

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 Philetus Swift House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 866 Route 96 [] not for publication

town Phelps [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Ontario Cayuga code 011 zip code 14532

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] , SAPO 1/5/05
Signature of certifying official/Title : Date
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

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] 3/15/05
Signature of the Keeper date of action
Edson H. Beall

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	Non-contributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3		TOTAL

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC; single-family dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single-family dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early 19th Century: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls limestone

roof asphalt shingles

other

Narrative Description

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County**

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Philetus Swift House, built in two stages in 1793 and 1816, is a remarkably intact limestone dwelling in the town of Phelps in north-east Ontario County. Distinguished by a two-story, three-bay, side-hall, Federal style main block, the large and imposing dwelling sits on the north side of NY 96, a primary east-west thoroughfare through is part of the county. Although heavily traveled, this section of NY 96 remains very rural in character – properties in the area consist of large working farms, many with nineteenth century farmhouses. The nominated 41.4-acre parcel comprises a portion of the 320 acres originally associated with the Swift family. Twenty-nine of the 41.4 acres are currently leased out to a tenant farmer and the remaining acreage consists of open fields and scattered copses of trees. One hundred yards north of (behind) the house the land drops abruptly down to the flood plain of the Canandaigua Lake Outlet, a wide stream that flows west to east through the north side of the property.¹ The house sits back several hundred feet from the street on a slight knoll and is surrounded by broad lawns, scattered evergreen and deciduous trees (including Blue and Norway spruce, Chinese elm, ginko, red pine, weeping willow, locust, pear, and apple), and a variety of informally planted bushes, gardens and foundation plantings. Two contributing barns are located behind (northwest of) the farmhouse.

The house consists of a two and one-half story, three-bay, side-hall main block (1816) and a two-story side ell (1792-93). Both sections of the house rest on slightly raised stone foundations and are surmounted by medium-pitched gable roofs whose ridges run on an east-west orientation. Fenestration throughout the building is slightly asymmetrical. Most window openings contain 6/6, double-hung sash and are surmounted with simple stone lintels, some of which are accentuated with keystones. The rafters in the cellar ceiling of the 1793 east wing are debarked logs; those in the main house are solid, milled 2.75" x 8" beams. The interior supporting framework of the 1816 wing, which is visible in the attic and cellar, are rough-hewn solid oak beams 8" x 9-10", held together by pegged joints and to which the floor joints are tenoned.

The visual focal point of the house is the 1816 main block, the front façade of which is distinguished by outstanding masonry craftsmanship: large, even blocks of cut limestone--relatively smoothly dressed--are laid in bold horizontal rows anchored by smoothly finished limestone quoins.² The front wall of the 1816 addition features a date stone on its façade that reads:

Erected 1816 By P. Swift
41 y of A. Independence.

¹ The 27.5-acre parcel straddling the Outlet was donated to the Nature Conservancy by the current owner. This site is unusual for its abundant stand of hackberry trees, which are uncommon in this region of upstate New York. It also contains portions of the mill race that once served Swift's mill.

² The limestone for both sections of the house most probably was quarried from an Onondaga limestone formation deposit which lies about a mile south of the property. That area is now a gravel pit operated by the Hanson Co. in the settlement of Oaks Corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County

Section 7 Page 2

First-story windows on this front façade contain 6/9 sash. Two of the second-story windows contain 6/6 double-hung sash, while the easternmost window was converted into a French door in 1914 when a two-story Colonial Revival portico replaced the original front porch. (This 1914 portico was replaced in 1953 with a one-story, classically inspired porch that was rebuilt in 1998). The modern porch shelters an elegant, Federal era entrance that is distinguished by a slightly recessed, paneled door flanked by attenuated columns *in antis* supporting a large, round-arch fanlight with tracery and molded wooden trim. The four-bay deep east and west elevations features slightly less finely dressed masonry and asymmetrically placed 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Fanlights with delicate tracery embellish the apexes of the gable ends. Four interior corner chimneys service the interior fireplaces and flues.

The three-bay wide, two-bay deep east wing, built in 1793, features asymmetrically placed 6/6, double-hung sash windows. The first story, featuring a slightly off-center, secondary entrance, is spanned by a shed-roofed porch. Based on an inspection of the masonry work and irregularities in fenestration, the wing appears to have been raised, presumably at the time the 1816 main block was added. Presumably the small, one-story rear wing, attached to the back of the 1793 block, was also added in 1916. This wing now contains the modern kitchen.



Front (south) and side (east) of 1792 kitchen wing and east end of 1816 main block

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County**

Section 7 Page 3

A broad range of early nineteenth and early twentieth century features and fabric survive on the building's interior. Room configurations in the primary areas of the main block mostly date to the 1914 remodeling program. For example, the front door originally led to a hallway, at the front (south) end of which was located the main staircase. Doorways from the hallway provided access to the north and south parlors that, in turn, were probably connected via an arched opening or pocket doors. In 1914, the hallway was widened into a full-length "great hall," the parlors were narrowed, respectively, and the stairs were moved to the north (back) end. Interior ornamentation in the 1816 block consists of handsome Federal style details such as door and window trim, deep paneled window reveals, chair rails, cove molding, and elegant mantelpieces. The interior of the 1793 ell with back wing was renovated several times during the 20th century; little historic fabric survives intact in what is now the dining room and kitchen, respectively.



Mantle in front (southwest) parlor

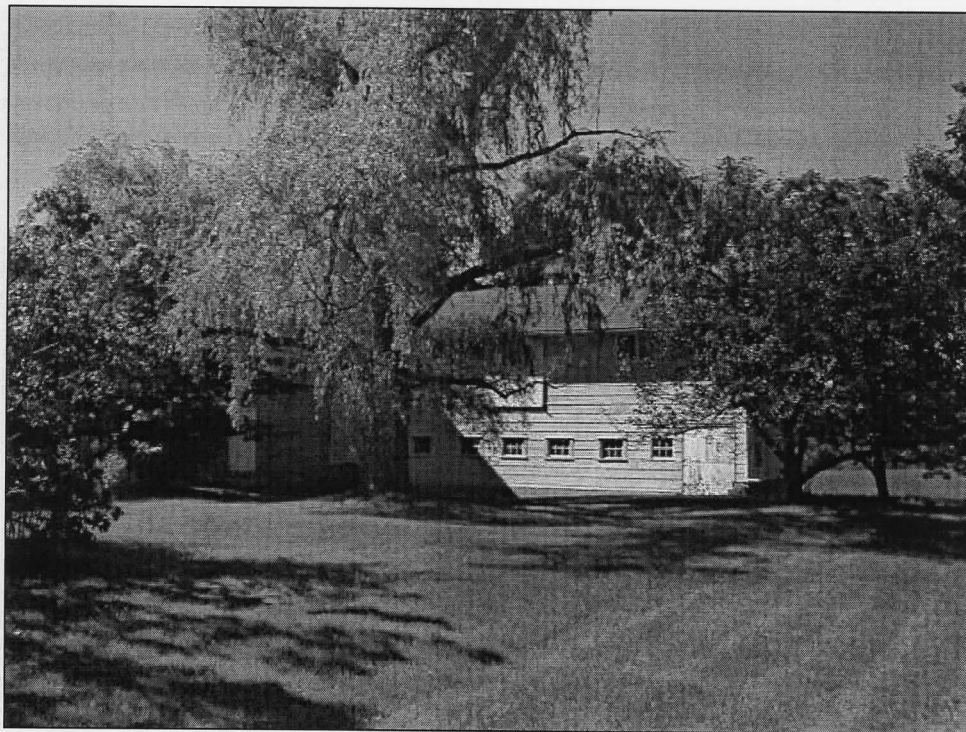
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County**

Section 7 Page 4

Two large, contributing barns survive intact behind (northwest of) the house. The first story of Barn #1 dates to 1792-93 and is constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks. The second story of Barn #1 is a frame addition, believed to date to the mid- to late 19th century, presumably added when Barn #2 was built. In its final form, Barn #1 is a rectangular, gable roofed building with a one and one-half story, late 19th century west (side) wing. Barn #2, also of frame construction and oriented on a north-south axis, is a rectangular, gable roofed structure sheathed with 20th century asbestos siding.



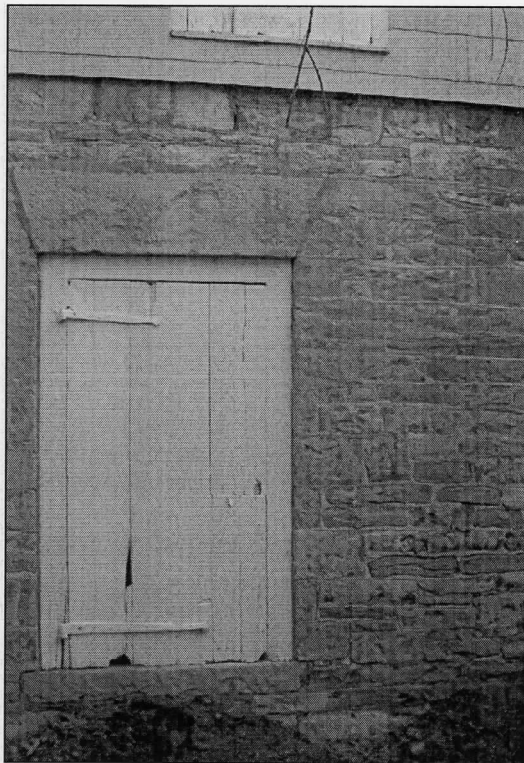
Barn #2

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

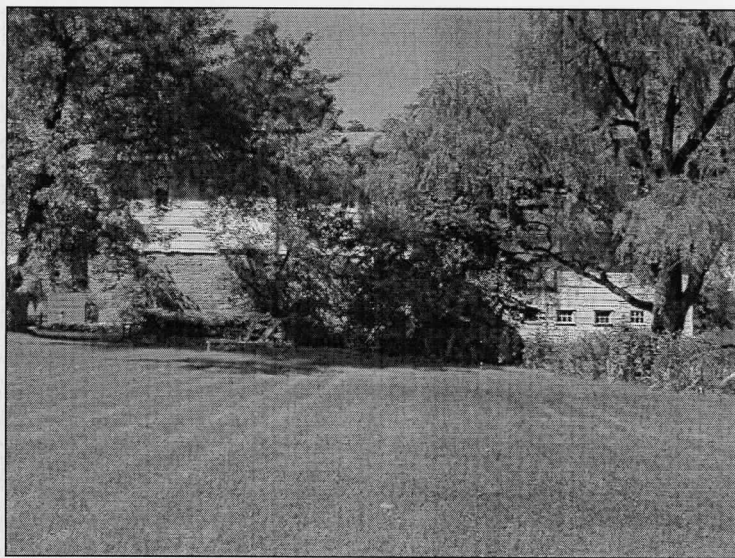
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County**

Section 7 Page 5



Door into 1793 section of Barn #1



Barn #1 (left) and Barn #2 (right)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County

Section 7 Page 6



Aerial view, late twentieth century

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1792-93 - ca. 1914

Significant Dates:

1792-93; 1816; 1914

Significant Person:

NA

Cultural Affiliation:

NA

Architect/Builder:

unknown

9. Major Bibliographical References:

Hoskins, Lansing S., M.D, current owner. Personal files.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**William Smith Ingham House
Meridian, Cayuga County, NY**

Section 8 Page 1

Significance

The Philetus Swift House is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of a late eighteenth/early-nineteenth century stone dwelling in northern Ontario County. Built in two stages between 1792-93 and 1816, the house is an imposing and remarkably intact cut limestone building that embodies the building and decorative techniques popular in the Central and Finger Lakes regions of the state during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Typical of the late 18th century settlement period, the side ell, built by Philetus Swift, is a simple rectangular structure with asymmetrical fenestration and no ornamental detailing. The main block, erected when Swift had established himself as a well-to-do farmer and miller in the region, is a fashionable, two-story, three-bay, side-hall building with Federal style ornamentation, particularly evident in the handsome front entrance. Complemented by two intact late 18th/early-mid 19th century barns and an expansive agricultural setting, the property is additionally significant under criterion A for its association with the history of farming in rural Ontario County. As one of the earliest houses in the region and for its association with one of the most important founders of Phelps, the property is additionally significant because it recalls the town's settlement period.³

In On Nov. 6, 1792, Philetus purchased 320 acres of land for \$200 described as Lot No. 1, Township No. 11, Range 1 from Caleb Benton (who had acquired the land from the original Phelps and Gorham Purchase.) His brother, John, purchased land in Township 12, Range 2.⁴ In 1793, Philetus Swift married Sally Deane (b. 1774), older daughter of Seth Deane, another pioneer settler of Phelps.⁵ In that year, Swift built the earliest barn, a small stone cottage, and a gristmill, one of the first in the area. (The mill was later known as Barlow Mills.) A son, Deane Swift, was born in March, 1794.

³ Partial remains of Swift's late 18th century grist mill are found on the adjoining property to the east.

⁴ John Swift is known as the "father" of the nearby town of Palmyra, NY. John later became a general in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812 and was killed in 1814 at the age of 54 at Fort George, NY.

⁵ Swift, already a widower before arriving in Phelps, was born on June 26, 1764, in Litchfield County, Connecticut, the son of Elisha and Mary Ransome Swift, a well-known colonial family. They later relocated to the town of Wollingsford, Rutland County, Vermont, from where Philetus and his older brother, John, emigrated in 1789 to Phelps Township in the "Western Empire" of New York.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**William Smith Ingham House
Meridian, Cayuga County, NY**

Section 8 Page 2

In 1799 Governor George Clinton appointed Swift as a Captain in the New York Militia. He rose through the ranks to become a Brigadier General in the Militia. He became a member of the N.Y. Assembly for Allegany, Genesee, and Ontario Counties in 1807, was re-elected a year later, and then was elected to the N.Y. Senate in 1811. He became Grand Master of the Free Masons in that year also.

Philetus enlisted in the War of 1812 in that year as an officer in the New York State Militia and was assigned to Fort Niagara. He was reelected to the N.Y. Senate each year from 1812 through 1818, and, at the end of his last term, served as Lieutenant Governor and President pro tempore of the State Senate. As noted above, he constructed the fashionable, Federal style main block of his house in 1816.

In 1818, his son, Lieutenant Deane Swift, died at the age of 24 of unknown causes. Philetus then became Town Assessor, Commissioner of Highways, and Supervisor in that year and continued in these positions until 1822. By 1820 he became a member of the Electoral College for the U. S. national election, and in 1821, became a delegate to the New York Constitutional Convention representing Ontario County. In 1823 Philetus was reelected to the Assembly, the same year his wife, Sally Deane Swift, died at the age of 49. Later that year he married his third wife, Fawnia Cole Swift, widow of Sally's favorite nephew, Asa Swift, who had four children. She and Philetus had a daughter, Electa Jane Swift, on October 3, 1825. Philetus died on July 24, 1828 at the age of 64 and was buried in Phelps' old cemetery. Later his grave was removed to Webster, NY, by a Swift descendent then living there.

Philetus's character has been described as being a "patriot, statesman, scholar, and philanthropist... a noble man among men." Among his local achievements was his assistance in the formation of schools in the area. He was an original subscriber to the endowment for Geneva College, later named Hobart College. A staunch Mason, he and his brother John formed the Mt. Moriah Lodge #112 in Palmyra in 1803. He established Ark Lodge #33 in Geneva in 1807 and helped establish Sincerity Lodge #200 of Free & Accepted Masons in Phelps in 1811.

Records indicate that Electa Jane Swift inherited the house and property from her father in 1828 and sold it to a Jackson Bannister in 1845. From 1845 to 1952 it was occupied by a succession of 19 owners who possessed it for an average of about 4 years each.

A flamboyant historical event occurred during Prohibition. A raid by federal, state and county law authorities on February 22, 1928, disclosed that an illicit whiskey still was in operation within the house. By newspaper accounts, it was the largest one discovered in Ontario County up to that point and one of the largest in western New York State. This still was capable of producing 1,000 gallons of alcohol each day. There were at least two fermentation vats in the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**William Smith Ingham House
Meridian, Cayuga County, NY**

Section 8 Page 3

cellar along with the distillation boiler. The condenser pipe extended vertically from the boiler upward through 14-inch by 16-inch holes cut into the first and second floors. The alcohol was collected in a container on the second floor. Copies of photographs of the apparatus, taken by the State Police, are among the memorabilia of the house. The outlines of the floor openings are clearly visible today.

As mentioned, Beatrice S. and Lansing S. Hoskins acquired the house and 71 acres of land in 1952. They and their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Lansing C. and Patience Hoskins, have provided 52 years of devoted care to this residence, one of the most important early 19th century buildings in Phelps. In keeping with his respect for history and nature, Dr. Lansing recently donated 27.5 acres of his parents' original holdings to the Nature Conservancy, thereby leaving a generous, 41.4-acre agricultural setting surrounding the former farmhouse and barns.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 41.4 acres

UTM References: all zone 18

1. 335560/4757093
2. 335410/4756548
3. 335262/4756543
4. 335221/4756879
5. 335250/4757184
6. 335498/4757175

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

Boundary Justification: The 41-acre parcel encompassed by the boundary comprises a small portion of the once much larger (320-acre) farmstead originally owned by the Swift family.

11. Form Prepared By:

contact/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization Division for Historic Preservation date December 2004

street & number Peebles Island, Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643 x 3262

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

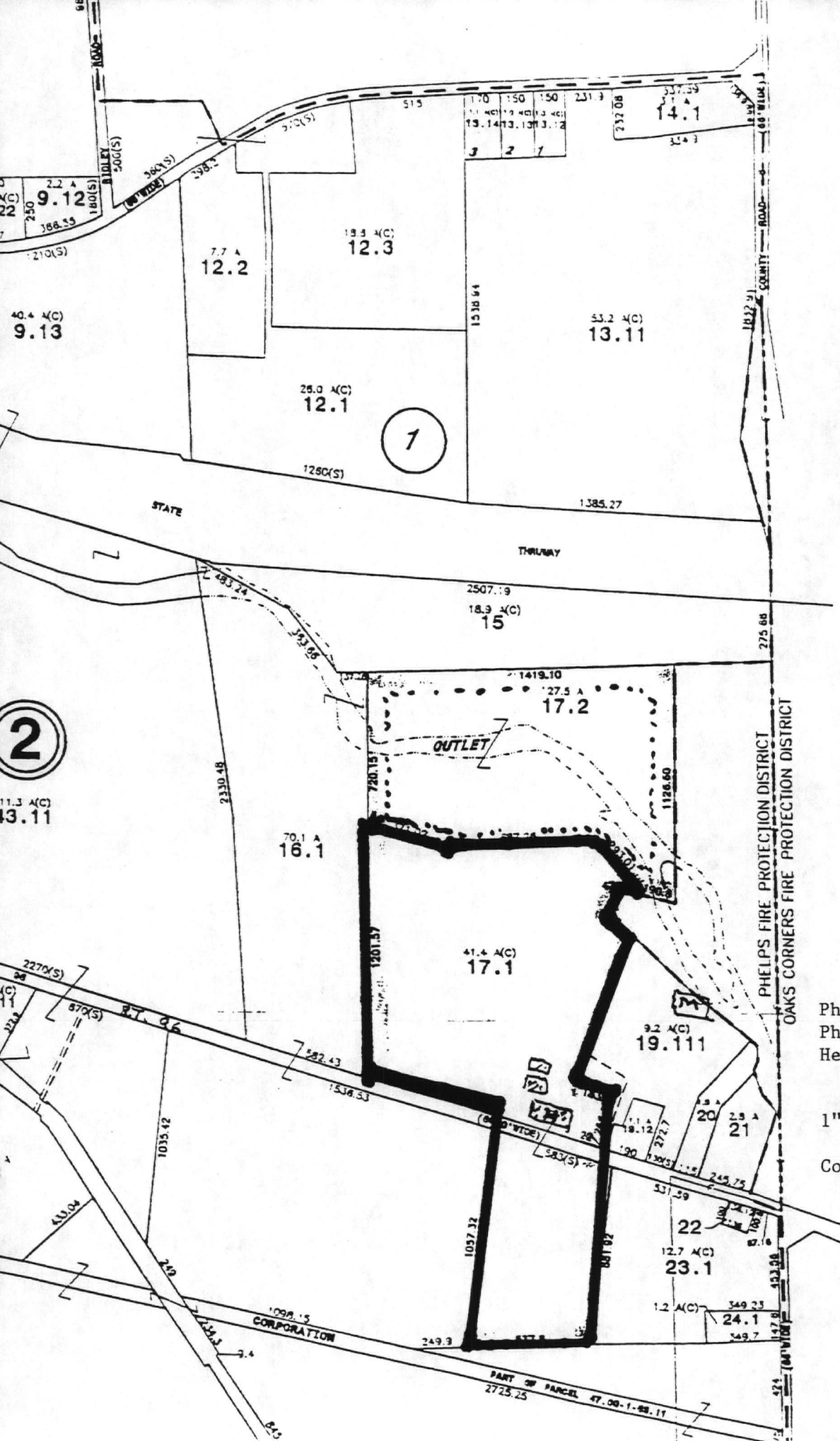
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____



Philetus Swift House
 Phelps, Ontario County
 Heavy black outline
 defines boundary of
 nominated property
 1" = 400'

County tax map, lot 17.1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Swift, Philetus, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, ^{Ontario} Cayuga

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/23/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/10/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/17/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000159

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 3/15/05 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 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 Philetus Swift House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 866 Route 96 [] not for publication

town Phelps [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Ontario code 069 zip code 14532

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mike Casto SAPO

January 5, 2005

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

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

[X] other (explain) Accept AD

Edouard Beall Signature of the Keeper
date of action 6/10/05

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Swift, Philetus, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Ontario
Cayuga

DATE RECEIVED: 4/28/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/11/05

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000159

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 _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 6/10/05

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.



Philetus Swift House

Phelps, Ontario Co.

Photo & Neg: N Todd, 2004

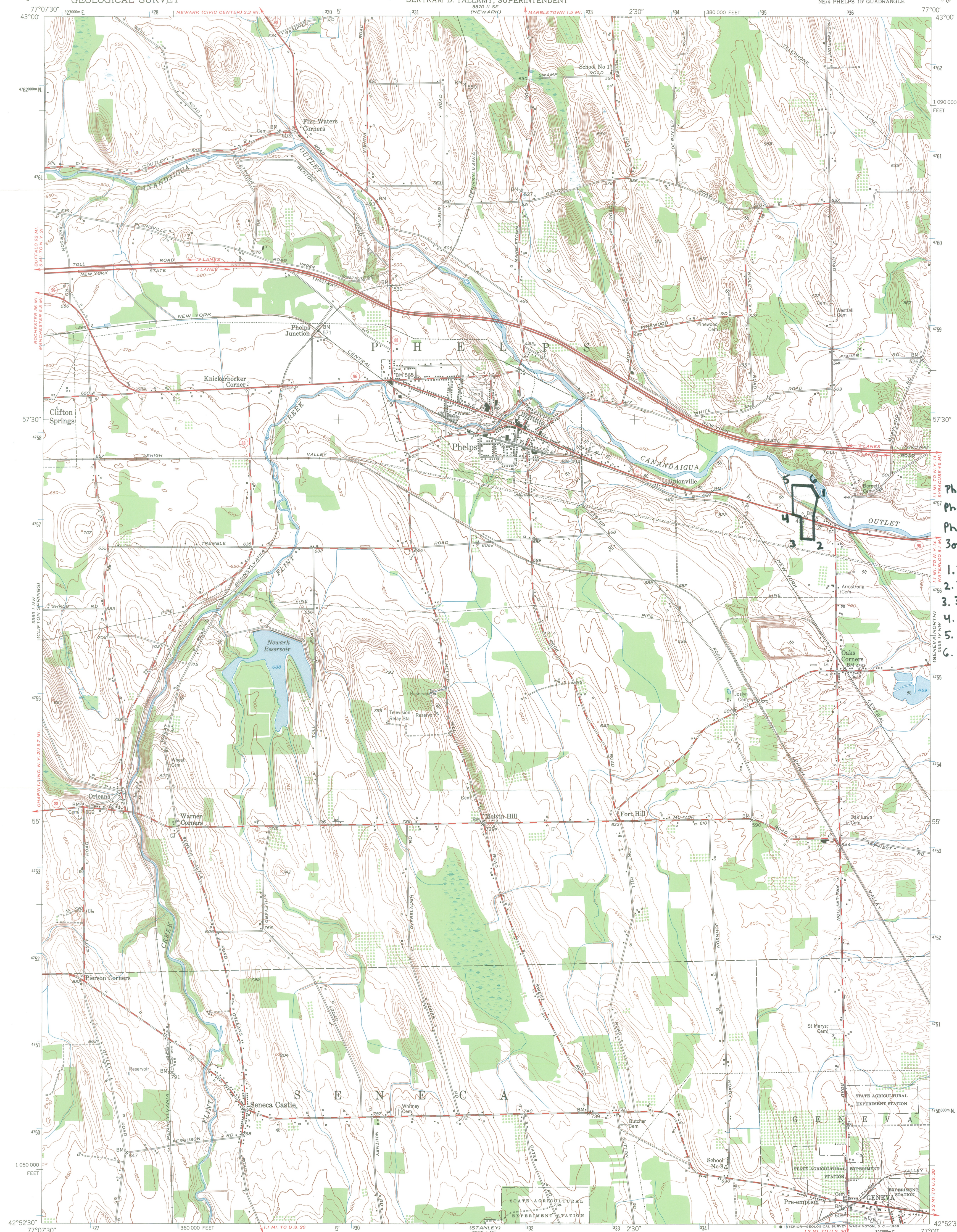
OPRHP

View: front (south) facade



Philetus Swift House
Pheps, Ontario Co.
Photo & Neg: N. Todd, 2004
OPRHP

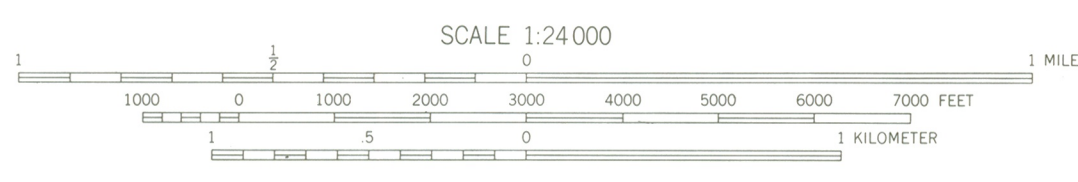
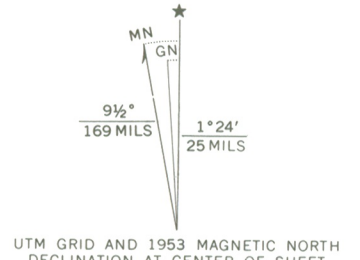
View: East elevations of main
block (1816) and side ell (1792)



Philetus Swift House
Phelps, Ontario County
Phelps Quad
Zone 18; 1:24,000

1. 335560/4757093
2. 335410/4756548
3. 335262/4756543
4. 335221/4756879
5. 335250/4757184
6. 335498/4757175

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by plane-table surveys 1952 and 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route State Route

PHELPS, N. Y.
NE/4 PHELPS 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7700/7.5

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, LANSING C. HOSKINS, am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)

SWIFT - SEAGER - HOSKINS House
(name of property if applicable)

866 RT. 96 PHELPS, N.Y. 14532

(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.

Lansing C. Hoskins

(signature and date)

1801 Chestnut Hills Dr. APT. 314
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH 44106-4619

(mailing address)

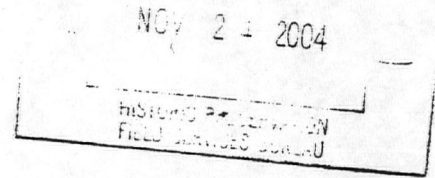
Donald Tiffany
1909 Melvin Hill Rd.
Phelps, NY 14532

Historic Preservation Services Bureau
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation &
Historic Preservation, Peebles Island
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

ATT: NANCY TODD

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Nancy,

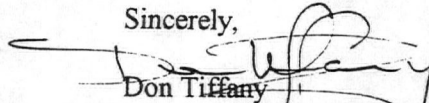


No other house or building in the Town of Phelps deserves to be listed on the National Register more than the Philetus Swift home now owned by the Hoskins family. Swift was a human dynamo. He was a State Assemblyman, State Senator, Lieutenant Governor (for a very short time), Ontario County Court Judge, a delegate to the New York State Constitutional Convention in 1821. He helped establish rural schools and was an early benefactor of Geneva College – now Hobart. He was an active and important Freemason and was named Grand Visitor from the New York Grand Lodge to the counties of Allegheny, Livingston and Ontario back when travel was difficult. He served in the War of 1812 and was called General Swift ever after.

And during this period he found the time to build a mill and, in 1816, his beautiful cut stone house.

His family moved away after his death and, in the late 19th century had his and his wife's remains removed from the Pioneer Cemetery in Phelps and re-interred in Webster.

Sincerely,


Don Tiffany
Town of Phelps Historian