

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

103



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 The Mexico Stone Store

other name/site number The Little Stone House

2. Location

street & number 3201 Main Street not for publication

city or town Mexico vicinity _____

state New York code NY county Oswego code 075 zip code 13114

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.)

Russell Purpont DST/PO 1/19/10
Signature of certifying official Title 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 Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 3-23-10

The Mexico Stone Store
Name of Property

Mexico, Oswego County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Mexico Multiple Resource Area

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: Cigar factory

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: grocery store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

foundation stone

walls stone

wood rear addition

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

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

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Little Stone House sits facing Main Street on the east side of the Salmon River in the village of Mexico. On the north (street-facing) elevation, the building is one story in height with a gabled roof. However, on the west elevation, the land slopes downward and the lower level is nearly completely exposed. At the rear of the building is a two-story frame extension that is the same height as the stone part of the building but is at grade at the rear because of the sloping terrain. The east side of the building is close to the adjacent property and has no openings. The south elevation in the frame addition has a gabled roof at the same height and pitch as the stone portion and is covered by a two-story porch.

The front of the building has a centered door flanked by two windows. There is a full-width concrete platform that replaced an earlier set of narrow steps that served the front door. On the west elevation are two windows on each level and on the south, the pattern of openings is similar to that of the front, with a door centered between two windows. Another window is present in the easternmost portion of the south wall.

The building is constructed of stone roughly dressed into ashlar units, perhaps as early as the late 1830s. The stone was quarried locally and appears to be bluestone. The walls of the building are more than 14 inches thick and the rear stone wall is nearly twice that thickness. The rear frame addition was constructed between 1907 and 1912 and is covered with asphalt shingles.

The windows flanking the front door contain two-over-two sash, as do the upper level windows of the west side and the rear. The one west window in the frame addition contains six-over-six sash, but the lower level windows of the west side contain twelve-over-twelve sash, suggesting that they may be original, given the early date of the building. The more northerly opening in the west side of the lower level is capped by a lintel that is approximately twice the width of the window, suggesting that this opening may have been altered as the building changed use or as the land surrounding the building was regraded.

On the interior of the upper level, the walls and ceilings are finished with plaster. The stone portion of the building is divided into two major spaces, each occupying the entire thirteen-foot width of the building. French doors connect these two rooms. In the frame addition, the space has been divided

Small narrow room with bathroom parallel to stone rear wall ; kitchen behind that; basement stairs on east side of kitchen; into a small room in the eastern portion of the addition, now serving as a bedroom, and the kitchen, which occupies the remaining portion of the wing. The entire length of the building is slightly more than twenty-four feet.

From the kitchen, the lower level is reached by a staircase with no risers and a plain railing. The lower level contains two bedrooms and a bathroom. The front portion of the lower level has a large bedroom

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

and the open ceiling reveals the seven-inch split logs that support the main level. There is no plaster on the walls of this room; the stone walls of the building are exposed.

The rear bedroom, housed in the rear half of the stone portion of the building, has walls that are covered with plaster, but like the front room, the timber joists of the main floor are exposed. At the rear of the bedroom is a doorway within the 27-inch rear wall and this room has also had two interior support posts installed in the middle of the room.

Visible in the frame addition is a large stone lintel above the doorway at the rear of the original building. The rear portion of the lower level is divided into several small rooms. Walls and ceilings are finished in plaster or wallboard.

The Mexico Stone Store
Name of Property

Mexico, Oswego 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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: cigar factory

COMMERCE: general store

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1830-1912

Significant Dates

C1830; c. 1890; 1912

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

The Mexico Stone Store
Name of Property

Mexico, Oswego County, New York
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

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

1 18 400816 4812607
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 Anthony Opalka
organization New York State Historic Preservation Office date October 2009
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name/title _____
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.

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mexico Stone Store is significant under criteria A and C as a rare surviving example of vernacular commercial architecture from the Oswego County's early nineteenth century settlement. Built of stone circa 1830, the small single story building is typical of utilitarian buildings erected in small towns during this period to house land offices, lawyer offices, doctor offices, grocers and dry goods merchants. Often, these buildings were located directly adjacent to the proprietor's house, although in this instance, the raised basement may have originally provided limited space for living quarters. In New York State and New England, these buildings typically include a gabled, three-bay center entrance façade and reflect the influence of the major architectural styles popular at the time of construction. Due to their small size and locations in the midst of growing commercial main streets, many of these buildings were replaced. Today, relatively few survive in New York State. Well preserved examples from the 1830s and 1840s remain in the National Register listed districts of South Worcester (1992), and Cooperstown (1980), both in Otsego County, New York. A prime example, the 1841 cobblestone Ontario and Livingston Mutual Insurance Office in Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York bears a strong resemblance to the Mexico store and is also listed on the National Register (2008).

The stone store is an excellent example of its type. Its balanced, gabled façade incorporates a doorway at the center and flanking windows with simple cut stone casings, sills and lintels. The walls are laid up in random fieldstone with small cut stone quoins defining the corners of the walls. The arrangement of casings used simultaneously for both door and windows and the configuration of window lintels resting upon the door lintel is unusual. The façade also features a relatively shallow pitched gable roof with raking cornices and small returns comprised of thin, early nineteenth century style moldings. Originally, the building included 12-over-12-light double-hung window sash, several of which remain in the basement story. These were replaced with two-over-two double hung sash between 1907 and 1912 when the building was extended to the rear as part of a conversion to residential use. The simple, rectangular handling of the lintels is typical of masonry buildings designed in the Greek Revival style, but the windows and moldings are more typical of buildings from the Federal period. The combination of these features was common in central New York State during the 1830s.

This period coincides with Mexico's earliest commercial development and also is reflected in the first two Historic Contexts of the Mexico Multiple Resource Area (National Register 1991), Settlement Period and Early Development of the Town of Mexico and Industrial Development in the Town of Mexico.

The Mexico area was late in being settled by European-Americans in part because of its lack of easy access by water and its harsh climate. In 1788, the State of New York acquired the land from the Onondaga tribe of the Iroquois, the last Native Americans to occupy the area, and a New York City merchant and land speculator named George Scriba purchased 500,000 acres, along with his

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

partners, in 1792 and began selling parcels to settlers in 1795. However, lack of easy access to the area, uncertainty regarding the presence of British soldiers as late as 1796 at the mouth of the Oswego River, and the unknown outcome of the War of 1812 prevented settlement from occurring quickly in the area. After these uncertainties were eliminated, mill sites were identified and roads to access them were constructed. Many such sites within the county were found around what became the village of Mexico.

Although mill sites are known to have existed in what is now the village of Mexico as early as 1803, no documented archeological sites nor standing buildings from that period were included in the Multiple Resource Area nomination due to lack of adequate documentation. .

The Mexico Stone Store is believed to represent Mexico's oldest surviving commercial building. Mexico, located on the Salmon River on the early road between Rome and Oswego, was settled in part to take advantage of these milling sites. The village also became a regional center for basic services, tradesmen and manufacturers, worship and education.

Later in the nineteenth century, the village of Mexico developed a commercial main street with brick Victorian period commercial blocks and a bank. The stone store was situated several blocks east of this development on the east or opposite bank of the river and remained in use. Little information could be gathered on the building's first occupants although a grocery is believed to have operated out of the building at some point in its past. Historic maps published in 1885, 1889 and 1890 identify the building as a cigar factory. A rectangular stain in the stone masonry centered above the front door is evidence of a signboard associated with the building's commercial history.

A frame addition to the building for living space was added between 1907 and 1912 and it is likely that this episode marked the end of the building's various commercial functions. The building remains in residential use today.

Affectionately referred to locally as Mexico's *little stone house*, the Stone Store represents a rare example of vernacular commercial architecture from the first half of the nineteenth century and an important touchstone of Mexico's earliest development as a community.

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Map of Mexico, 1854.

Oswego County Deeds.

Booklet: Railroad to Freedom, Mexico Historical Society, August 1979.

Mexico Multiple Resource Area Nomination, National Register of Historic Places, 1991.

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property boundary is outlined on the attached map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the boundary that is historically associated with the Little Stone House since the nineteenth century.

The Mexico Stone Store
Mexico, Oswego County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs

Photographs

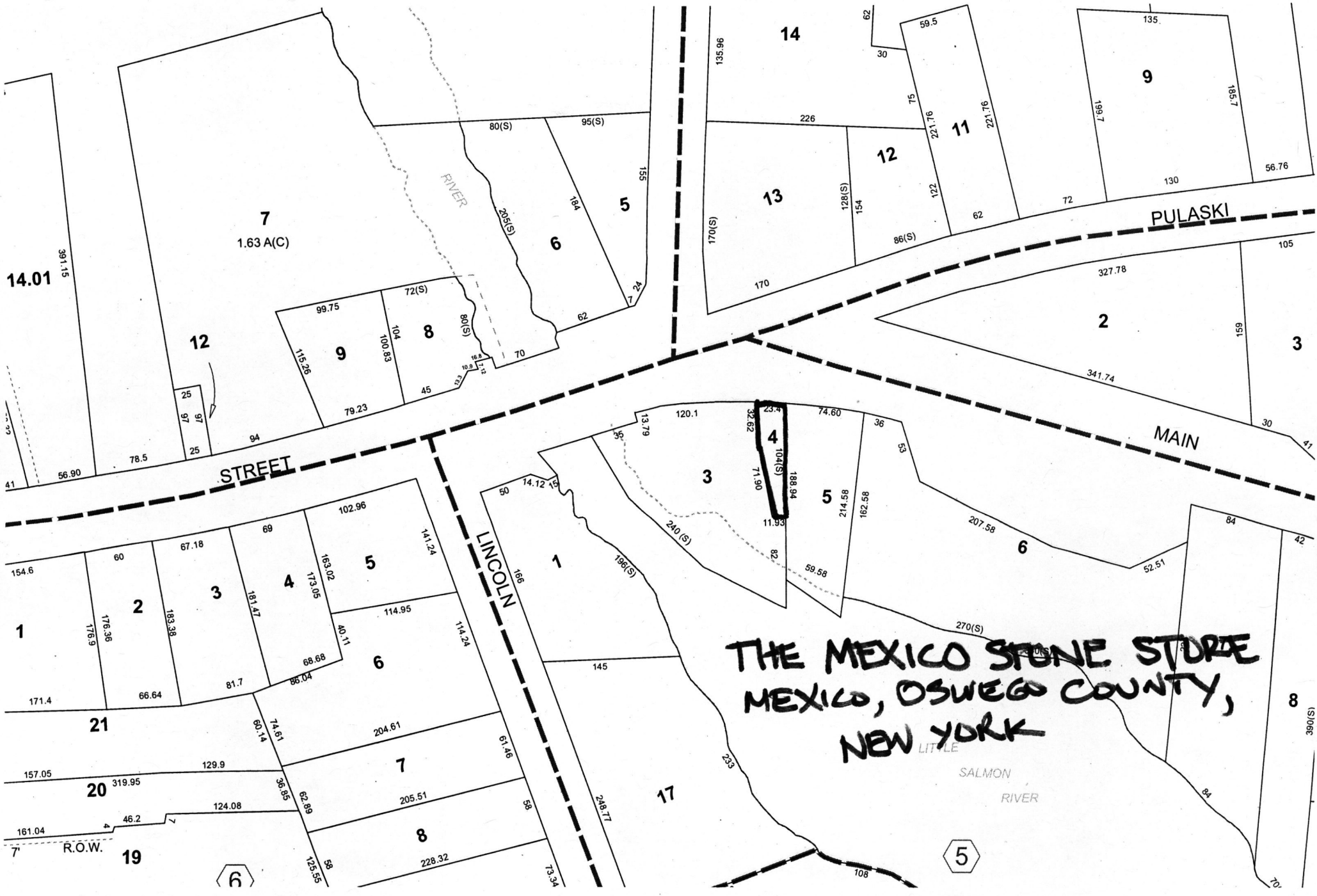
Photographer: John Corso, Owner
3201 Main Street
Mexico, New York 13114

Date: December 2008

Tiff Files: CD-R of .tiff files on file at
National Park Service
Washington, DC, and

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Pebbles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

1. Exterior, Façade, photographer facing south.
2. Exterior, Façade detail, photographer facing south.
3. Exterior, Façade detail, photographer facing south.
4. Exterior, south and west elevations, photographer facing southwest.
5. Exterior rear, photographer facing north.
6. Interior, first floor, photographer facing south.
7. Interior, first floor, photographer facing north.
8. Interior basement, photographer facing south.
9. Interior basement, photographer facing east.
10. Interior basement, photographer facing east.
11. Interior basement, photographer facing east.



THE MEXICO STORE
MEXICO, OSWEGO COUNTY,
NEW YORK

5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mexico Stone Store, The

MULTIPLE NAME: Mexico MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Oswego

DATE RECEIVED: 2/12/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/23/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/10/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/29/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000103

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 3-23-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

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.



LITTLESTONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #1



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, DANEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #2



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, WANECO. CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #3



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #4



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #5



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PAID \$6



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #7



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #8



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #9



LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO CO. N.Y.

PHOTO #10



CITY
OF
LAS CRUCES

COMMUNITY
PRIDE AWARD
1991



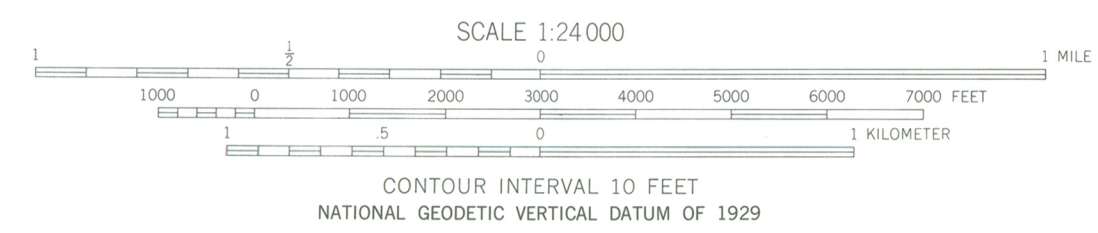
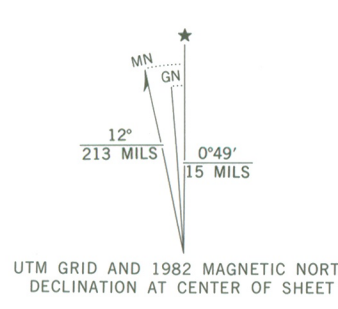
LITTLE STONE HOUSE
MEXICO, OSWEGO Co. N.Y.

PHOTO #11



THE MEXICO STONE
STORE
MEXICO, OSWEGO
COUNTY, NEW YORK
MEXICO QUAD
ZONE 18

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Tennessee Valley Authority
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by planetable surveys 1956
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on New York
coordinate system, central zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse
Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North
American Datum. To place on the predicted North American
Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and
26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This
information not field checked. Map edited 1982



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

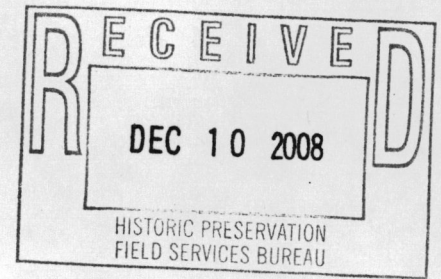
MEXICO, N. Y.
N4322.5—W7607.5/7.5
1956
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 5701 NW—SERIES 9821

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

James A. Hotchkiss
P.O. Box 63, Mexico, New York 13114

December 6, 2008

Mr. Anthony Opalka
Historic Preservation Analyst
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188



Dear Mr. Opalka,

It is my understanding that John Corso has nominated his house, the "Little Stone House" located at 3201 Main Street in Mexico for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. I am not sure why his property and others to the West of the Little Salmon River were not included when the National Historic District was designated. There are other ~~objects~~ that fit the criteria within that area of Main Street.

It is important to the Village and Town of Mexico that the buildings deserving of a historic designation are included in the National Register of Historic Places. These are very important pieces of our history and they are in need of preservation. Our future is made up of our past and we need to learn from our past to prepare for that future.

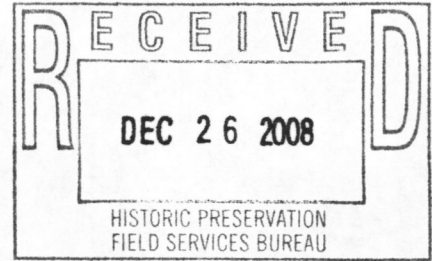
I am sure that Dr. Corso has provided you with the historical story of the "Little Stone House" and that that history is worthy of the requested designation. I and others in the Mexico Historical Society and the Village of Mexico heartily support the proposed designation.

I can be reached at the below listed telephone number or E-mail address if you have any questions or would like to discuss this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James A. Hotchkiss".

James A. Hotchkiss



December 15, 2008

Mr. Anthony Opalka
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 189
Waterford, New York, 12188

Dear Mr. Opalka,

Mexico is a very small village with a Main Street just eight blocks from one end to the other. Big Corporations think their businesses have to be on this main street, so every year the people who live here see another old home give-way to a parking lot as a business moves in.

It is nice to have some of our residents interested in preserving the beauty of the village and the integrity of the historic buildings found here. The Little Stone House is one of the older buildings on Main Street and it would be appropriate to reward Dr. and Mrs. Corso for their efforts and interest by granting them the honor of making The Little Stone House a component of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,


Bonnie Shumway, Mexico Historian

P. O. Box 357

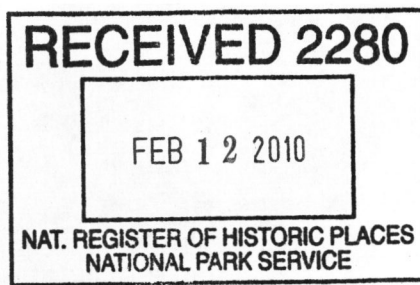
Mexico, New York 13114

cc; Dr. and Mrs. Corso



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com



David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

February 4, 2010

Ms. Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW
8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Transmittal of National Register
Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to transmit three new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register as follows:

Oswego Yacht Club, Oswego Co., NY (City of Oswego MPDF)

Brosemer Brewery, Oswego Co., NY (City of Oswego MPDF)

The Mexico Stone Store, Mexico, Oswego Co., NY

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call on me at 518-237-8643 ext. 3258 if any questions arise.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Peckham
National Register
Program Coordinator

enclosures