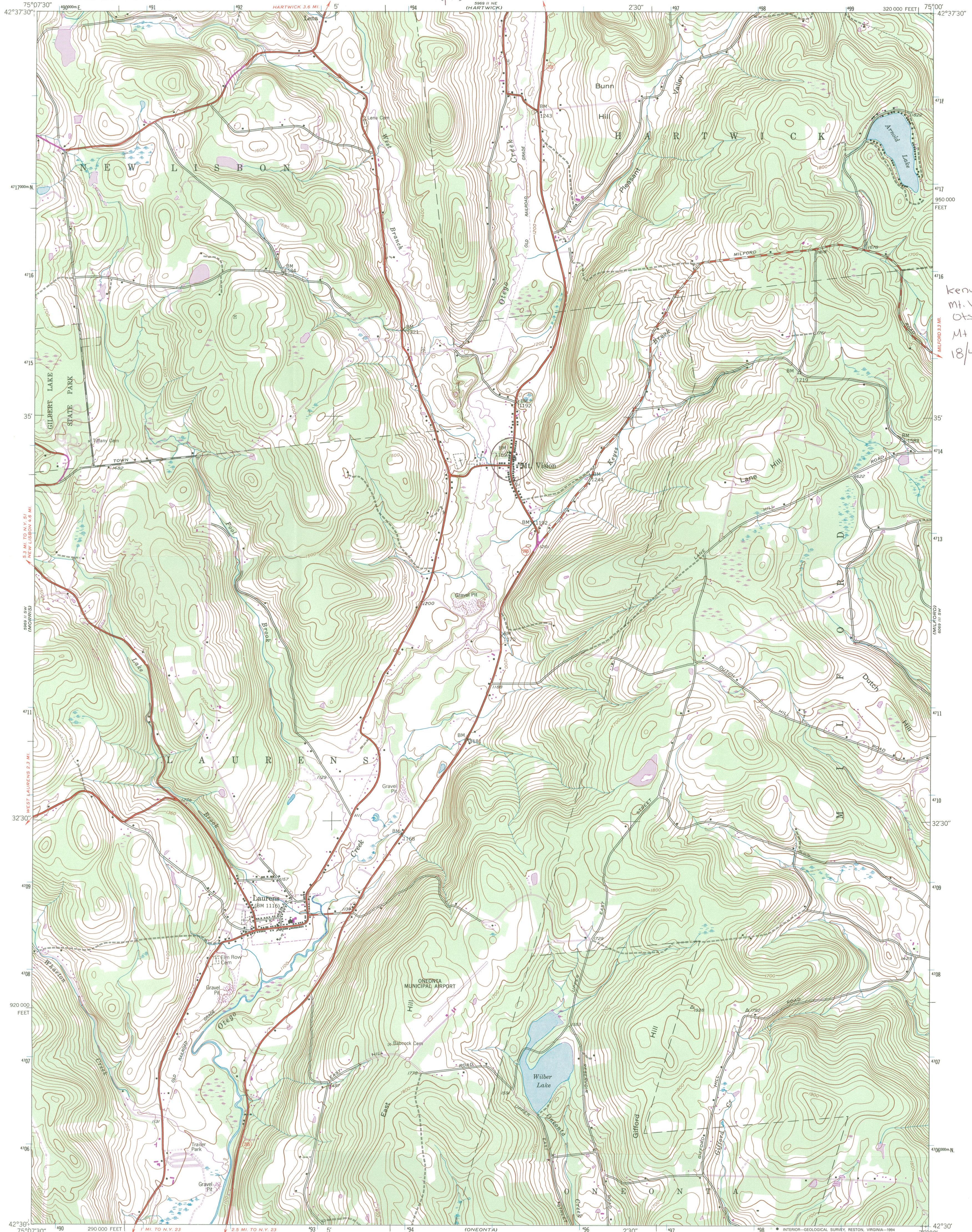
Cooperstown 13326

View: 60 main
interior, 1st floor,
looking into wing
from side hall

#10

Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision, Otsego Co NY
Mt. Vision quad
18/495218/4713864

5969 II SW
(COOPERSTOWN)



Kenyon Residences
Mt. Vision
Otsego Co. NY
Mt. Vision quad
18/495218/4713864

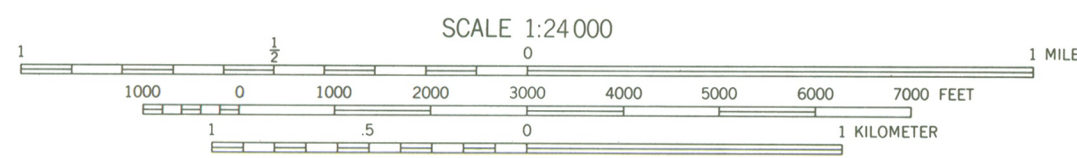
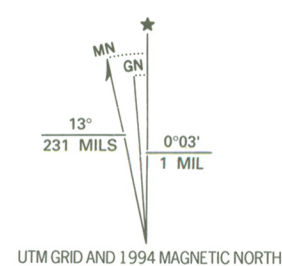
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Revised by the U.S. Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and TVA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Field checked 1943

Projection and 10,000-foot ticks: New York coordinate
system, east zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

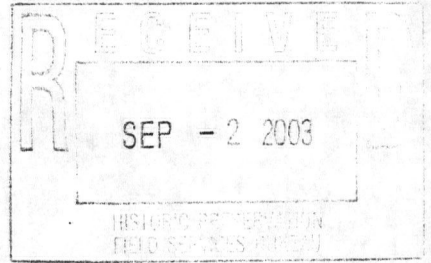
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

MT. VISION, N.Y.
42075-E1-TF-024

1943
REVISED 1994
DMA 5969 II SE-SERIES V821

COMPLIES WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS FOR SPATIAL ACCURACY - CLASS 2
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the
U.S. Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1988
and other sources. Field checked 1989. Map edited 1994
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content
standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours



STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, Earlene Williams, am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)

60 and 62 Main St., Mt. Vision, Town of Laurens, NY
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Earlene Williams 8/26/03
(signature and date)

207 W. 106 St apt 9D
NYC, NY 10025
(mailing address)



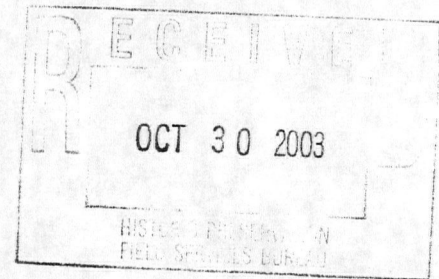
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING ☺ 197 MAIN STREET ☺ COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK 13326-1129

CLERK OF THE BOARD

PHONE: (607) 547-4202 FAX: (607) 547-4260

October 17, 2003

Ruth Pierpont, Director
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189



RE: Isaac W. Kenyon & Alfred B. Kenyon Residences
60 & 62 Main Street
Mount Vision, Otsego County

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

The Otsego County Board of Representatives feels that the Isaac W. Kenyon and Alfred B. Kenyon residences in Mount Vision are historically significant and should be nominated to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. It is important to preserve our historic past for educational purposes and for tourism purposes.

The Otsego County Board of Representatives strongly supports this nomination to the National and State Registers.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Higgins, Jr.

Carl F. Higgins, Chairman
Board of Representatives
Otsego County, New York