



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 National Hotel

other name/site number National Exchange

2. Location

street & number 2927 Main Street not for publication

city or town Cuylerville vicinity _____

state New York code NY county Livingston code 051 zip code 14481

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/21/04
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and 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

12/6/04
Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

National Hotel
Name of Property

Livingston County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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 Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls wood
roof asphalt; metal
other

Narrative Description

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

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

The National Hotel is located on a wedge-shaped .3-acre lot in the hamlet of Cuylerville, Livingston County. The property is situated on a broad curve of the main street in the hamlet, US 20A/NY 39. The hotel is located approximately five feet from the right-of-way. The southern portion of the lot is an open lawn, as is the small area immediately west of and behind the building.

The transitional Federal/Greek Revival style hotel is a large seven-by-three bay two-story frame building on a high fieldstone foundation and measures 38 X 60 feet, oriented on a roughly north-south axis, paralleling the road. A one-story frame wing extends westward from the rear (west) elevation of the building at its south end. Two brick chimneys pierce the roof at the building's south end; the two chimneys at the north end have been capped and no longer extend above the roof. A small one-story wing with shed roof, which originally housed a privy, is located at the north end of the west elevation.

The building retains its original clapboard siding and six-over-six double-hung sash with much of the original glass. The roofline is embellished by a broad Greek Revival style cornice with gable returns. Above the third bay from the south, a glazed monitor projects eastward from the ridge; this feature originally provided light to the stairwell in this bay. A one-story porch with standing metal seam hipped roof runs the entire length of the front, or east, façade.¹ The porch provides access to three doors; counting from the south end, they are located in the second, third and sixth bays. The doors at bays two and six are single six-panel doors flanked by simple pilasters; the door at bay six has been altered by the insertion of a large single pane of glass in the upper half. The principal entrance, at bay three, is broader than the other two and is flanked by sidelights as well as pilasters.

On the interior, the basement or ground floor once had access to the exterior, but the gradual raising of the road level has led to the elimination of this feature. Physical evidence indicates that this space comprised a room at the south end, possibly functioning as a tavern room and one larger room at the north end. The original kitchen was also located on this level at the center of the building; the brick cooking fireplace survives in nearly complete form. Remains of partition walls in this area of the basement delineate the original orientation of stairs and the location of a dumbwaiter that connected the kitchen to the dining rooms above.² Surviving window forms in the east wall suggest that the windows at this level originally contained twelve-over-eight double-hung sash.

On the first floor, the entrance/stair hall separates the original bar room and a small connecting room to its west from the more formal rooms north of the hall. The current kitchen, in the southwest wing, is accessed via the small room off the bar room. A prominent feature of the hall

¹ Based on the existing tenon evidence, the porch originally spanned the southern third of the façade.

² See sketch plans in appendix.

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

is the curved staircase with turned newel post and simple tapered balusters. North of the hall are two rooms that have been combined into one long room along the front wall of the building. A small secondary hall leads to modern restrooms in the center of the building and a second long north-south room runs along the rear (west) side of the building. Both north-south rooms retain their original simple Federal mantels and currently non-functional fireplaces, located at the north ends of these rooms. Behind the foyer is a small rear entrance hall with a doorway to the exterior. This space was originally a pantry that connected with the original kitchen below; the door from this original access stair has now been relocated to the tavern room. The exterior door is located in a modified window opening.

With the exception of the bar room, the interior finishes on this floor include plaster walls and simple Federal surrounds, doors and mantels. The bar room, which has been altered several times, contains a late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century bar and has been sheathed with mid-late twentieth century paneling. The original ten-inch-wide planks of the floors survive, although all are covered with wall-to-wall carpeting or composition roll flooring. The walls are of horsehair and wood shaving plaster composition. Baseboards, window trim and chair rails are almost all original and have a planed bead along the top or outer edge.

The stairway leads to the second floor and into a ballroom measuring 20 X 35 feet approximately. This space, while still readable, has been divided into a hallway and rooms, with alterations made for bathrooms. There is a separate parlor room on the north east corner; a series of 9 chambers line the west side of the central north-south hallway. The upper portion of the stairwell has been paneled with varnished beadboard and a glazed beadboard partition with doors now encloses the upper portion of the stairwell.

National Hotel
Name of Property

Livingston County, New York
County and State

8. 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

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

ca. 1841 - 1954

Significant Dates

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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: _____

National Hotel
Livingston, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance.

The National Hotel is architecturally significant as a rare surviving and largely intact example of a large-scale highway and canal-related hostelry of the 1840s. Constructed near the intersection of the Big Tree Road and the newly opened Genesee Valley Canal, the building is historically significant as the only surviving canal-era commercial building from Cuylerville's boom period as an important local port on the Genesee Valley Canal, and as the site of several events important in the later history of the hamlet and surrounding farming area.

The Town of Leicester was originally formed within Genesee County in 1802 as part of the Phelps & Gorham Purchase. It was the first town west of the Genesee River where a permanent settlement was made. As a result, the first crude roadway that ran west from Geneseo, across the Genesee River, passed through this location and the next few decades witnessed a considerable level of traffic and the establishment of a stage line operating twice a week.

Construction of the Genesee Valley Canal began in 1837 and was completed to the Cuylerville area in 1840. This intersection of east-west roadway and north-south waterway provided a prime location for business opportunities. The National Exchange was built in 1841 by Charles Phinney and opened under the charge of Truesdale Lamson who operated it for five years.¹ According to local tradition, Lamson was a known abolitionist and reputedly conducted slaves through the inn as a station on the Underground Railroad.²

Because of its size, location and interior arrangements, it is apparent that the National Exchange was among the better class of taverns at its opening. In general, taverns located on stage routes offered the best accommodations, in part because of the stiff competition for trade that arose on these routes. Most taverns of all classes contained three major rooms: a large public room with a large open fireplace; a combination kitchen/dining room that may have been part of the public room; and a bedchamber. "The room layout in a typical 1820 tavern was a bar or tap room on the first floor, usually with two entrances, a sitting room, a long room on the second floor, attic space for the help to sleep, and a rear family dining room where guests were also served. The more primitive the tavern, the less specialized the room function."³ The National Exchange could boast a large basement kitchen, large taproom that was accessible from within the premises and directly from outside, an elegant circular stair leading to the second-floor ball room (which no doubt did double duty as a dormitory), and several elegantly finished multi-purpose rooms on the north end of the first floor.

¹ J. Smith, HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, 1881. pp. 346. Note: Originally known as the National Exchange and referred to as such in the abstracts through 1965. At some unknown date, probably in the 1950s, it became more familiarly called the National Hotel. Also labeled at brief times by the various owners, e.g. "Herrington House" or "Scoville House".

² A. Merrill, THE UNDERGROUND, 1963, pp. 65.

³ Heritage: The Magazine of the New York State Historical Association, Vol. 3, No. 2, November/December 1986, pg.

National Hotel
Livingston, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Canal trade brought prosperity to the area and within ten years the Village of Cuylerville was established and boasted numerous warehouses, stores, mills, and distilleries. Farmers in towns to the west and south brought farm produce, lumber and some other goods to ship on the canal. The National Exchange thrived as both a tavern and an inn, attracting business from the highway as well as the canal. The canal and a holding basin were located less than fifty yards from the hotel's entrance, across the roadway that still passes directly in front of the building.⁴

With the closing of the canal the importance of Cuylerville and the National Exchange decreased considerably. The Village of Cuylerville was dissolved the late nineteenth century.⁵ The state sold the towpath of the canal to Pennsylvania Railroad, which built a branch line through the area. The Cuylerville station was located directly across from the hotel and helped to maintain the commercial importance, albeit diminished, of the hamlet.

In 1906, the Sterling Salt Mine was established less than a mile from the National Hotel to capitalize on the rich deposits of salt under this portion of Livingston County.⁶ Cuylerville at this time saw an explosion of immigrants, primarily from Italy, to work in this new industry. The National Exchange became a gathering place for these laborers and their families and a boarding house for some. In 1916, the Italian-American Citizen Political Awakening Association was formed at the National Exchange. The hotel was owned and operated at this time by members of the Italian-American community.

Articles in local newspapers of the period, such as the *Livingston Republican*, indicate that the area was a hotbed bootlegging during Prohibition in the 1920s. Local tradition states that the hotel was an active speakeasy.

By 1930 the mine had closed and Cuylerville and the National Exchange went into a dormant state of existence, mainly catering to boarders and tavern patrons. The depressed state of the economy during the 1930s, the gradual decline in rail traffic, and the scarcity of gasoline during World War II combined to depress business and commerce in the hamlet during until the late 1940s. When the Mt. Morris dam project was under construction from 1948 to 1951 in the nearby town of Mount Morris, the building provided lodging for engineers and construction personnel. In the early 1950s, the hotel was renovated as a restaurant catering to tourists. Reopened as the National Hotel, it became a destination for pleasure drives from the larger communities in the surrounding region such as Rochester, Buffalo and Elmira. It is in this incarnation that the hotel continues in operation today.

⁴ Livingston County Map - 1872, Cuylerville section.

⁵ Research to date has failed to confirm an exact date for the dissolution; map evidence indicates it took place between the closing of the Genesee Valley Canal in 1878 and the publication of the Livingston County map of 1904.

⁶ Livingston County Map - 1904, Cuylerville section.

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Merrill, Arch. *The underground, freedom's road, and other upstate tales*. New York, Manufactured by American Book-Stratford Press; distributed by Seneca Book Binding Co., Rochester, N.Y., 1963.

Smith, James Hadden and Hume H. Cale. *History of Livingston County, New York, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Mason, 1881.

Livingston County Maps, 1872, 1904.

..... 1986. There is a tavern in the town. *Heritage*, November/December,

National Hotel
Name of Property

Livingston County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .302

UTM References

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

1 18 265090 4739920
Zone Easting Northing

2 18
Zone Easting Northing

3 18
Zone Easting Northing

4 18
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 contact/editor: Robert T. Englert, Historic Preservation Program Analyst
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation date May, 2004
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

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 Art & Violet Allen
street & number 2197 Main St telephone _____
city or town Cuylerville state NY zip code 14481

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.

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 1

Boundary

The nominated parcel conforms to the current and historic extent of the property as delineated by the heavy black line on the attached survey map.

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 11 Page 1

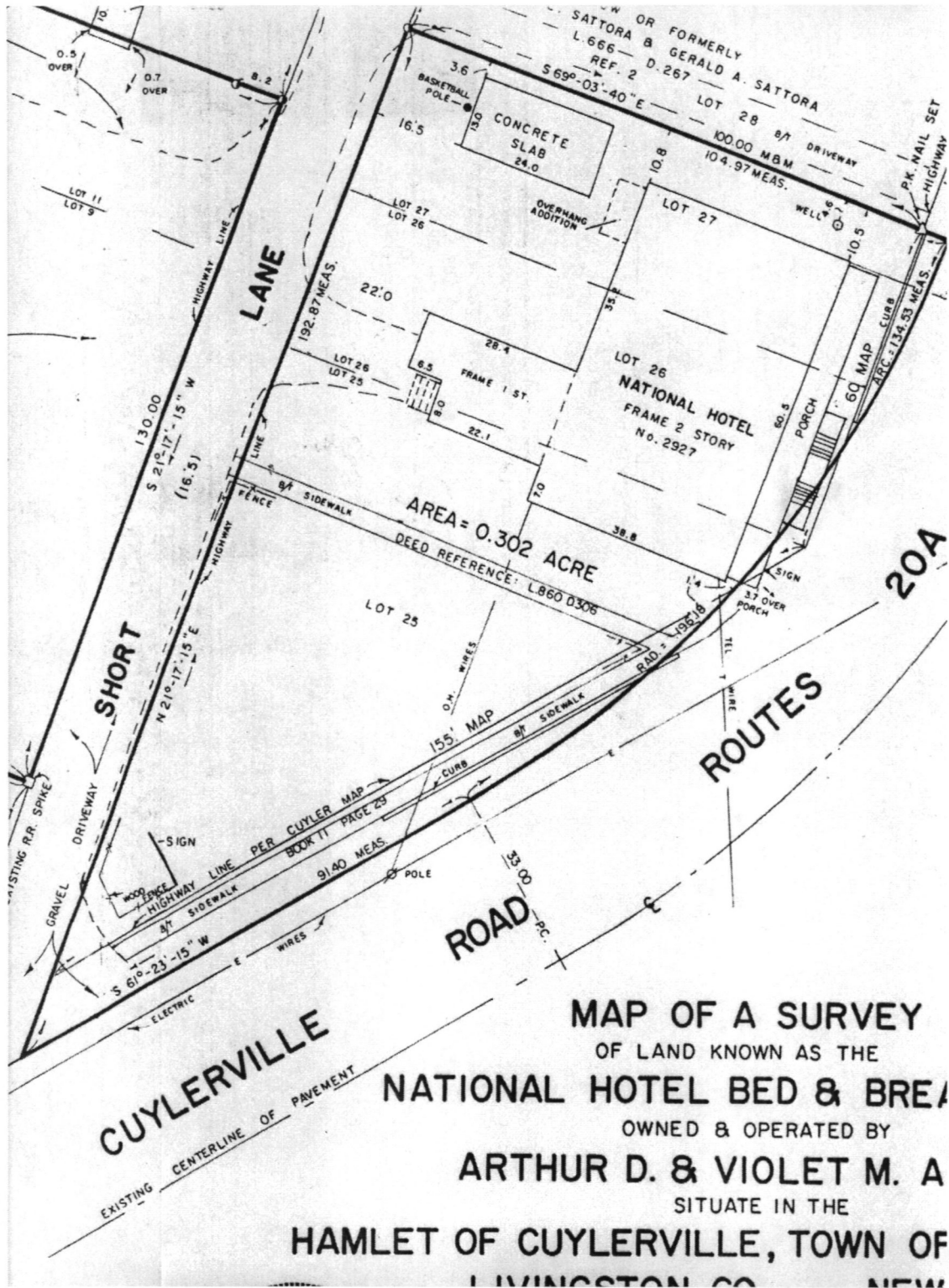
Research and draft nomination:

Thomas Roffe
Leicester Town Historian
PO Box 266
Leicester, NY 14481-0266

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section **Survey Map** Page 1



Survey Map,

North ▲

National Hotel
Livingston County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photographs Page 1

Photographs

Photographer: Thomas Roffe
Leicester Town Historian
PO Box 266
Leicester, NY 14481-0266

Date: April, 2004

Negatives: Leicester Town Historian's Files

1. Exterior, principal [east] and south elevations, view to N.
2. Exterior, principal [east] elevation, view to W.
3. Exterior, rear [west] elevation, view to E.
4. Interior, entry/stair hall, view to W.
5. Interior, entry/stair hall, main door, view to E.
6. , original doors and hardware, view to W.
7. Interior, main dining room fireplace, view to N.
8. Interior, northwest dining room fireplace, view to N.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY National Hotel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Livingston

DATE RECEIVED: 10/26/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/09/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001344

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 12/6/04 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.



NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

1 of 8

APR 2004 FRK

APR 2004 FRK

APR 2004 FRK



NATIONAL HOTEL
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS

NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

2 of 8



NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

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NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

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NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

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NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

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NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

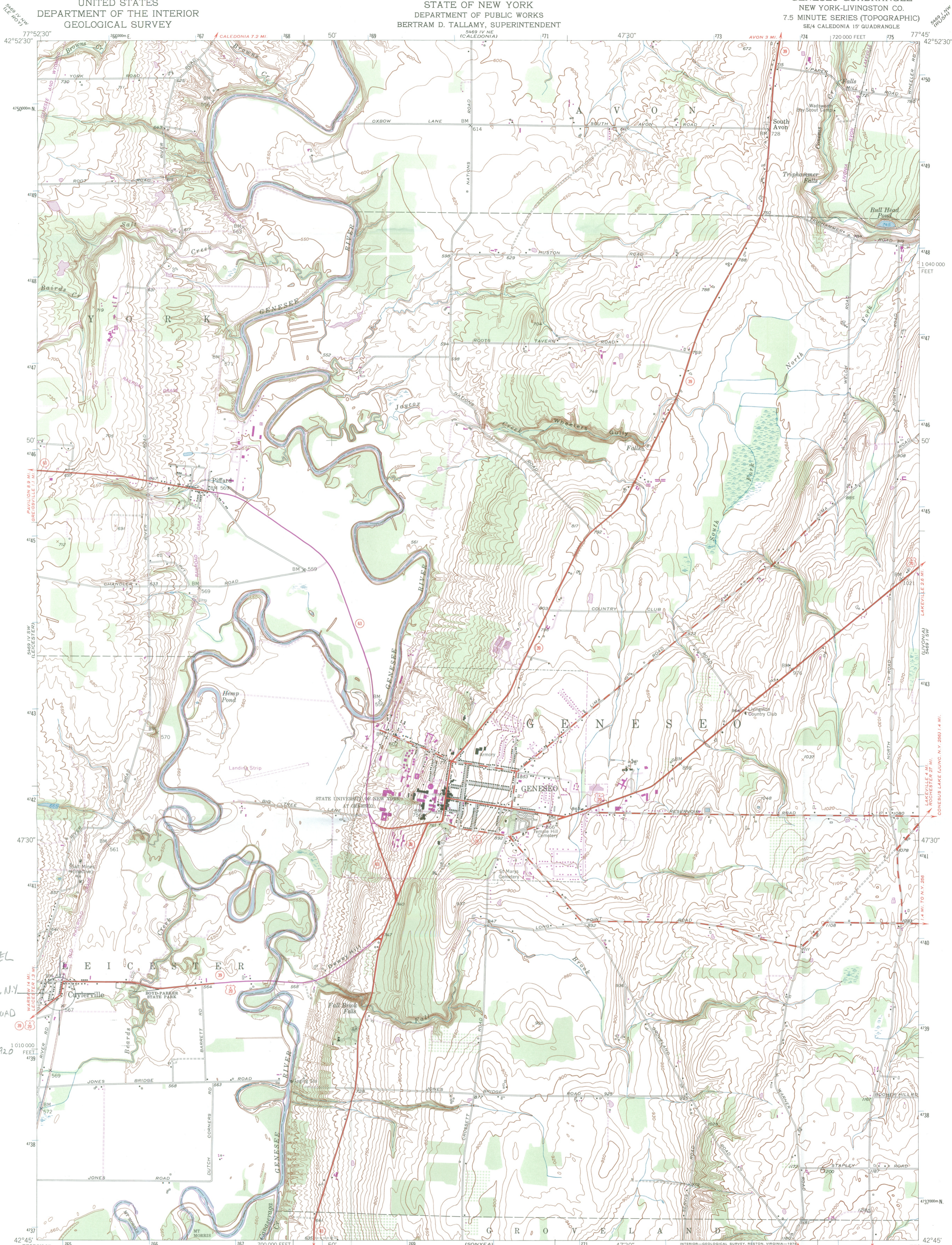
7 of 8



NATIONAL HOTEL

LIVINGSTON CO., NY

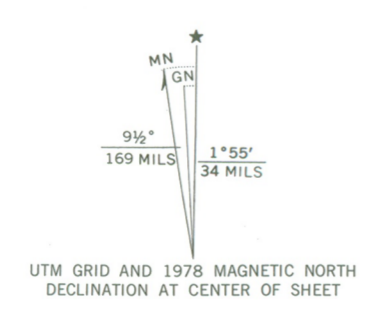
8 of 8



NATIONAL HOTEL
CUYLERVILLE,
LIVINGSTON CO., N.Y.
GENESEO, NY QUAD
ZONE 18
E 265090 N 4739920

1010000
FEET
439

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and USCE
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by plane-table methods 1950
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data.
This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

GENESEO, N. Y.
SE/4 CALEDONIA 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7745/7.5

1950
PHOTOREVISED 1978
AMS 5469 IV SE-SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





The Historic

National

Established in 1837

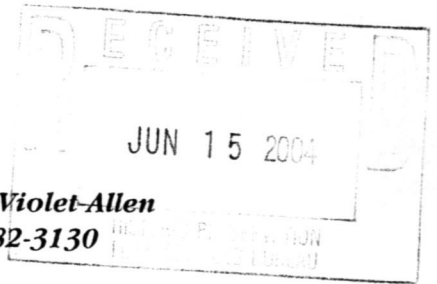
HOTEL

Fine Food & Spirits

Host to the Nation's Travelers since 1837

2927 Main St. (20A)
Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481

Art & Violet-Allen
382-3130



Ruth Pierpont; Director
New York state Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

This letter is to verify Arthur +
Violet Allen are the owners of the
National Hotel in Leicester, N.Y. for
the past ten years.

The circa 1837 Tavern was erected
as a stage house on a U.S. stageline
and after 1840, with the opening
of The Genesee Valley Canal
provided accommodation for travelers
on the packets. The exterior of
the federal style structure retains
the original siding and window sash.



The Historic

National

Established in 1837

HOTEL

Fine Food & Spirits

Host to the Nation's Travelers since 1837

2927 Main St. (20A)
Cuylerville, N.Y. 14481

Art & Violet Allen
382-3130

We have completed a fair amount of preservation on the interior, replicating period woodwork + mouldings, and rebuilding one of the original "Rumford" fireplaces for woodburning. The National Hotel has always been family owned and operated in continuous operation for 167 years, providing great food, lodging and cheap whiskey for weary travelers.

We feel due to the historical and architectural importance, and tradition of operation this piece of vanishing America should be considered for historic designation for the appreciation of future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Art P. Allen

Violet M. Allen