

1061

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 John Smith Farm

other names/site number Slate Creek Farm

2. Location

street & number 1059 State Highway 80  not for publication

city or town Hallsville  vicinity

state New York code NY county Montgomery code 057 zip code 13339

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.

Rachel Peypont DB/TPO 12/8/11  
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:) \_\_\_\_\_

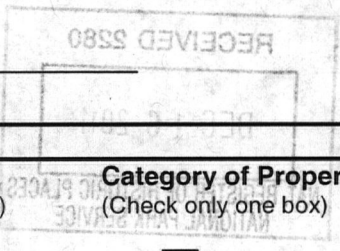
for Signature of the Keeper Alyssa Oberholtz Date of Action 1-31-12

John Smith Farm

Name of Property

Montgomery 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.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, Italian Villa

foundation Stone

walls Brick, Wood

roof Rubber

other

Narrative Description

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

See continuation Sheet

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CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

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## Description

### Setting

The John Smith Farm occupies a large parcel on the both sides of State Highway 80/Cooperstown Road in the town of Minden, Montgomery County, New York. The basic path of the road follows a prehistoric trail along the uplands of the Otsquago Creek, an area locally renowned as the "Little Mohawk Valley" for its fertile fields, undulating ridges and high foothills. With few minor exceptions the road follows the same route that it did when the house was constructed. The house and farm are part of a very large farm complex built up by the Smith family over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including the farm manager's house. The nomination includes large portions of the former farm—tilled fields, meadows, pasturelands and woodlands. Buildings and structures included in the nomination are the main house, a large dairy barn, a carriage house and granary, a chicken coop, a corn crib, a hog pen and a scale house (for weighing wagonloads of agricultural produce). Each building will be described separately.

### Main House (c1834, modified c1860-70, contributing)

The farmhouse is a two-block masonry building with a rear frame service block. The main house is currently configured as a two and a half-story, three-bay, flat-roof form connected to a two and a half-story, two-bay wing at a jog; the whole creates a rectangular mass with five bays across the main façade. Brickwork on the upper half story of the main block and the upper story and half-story of the wing is actually non-structural cladding over wood sheathing and framing, indicating the two blocks were raised to their current height. Both blocks are integrated at the foundation and lower story levels and rest on a foundation of squared cut-limestone blocks laid in regular courses. The service block is timber-framed, sheathed in wooden clapboards, and has a flat roof in the same plane as the main block, but because of a slope it is only two stories in height. All three block share a rubber membrane roof.

#### *Main (north) elevation, main block and side wing:*

Fenestration on the main façade is regular and maintains symmetry around a center entrance and two flanking bays. The main elevation has a clear emphasis on the front door which is fully trabeated and robustly treated. The door itself is a four paneled wooden door flanked by  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sidelights. The surrounding enclosure features a deep recess with moulded pilasters with ogee-profiled capitals, a moulded projecting cornice in wood, and a sawn-stone lintel in the masonry wall; the whole surround is surmounted by a hipped-roofed hood supported by elaborate scroll-sawn brackets. All nine main window openings on the elevation (four lighting the lower and five lighting the upper) hold double-hung, 2/2 wood-sash windows with projecting cut-stone sills and large cut-stone lintels. Other ornamentation includes a wide frieze band adorned with three-light frieze windows, decorative wooden panels and elaborate ornamental scroll-sawn brackets supporting the roof overhang. Surmounting the foundation is a cut-stone water table that incorporates the jog between the two blocks.

#### *East elevation, main block:*

The main block is double-pile in form and the east elevation presents regular and symmetrical fenestration. Double-hung, 2/2 wood-sash windows with projecting cut-stone sills and large cut-stone lintels light each room of each story, four in total. Rectangular windows and frieze band windows light the basement and upper half-story, respectively; they are aligned with the openings on the main stories.

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*West elevation, main block and wing:*

Fenestration on the west elevation is asymmetrical, with two window openings lighting the rear bay at the main floor, the second story and the upper-half-story frieze windows. This lighting configuration does not reflect an interior arrangement on the first floor, which is double pile, but does light a hall on the upper full-story and a small hall in the attic half-story. Three windows on the upper full-story are the same 2/2 type already described, but the three on the lower story are double-hung, 6/6 wood-sash windows—all six are set into surrounds already described. Despite the fact that the upper half story of the main block and wing appear to be later additions, the stone lintels and sills all visibly match in terms of size, material and saw marks.

*Rear block*

Fenestration, ornamentation and framing in the rear block, along with interior finishes, indicate the block is contemporary with the 1860-70ss modifications to the house. The rear block is two stories in height, three bays wide and two bays deep. Projecting off the block are four step-down blocks, each a single story. The two-story portion has double-hung 6/6 wood sash windows set into moulded wooden surrounds lighting the main floors. Other openings consist of two rectangular wood-framed windows, set just below the frieze band, lighting the attic on the east, two three-light rectangular windows set into the frieze band of the rear elevation and two three-light rectangular windows lighting the attic on west elevation. Ornamentation includes a wide frieze band adorned with decorative wooden panels and elaborate ornamental scroll-sawn brackets supporting the roof overhang on the east elevation and northeast corner only; this matches that described on the main block except it lacks the frieze band windows. The roofline of the rear block has been extended vertically with a non-structural element to include this decorative feature. On the rear is a wide frieze band without roof brackets. The rear and west elevation of the frame block lack the decorative roof overhang. The step downs include an enclosed basement stair hall and three cantilevered blocks.

On the east elevation, in the 90° between the rear frame block and the masonry wing, is a single-story, frame projecting bay covering a side entrance. This projection is ornamented with a frieze band, roof overhang and decorative brackets that are similar to those already described on the brick and frame blocks. It is clad in wooden clapboards and rests on cut limestone block foundation. Openings include a wood door with recessed panels and 6/6 wood-sash windows with paneled aprons underneath. The roofline of the projecting bay is flat and accommodates a small second-story porch accessed via a wooden door from an interior chamber.

*Interior*

On the interior of the first story, the house presents a double-pile plan of four unequally-sized rooms arranged around a central stair hall/entry foyer. The three-bay block contains a parlor and dining room; the two-bay wing has a second parlor and a small chamber and includes a hall connected to the east entrance. Finishes vary by block. In the three-bay, brick main block, they consist of wide wood floors, lath and plaster walls and ceilings, and moulded window and door surrounds. As is customary, the mouldings in the public rooms are particularly fine with moulded architraves and ogee-profiled baseboard. The large double doors between the dining room and parlor features a center rectangular-shaped beveled panel, or "diamond panel."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> According to Asher Benjamin's Practice of architecture: Containing the five orders of architecture, and an additional column and entablature, with all their elements and details explained and illustrated, for the use of carpenters and practical men: "In other words, the panel is intended to project forwards in the centre to a right line with the stiles and rails, and from that point to incline on a straight line, and on each of its four sides, to the thickness of the other panels, at its termination against the groove which separates it from the mouldings."

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In the two-bay brick block, finishes consist of wide varnished wood floors, beaded baseboards and moulded wooden window and door surrounds with extremely finely painted *faux bois* decoration. Ceilings and walls in this portion are lath and plaster. In the rear service block walls and floors are varnished tongue and groove and ceilings are varnished beadboard. This block holds two indoor privies, set inside one of the cantilevered step downs, an historic washroom with a built-in copper tub, an historic kitchen with a cast-iron stove, an historic butler's pantry with built-ins, a dumbwaiter and a dry-goods pantry. Completing the floorplan on the first floor of the service block is a large room with its own door into the side entrance hall. The side entrance has *faux bois* painted walls and a large bush-hammered limestone threshold. The stair hall holds a curvilinear stair, painted in the same fine *faux bois* decoration on the stringer. The stair itself has turned balusters, varnished risers and a turned wooden newel with an inset ivory medallion.

On the upper story, finishes also differ by block. In the three-bay brick main block, there are two chambers and small, non-historic bathroom. Walls and ceilings are lath and plaster, and the floors are wide tongue and groove plank. Trimwork consists of moulded door and window surrounds and beaded baseboard. Doors in this portion are wooden, six-paneled with iron hardware. The two-bay brick block has a single chamber and stair hall accessing the upper half-story. The two-bay portion of the brick block and the rear service have similar materials and ornamentation. Floors are unvarnished tongue and groove; there are lath and plaster ceilings and walls, the latter usually papered. Door and windows surrounds are varnished and several door openings are surmounted by hopper-action transom lights. There are four small chambers in the frame service wing, connected by narrow hallways. There is also a rear service stair that directly accesses the kitchen.

The attic half story spaces in the main block are have plank floor, lath and plaster walls and ceilings, beaded baseboards and simple moulded door surrounds. The basement includes finished workrooms rooms with plastered walls and stone floors. A bake oven and fireplace are still extant in one room, along with a cistern.

### **Outbuildings**

#### **Carriage House and Granary (c1834, contributing):**

The carriage house is a large two-story, rectangular frame structure, clad with wood clapboards. It rests on a cut limestone block foundation and has a front-facing gable roof pierced by two small air-vent cupolas. Windows are double-hung, 6/6 wood sash with simple wooden surrounds. Fenestration is four regularly-placed windows on each of the long elevations (two lighting each floor) and two lighting the upper stories on the gable ends. Each of the gable ends also has a pair of large vertical plank wooden doors on a sliding iron track and smaller, vertical plank doors to the side. The interior of the ground-level story is unfinished except for wide plank floors. The upper story has large grain storage bins and a large trapdoor near the gable end. The building has a half-height basement because it is set into a slope; the space is unfinished.

#### **Dairy Barn and attached silo (circa 1834, modified c 1910, contributing):**

The dairy barn at the John Smith farm is a massive, three-story gambrel-roofed frame building clad in wooden novelty siding. In its massing, the barn has a center portion set on a limestone foundation and two wings on poured concrete pads. The lowest story is set for milking with wooden stalls, troughs for waste and a concrete floor. The upper story can be accessed via a banked roadway that connects to a large door. The interior consists of a large unimproved space for hay and vehicle storage. There are two shed-roofed milk-houses attached to the rear. The

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whole rests on a cut limestone foundation. Exposed framing reveals a combination of post and beam timber members and a large plank and truss system. The barn is attached to a 35' foot aggregate-formed tile silo parged and banded by 1" steel adjustable rods. The barn is set to the rear (south) of the main house.

**Chicken Coop (nineteenth century, contributing):**

A tall, rectangular chicken coop is situated to the rear of the main house, near the dairy barn. The building is one-and-half stories tall and constructed of timber framing clad with wooden clapboards. It is covered by front-facing gable roof. On the interior the walls are unfinished, and the floor has wide wooden planks. There are no vertical floor divisions on the inside, but there is an upper gallery space accessed with a ladder.

**Corn Crib, (nineteenth century, contributing):**

The corn crib is a small single-story, single-room, frame building with inwardly-sloping, slated walls. The corn crib is north of the dairy barn and house, to the rear of the property near the creek.

**Hog Pen (nineteenth century, contributing):**

East of the corn crib is a hog pen with a gable roof, which is clad in standing seam metal. The building is constructed of girded wooden poles with is external sheathing.

**Scale House (nineteenth century, contributing):**

At the northeast end of the lot is a two-story, timber-framed, front gable-roofed scale house. The building has large outwardly swinging door on each of the gable ends and a large scale set into the floor. The scale is labeled "Moline Plow Company pitless." The building is sheathed in wooden clapboards and set on a dry laid stone foundation.

*Other Houses*

**House at 1069 State Highway 80 (late 20<sup>th</sup> century, non-contributing):**

West of the carriage house is a non-historic dwelling that replaced an earlier farmhouse. The current structure is a single-story ranch house with an attached garage and covered carport.

**Farm Manager's House at 1084 State Highway 80 (19<sup>th</sup> c, contributing):**

The farm manger's house is a two-story, three-bay, side-gable roofed building west of the intersection of State Highway 80 and County Highway 71. The house is of frame construction, clad in wooden clapboards covered by asbestos faux brick shingles on some elevations. It rests on a stone foundation, parged with concrete on elevations above the slope; it is covered by an asphalt shingle roof. Windows appear to be replacement non-historic vinyl 1/1 set into moulded wooden surrounds; the historic fenestration pattern has not been altered. The front (south) elevation currently has a partially enclosed entry porch.

John Smith farm

Name of Property

Montgomery 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 Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

**Period of Significance**

c1834-1961

**Significant Dates**

1834, c1865

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Smith Farm**

Name of Property

**Montgomery County, New York**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of property** 199 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				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 Travis Bowman, Historic Preservation Program Analyst  
organization New York State Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation date August, 2011  
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3259  
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 John & Maryanne Valentine  
street & number 244 Maple Ave telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Smithtown state NY zip code 11787

**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.

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### Significance

The John Smith farm is architecturally significant as an intact and locally distinguished example of domestic architecture with an associated grouping of agriculture-related buildings. The initial house, likely constructed in the 1830s, was characteristic of regional building practices and local adaptations of fashionable Greek Revival vocabularies during the mid-nineteenth century in rural New York. The brick dwelling was finished in classical detailing directly inspired by the works of Asher Benjamin, the author of influential carpenter's guides of the period. Surviving Greek Revival influences include the front door casing, the curvilinear stair and sophisticated interior mouldings. The house underwent a major expansion and renovation in the 1860s or 70s, when it was updated to the then-fashionable Italianate style; the roofline was flattened and given an overhang supported by scroll-sawn brackets, upper half stories were added, exceptional painted *faux bois* decoration was applied to the interior woodwork in the wing and rear addition, and a full domestic suite was included via a rear addition. A compelling factor of significance for the property is the intact domestic spaces, which are of an extremely fine quality and a rare surviving resource in their original Victorian configuration and finishes.

The Smith farm is historically significant for agriculture as an intact assemblage of nineteenth and early twentieth century farm buildings set in a highly-intact rural setting of pastures, woodlands and tilled fields. Set on a pastoral road where the route hasn't changed substantially since the colonial era, the farm and land embody distinctive characteristics of a wealthy farm in the region. Both the initial construction (c1834) and the subsequent enlargement (c1860-70) incorporated decorative finishes, design elements and building forms that reflected the wealth and status achieved by the Smith family at the time. Taken further, the large, expensive alternation to the John Smith house attests to the fact that the family's dairy and hop farming operations were quite successful and that John was among the wealthiest farmers in the area. The large number of surviving outbuildings, including the rare surviving scale house, the large granary bins on the upper floor of the carriage house and the massive dairy barn complex are all visible evidence that the Smiths were involved in large-scale commercial and mercantile farming activities.

Because the Smith family owned the land and operated the farm until 2003, the period of significance (c1834-1961) has been framed to include the probable construction date to an arbitrary 50 year cut-off.

### Architectural significance:

A review of historic records indicates John Smith moved to the town of Minden in 1834, when he left the nearby village of Starkville, Herkimer County, NY (less than two miles from the nominated house). A c1834 date corroborates details seen on the house, notably the Greek Revival entryway and mouldings, the evidence of a wooden frieze band on a portion of the main block, the form and massing of the three-bay main block, and angled bricks seen in the jog where the two brick blocks meet, indicating a peaked roof (see continuation sheet). Based on the physical evidence, it's likely the original John Smith house (prior to the additions) was a three-bay, two-story, gable-roofed brick dwelling with a one and a half story dependency. This is based on the obvious visible differences in brick and mortar color and texture seen on the veneering, the integrated foundation, the matching lintels and sills and traditional regional building forms of the 1830s. It is unknown if Smith purchased the home or had it constructed. The builder of the house has not been indentified, but he was clearly highly-skilled and conversant in Greek Revival vocabularies popularized in carpenters' guides, notably the works of Asher Benjamin (*The Practical House Carpenter and The Builder's Guide*).

These classical elements were part of a larger movement that was dominating American architecture at the time.

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Admiration for the Greek war of independence (1821-30) coupled with a loss of interest in British influence after the War of 1812, led American architects to seek new inspirations. Classical forms had been emphasized in the United States since the eighteenth century, and archaeological investigations in the early nineteenth century led to the discovery of a myriad of new forms, motifs and details. For example, the Smith house had a peaked roof and cornice line emphasized by a band of trim, which represents the classical entablature.<sup>2</sup> The elaborate, fully trabeated entrance is clearly influenced from a plate published in Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830), specifically Plate XXVIII "Design for a Front Door Case" (see continuation sheet). The interior parlor and dining room mouldings are likewise vernacular interpretations of the "Diamond Plate" detail from Plate XXV of Benjamin's *Practice of architecture: Containing the five orders of architecture* (1833) and Plate XLVIII Benjamin's *The Architect* (see continuation sheet). Other surviving details of the Greek Revival period include six panel doors in the upper chambers, the bake oven in the basement of the wing (likely the wing was the service before the rear addition was put on), ogee-profiled bases on the parlor and dining room mouldings, beaded baseboard, the curvilinear stair, several 6/6 wood sash windows, and the ivory inset medallion in the Greek Revival styled newel; materials are all consistent with the period including wide plank floors, lath and plaster ceilings and walls (though most have been papered).

The house underwent major renovations sometime before 1878, when an image of it in its current configuration was published in F.W. Beer's *History of Montgomery and Fulton counties, N.Y. : with illustrations and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents* (see continuation sheet). When the house was expanded, it was updated to the fashionable Italianate style. Both the three-bay main block and the wing were raised to a full two and half stories by means of a brick veneer over timber-framing (see continuation sheet). The roofline was flattened, given an overhang with a wide frieze band punctuated by windows, panels and ornate scroll sawn brackets were added to appear to support the roof. Examination of the rear elevation shows that the Italianate cornice on the side elevations is purely a parapet wall forming an ornamental false front as it extends well above the actual roofline; the effect is convincing from the ground level. With the addition of the upper stories and half-stories the house became more of a visual representation of single block with a box or cube form. The effect was an imposing, fashionable Italianate residence rather than an older, Greek Revival massing of an upright and wing. On the interior, the house reflects the tastes of the Italianate as well. Exceptional painted *faux bois* graining was applied to practically every wood surface on the interior in the wing and rear addition, even to some of the earlier, six panel doors; special attention was paid to the stair hall—the stringers and wooden interior walls were all faux grained. Floors were varnished and beadboard ceilings were added to several spaces. In plan the wing, likely the service in the 1830s configuration, became a second parlor on the first floor, chambers above. The creation of a double-parlor plan was more in keeping with Victorian tastes and social conventions, which called for independent spaces with more specialized and identifiable functions. In keeping with this trend, the Smith house including the addition of a full domestic suite in the rear addition.

A compelling factor of significance for the property is the intact domestic spaces, which are of an extremely fine quality and a rare surviving resource in their original nineteenth century configuration and finishes. The spaces include a kitchen, a butler's pantry complete with a dumb waiter, two internal privies, a washroom with a copper tub, a rear service stair and storage/pantry spaces. The rooms are exceptionally ornamented with varnished floors, varnished tongue and groove walls, varnished beadboard ceilings and moulded surrounds. The rooms were considered so fine, and so rare, that the New York State Historical Association offered to buy the complete rooms

<sup>2</sup> Virginia and Lee McAllister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (Alfred Knopf: New York), 1998, 179.

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from the Smith descendants in the 1940s for reassembly as a display at the Farmers Museum in Cooperstown, NY. The service included servant's quarters on the upper floors as well. While these spaces may be distinguished from the main, family quarters by narrow hallways, they are still highly treated in Victorian finishes. The rooms feature varnished surrounds, papered ceilings and walls (over lath and plaster), doors with hopper transoms, varnished baseboard and tongue and groove floors. Other changes likely included the papering of several rooms and possibly the removal of the fireplaces and mantles (there are none extant). The addition of upper stories and changing of the house's form would have presented an opportunity to upgrade to parlor stoves and may account for the lack of any fireplaces in the house. Census records for the house show farm laborers enumerated in the house in 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900 (Federal census records are not extant for New York in 1890). There are also household domestic servants listed in 1880, 1920 and 1930; the 1892 New York State Census does not enumerate specific heads of household, but it would appear that the Smiths had a domestic servant living in the house at that time as well.

The Italianate style was popular in the Mohawk Valley from the late 1850s until the early 1880s as the region prospered in response to increased demand for its agricultural products (specifically dairy products and hops) and from its position on major trade routes like the Erie Canal and several turnpikes which linked steam service on the Hudson River and Great Lakes and ultimately the Atlantic seaboard. The style itself emerged from the earlier English Picturesque movement that rejected the rigid rules of symmetry and proportion espoused by classicism, and looked to both nature and the architecture of the past for beauty, unevenness and diversity. In searching for irregularity in the forms and vocabularies of historical architecture, proponents of the new aesthetic found inspiration in the rural and informal examples of residential architecture seen in the sprawling villas and farmhouses of Italy which had grown by accretion over centuries rather than as planned designs. Italianate became a generic term for the pattern book style introduced to American tastes through seminal pattern books like Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences* and *Architecture of Country Houses* and Samuel Sloan's *The Model Architect*, which popularized formal house forms and decorative elements that were within the capability of most experienced builders of the time. By the 1830s, Picturesque cottages and Italian villas began to compete with Greek temple fronts and formal post-Palladian houses modernized with Greek details.<sup>3</sup> After the Civil War, a profusion of new money and architectural commissions coupled with a wider understanding, studying and publishing of European antecedents led to a Victorian era where designers, architects and pattern-book authors promoted a revival and reinterpretation of medieval and classical sources, freely mixed together in a style which is most properly described as highly eclectic. The Mohawk Valley was no exception to this trend, and both middling and wealthy farmers looked to the Italianate style for their fashionable new residences.

### Agriculture on the Smith Farm

The Smith family immigrated to the region sometime in the late eighteenth century. Historical sources claim the first-generation, Johannes Smith, was either a soldier of the French and Indian War or a paroled Hessian mercenary from the Revolutionary War, but most agree he settled in the Otsquago Valley around 1780.<sup>4</sup> When he settled there,

<sup>3</sup> Henry Russell-Hitchcock, *Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Penguin Books: New York, NY, 1985 reprint), 356.

<sup>4</sup> Washington Frothingham, *History of Montgomery County: embracing early discoveries, the advance of civilization, the labors and triumphs of Sir William Johnson, the inception and development of manufactures: with town and local records, also military achievements of Montgomery patriots.* (D. Mason & Co.: Syracuse, N.Y., 1892). <http://www.archive.org/details/historyofmontgom02frot> Accessed August, 2011; George Anson Hardin, *History of Herkimer County, New York: Illustrated with portraits of many of its citizens* (D. Mason & Co.: Syracuse, N.Y., 1893). <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>. Accessed August, 2011. Warren Hawn, "The Town of Stark" February 11, 1905. Published in, Arthur T Smith, ed., *Papers Read Before the Herkimer County Historical Society Covering the Period From September 1902 to May 1914, Volume 3* (Citizen Press: Herkimer, NY, 1914). <http://herkimer.nygenweb.net/stark/starkprofile.html>. Accessed August, 2011; Nathaniel Soley Benton, *A history of Herkimer County: including the Upper Mohawk Valley: from the earliest period to the present time: with a brief notice of the Iroquois Indians, the early German tribes, the Palatine immigrations into the colony of New York, and biographical sketches of the Palatine families, the patentees of Burnetsfield in the year 1725*

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Johannes Smith was among the earliest settlers of Starkville, Herkimer County, NY—less than two miles west of the nominated house.<sup>5</sup> His grandson John Smith was born in 1806, and, according to the sources, operated a store, mercantile business, hotel and tavern in Starkville. John's father Frederick appears to have owned Lot 1 of the McNeil Patent, which directly bordered Montgomery County; the boundary of Lot 1 would have terminated only a few hundred yards from John Smith's lands. In 1834 John Smith and his wife moved to Minden, where he took up farming and operated a distillery, a grist mill and a saw mill. As noted, it is unknown if John Smith purchased an extant house at that time or he had the current structure built.

### Cheese

Examination of extant historic records provides data about relative wealth and tools for analyzing activities that took place on the nominated property. The 1860 US Federal census enumerated John Smith's household with several of his family members, but also three day laborers and Maury Hines, a cheese-maker. Smith's personal property and real estate property was almost \$19,000 (in 1860 dollars), well above the other six farmers enumerated on the census near him. The other farmers enumerated adjacent to John averaged about \$10,000 in real estate and property, so John is almost double that of his neighbors. While the sample size is much too small to be considered statically accurate, the names on the census can be matched with an 1853 map of the town by Geil and Hunter to show that these numbers at least generally reflect the economic status of Smith and his immediate neighbors. Smith's neighbors who did not list their profession as farmers were recorded in the census with much lower personal property and real estate assets (partially a reflection of smaller landholdings of course) but are included by way of a comparison. Three neighboring carpenters listed their assets at \$700, \$200 and \$1,100; a shoemaker listed his at \$700 and a physician was listed at \$3,500. The heads of households who listed laborer (day laborer or farm laborer) as their occupation averaged only \$675. Only two households near Smith were comparable in terms of combined assets: Charles Walrath, whose farm and personal assets were valued at \$15,500, and Lyman Minor, a cheese buyer, who listed \$13,400 in assets. Looking at the census data reveals two of the three wealthiest individuals (Smith and Minor) in the immediate area were involved in cheese production. While not evident from the census, in fact the Walraths were dairy farmers as well. Hamilton Child's 1869 *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Montgomery County, N.Y.* listed occupation as well as farm acreage. The Walraths are listed in the directory as dairymen with 80 cows and about 500 acres of land; John Smith and his son Robert are also listed as dairymen with almost 500 acres of land, so the two farms were comparable. Without refrigeration technology, milk itself could never be a suitable export, but cheese production was quickly recognized as a stable cash crop.

According to published nineteenth-century histories, cheese making in the region began when Nathan Arnold arrived in Herkimer County shortly after the American Revolution and began producing cheese sometime around 1800. In the 1820s, a Little Falls businessman named Harry Burrell began a prosperous cheese export business, buying cheeses from Mohawk and Schoharie valley farmers and shipping them to New York City and, later, Philadelphia. By the end of the decade, Harry Burrell was the first American merchant shipping cheese to England, gaining the region an international reputation as a quality cheese producing region. In response to this growing demand, the 1850s saw the birth of the "cheese factory" idea, where farmers could bring their milk to a centralized location and have an expert produce a more uniform, quality cheese. By 1875, there were 500 cheese factories in New York State. Higher product quality led to more consistent prices, and the construction phase of the nominated

: also biographical notices of the most prominent public men of the county : with important statistical information. (J. Munsell: Albany, NY 1856).  
<http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>. Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> A. Ross Eckler, "The McNeil Patent In reference to the original lot lines of the McNeil Patent in the southern part of the Town of Stark, An Original Essay"  
<http://herkimer.nygenweb.net/stark/mcneilpatent.html> Accessed August, 2010.

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farmstead was likely in response to cheese. Both Daniel and his brother Andrew were noted as being “dairymen” in the 1869 business directory for the county, and the large additions on the nominated barns show a clear adaption for dairy farming. In his 1860 *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York*, French recorded that New York produced 38 million pounds of cheese annually and that more dairy products (cheese and butter) were made in Minden than any other town in the county with an aggregate of more than 675,000 pounds.

John Smith and his descendants were heavily involved in dairying. As noted, Smith had a cheese-maker living in his household in 1860, and he was listed in nineteenth century business directories as a dairyman. According to an 1877 *Gloversville Intelligencer and Republican* article, Smith was also president of the association that operated the local cheese factory:

Last Sunday evening shortly before ten o'clock a fire broke out in the Hallsville cheese factory...and despite the efforts of the neighbors the factory building with all of its contents, and an ice house adjoining were totally consumed. The loss is estimated at \$3,600...There were 77 cheese [sic] valued at \$500 in the factory on which there was no Insurance, also several milk cans and other articles belonging to the patrons.— The factory had been in successful operation for fourteen years [1863], and was owned by an association, of which Mr. John Smith was President. The theory which most accept is that the fire was of incendiary origin.<sup>6</sup>

Another fire affected the Smith farm in 1886. A worker dropped a lit pipe match while harvesting hay and ignited a fire, which quickly spread and destroyed three large loads of hay. Milk cans full of water were brought over to extinguish it. No one was hurt, and the buildings were not affected, but it documents that John Smith was growing hay/animal feed on the farm and had several workers in his employ.<sup>7</sup> As noted, the 1860, 1870 and 1880 New York State censuses for the John Smith farm all enumerated farm laborers living in John's household.

### Hops

While cheese remained a lucrative cash crop through most of the nineteenth century, Mohawk Valley farmers slowly lost ground to Midwest dairy farmers. Luckily, many farmers in central New York had found an even more lucrative agricultural pursuit—the large-scale growing and processing of hops. The Smith farm is squarely in a region known historically as New York's “hop belt” (encompassing Otsego, Chenango, Madison, Oneida, Montgomery, and Schoharie Counties), which fed demand from a rapidly growing number of American breweries from about 1850 to 1900. According to historian G. William Beardslee in his article “When Hops Were King,” by 1879 central New York was producing 20 million pounds of hops annually, providing a full two-thirds of the amount being consumed by the domestic brewing industry at the time.<sup>8</sup> Hops proved astoundingly lucrative. Although the price could jump wildly from as low 15¢ a pound to as high as a \$1 a pound, it usually rounded out to 25-35¢ per pound. At about 600 pounds average per acre in New York, the yield could be equal to \$50,000/acre in 2010 purchasing power.<sup>9</sup> Specialized structures, alternatively known as hop barns, hop houses or hop kilns, were developed to dry and process the crop, and according to Beardslee, can be generally dated relative to their design. Beardslee noted the

<sup>6</sup> *Gloversville Intelligencer and Republican*, 10 April, 1877. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> *The Otsego Farmer*, 17 July, 1886. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>8</sup> G. William Beardslee, “When Hops Were King” *New York State Archives*. Volume 6, Number 2 (Fall 2006) [http://www.archives.nysed.gov/apt/magazine/archivesmag\\_fall06.shtml](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/apt/magazine/archivesmag_fall06.shtml).

<sup>9</sup> Comparing dollar figures or purchasing power from different decades or centuries is inexact at best. The figure was arrived at by means of a system developed by economists Lawrence H. Officer and Samuel H. Williamson. \$600/acre \* \$0.35 = \$210 in 1870 dollars. Using the converter to calculate nominal GDP per capita (GDP divided by Population) the rough purchasing power of the \$210 dollars in 1870 is \$50,700.00 in 2010. on [www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/](http://www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/) Accessed August, 2011

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earliest designs were low barns with minimal ventilation, followed by narrow and taller structures with cupolas above the drying room, and the last incarnation was an efficient and distinctive pyramidal building, often with multiple complexes.

The hop kiln at the Smith farm is no longer extant; it collapsed in mid to late twentieth century. Images of the building show a framed, low gable-roofed structure covered in wooden clapboards, with a few wood-framed 6/6 wood sash windows and a large pair of sliding vertical plank doors on the south elevation. The barn is set on the edge of a slope, on a plateau with the main house. Attached to the building, at the base of the slope (i.e. below grade with the hop kiln) was a shed-roofed building that housed the heat source. The hot air from the stove or fire in the shed-roofed building would have risen into the hop barn by simple conduction, occasionally helped by prevailing winds. The hop barn itself was plastered on the inside for drying the hops. The federal agriculture census records were not checked, so it is unknown for how long John Smith or his family grew hops, or in what quantities. The form and design of the hop barn on the Smith farm is of the earliest period defined by Beardslee in that it closely resembles a classic mid-nineteenth century form that has been adapted for hop drying.

Neither John nor his son Robert were listed in the 1869 business directly as hop growers, but given the expense and quality of the additions to the Smith house, it is reasonable to speculate that hops money helped finance these changes. There was also a second Smith house built on the farm, directly adjacent to the nominated house. It does not appear on the 1853 or 1868 map, but does appear on the 1905 map and a c 1960 aerial photo (see continuation sheet). This house was a three-bay, cube Italianate form with a rear addition similar to the original house after it was modified; it appears to have also had a false bracketed-cornice parapet like the extant house does. This second house was torn-down at an unknown time and replaced by the non-contributing house on that parcel. The complete alteration of the 1834 house and the construction of second house strongly suggest that the Smith family had a large amount of disposable income in the 1870s and, again, it is reasonable to speculate that hops helped finance these improvements. The golden age of hop growing in central New York was brief. By 1900 it was all but over, when competition from the west coast, an outbreak of "blue mold" that attacked the hop flower and other factors ended the region's national dominance.

#### Fluid Milk

For farmers in central New York, temporary respite came in the form of a more reliable dairy industry just as hops were failing. Advances in technology and transportation, the development of regional creameries, increased governmental regulation and pressure from medical authorities and concerned citizens' groups all combined in working towards improving the stock and care of milk cattle and the handling of milk at the farm and during transport, making fluid milk production a more viable economic pursuit.<sup>10</sup> The first milk train to New York City began in 1847 from Orange County in the Hudson Valley; by the turn of the century, the centrally-located Mohawk Valley was a major hub for New York City's so-called milkshed, with milk trains bringing fresh product from across the state for shipment to the city.<sup>11</sup> All of these factors allowed rural dairy farmers like the Smiths to produce a safer, more pure product, and to reliably get that product to urban markets. The massive dairy barn at the Smith farm is a testament to this period of development. In its current configuration, the barn illustrates the adaptation of the Smith farm to mechanized dairy farming around 1900-10.

<sup>10</sup> Eric Brunger, "Dairying and Urban Development in New York State, 1850-1900" *Agricultural History* Vol. 29, No. 4 (Oct., 1955), pp. 169-174 Published by: Agricultural History Society URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3740049> Accessed: 25/10/2010

<sup>11</sup> Loyal Durand, Jr., "The Historical and Economic Geography of Dairying in the North Country of New York State" *Geographical Review* Vol. 57, No. 1 (Jan., 1967), pp. 24-47, Published by: American Geographical Society <http://www.jstor.org/stable/212758> Accessed: 25/10/2010

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The 1878 engraving of the farm in the Beers Atlas shows two gable-roofed, bank barns with fully raised limestone basements, both suited for dairying. One of these, the three bay barn (middleground of Beers engraving, behind carriage house) was expanded and heavily modified in the early twentieth century. The interior banked portion on the limestone foundation was retained as the center section of a massive, updated dairy complex. The roofline was modified to a gambrel roof to accommodate automated, electric hay-moving technologies and two wings were added on each side of the original barn; these wings were each about equally as large as the original section and were set on concrete pad foundations. The lower story of the barn was updated with milking machinery. The whole shows an adaption to new methods of farming that evolved in the modern era, namely gasoline-powered tractors, vehicles and equipment, electricity, refrigeration and automated milkers. The other adaption to changing technologies was the addition of the 35' tall tiled silo to the dairy barn. Above-ground silos were introduced in the 1880s in an effort to preserve more livestock feed, and the easily-digestible ensilage was considered particularly well-suited for dairy stock.<sup>12</sup> Form-wise, silos evolved into the rounded, tiled form seen at the Smith farm around the turn of the century. By then, silos were ubiquitous in the landscape of upstate New York. As a major dairying states, Wisconsin and New York were first and second (respectively) in the nation in the number of silos by the 1920s. While representing a change in technology and an adaptation to new methods of farming, the silo also led a Smith family tragedy. Claude Smith, John's grandson was working on the silo in the summer of 1938 when he fell from the top—35 feet.<sup>13</sup> The fall caused multiple fractures, including Claude's right ankle, crippling him for life and rendering him unable to work. Three years later, in 1941, the 59 year old Claude drowned in only three feet of water when he slipped on a rock and knocked himself unconscious in the Otsquago Creek behind the house.<sup>14</sup>

The barn and silo are still extant on the property today. The current owner applied for, and received, a New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Grant to stabilize it and give it a new roof; because the grant was overseen by the New York State Historic Preservation, all work conformed to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The other dairy barn in the Beers engraving (background, immediately behind the barn already described) is no longer extant on the property. According to a *Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald* article, the barn caught fire in 1933 and was a total loss. Claude, who owned the house and barn at the time, managed to save 75 cattle from the barn before the roof collapsed, but several horses and young stock in basement were killed. Because of the availability of water from the creek, the fire did not spread to the other barns or the two dwellings.<sup>15</sup> The fire was reportedly started in electrical wiring.

John's other grandson Robert Z. Smith (Claude's brother) was noted as owning a large number of dairy farms and as having served as the President of the Fort Plain Milk Association, later the Dairymen's League.<sup>16</sup> Robert bought the local Otsquago Feed Mill in 1899 and apparently left the family farm to live in Fort Plain in the 1920s.<sup>17</sup> After Claude Smith's unfortunate death in 1941, his son John Claude Smith (John Smith's great-grandson) operated the family farm until his own death in 2003. It is evident that John Claude continued dairying on the property; in 1943

<sup>12</sup> N.S. Fish, "The History of the Silo in Wisconsin." *The Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Volume 8, number 2, December 1924 [http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/u/?wmh\\_4324](http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/u/?wmh_4324) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>13</sup> "Critically Hurt in 35-Foot Fall" *Schenectady Gazette*. 9 June, 1938. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>14</sup> "Town of Minden Man Drowns" *Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald*. 18 April, 1941. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>15</sup> "Large Farm Building South of Fort Plain is Destroyed by Fire at a Loss of \$20,000." *Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald* 18 November, 1933. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>16</sup> "Robert Z. Smith," *Utica Daily Press* 31 March, 1950. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

<sup>17</sup> *Richfield Springs Mercury* 26 October, 1899 [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

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he was gored by a bull (ironically his father Claude was also gored by a bull on the farm in 1937), and in 1950 he sponsored a county meeting on the artificial breeding of cattle at the farm.<sup>18</sup>

The farm manger's house, west of the main farmhouse, is a small three-bay house that appears on both the 1853 and 1868 atlases. Neither its original occupants nor its original construction dates are known. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Claude Smith gave the house to his farm manager.

**Integrity:**

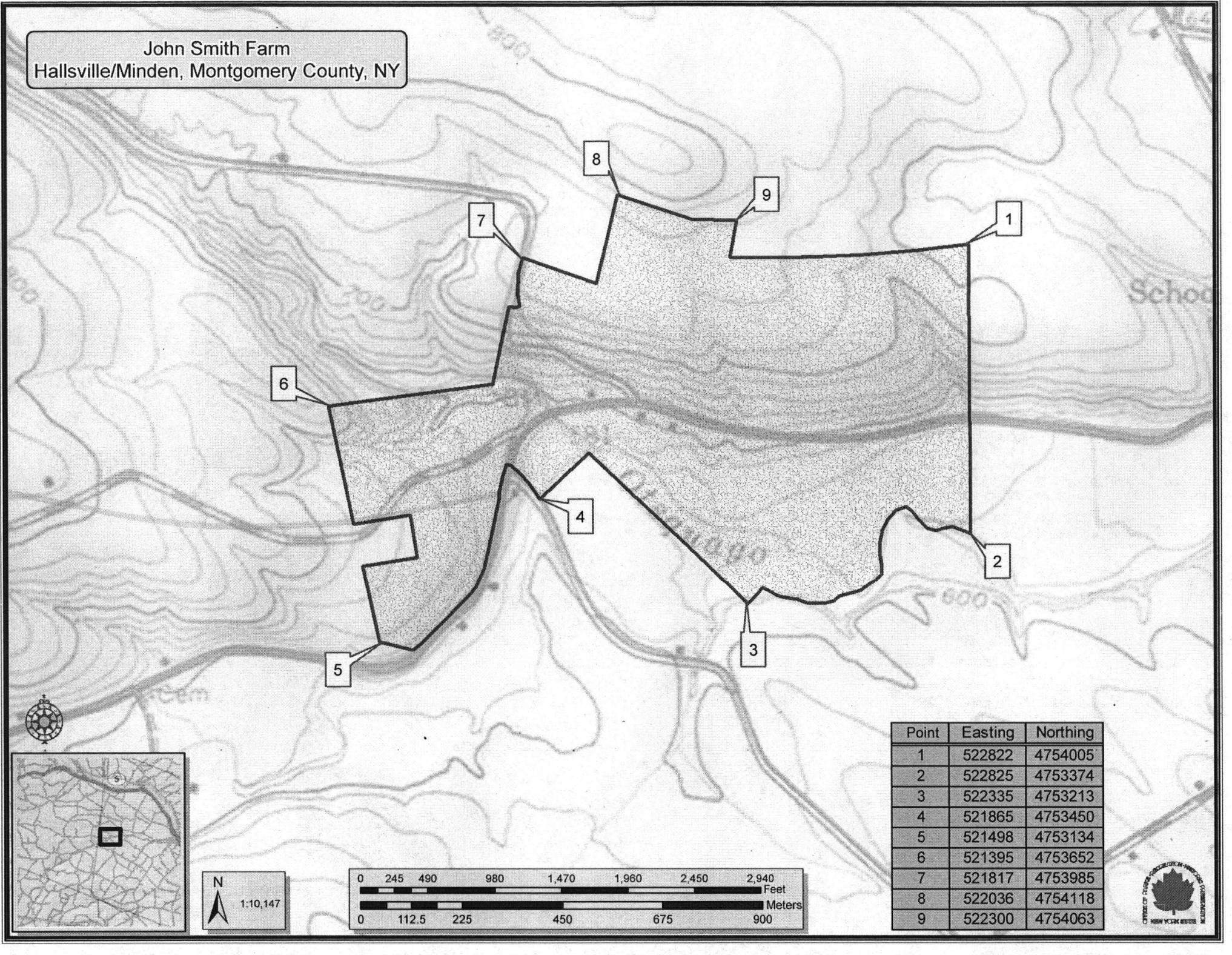
The Smith house has exceptional integrity on the interior and exterior. There are no changes on the exterior outside of the period of significance. On the interior, the only changes are the addition of two small bathrooms—neither of which alter the character or significantly alters the floorplan. Mouldings, finishes, materials, and design elements are still original. The survival of the full domestic suite in its original configuration and with its original finishes is rare. The single largest loss of the integrity for the property is the loss of the hop barn, which was unable to be saved due to severe deterioration, and the loss of the second Smith home (now replaced by a non-contributing house). The current owner is undertaking a sophisticated and historically-accurate restoration of the house and the outbuildings and is planning on taking advantage of the New York State Rehabilitation Tax Credit. Because this work will be supervised by the State Historic Preservation Office, all work will conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. As noted, the setting of the Smith farm is exceptional. Route 80 follows a Native American trail along the Otsquago that European colonists adapted for their own use, became a plank road in the Early National Period and still follows the same basic route today. The Otsquago Valley, often called the little Mohawk Valley, and the Slate Creek form a viewshed of rural farmlands, undulating ridges and high foothills. The property retains a feeling of pastoral isolation, and the lack of concentrated development in this region of the Mohawk Valley has allowed the Smith farm to essentially retain both these green views and its relative seclusion. The current parcel is still farmed, as are most of the surrounding parcels, preserving the earliest usage of the land. These factors, along with the sympathetic restoration of the buildings, offer a rare glimpse of a pre-industrial setting enjoyed by European immigrants a century and half ago.

The farm manger's house appears to have been renovated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, likely as a result of its transfer in ownership. The exterior is covered in circa 1903s faux brick and an entry porch was likely added at that time. The original clapboards are extant under the faux brick, so the only loss to historic fabric was the replacement of the windows. Interior finishes and materials are all contemporary with the period of significance and the house has never been electrified. Setting, location, design, workmanship, association, feeling are all still present, as are a large majority of the historic materials.

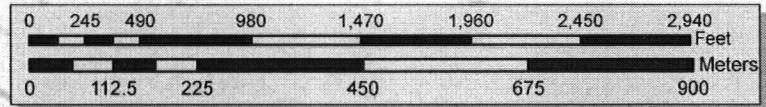
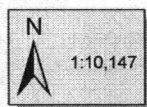
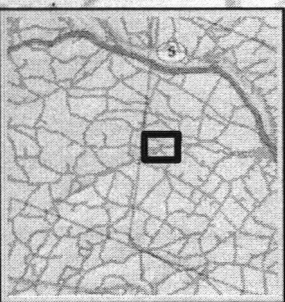
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<sup>18</sup> "Attacked by Bull" *Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald* 21 October, 1943; "Attacked by Bull" *Amsterdam Evening Recorder* 29 April, 1937; "Artificial Breeding Meetings Planned" *Amsterdam Evening Recorder* 21 April, 1950. [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) Accessed August, 2011.

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Point	Easting	Northing
1	522822	4754005
2	522825	4753374
3	522335	4753213
4	521865	4753450
5	521498	4753134
6	521395	4753652
7	521817	4753985
8	522036	4754118
9	522300	4754063



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Richfield Springs Mercury, 26 October, 1899.

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"Attacked by Bull," Amsterdam Evening Recorder, 29 April, 1937.

"Critically Hurt in 35-Foot Fall," Schenectady Gazette, 9 June, 1938.

"Town of Minden Man Drowns," Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald, 18 April, 1941.

"Attacked by Bull," Gloversville and Johnstown Morning Herald, 21 October, 1943.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

Section number 9 Page 3

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

Section number 10 Page 1

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists of tax parcel lots #43.-1-4.1, 43.-1-4.2 and 43.-1-3 in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County, NY.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The nominated property includes the 199.1 acre parcel that passed from the estate of the last Smith family member to occupy the house (John Claude Smith) to the current owners. It includes all buildings.

**UTMS:**

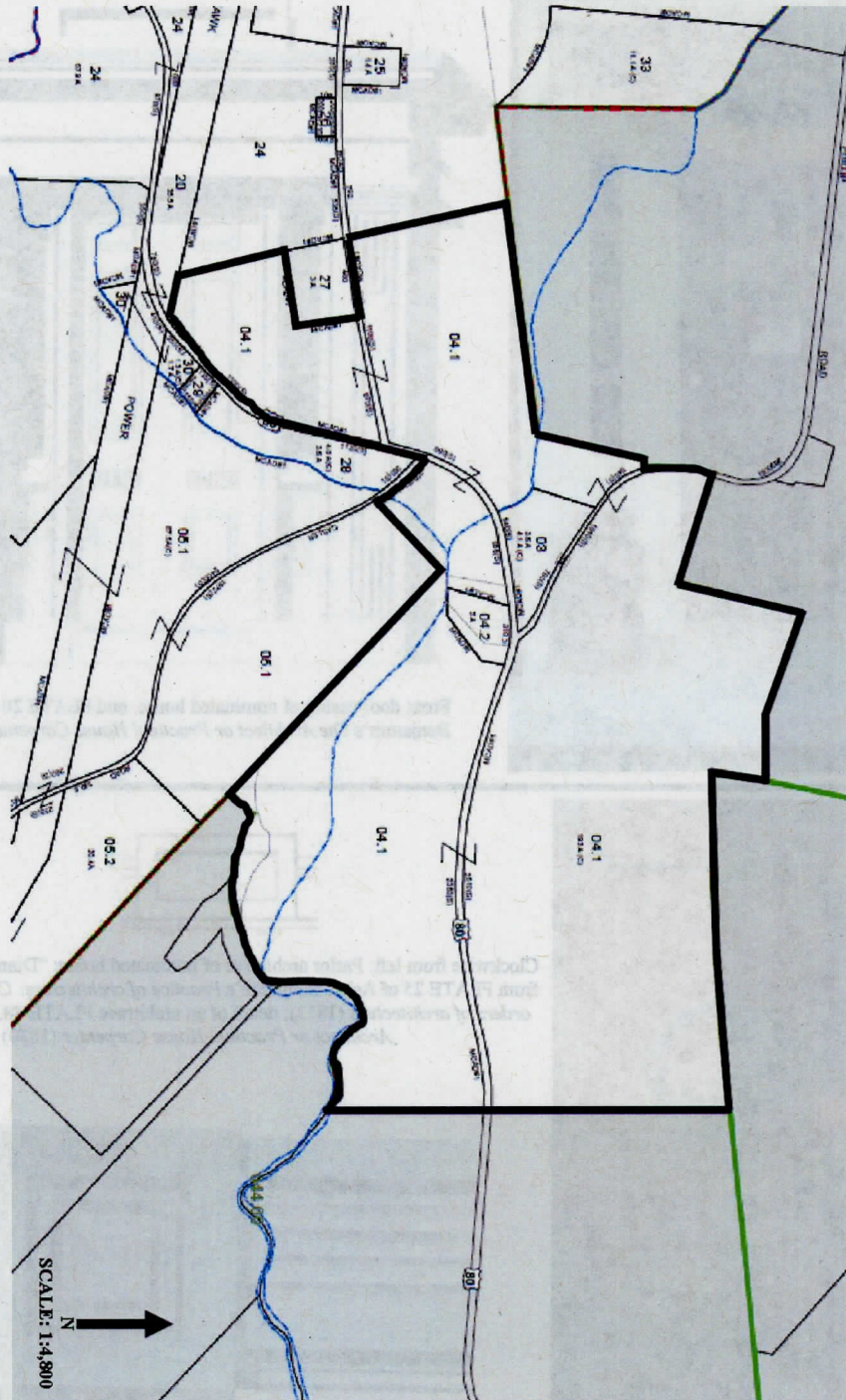
POINT	EASTING	NORTHING
1	522822	4754005
2	522825	4753374
3	522335	4753213
4	521865	4753450
5	521498	4753134
6	521395	4753652
7	521817	4753985
8	522036	4754118
9	522300	4754063

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

Section number 10 Page 2



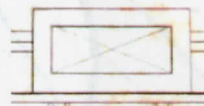
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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

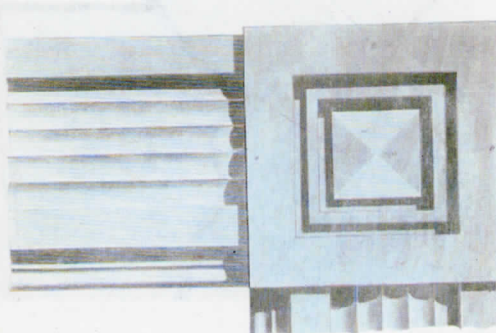
The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York



Front door casing of nominated house, and PLATE 28 of Asher Benjamin's *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter* (1830)



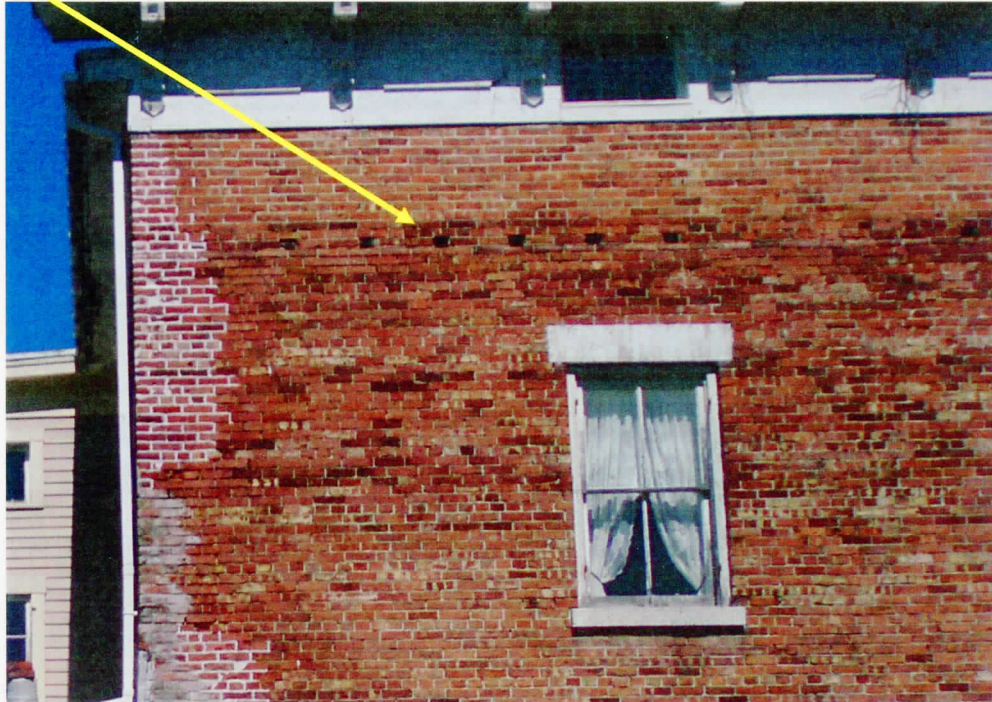
Clockwise from left: Parlor architrave of nominated house; "Diamond Plate" detail from PLATE 25 of Asher Benjamin's *Practice of architecture: Containing the five orders of architecture* (1833); detail of an architrave PLATE 48, Benjamin's *The Architect or Practical House Carpenter* (1830)



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York



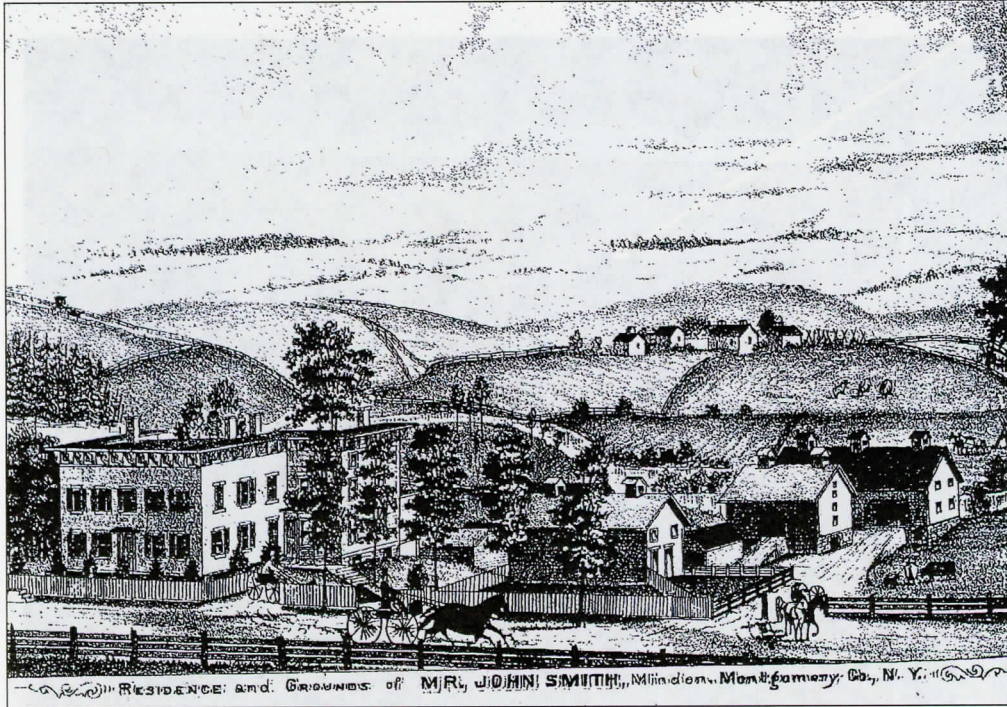
Detail of west elevation with arrow showing remnants of wooden frieze band (above)  
View of main elevation and wing with detail of angled bricks showing former roofline.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York



1878 lithograph of the house as published in F.W. Beer's *History of Montgomery and Fulton counties, N.Y. : with illustrations and portraits of old pioneers and prominent residents.*



Detail of interior framing and cladding under brick veneer. Image from upper-half story of wing block.

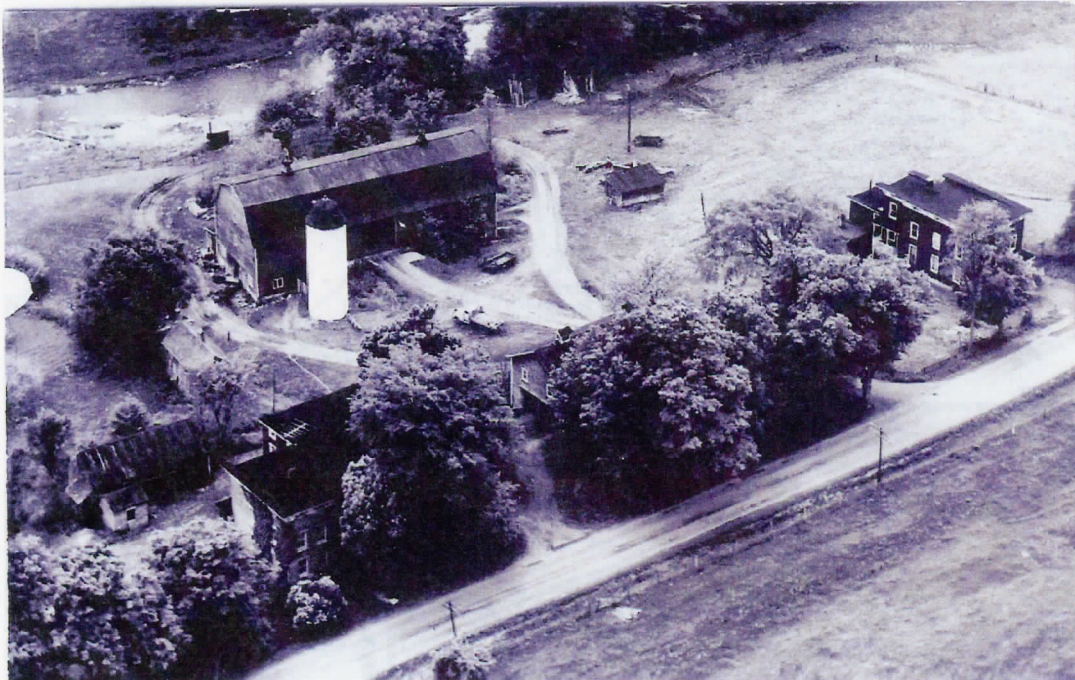
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

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Rear elevation with details showing parapet and cornice false front



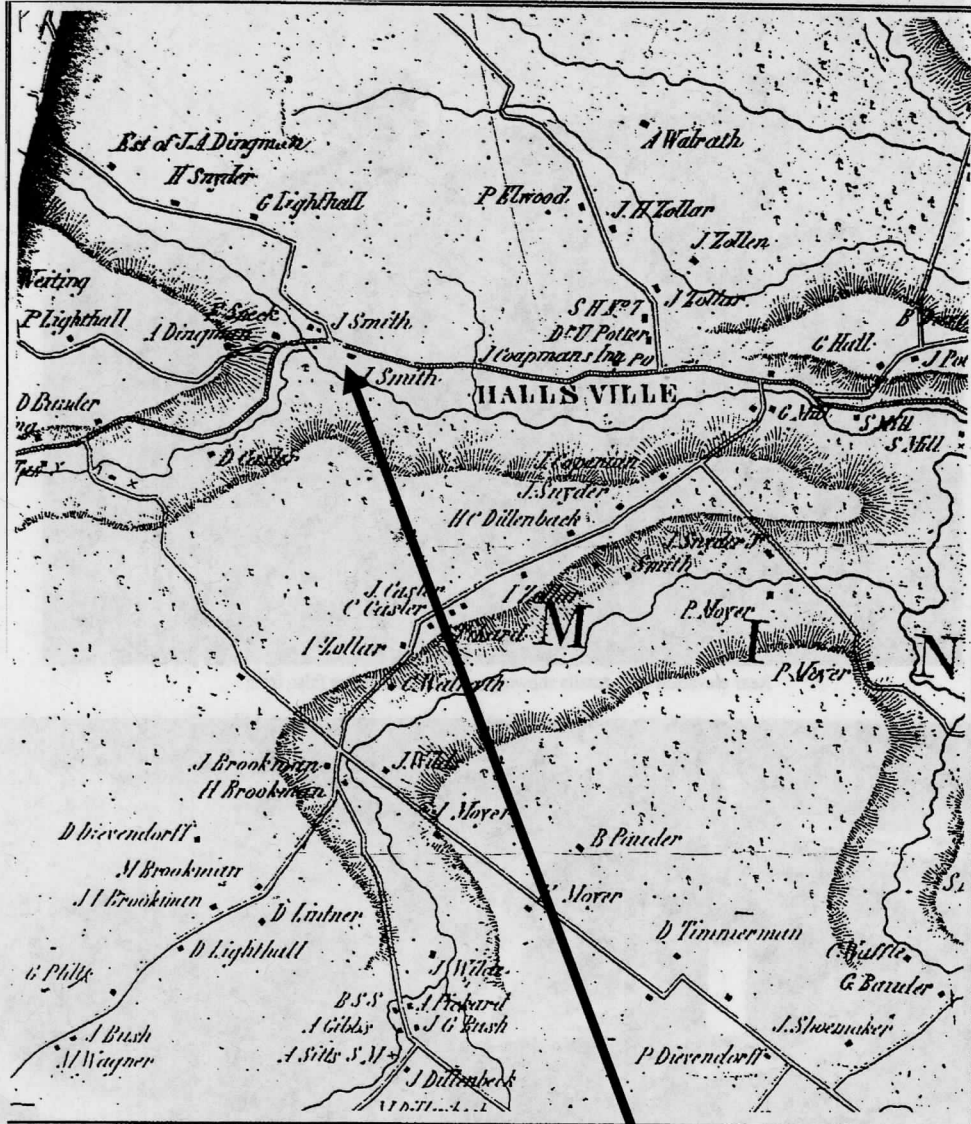
C1960 Aerial photo and site plan.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

1853 Map of Montgomery County, NY (Geil & Hunter)

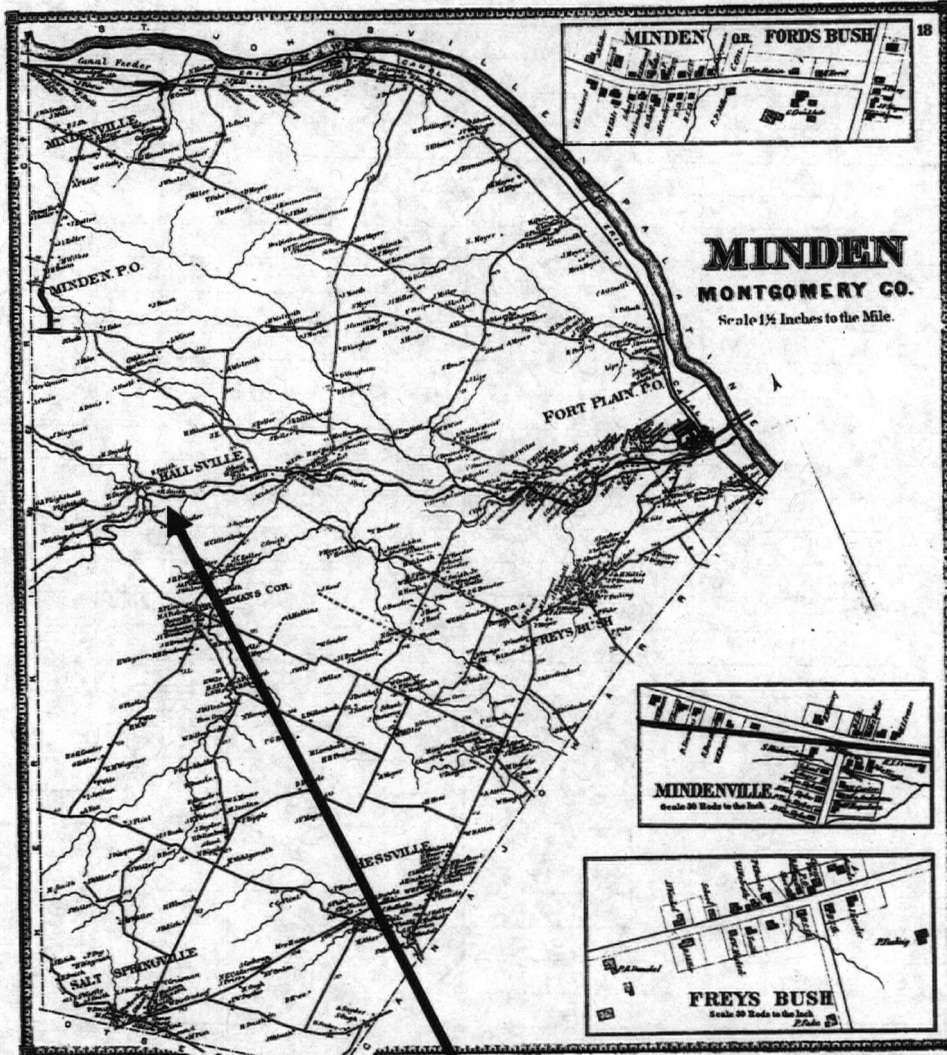


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CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

J. Jay Stranahan and Beach Nichols 1868 Atlas: Montgomery and Fulton Counties



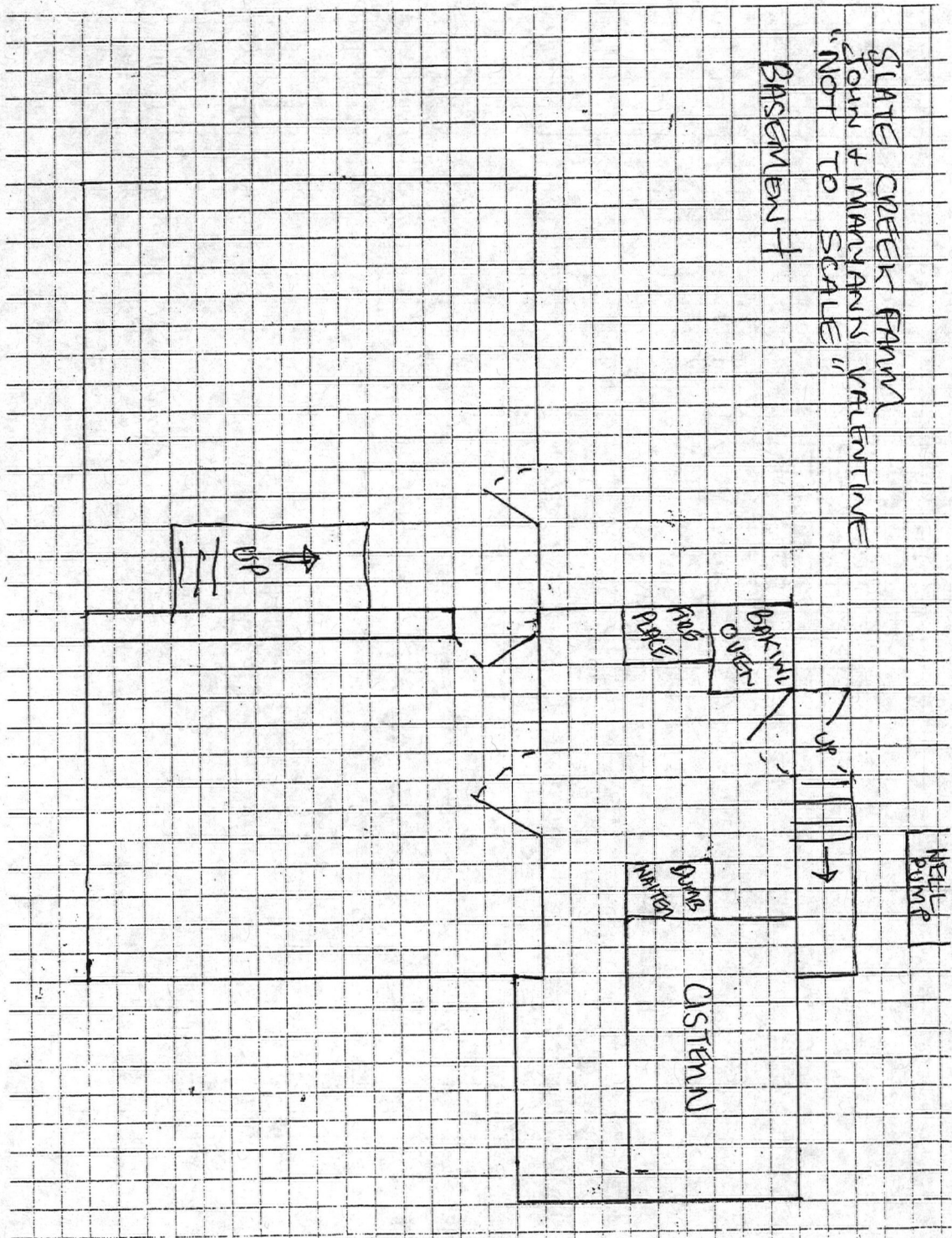




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CONTINUATION SHEET

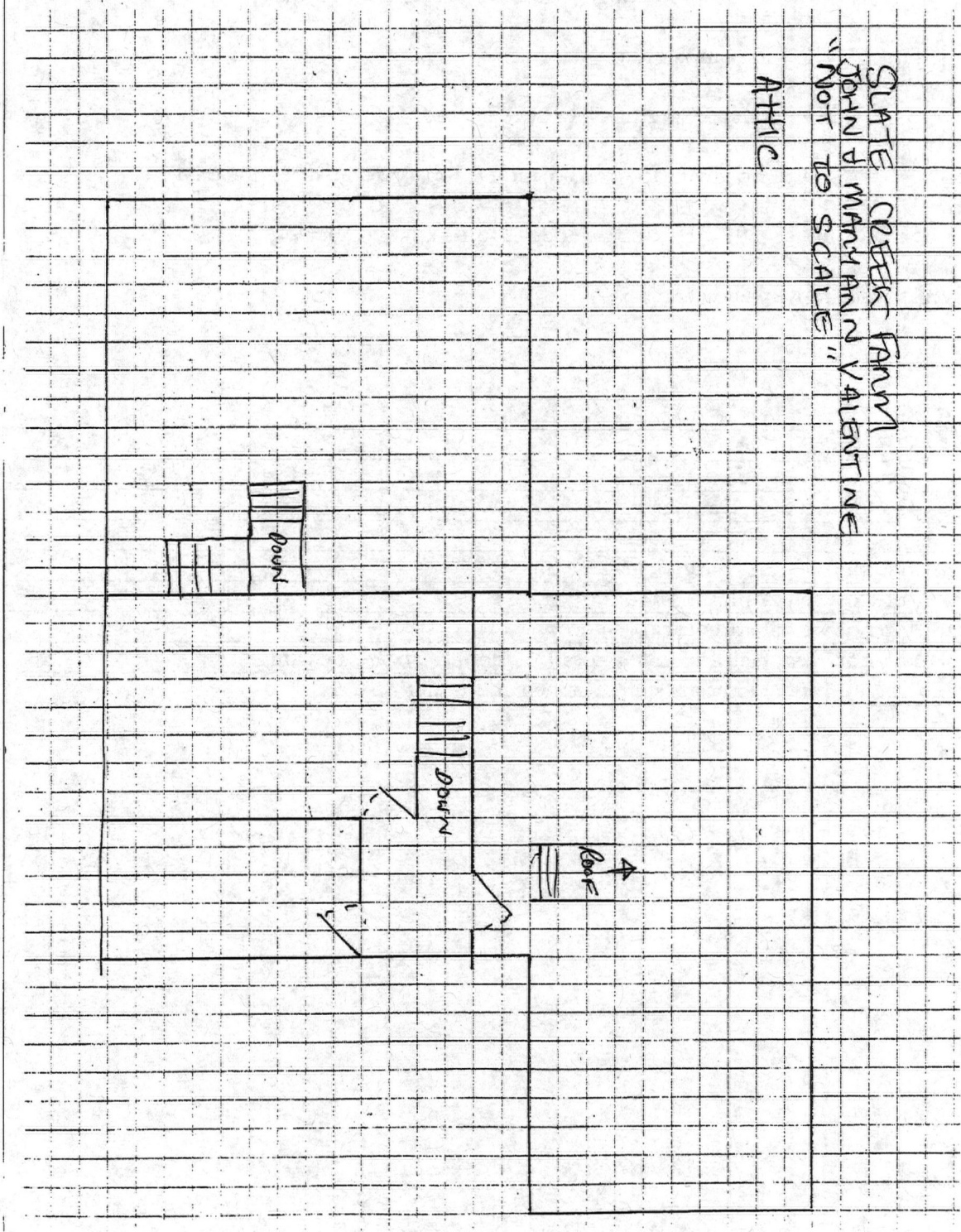
The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York



SLATE CREEK FARM  
"JOHN A. MANNING VALENTINE"  
"NOT TO SCALE"  
ATHIC

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

The John Smith Farm  
Montgomery County, New York

**Photo Log (Prints from Digital Photos)**

Name of Property: The John Smith House  
Location: Montgomery County, New York  
Photographer: Travis Bowman (E-1 to E-3 and I-1 to I-4); John Valentine (E-4).  
Date: July 15, 2011 (E-1 to E-3 and I-1 to I-4); November 21, 2011 (E-4).  
Location of Negatives: CD-R Included

NY\_MontCo\_JnSmHS

**PHOTO LOG**

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
E-1	Exterior view, SE; ¾ view.
E-2	Exterior view, S; Dairy barn.
E-3	Exterior view, E; Scale house.
E-4	Exterior view, N; Farm manager's house.
I-1	Interior view; Parlor, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor.
I-2	Interior view; Farm office, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor.
I-3	Interior view; Hall and Living room, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor. <i>Faux bois</i> detailing.
I-4	Interior view; Domestic suite: Kitchen and Butler's pantry

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Smith, John, Farm

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/31/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001061

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1-31-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Asc

REVIEWER Aben... 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.



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo E-1



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo E-2



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo E-3



1084

John Smith Farm  
Photo E-4

Montgomery Co. NY



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo I-1



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo I-2



John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo I-3



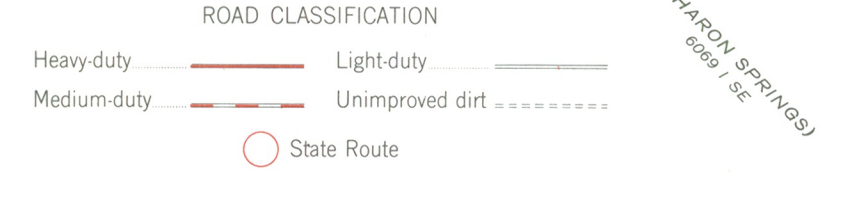
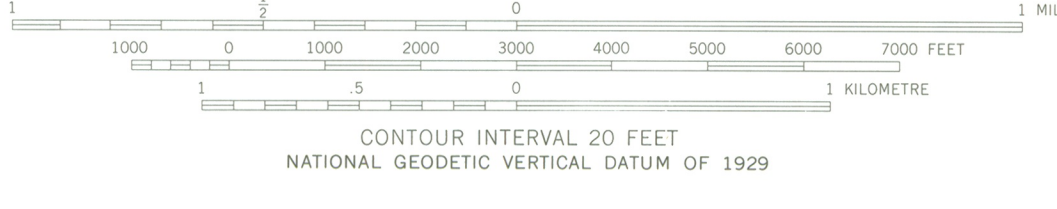
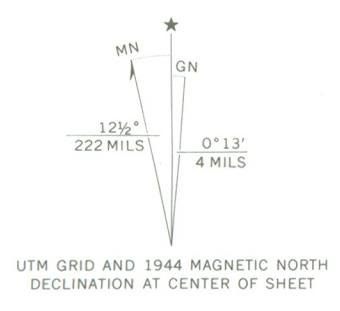
John Smith Farm  
Montgomery Co. NY  
Photo I-4



John Smith Farm  
Hallsville Montgomery Co NY  
Fort Plain Quad  
UTMS:

	E	N
1	522822	4754005
2	522825	4753374
3	522335	4753213
4	521865	4753450
5	521498	4753134
6	521395	4753652
7	521817	4753985
8	522036	4754118
9	522300	4754063

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and TVA  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1942-1943. Field check 1944  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, east zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue



FORT PLAIN, N. Y.  
N4252.5-W7437.5/7.5  
1944

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

AMS 6069 1 NW-SERIES V821



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

**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

8 December 2011

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose two new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

The Royal Blockhouse, Saratoga County  
John Smith Farm, Montgomery County

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office