

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1129

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number Clark Quarry & Farm; Scragwood; Old Elm

2. Location

street & number Point Road, Ligonier Way

city or town Willsboro

state New York code NY county Essex code _____ zip code 12996

not for publication

X

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national X statewide _____ local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

_____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

☒	private
☐	public - Local
☐	public - State
☐	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

☐	building(s)
☒	district
☐	site
☐	structure
☐	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	5	buildings
16	0	sites
7	1	structures
3	0	objects
34	6	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:

extractive facility, manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: store, boatbuilding

TRANSPORTATION: water related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival

OTHER: rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: **STONE**

walls: **STONE, WOOD**

roof: **SLATE, WOOD, ASPHALT**

other: **GLASS, BRICK**

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

OVERVIEW

The Ligonier Point Historic District, located on Willsboro Point and the shore of Lake Champlain in Essex County, New York, encompasses an important collection of historic resources which relate to the stone quarrying, boat-building, farming and other commercial and industrial enterprises undertaken by the Clark family on lands which they improved during the course of the nineteenth century. The nomination boundary includes two historic homesteads, both developed by the Clark family and each of which features multiple architectural components; the remains of the main quarry and two other smaller quarries from which Chazy limestone, or what was sometimes termed Lake Champlain blue stone, was extracted and prepared for various architectural and engineering applications; and the remains of no-longer fully extant features, among them the foundations of a company store, a carpenter's shop and a blacksmith's shop—these three constituting part of a former “quarry village”—in addition to the remains of a boarding house, boat building shed and lime kiln and cooperage shop. These historic resources, in addition to a small number of non-contributing components, are situated within an elongated and irregularly shaped district boundary that is bordered on portions of its eastern and northern perimeters by Lake Champlain; the boundary is bisected by the north-south alignment of Point Road, from which Ligonier Way extends in an easterly direction. Old Elm, the dwelling which forms the centerpiece of what is otherwise termed the Orrin Clark Farm Complex, is situated at the western side of the district, opposite Ligonier Way on the west side of Point Road. Scragwood is a second domestic complex located east of Point Road on the north side of Ligonier Way. The main quarry occupies a position towards the eastern perimeter of the district, east of the Scragwood complex, near the former location of a commercial wharf used by ferries and steamboats that carried cargo and passengers; a second smaller quarry runs northeast and is located between the wharf site and the larger quarry, while the third smaller quarry is located immediately to the east of Scragwood. Included within the district boundary are three non-contributing domestic properties built in the period ca. 1949 - ca. 2002. These have been included within the boundary given they are located on parcels that contain historically significant features which strengthen the overall cohesiveness of the district and its ability to portray the collective history of the site. A total of 79.60 acres are included within the boundary, along with 34 contributing features and 6 non-contributing features.

Narrative Description

LOCATION & SETTING

Ligonier Point, from which the historic district takes its name, is a land feature located on the east side of Willsboro Point, a peninsula that extends northward from the mainland of the Town of Willsboro into Lake Champlain. The lake defines the northern and eastern boundaries of Willsboro Point, while Willsboro Bay forms the western boundary. Hatch Point is situated at the northernmost extreme of Willsboro Point. As for Ligonier Point, it is a spit of land that juts eastward into the lake from Willsboro Point. Visible from the rock-strewn shore of Ligonier Point in the middle distance of the lake view shed are a chain of islands known as the Four Brothers, beyond which, further to the northeast across the Lake Champlain, is visible the City of Burlington, Vermont, 8.3 miles distant. In the far distance the eastern view shed is framed by the elevated landmasses of the Green Mountains. Approximately three miles to the south of Willsboro Point is located the hamlet of Willsboro, through which runs New York Route 22; Point Road (Essex County Route 27), which bisects the district, extends northward from the hamlet and follows the east side of Willsboro Point.

The nominated district's landscape is variegated. It consists of gently undulating topography which is for the most part wooded with deciduous and coniferous trees save for a few expanses of open land such as that

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adjacent to the Old Elm property and the site of the former quarry village. The remains of a fruit orchard are located at the northeast intersection of Point Road and Ligonier Way. The principal quarry, the central feature of the cultural landscape of Ligonier Point, was long ago stripped of its infrastructure and is now ringed with trees; approximately one-tenth of it is flooded. Those portions of the district bordering the lake are largely comprised of shoreline primarily composed of waste stone from the quarry. The views into Lake Champlain from the shore are both expansive and dramatic; they encompass a large expanse of the lake and Vermont. Although the Ligonier Point wharf operated in the nineteenth century is no longer extant the district nevertheless continues to maintain its historic interrelationship with Lake Champlain, upon which vast quantities of stone, lime, and agricultural products were shipped from this location; it was likewise upon its waters that vessels designed and built by the Clark family at Ligonier Point, within the bounds of the nominated district, were active. As such the lake provides a vital setting for the historic resources included within the district and their effective interpretation.

RESOURCE LIST

The following resource inventory describes those contributing and non-contributing features contained within the district boundary; their position within the historic district and relationship with one another is indicated on the site map included with this documentation.¹ The two principal domestic sites, the Orrin Clark Farm Complex—Old Elm—and the S.W. Clark Complex, including Scragwood, are described first with all their attendant contributing and non-contributing features. Another resource grouping, the Quarry Village, follows, after which the remaining contributing features are itemized and described. The district's remaining non-contributing features, those not associated with the other resource groupings, are found at the end of this section.

Orrin Clark Farm Complex, "Old Elm," 1841- ca. 1885

The primary feature of this complex is the dwelling (contributing building), known historically as Old Elm, which consists of two distinct sections, one of masonry construction and the other erected with a wood frame. The former is the two-story main block, gable ended, with symmetrical five-bay façade and center entrance; it was erected with load-bearing walls of Chazy limestone above a rectangular plan. The other is a large L-shaped story-and-a-half frame wing which adjoins the masonry section at the northwest corner of the latter; it assumed its current extent during three separate building campaigns. The stone and frame sections are connected on the exterior by way of a porch and also communicate with one another internally. The façade of the stone section, which originally stood alone without wings, was oriented to face east towards the main road. It was laid up in lime mortar with 19 regular courses of ashlar of both rectangular and square shape, the stone now having assumed mellow gray and tan hues. The lintels and sills are cut stone as well, with the entrance lintel being bush-hammered. The primary entrance consists of a recessed seven-panel door which is flanked by narrow half-length sidelights. A large stone slab is present in front of the threshold and serves as a step. First and second-story windows are currently fitted with two-over-two wood sash, a historic updating of the original twelve-over-eight sash. Moulded ogee-form wood cornices are present at eaves level on the front and rear elevations, these being terminated by cornice returns on the gable ends; this moulding is also carried up the roof rake on the ends. Gable-end fenestration is comprised of small square-shaped windows bringing light into the attic in addition to those windows lighting the first and second stories—four total on the south elevation, two on the north elevation—and two small rectangular-shaped windows corresponding with the basement on the south elevation. A seven-panel door is also present on the north elevation. The rear wall of the stone section was less carefully laid up with more roughly coursed and shaped stones; the windows there are hung with six-over-six wood sash. There is a small stone enclosure on this elevation, gable ended, which

¹ This map was prepared by land surveyor Kevin A. Hall in August 2012.

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shields a stair to the basement. Tall chimneys are located on the roof ridge at each end, these rising to corbelled tops.

Three dormers punctuate the east roof pitch of the story-and-a-half frame wing, or that portion of the frame wing which was built, in two stages, with its roof ridge parallel to the main block. This section is clapboard sided and has three doors and three windows corresponding with the primary elevation, all shielded beneath the porch. The porch is shed-roofed in form and sustained by six slender, chamfered uprights with corresponding jig-sawn brackets. The south gable end, located behind the stone section and corresponding with that section of the frame wing added first, has a centrally placed door flanked by two windows at first-story level and two windows at half-story level, the lower windows fitted with nine-over-six sash, the upper windows with six-over-six sash; the north gable end has two asymmetrically set windows at both first and half-story level. A shed-roofed bump out extends from a portion of the west elevation of this section and meets with a porch extending from the south elevation of the rear, or northwest portion, of the frame wing. Two doors and three windows pierce the north elevation of this rear portion of the frame section. The westernmost end of this elevation has a large door which was used for the commercial creamery operation beginning in the 1880s. The west elevation has two windows each at first and half-story level. The exterior of this section of the wing is fitted with narrow-width clapboard; the windows and doors have simple drip caps. A total of three brick chimneys rise from the roofline of the frame section.

The interior of Old Elm is substantially intact to its period of historic development between the 1840s and 1880s. The main block's first-floor interior was arranged on a pile-and-a-half plan with two larger front rooms divided by an enclosed staircase and a range of narrower rooms behind. The wing includes nine rooms of various dimensions, the most prominent of which were the house's kitchen and an office. Finishes are substantially intact and in the main block consist of plaster on lath wall and ceiling finish and moulded wood trim reflecting Greek Revival stylistic influence, such as broadly rendered door architrave mouldings with roundel corner blocks, moulded window architraves and baseboards, and paneled doors. The upper section of the main staircase, in the second floor hall, retains its original railing which consists of turned newel posts with urn-form bases, acorn-shaped newel caps, and delicate square balusters reminiscent of Federal-style design.

The Orrin Clark Farm Complex includes six contributing resources in addition to Old Elm. These include a blacksmith shop, ca. 1854 (contributing building), which is a small gable-front frame building. It has boxed cornices, narrow-width clapboard siding and large outward-swinging doors on the north-facing elevation above which is a gable window fitted with six-over-six sash; there is an identical window on the south side and two six-over-six windows on the west and east sides. The site also includes an intact stone smokehouse, ca. 1842 (contributing structure), with an unusual double entry door; a frame gable-roofed icehouse, ca. 1842 (contributing structure), the south wall of which is fitted with two large 30-light windows in addition to a nine-light window in the gable field; a frame gable-roofed privy, ca. 1842 (contributing building); and a cut-stone hitching post, ca. 1842 (contributing object). The fruit orchard, ca. 1860, located across Point Road, is also considered a contributing site.

S.W. Clark "Scragwood" Complex, ca. 1830- ca. 1910

The centerpiece of Scragwood is the dwelling; its name is derived from that building's exterior rustic adornment, which is believed to be original to the 1870s, during which decade the house assumed its current extent. Scragwood has a linear, asymmetrical plan which is resultant from its development during multiple construction episodes spanning the period ca. 1830-1879, and is oriented on a roughly north-south axis. A

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portion of the house, the southernmost part, served for a time as a separate quarry office and was once located near the company store; it was adjoined to the dwelling in 1879 and renovated as a family library with domestic quarters above ca. 1910. The center section is the earliest, perhaps moved here from an earlier location, to which the north portion was added in two phases; the first, ca. 1859, served initially as a kitchen and was converted to a dining room when the present kitchen was added ca. 1863. The principal elevation of Scragwood is that which faces roughly eastward, towards the quarries, with Ligonier Way to the immediate south. Exterior ornamentation is restrained and exhibits palpable though somewhat limited Gothic Revival features and later rustic design precedents akin in spirit to the Adirondack style.

The southernmost section—the former quarry office moved to this location in 1879—is end gabled with a roof of medium pitch, its timber frame covered with narrow-width clapboard. It has broad intersecting gables on the east and west roof slopes, each of which is fitted with paired windows fitted with two-over-two sash. The east or primary elevation has two windows, asymmetrical in arrangement, which are fitted with double hung nine-over-six sash and wood shutters. The central section of Scragwood, the earliest portion, has a gable-front arrangement. Its roof is of steeper pitch than the south section; a four-paneled entrance door and window correspond with the first floor and there is additionally a window centered in the gable field above. The first-story window has nine-over-six sash and the upper window has six-over-six sash. This elevation is sheathed with vertical board-and-batten siding, as is the opposite or rear wall and north wall, while the remaining elevation is fitted with narrow clapboard. The south elevation of the center section has a three-sided bay window with bracketed cornice and two-over-two sash with paneled aprons below; rising above the bay windows is a gabled dormer with paired windows. The north elevation has a single window.

The northernmost section is the largest of the three which combine to form the house and was built in two phases, the first dating to ca. 1859 and the second ca. 1863; its east elevation is spanned by a full-length porch which engages the north wall of the center section and which is elevated above grade more on its north than south end due to the nature of the site's topography. The exterior is clad with board-and-batten siding. As for the porch it is of rustic conception with cedar posts, balustrades and open-work friezes; it is approached by two separate flights of wood steps with associated hand-railing. A total of six windows and doors correspond with the primary elevation; two gable-roofed dormers provide light to the upper story, each being fitted with a pair of two-over-two windows. The north elevation features a smaller rustic porch which has been enclosed with screening. The rear or west-facing elevation of the house includes a pent-roofed extension joining the office and the dining room which has a door and three fixed windows, each comprised of 30 lights, and a two-room shed-roof addition extending from the north section. Asphalt shingles form the roof surface for all sections. Brick stove chimneys rise from the roof ridges of the south and central sections.

The interior of Scragwood is largely intact and includes a majority of the house's historic-period wood and plaster finishes. Among the notable interior spaces is the office, located in the southern section, with its bead-board wall and ceiling surfaces and built-in book shelves. Maintained in the office are Solomon W. Clark's desk along with personal effects and ephemera related to the quarrying operation. In the entryway between the office and dining room is a grain-painted cabinet in which stone samples were displayed. The parlor, located in the central section, has plaster on split lath walls and ceilings and an enclosed stair accessing the upper level; the dining room—an earlier kitchen—has plaster on sawn lath walls above bead-board wainscot and plaster ceilings, while the existing kitchen has bead-board wall and ceiling surfaces. The dining room and kitchen are situated in the north section. Three staircases, in the office, parlor and dining room, allow for communication between the primary and upper story rooms. There is a rough stone cellar below the parlor and the remainder of the house has crawl spaces beneath. The parlor and kitchen have wood stoves situated on metal sheets.

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The last changes made to Scragwood during the historic period of Clark occupancy were those made ca. 1910 by Solomon Clark's grandson, Fiske Wood, who made changes to the south section by converting the loft over the office into a bedroom with stairway access from below.

What is now termed Cedar Lodge, ca. 1860 & later (contributing building) was known historically as the "school house." The 1870 census indicates that there were French-speaking families from the Montreal area residing on the property and these children would have needed their own school. Photo and diary records also indicate that it was used as a residence for at least one of the company's stonemasons. It has board-and-batten exterior siding and an asphalt shingle roof and is aligned on its south and east elevations by a rustic porch, which is screened in. Though added to subsequently, the self-contained form of the original edifice is still interpretable and the interior of that early section retains period finishes; as such, it has been deemed a contributing component of the nomination.

The Perennial Garden, or Heritage Garden, ca. 1910 (contributing site) is a historic-period feature, the design of which was laid out by Florence Wood, wife of Solomon Clark's grandson Fiske. She was an avid gardener and member of the local garden club who was immersed in the Colonial Revival sentiment of that era. In keeping with this, the garden is rectangular in plan with diagonally divided sections, or parterres. Its walls, walkways and other ornamentation—apparently reused from earlier applications or from the stone crafting operation—were fashioned from Chazy limestone. Florence's diagram for the layout and plantings of the garden still exists, although it is undated.

Additional contributing resources associated with the Scragwood complex are the brick smokehouse, ca. 1850 (contributing structure), a small masonry building erected on a rectangular plan and constructed of brick laid up in lime mortar in a running bond pattern. It is covered by a wood shingle roof and retains interior features such as hooks dating from its period of active use. The summer house, ca. 1870 (contributing building) was built on a rectangular plan and is a gazebo of rustic conception which is aesthetically related to the porch aligning the north section of the dwelling and the screened porch on the north side. It is formed of cedar log posts and has a rustic balustrade and open-work frieze; the roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles. Also of note are the cut stone carriage step on the south side of the house (contributing object); the pair of posts immediately behind it (contributing structure); the cut stone gate posts and wood gates behind the house (contributing structure); and a cut-stone hitching post (contributing object). Other contributing buildings are the Cedar Lodge privy, ca. 1860 and the Scragwood privy, ca. 1857. The current garden tool house, ca. 1857, which was moved to this location ca. 1910, and the Scragwood carriage house's wellhead, ca. 1860, are contributing structures. The remains of an ice house, ca. 1860, constitute a contributing site. The tank house, ca. 1907 (contributing structure) is located adjacent to the garage and relates to the installation of plumbing in Scragwood.

Of Scragwood's non-contributing resources are the frame boathouse (non-contributing building), which was altered to achieve its current appearance ca. 2000; an earlier pump house, with pump still intact, is embedded within this later construct. Also non-historic is a 1961 frame garage (non-contributing building).

Quarry Village, ca. 1854 - ca. 1880

The so-called quarry village consisted of the Company Store, a Blacksmith's shop, a Carpenter's/cutting shop and a Stone shed (4 contributing sites). None of these four buildings are extant; however, their foundations remain to indicate their presence and chronicle their location and interrelationship with one another, thereby

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offering the potential for future investigation and interpretation. The foundations of these buildings are below grade within a flat grassy area which is well defined by a stone wall (contributing structure). As per an 1869 account of the quarry complex, the company store was a one-and-one-half story building built with a basement on a 24' by 38' plan; the blacksmith shop measured 20' by 30'; and the carpenter shop 20' by 30'. Near the company store was an icehouse and an underground storage area for explosives. The records of the Company Store operated by both Solomon W. Clark & Company and the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company in the Clark Collection indicate that the store was the center of the business operations on Willsboro Point as well as a gathering place for other local farmers and tradesmen. The store was used as a post office and as the center for shipping business. Two sets of stereo cards, made by Hills & Bowers and H.S. Tousley in 1875, have been a major resource for the study of the quarry village and quarry environs. The dimensions of the buildings as noted above were taken from a July 1869 survey of the complex.

Principal Quarry, ca. 1823 to ca. 1894 (contributing site)

This quarry, which was expanded during the nineteenth century and developed subsequently with infrastructure such as an overhead railway, derricks and moveable cutting sheds, was first opened up in the 1820s. It was from this main quarry that large quantities of Chazy limestone were extracted for both the Brooklyn Bridge and New York State Capitol projects. This approximately 10-percent flooded quarry was notable for the large-scale slabs which could be effectively removed from it. Still visible are areas where guy wires were secured to support derricks that assisted with lifting heavy stones as well as drill marks for stone and wedges which were never removed.

Second Quarry ca. 1877-1878 (contributing site)

This quarry, which is located to the south of the principal quarry, was opened in 1877-1878 in order to complete the final contract for the Brooklyn Bridge. Formerly it had been used as the picnic ground for Lake Champlain steamboat tourists.

Third Quarry, ca. 1890 (contributing site)

This quarry is located immediately to the east of the Scragwood complex and was opened up after the principal quarry ceased functioning. Formerly it had been used to provide lime rubble for the limekiln.

Lime Kiln, Cooperage/storage ruins ca. 1830-51 (2 contributing sites)

The lime kiln adjoins the third quarry. It was in operation in the second quarter of the nineteenth century until its collapse in June 1851. The cooperage and storage building was located a short distance to the northeast of the kiln.

Boatyard, ca. 1860 (contributing site)

The remaining evidence of the boathouse's location are the drill holes for the marine railway that extended from the boathouse into the lake.

Yacht *Narragansett*, ca. 1880 (contributing site)

The remains of this craft, built under the auspices of Lewis Clark, are situated on the Scragwood complex.

Boarding House foundation, ca. 1860 (contributing site)

All that remains of the boarding house is the stone foundation and cellar hole. In addition to providing housing for workers its kitchen was used to provide refreshments for groups using the adjacent picnic ground.

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Boiler House foundation, ca. 1860 (contributing site)

The boiler house was used to provide steam for drills and other quarry equipment and was located just to the north of the commercial wharf. The foundations of this structure are still clearly visible.

Remaining Non-Contributing Features

Camp, ca. 1949 (non-contributing building)

This small, light-frame single-story dwelling is situated towards the extreme eastern side of Ligonier Point, east of the principal quarry. Nearby is a small shed (non-contributing structure).

House, 1984 (non-contributing building)

This frame house is situated on the north shore of Ligonier Point, on a parcel which is flanked to the east by the main quarry and to the west by the Scragwood complex.

House, ca. 2002 (non-contributing building)

A two-story dwelling with associated garage/wing, located near the historic position of the Ligonier Point wharf, and nearby to the remains of the boarding house.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, ca. 1830- ca. 1910, encompasses the historic development of these lands under the auspices of the Clark family.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

ca. 1830- ca. 1910

Significant Dates

ca. 1830; ca. 1841-42; ca. 1849; ca. 1859; ca. 1879;

ca. 1885; ca. 1900; ca. 1910

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gibbs, Warren; mason, Old Elm

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Overview

The Ligonier Point Historic District, located in Essex County, New York, includes the remaining historic features associated with the Clark family's tenancy of these lands and highlights a compelling nineteenth-century cultural landscape on the western shore of Lake Champlain. It was there, within the bounds of the district, that two generations of the Clark family resided and conducted various commercial, industrial, contracting and agricultural enterprises, most prominent of which was the quarrying and fashioning of stone; ship building, farming and the refinement of lime were also important endeavors undertaken during the family's tenure of these lands. Quarrying activities were initiated at Ligonier Point in the 1820s in order to extract Chazy limestone, largely for the refinement of lime for construction and agricultural uses, with smaller quantities used for building applications. The right to quarry the Ligonier Point Chazy limestone was leased by Orrin Clark to several Burlington, Vermont builders from ca. 1823 until 1854, though Clark retained his right to use the quarry property during that period for grazing cattle as well as to remove waste stone for his limekiln and limited amounts of stone for other uses. Chazy limestone was a highly desirable regional building stone otherwise called Willsboro Point blue stone, and its durability became widely known and led to its application for a number of high-profile construction projects in the nineteenth century, such as the piers of the Brooklyn Bridge and foundation stone for the New York State Capitol. Once quarried, this stone was transported via Lake Champlain to construction sites in New York as well as Vermont and Quebec; stone was also dressed on site into finished products for the consumer market. The quarry operation, which reached its zenith in the 1870s, declined somewhat rapidly thereafter. The district boundary contains the three former limestone quarries; two substantially intact domestic properties built for and associated with the Clark family during the district's period of significance, those being Scragwood and Old Elm; and the remains of no-longer extant buildings and structures that were vital functioning features of the quarry and other operations. The principal quarry, from which stone for a vast array of projects was extracted, was a central feature of the activities undertaken on these lands by the Clark family. The Clark family members who shared the strongest association with the quarrying enterprise at Ligonier Point were Solomon Wesley Clark (1824-1895), whose father, Orrin Clark (1798-1885), had settled within the bounds of the nominated district in 1823 in a log house and subsequently erected Old Elm 1841; and Solomon's brother, Lewis Hunting Clark (1828-1909), who was invested in the various family operations at Ligonier Point and additionally engaged in shipbuilding and design. Lewis Clark further served as the captain of sailing and steam vessels which plied their trade on Lake Champlain.

The Clark family's association with the nominated district encompassed three quarters of the nineteenth century and extended into the early twentieth century. The activities undertaken at Ligonier Point by the Clarks are remarkably well documented given that they left behind a collection of over 60,000 documents and artifacts which offer remarkable insights into their tenancy of these lands and life in the Champlain Valley in the second half of the nineteenth century. This collection includes diaries, correspondence, and photographs; business records from their farming, quarrying and shipbuilding pursuits; and drawings of buildings and structures they constructed. Though the remaining features being nominated as the Ligonier Point Historic District reflect but a portion of what was there in the nineteenth century, they nevertheless offer themselves as a historically significant group of resources chronicling the Clark family's presence and the business and industrial enterprises they undertook.² The district is being nominated at the state significance level in association with Criterion A in the areas of industry and commerce, and Criterion C, in the area of architecture,

² Following a 2006 site visit to Ligonier Point, Caroline Welch, at that time director of the Adirondack Museum, noted the following: "Taken together, the quarry site, the historic houses and outbuildings, the artifacts and the collection of family papers and photographs constitute an impressive opportunity to study the lives of middle-class nineteenth and early twentieth century residents of the North Country. One would be hard pressed to find a comparable collection this complete anywhere in the country."

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in association with the domestic properties Old Elm and Scragwood, which saliently depict the occupancy of Clark family. Criterion D has not been cited as concerted archaeological investigations have yet to be undertaken within the district, though it is fully recognized that such work may yet yield additional information about the site and assist with future interpretative efforts.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Clark Family of Ligonier Point

George Clark, Solomon W. Clark's grandfather, removed to Essex County from Litchfield, Connecticut in 1803, seeking land and opportunity in New York's North Country. Clark, after working in the employ of Throup & Higby's ironworks making anchors at Willsborough Falls, disappeared mysteriously in 1805 while carrying specie to Boston to pay the company's creditors. He left behind his wife, Lydia, who lacked a source of income for herself and the family's six children. At the age of 8 their youngest son, Orrin, was indentured to Billy Blinn, a local Willsborough Point farmer, who taught him the skills that later enabled him to become a successful farmer. When Orrin reached his majority at age 21 he went to Peru, New York, to earn money by serving as a foreman in a large timbering enterprise. He wed Mary Moon of Keeseville in 1823 and they resided in a log cabin on Ligonier Point built on lands formerly owned by Blinn. That same year Clark rented a woodlot on Willsboro Mountain from William Cooley and from there harvested wood which was marketed for building projects, as firewood for the Burlington, Vermont market, and as fuel to produce the charcoal required by the nearby Higby and Highland iron forges. During his lifetime Orrin Clark was engaged in a diverse range of enterprises, among them farming, lumbering, rafting wood to Quebec, burning charcoal, and quarrying limestone for the manufacture of quicklime. The economy of this region of Essex County was in the early years closely tied to Burlington, Vermont, located some eight miles distant on the east shore of Lake Champlain, and many local products were harvested or produced for sale in that market.³

Orrin and Mary Clark had seven children; they adopted a fifth child born in 1841, Henry Clay Hayward, the son of a friend. Evidence suggests that as the family grew it moved from the log cabin on the lands acquired from Blinn into another dwelling, perhaps the original portion of Scragwood. By 1841 Orrin Clark had amassed enough resources to contract for the construction of Old Elm, a two-story masonry house which served as a fairly substantial statement of their material success. In keeping with the barter economy of the time, Orrin Clark agreed to pay Westport contractor-mason Warren Gibbs with \$210.00 worth of lime—amounting to 200 bushels—in return for his work on the house:

Willsborough February the 4th, 1841

Know al men by these presents that J. Warren Gibbs of the town of Westport county of essex & state of New York do agree for and in the consideration of the sum of two hundred and ten dollars worth of lime at my lime kiln in Willsborough to Build a stone house for Orrin Clark in the town of Willsborough thirty six fee[t] long and twenty six feet wide the Lower or seller six one half feet wide with foundation for a chimney and the cellar way wall two feet thick then the first story above the cellar nine foot three inches high to be crossed on the front and both ends with one fire place and oven the wall to be eighteen inches thick the second story to be seven feet ten inches high with two chimneys eighteen inches thick with the gable ends and chimney tops to be coursed in

³ Darcey Hale, "The Clarks of Ligonier Point" (Hale, "The Clarks" hereafter). The information contained in "The Clark Family of Ligonier Point" section of the NRHP form is largely derived from this source, which has been compiled from the voluminous papers of the Clark family. These are maintained by the Hale Historical Research Foundation (HHRF hereafter), the mission of which is to preserve, interpret and share these vast collections.

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from and the north ends the above named Building to be painted and made in a good workman like manner the above named work to be done in the fore part of the summer of 1841.

Signed J. Warren Gibbs⁴

Frequent references by family members indicate that agriculture was Orrin Clark's principal focus throughout his lifetime, which he augmented with other activities such as harvesting wood and manufacturing quicklime. Clark specialized for a time in quicklime production and was one of the larger manufacturers of this product in the Willsboro area during the 1840s; the kiln he operated collapsed in 1851. As the years went on, and with the help of his older sons, Clark was able to rent additional land that enabled him to expand his farming endeavors. He planted field crops to supply food for his family and the various workers in the family's employ, as well as to provide sustenance for the livestock which was kept at the Old Elm farm. He also served as an agent for the sale of agricultural equipment and fruit trees. Additional outbuildings, many of which are now lost but are known from historic images, were built to meet the needs of his agricultural endeavors and several additions to his home were made as the number of family members increased. Most prominent of the new farm structures was a substantial frame barn, no longer extant, in which stock and hay were stored; in 1865 the first telegraph messages received on Willsboro Point were transmitted to a room in the tower of this building. The telegraph line, which was shortly thereafter licensed by the Montreal Telegraph Company and operated from the Clark's office, offered Willsboro Point residents direct communication with distant areas for the first time. At the time of the 1860 Federal census Orrin Clark, 63, was living at Old Elm with his wife, Mary, two daughters, and Levi Lincoln, 45, who worked on the farm. He noted his profession as farmer and claimed \$2,000 in real estate and \$300 in personal estate.

Orrin Clark was by all indications steady, conscientious and pious, while Mary was possessed of moral, physical and spiritual fortitude and devoted her life to hard work on behalf of her husband and children. The couple exercised their strong Methodist religious beliefs through Sabbath Day church going, frequent prayer meetings at their homes and those of neighbors, and summer camp meetings in Keeseville and other neighboring communities. Orrin and Mary Clark were deeply committed to providing a good education for their children at home and in the local District School No. 2. Orrin Clark was actively involved in hiring teachers, managing the library, arranging evening prayer meetings and social events, and overseeing general maintenance of the school building and grounds. Orrin Clark died in 1885 at the age of 87; Mary died in 1889 at the age of 85.

In 1849 Orrin and Mary Clark's eldest son Solomon married Rhoda Adsit and the couple moved into Old Elm with the rest of the Clark family. In 1857, with two children and another on the way, they relocated to the dwelling that would become known as Scragwood, which may have been moved to its current location from another site on the property. The 1860 Federal census depicts the Scragwood household, which at that time consisted of nine individuals. Solomon W. Clark, age 36, is noted in the census as a stone dealer with \$1,500 in real estate and \$1,000 in personal estate. Also in the household are his wife and three children, his brother Lewis, noted as a "sailor (capt.)," Lewis's wife Elizabeth, an Irish-born servant and Royal Goff, a teamster. By 1871 Solomon and Rhoda Clark had produced seven offspring: Olive (1852), Ida (1855), Luella (1858), Charles (1861), Willis (1863), Mary Evangeline (1867) and Cassius (1871). However, only Olive, Luella, Charles and Willis lived beyond early adulthood and none of these children remained in the Champlain Valley as adults.

Solomon Clark's diaries portray him as a complex figure who could be fearsome and gentle by turns and whose devotion to his family was considerable. Despite long periods away from home on business Clark was a faithful correspondent who was a frequent writer for local newspapers such as the *Plattsburgh Sentinel* and the

⁴ Contract in the collection of HHRF.

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Essex County Republican in addition to papers published in Troy. Solomon wrote periodic news columns for Willsboro Point, some under the penname of "Twilight," in the *Essex County Republican* from 1878 through 1894, and various feature articles on contemporary topics.⁵ He also composed poetry for his wife and family and sometimes for newspaper publication. Many of his writings expressed his deep-seated religious convictions; like his father, he was a faithful church attendee in addition to a Sabbath schoolteacher and church elder. He also displayed a strong interest in politics and was associated with the progressive ideals of the temperance and anti-slavery movements.

Although Solomon Clark continued to offer support for his father's farming endeavors he became increasingly interested, by the mid-century point, in quarrying the massive deposits of Chazy limestone from the family's property on Ligonier Point. By the 1850s Clark had focused the majority of his attention on the quarrying business and providing stone to a broadening market. His life as a stone quarryman proved uneven, however, as entries in his diaries and remaining correspondence portray an overall lack of financial acumen and what might be best termed middling skills as a manager and a planner. These deficiencies, combined with the economic vicissitudes of the times, left him dangerously close to financial disaster and bankruptcy throughout his adult life. His inability to effectively manage the company's cash flow and his failure to address debt in a timely fashion were largely to blame for this predicament. In addition to quarrying Chazy limestone on the family's own property, Clark also drew stone from the quarry in nearby Essex as well as the so-called Cooley quarry in Willsboro. He sometimes provided not only stone for construction projects but also the workforce, and used his knowledge of French to great advantage in Quebec, where he recruited French Canadian stonecutters, masons and carpenters. Much of the workforce employed by Clark during the years of the quarry, and for his contracting enterprises, hailed from Quebec. An 1873 letter to Clark from the French Canadian stonecutter Regis Roy, who was engaged with the construction of the Bluff Point lighthouse on at Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, paints a less-than-ideal portrait of the relationship between S.W. Clark & Company management and labor:

I am quite mortified to see how you are acting with me, you left like a man who is afraid to be talked to, leaving me only with the two thirds of the money that I needed to pay us. I am tired of enduring my men's reproaches for what I did not tell them which is that you were what we call in French a bad pay. . . It was not very pleasant to come here to get eaten by flies and live on a site which is not comfortable to even lodge swine. It was not very pleasant on the last week of June to pay for three days without having bread to eat, and the first week of July to cook on my time and pay your four dollars per week for poor pension. It was not very pleasant for me to see that your accounts do not correspond with mine, and to see that you took the statements away with you promising to send the rest of the money, and not sending it. Today our beds are so wet that we do not know where to sleep. I think that a man of honor would not reason like this. Now we have been waiting for long enough, we need our money immediately, and I inform you that we will not stay here after August 1st you must transport us to Willsboro at your own expenses. I have been singing this song to you for long enough, this is the last time that I will abstain from saying too much because I still want to cover part of your body with the coat of a gentleman. I will tell you the rest in person and without fear.⁶

Noteworthy major contracts for which Solomon Clark provided materials or labor included work for the Vermont Central and Delaware & Hudson railroads; the enlarged locks on the Champlain Canal (1852-1862);

⁵ A number of newspaper articles written by S.W. Clark are contained in the collection "S.W. Clark Newspaper Articles" maintained by HHRF.

⁶ Regis Roy to Solomon Clark, 27 July 1873, in Morris F. Glenn, Bruce Hale and Darcey Hale "The Clark Quarry, Farm & Boat Building Complex on Ligonier Point, New York," 2008 (Glenn-Hale "Clark Quarry" hereafter), appendix 10, "Letter of Regis Roy-Canadian Stone Mason at Bluff Point Light."

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the waterworks at Troy; repairs to Fort Montgomery, on the American-Canadian border, during the Civil War; the breakwaters at Burlington and Plattsburgh; and the Lake Champlain lighthouses at Crown Point, Split Rock, Barbers Point and Cumberland Head, in addition to the lighthouse at Bluff Point. His greatest achievements were the contracts he secured to provide foundation stone for the New York State Capitol and the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company contract to provide foundation stone for the piers of the Brooklyn Bridge. Clark managed to keep his own stone business going, though to a lesser extent, after financial reversals forced him into bankruptcy and the loss of his share in the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company in 1875. Solomon Clark's business enterprises based at Ligonier Point spanned almost five decades; he died in 1895 at the age of 71.

Rhoda Clark's daily diaries portray her as an intelligent woman whose abilities helped to offset some of her husband's business and management deficiencies. She served for a short period as manager of the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company, in essence by operating its store and its post office, and was appointed as mail carrier for the Willsboro Point Post Office, charged with conveying mail back and forth between the Point and the hamlet of Willsboro. Rhoda Clark died in 1902 at the age of 78.

In 1854 Orrin and Mary Clark's second son, Lewis H. Clark, married Rhoda's sister Elizabeth; the couple made their home at Old Elm with Lewis's parents. In 1852 Lewis opened the first photographic studio in Willsboro at Old Elm, where he produced small daguerreotype portraits. After learning the rudiments of ship building at Green Point, Brooklyn in the 1850s Lewis Clark returned to Willsboro where he captained several Lake Champlain boats such as the *W. D. Ross* in 1857 and 1858. During the Civil War, at which time the interests of the quarry were flagging, he returned to Green Point with his brother George to assist the war effort and there was engaged in the construction of ironclads, for which the two were well compensated. After he returned home he invested himself in the design and construction of workboats; his designs included one for a canal boat, the *General U. S. Grant*, in addition to a racing yacht, the *Comet*, built in 1875. A smaller and faster racing yacht was specially designed for the new Lake Champlain Yacht Club, and one of these won trophies for its owner for 12 years as the fastest sloop on Lake Champlain. After the firm S.W. Clark & Company dissolved in 1871 Lewis Clark went to work for the leading marine contractor on Lake Champlain, Luther Whitney, as a marine engineer, during which time he served as the captain of a pile driver and several workboats; he managed a major dredging operation of the lower Otter Creek, Vermont. The Clark family also provided Whitney with materials for his various construction enterprises, among them timbers for pilings and bulkheads, wood cribs for docks, and rubble stone for crib filling and bulkhead backfill. Clark also designed and built the *Rescue*, a steam-powered tug and workboat, for Luther Whitney. Over the years Lewis Clark designed equipment for the stone quarry at Dix Island, Maine, participated in or directed the construction of buildings for the Corps of Engineers, including Lake Champlain lighthouses, oversaw the erection of unmanned lighted beacons and the Burlington and Plattsburgh breakwaters, and helped oversee the activities of the family farm. Following the dissolution of S.W. Clark & Company, Lewis Clark's services were much in demand by the companies which used stone from the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company.

Orrin and Mary Clark's third son, George, was born some 17 years after Lewis. As a young man he and his wife Carrie moved north to Clinton County to engage in a variety of endeavors. He and his brother Lewis opened an ill-fated Ausable River Valley spruce wood pulp mill in Keeseville that burned to the ground soon after it became operational. He was never as active a participant in the quarrying business as his brothers, in large measure due to his displeasure with Solomon's management of the operation; he did, however, send his family some of the money he made while at Green Point with his brother to help satisfy some lingering debts. George

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Clark and his eldest son met an ultimately death when their boat, *Little Nellie*, capsized during a storm on Lake Champlain in 1890.⁷

Mary Reba, Orrin and Mary Clark's youngest child and only daughter, was sent to Fort Edward Seminary in her teens. She married an educator and physician and moved to Long Island; she died of lingering consumption at a relatively early age, leaving a son, Earnest, and a daughter, Mary Hope, who remained closely attached to her family's roots on Willsboro Point. Mary Hope is the connection between the Clark family and the current owners of Scragwood and Old Elm through her friendship with the Hale family.

The Stone Quarry at Ligonier Point: Historical Context & Site Development

Stone was first sourced from this locale in 1823; however, since Orrin Clark had sold the rights to the stone on his property to Burlington, Vermont-based interests—at that time he was engaged with timbering enterprises—it was not until 1847-48 that he was able to procure partial interests in the limestone being quarried there. In 1854 Clark and his sons Solomon and Lewis assumed complete control of the limestone bed on their land and incorporated under the title of S.W. Clark & Company. The company reorganized in 1869 under the name of the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company and quarrying operations continued for another two decades before ceasing entirely sometime before 1900. At the height of the quarry's operation it was among the better equipped in northern New York and required some 300 hands to tend; these facts were indicated by local resident Elliot Brown, who in 1895 authored "Historical Reminiscences of Willsboro Point from 1845 to 1895" in the *Essex County Republican*. From the time of its establishment Solomon W. Clark served as the company's principal officer and decision maker, though his father Orrin and brother Lewis were also active participants in the quarrying operation, as were the wives of Solomon and Lewis—sisters Rhoda Adsit Clark and Elizabeth Adsit Clark—and Charles Wood, a son-in-law of Solomon. Willis Adsit, a brother of Rhoda and Elizabeth, was also an important employee of the company for many years, serving as a foreman and project manager. The Clark quarry was one of two large stone extraction operations undertaken on Willsboro Point in this period, as the Frisbie family opened a quarry to the west of Ligonier Point which was largely employed for the refinement of limestone into quicklime. Far less information is known about the Frisbie operation than the Clark family's enterprise. The stone from that quarry was not suitable for construction applications and was mostly used for fill, breakwater construction and to make lime for the New York City market.⁸

Both the Clark and Frisbie quarries on Willsboro Point were opened up to take advantage of the presence of Chazy limestone, which in the age prior to the advent of concrete was considered an ideal foundation material. It was sometimes marketed as "black marble" or "bird's eye marble" in order to differentiate it from limestone of lesser grade. Professor Ebenezer Emmons, writing in 1842, noted that its strength was what distinguished this material from other building stone.⁹ The Ligonier Point quarry operated by the Clark family offered a particularly ideal product, as the nature of the bedding allowed for the extraction of large slabs measuring up to 15 feet in length and from one to six feet in thickness. It was for this reason that Ligonier Point Chazy limestone was employed in the construction of high-profile commissions such as the New York State Capitol and the Brooklyn Bridge. In August 1871 the presiding engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge, Washington Roebling, in a letter to the company, noted that he had "concluded to make the first course on the N.Y. caisson a 30-inch course of your limestone. This requires 700 yards—This is the only course of that rise."¹⁰ The location and depth of the stone on the Clark property dictated any number of characteristics. A layer of

⁷ See article in *Plattsburgh Sentinel*, 18 July 1890, "The Three Men Who Went Down On The Little Nellie Found."

⁸ The bulk of the information contained in this section has been derived from Glenn-Hale "Clark Quarry."

⁹ Ebenezer Emmons, *Geology of New York, Part II: Comprising the Survey of the Second Geological District* (Albany 1842).

¹⁰ Letter in the collection of HHRF.

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softer stone, present just below the surface, had a pleasing gray color and was less dense, making it easier to work; this stone was particularly desirable for crafting into window and doorsills. As for rubble stone it could be fired in a limekiln for refinement into quicklime. The Clark complex at one time included a cooperage where barrels were produced in which the quicklime could be shipped. The limekiln, which was operated first by Orrin Clark, collapsed in June 1851, prior to the full development of the quarry by the family. Since Clark had initially sold the stone rights to the main quarry to Burlington contractors, the Morse Brothers, the kiln was built adjacent to Scragwood, away from the main quarry. A new kiln was erected to replace that which collapsed in 1851. However, it appears to have never been put in operation and it was dismantled in the 1880s on a contract with Luther Whitney and was used as scrap stone to repair the Burlington breakwater.¹¹

The Ligonier Point quarry was described in 1867 by Reverend J. Burnell Sylvester of Westport, who was avidly interested in the geology of the Champlain Valley.

...[We] soon made our way to the extensive and valuable quarry of S.W. Clark & Co. Meeting soon after our arrival, with one of the firm, and making our cognomens, and the important business of which we had come, this gentleman conducted us at once to the north part of this aqueous formation of this place, where, with the enthusiasm peculiar to one who knows how to appreciate a rock, he pointed us to another remarkable body of porphyry. Here it assumes the form of a vein. The vein is about 6 feet wide, and is interjected in a seam of Black River limestone. This porphyry is identical in appearance and hardness with that at Essex. From this, we were conducted to a large and productive quarry a short distance to the south. Here we found ourselves in a field of special interest. All around us were huge blocks of marble, quarried for building and other purposes. Mr. Clark informed us that their sales some years, amounted to twenty-five thousand dollars. At the time we were there, they were engaged in cutting and shipping these blocks for the M.E. Church, now being erected in Troy. The blocks are quite easily quarried, but of a very firm texture, and capable of considerable polish. They must prove valuable for building purposes. . .¹²

Quarry workers boarded in the various farm buildings and tenement houses scattered around the point, though none of the 15 workers dwellings listed in the 1870 census survive today. These workers were largely fed with products raised on the Old Elm farm. The 1860 Federal census, in addition to showing the Old Elm and Scragwood households, shows those of others engaged in the quarry business under the Clarks, among these Willis Adsit, a quarry foreman. The boardinghouse adjacent to commercial wharf is shown with a total of 13 individuals, among them foreman J.H. Smith and his family, in addition to four quarrymen, a blacksmith, a stonecutter, and a servant. The quarry not only produced raw building material but finished products as well; stonecutters shaped and dressed stone for a variety of architectural and other applications, and were contracted with for construction projects executed at distant sites. Some of the tools they used still survive at Old Elm. Such fabrication was increasingly important for S.W. Clark in latter years, as the quarrying business was in decline.

Much of the infrastructure used in the quarrying business at Ligonier Point was designed by Lewis Clark. He designed a series of derricks which could be operated variously with man, horse or steam power; an overhead railroad system which assisted with the conveyance of large stones out of the quarry, and a system of steam-powered equipment used for both conveying and dressing stone.¹³ He was further charged with the design and construction of the smaller equipment used by the quarrymen; both he and Solomon were experienced blacksmiths and dispensed related tasks in the facilities in the quarry complex and at Old Elm. The equipment

¹¹Glenn-Hale "Clark Quarry."

¹²Ibid

¹³The 1870 Federal Census listed the main equipment in the quarry as nine derricks, one steam engine and an elevated railway.

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Lewis Clark designed for the Ligonier Point quarry was so effective that a part owner in the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company, the New York contractor Cortland Dixon, and his partner, Edward Learned of Learned & Dixon, hired Lewis Clark to go to Dix Island, Maine to open and equip a granite quarry from which material would be extracted for a new Federal office building in New York City.

The Clark family established S.W. Clark & Company in 1854 in association with their quarrying and other enterprises. Although their father, Orrin Clark, was the senior member of the new firm in 1854, Solomon W. Clark managed the stone business and his brother, Lewis H. Clark handled the shipping interests and dealt with engineering issues. The firm of S. W. Clark & Company grew to such an extent during the years 1854 to 1869 that it was unable to settle its widespread accounts and had to raise capital to pay creditors. In 1869, the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company was formed with \$100,000 of stock by Solomon W. Clark, James McDonald, Edward Learned and Cortland Dixon, at which time all of the partners held shares of the quarry business. A survey map was made showing the limits and structures on the main quarry lot and in the quarry village.¹⁴ The S. W. Clark & Company continued to operate as originally organized in 1854 but after 1869 they had to purchase the stone that they removed for their own purposes from the newly organized Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company. From 1869 to 1871 the Clarks opened various new stone pits on the Scragwood farm property and a larger quarry on Willsboro Mountain on the Cooley lot as well as leasing the large Essex Blue Stone quarry to obtain sufficient quantities of stone. In 1871 the firm of S. W. Clark and Company was dissolved, though Solomon Clark continued using the name for his own business dealings until his death in 1895. In 1870, 225 men were working the Ligonier Point quarry and in a six-month period 12,000 yards of stone were removed and sold for \$180,000. During the years 1869 to 1875, Solomon Clark remained the preeminent management figure in the affairs of the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company though on more than one occasion he was relieved of those duties, only to be restored subsequently. During one of these periods his wife Rhoda Clark was named manager of the company store and by extension the quarry, as it was there that the bulk of the quarry's business accounting was overseen.

The following description of the quarry at Ligonier Point dates 1941 and was authored by geologists A.F. Buddington and Lawrence Whitcomb:

The largest and most extensive quarry operations [in the Willsboro Quadrangle] were on Ligonier Point, where the massive beds of Chazy limestone were easily extracted close to the shore and could be shipped by barge down the lake and thence by canal to the Hudson River.

The earliest date at which the rock was quarried is not a matter of record, but the stone was taken from here as early as 1823 for the construction of some local houses (Information on quarries from Clark, C. L., personal communication, 1938 and White, 1894). From 1854 to 1869 S. W. Clark & Company operated extensive quarries and in 1869 the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company was formed to take over the operation. The last large job was undertaken in 1879. During peak operation more than 300 men were employed in the various jobs about the quarry, and the buildings to accommodate them made a sizeable little community. The quarries are now abandoned and trees have grown up throughout the workings, the buildings have disappeared and the wharf from which the stone was transferred to barges is no longer in existence....

The quarry extended for more than 1,000 feet along the strike and was worked to a depth of some 25 feet in the gently sloping (6 degrees to 8 degrees) dipping beds. One of the great factors in the development of the quarry was the size of the blocks that could be obtained. The thickness of beds varies from one to six feet and they are cut by two sets of joints, one running N. 10 degrees E. and the other approximately east and west. As the joints were not closely spaced, blocks as long as 15 feet could be obtained.

¹⁴This map of the quarry limits and structures was made in May 1868 by an unknown surveyor; HHRF collection.

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Stone from this quarry was used in the piers of the Brooklyn Bridge and in the foundations for the New York State Capitol in Albany. Stone was also shipped to Albany and Troy for the construction of churches in those cities.¹⁵

The quarry ceased operation for a short duration in the years 1875 to ca. 1878 following an audit that revealed a \$15,000 shortfall, which ultimately led to Solomon Clark's resignation from the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company. Clark was forced into bankruptcy and sold off property at public auction to satisfy his creditors, including farm equipment, animals, and contracting equipment. While the quarry continued in operation, on limited terms, into the 1890s, it had reached the height of its profitability and was in decline by the mid-1870s. The sagging fortunes of the quarry operation were noted in 1879 following a murder at the quarry, which indicated that many displaced quarry workers were still residing on site, perhaps waiting for the fortunes of the industry to improve. Solomon W. Clark, writing as a correspondent for the *Essex County Republican* in 1881, noted that "peddlers are a permanent fixture [at Ligonier Point] as of late, and usually drove to the stone quarry, and after trying a dozen, more or less, empty houses, leave in disgust."¹⁶

Following Clark's bankruptcy the remaining partners of the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company largely turned the operation over to James McDonald, who was followed ca. 1879 by Parkhill & Lyon, owners of the Essex Blue Stone quarry. S.W. Clark continued to quarry stone from the site, which is perhaps why Arnold H. Ellis was brought in as a property manager ca. 1880. During these later years Clark focused largely on quarrying stone for the crafting of components such as fence posts, hitching posts, carriage blocks, memorial stones, etc. while occasionally landing contracts for larger projects; in 1892 he secured his last large-scale contract, to provide foundation stone for an opera house to be erected in Plattsburgh. In 1885 the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company initiated the liquidation of the quarry infrastructure it owned, though it remained in existence until legally dissolved ca. 1913. The quarry was overgrown with vegetation and all of its equipment had long since been removed by the time it was visited, in 1941, by Buddington and Whitcomb.

Farming & Boatbuilding at Ligonier Point

The farming activities undertaken by the Clarks at Old Elm during the peak years of stone quarrying provided food for the workforce, which at its height numbered some 300 hands. The farm was equipped with the infrastructure necessary for the raising and butchering of beef, pork, and veal and its smokehouse provided for the preparation of the farm's poultry. The arrival of the railroad in Willsboro in 1875 had spurred the local agricultural economy and the dairy industry in particular, given an ability to effectively deliver milk to distant urban markets, shifting the emphasis away from butter and cheese manufacture. These developments coincided with the declining fortunes of the quarrying business, and it was in this period the Old Elm barn was aggrandized in order to provide room for additional dairy cows and hay. Orchards had long been a part of the farm landscape for family consumption; however, as the nineteenth century progressed, increased emphasis was placed on raising orchard fruits for sale. It appears that the farm lands corresponding with Old Elm and Scragwood were collectively operated, early on, as surplus goods were offered for sale by the corporate entity S.W. Clark & Company. By the time of the company's financial difficulties in the 1870s, it appears the farms were being managed separately by Solomon and Lewis, the latter who had by this time assumed oversight of Old Elm from his father, Orrin. In the 1850 Federal agricultural census Orrin Clark was noted as managing 170 acres of land with livestock including horses, oxen, milk cows, beef cattle and pigs; his crops included wheat, oats, peas, potatoes, orchard products, and hay. Clark produced 500 pounds of butter and slaughtered

¹⁵A.F. Buddington and Lawrence Whitcomb, "Geology of the Willsboro Quadrangle, New York," New York State Museum Bulletin no. 325 (1941), 123. The "White 1894" reference is "The geology of the Essex and Willsboro Townships, Essex County, New York," Trans. N.Y. Acad. Sci., 13:214-31; VI & VII, 1894.

¹⁶Quotation is taken from a newspaper account by Clark; "S.W. Clark Newspaper Articles," HHRF.

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animals at a profit of \$250. By the time of the 1860 agricultural census he had added 300 pounds of maple sugar to the farm's output.¹⁷

In the 1865 New York State agricultural census Solomon Clark was indicated as farming 211 acres of improved land with an additional 294 acres of unimproved land; his orchard included 150 apple trees and he raised sheep, poultry, pigs and other livestock. By the time of the 1875 census, his farm had increased in value from \$9,000 to \$21,000, by which time the orchard had been expanded to include 1,000 trees; his products included orchard fruit, cider, maple sugar, and maple molasses. In 1861 he was offering for sale 35 varieties of apple trees, most of which had been purchased from the well-known Mount Hope Nursery of Ellwanger & Barry in Rochester, and sold farm equipment, seeds and lime from the nearby Frisbie farm. Proceeds were used to assist with paying the day-to-day bills of the quarry business during most of the years S.W. Clark & Company was in business.¹⁸

Shipbuilding at Ligonier Point was largely done under the auspices of Lewis Clark. Prior to learning the shipbuilding trade he was exposed to the rudiments of engineering and math while attending the academy in Bakersfield, California, where a member of the Frisbie family had moved during the Gold Rush. Lewis had learned the shipbuilding trade in the 1850s in the Green Point shipyards and during a second later period of employment there during the Civil War. The residents of Willsboro Point shared a strong connection with shipbuilding and maritime affairs, given the presence of Lake Champlain and the early economy of the region, which was reliant in some measure on Vermont markets or those accessed to the south via the Champlain Canal. Members of the Frisbie, Adsit, Blinn and Boynton families were all active in some measure in shipbuilding or shipping pursuits in the nineteenth century; the Frisbies, like the Clarks, maintained a wharf from which they operated vessels for various commercial purposes and also a small shipyard as well as nearby tenements for worker housing. The heyday of the bluestone quarry was in the era prior to the arrival of the railroad; the quarried stone, transported to the wharf by oxen teams, was shipped on the lake, often times in canal boats. Much of the larger boatbuilding work undertaken by the Clark family at Ligonier Point was accomplished in a frame structure built around a marine railway, no longer extant, that was located north of the large quarry, near the shoreline.¹⁹ It was towards the end of the Civil War, in 1865, that Solomon Clark successfully petitioned Lewis and George to return to Willsboro Point from the Green Point shipyards for the purposes of constructing a schooner to be operated by the company, assuring them that shipping costs were sufficiently high at the time to make the ownership of the vessel profitable.

In December 1860 the Clark's schooner the *Sarah Ellen*, fully laden with stone, sank near Four Brothers Island after leaving the Clark dock on its way to Burlington. The vessel was under the direction of Solomon, Lewis and George's adopted brother, Henry Clay Hayward, who was lost along with his wife despite efforts to save them; Solomon Clark was aboard the *Daniel Webster*, which was following behind, and mounted a rescue effort that saved one crew member. This wreck was located in 1989 by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. In March 1865 work was begun on the Clark's new schooner, the *General U.S. Grant*, which was completed the following December and built to specifications reflecting the new scale of the enlarged Champlain Canal locks. It was retasked later in its history, ca. 1890, for the transportation of ice to New York City.

After the demise of the quarry business Lewis Clark continued to build boats at Ligonier Point, among these sailing craft such as the *Comet*, built in 1875. It was used as a ferry which could carry fifty passengers and goods between Burlington, Plattsburgh and Willsboro Point. Also, it won many trophies for being the fastest racing

¹⁷Glenn-Hale "Clark Quarry."

¹⁸Ibid

¹⁹May 1868 map of quarry complex.

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boat on the lake. The remains of another racing yacht, the *Narragansett*, are situated within the district. At Old Elm Lewis Clark continued to build small boats and yachts in his barn until the early 1900s. Later in life he was engaged in the installation and maintenance of wind-powered equipment and other farm equipment, a new water system for the Essex County Poorhouse and the first electric lighting system in Willsboro at the Green Mountain View House. At the same time he was running a prosperous dairy farm and commercial creamery at Old Elm.²⁰

Architectural Analysis

The Ligonier Point Historic District features two domestic properties chronicling the association of the Clark family with this land; it was there that the various members of the family resided during the historic period, with both houses being modified and aggrandized as necessary to suit their requirements. The family's original house, no longer extant, was the log dwelling first resided in by Orrin Clark and his family in 1823. Clark had the stone house, Old Elm, built 1841, though it is believed he resided in a third dwelling—perhaps the core portion of Scragwood, ca. 1830—in an interim period. His son, Solomon Clark, resided at Scragwood beginning 1857 and by the following year was engaged with improvements there. Prior to this the couple had resided at Old Elm. A rapidly growing family of seven children in part accounts for the expansion of that house. Later, after the death of their parents, Lewis Clark and his family resided at Old Elm, while Solomon Clark and his family remained at Scragwood. Both retain ancillary structures which are important in understanding them as domestic complexes, with Old Elm being the more intact in that regard, retaining as it does a smokehouse and privy, in addition to an icehouse and blacksmith shop. The most prominent outbuilding there, a large dairy barn, is no longer extant.

Old Elm, completed in 1841, was built for Orrin Clark by the Westport contractor-mason Warren Gibbs and subsequently aggrandized with the multiple frame additions which form the current L-shaped wing that extends to the north and west of the masonry portion. The stone section of Old Elm was of a well-established typology by that time, being a two-story gable-ended dwelling constructed on a rectangular plan with a five-bay façade and central entrance. Houses of this form and plan emerged as a standard type in the early nineteenth century and are strongly associated with the development of the Federal style. The use of cut-stone distinguished Old Elm from houses of frame construction, while its simplified exterior lines reflected the prevailing Greek Revival aesthetic, which is also displayed in its interior finishes. The plan—one-and-one-half room's deep—related to established precedents first expressed in the early nineteenth century, during which time this plan came into broad usage. The original house, which was heated with airtight stoves but which the contact with Gibbs indicates also originally had a cooking hearth and oven, was augmented subsequently with additional space afforded by the frame section, which was built in multiple episodes and in some measure influenced by the house's occupancy by multiple generations of the family. The first of these allowed for the relocation of the kitchen facilities outside of the main block and was likely accomplished by moving an existing frame building and appending it to the existing stone section.

Scragwood assumed its current extent and appearance during multiple building episodes; its core section likely dates to ca. 1830 and may have served as Orrin Clark's dwelling prior to the erection of Old Elm. Its evolution was from that of a small vernacular dwelling of story-and-a-half scale—being a self-contained form with a gable roof that sheltered modestly scaled and finished domestic spaces—into a larger house with Gothic Revival and rustic adornment. Prior to the attachment of the former quarry office, ca. 1879, it consisted of the original dwelling and wing and by the third-quarter of the nineteenth century had assumed characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, most notably in the use of vertical board-and-batten siding and distinctive features such as a bay window. Notable was what would appear to be the early use of rustic exterior features which are

²⁰Glenn-Hale "Clark Quarry."

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commonly associated with the Adirondack style, perhaps as early as the 1870s, at a time when this style was only being developed by its pioneer in the Adirondack region, William W. Durant. The porches on the wing and the freestanding summer house are fully developed examples of the rustic aesthetic and appear in images of Scragwood which are believed to date to the 1870s. The combination of Gothic Revival and rustic features for domestic applications was not unknown in American architectural source material, as Andrew Jackson Downing combined these for a design offered in *Cottage Residences* in 1842. If original to that date they form a noteworthy early essay in the development of rustic architecture in the region. As for the name Scragwood it related to the original finish of the rustic porches, whereby the butt ends of the cedar post's branches were left in place to further the rustic effect.

Conclusion

The Ligonier Point Historic District is a noteworthy historic resource in New York's Lake Champlain region. It provides a remarkable physical counterpart to the vast collection of archival materials which document the commercial, industrial and agricultural enterprises undertaken there by the Clark family, pursuits which were expressive of a wide array of historic themes and narratives in the history of Essex County and the greater region. The backdrop for the district—which includes the two principal dwellings associated with the Clark family's nineteenth-century tenure on Ligonier Point, Old Elm and Scragwood, along with the Chazy limestone quarries and other contributing features and sites—is Lake Champlain, transportation upon which was vital to the various enterprises conducted there. It was also upon the lake that vessels designed and built by the Clark family at the Ligonier Point shipyard plied their trade, and that members of the family perished. The Ligonier Point Historic District highlights the tenancy of the Clark family on these lands and their shaping of this complex cultural landscape during the course of the nineteenth century.

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Developmental history/additional historic context information

See Appendices

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 79.31 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	629730	4919432	6	18	629975	4919013
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18	630113	4919295	7	18	629319	4919176
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	18	630210	4919244	8	18	628756	4919443
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
4	18	630203	4919154	9	18	629359	4919500
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
5	18	630012	4919021				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the district is shown on the enclosed mapping, including the site map entitled "Site Map of the Ligonier Point Historic District," which is drawn to scale and shows the interrelationship of the various components included within the district.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the district was established following a careful consideration of historic and existing conditions. As drawn, the district includes all those remaining historic features associated with the development of Ligonier Point by the Clark family; those non-contributing resources which were included are within the district boundary given the presence of historic features on their associated parcels.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger (NYS DHP), Darcey Hale, Bruce Hale and Morris Glenn
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date August 2012
street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail William.Krattinger@oprhp.state.ny.us

Additional Documentation

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Photographs (TIFF format) by Philip Hall, Morris F. Glenn and William Krattinger, 2010-2012

- 0001 Old Elm, view looking westward towards main block
- 0002 Old Elm, view, looking southwards, showing main block and frame additions
- 0003 Old Elm, view looking southwards showing primary elevation of blacksmith shop
- 0004 Old Elm, view showing smokehouse
- 0005 Scragwood, view looking roughly southwards showing primary elevation
- 0006 Scragwood, view looking westwards showing former business office moved to this location in 1879
- 0007 Scragwood, view looking eastwards showing rear of building, former business office to right
- 0008 Scragwood, view showing summer house
- 0009 Scragwood, view showing Heritage Garden
- 0010 Scragwood, interior view of former quarry office; stone display case visible in far corner
- 0011 View looking roughly southward showing location of quarry village
- 0012 View on north side of Ligonier Point, looking roughly eastward towards Shelburne Point, Vermont, showing Chazy limestone ledge
- 0013 Main quarry, view looking from eastern ledge near Lake Champlain shoreline
- 0014 Second quarry, view looking roughly south
- 0015 View of shoreline, east side of Ligonier Point, showing quarry refuse blocks
- 0016 View looking eastward across Lake Champlain towards Four Brothers Islands and Burlington, Vermont

Property Owner:

name VARIOUS; historic district
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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APPENDIX I: Clark Quarry Property Chronology

Original Ligonier Point Land Grant

June 6, 1765 (Book 14 of Patents). Part of 3,000 acre grant which included Ligonier Point and Four Brothers Islands granted by Letters Patent to John Montresor, Esq., Francis Mee, and Robert Wallace of the Colony of New York by King George III. A portion of these original patent lands were sold on August 19, 1817 to Seth Hunt (Book C, page 11) of Northampton, MA, whose name appears on all early deeds pertaining to Ligonier Point.

Original Quarry Farm Purchase

78 acres acquired from Truman Nash of Burlington in 1822. First payment was the one hundred dollars given to Orrin Clark by Billy Blinn upon Orrin's majority in January 1798. Information provided by Fisk Wood, great grandson of Orrin Clark, September 7, 1931.

March 12, 1823 (Book O, p. 173 – deed recorded 1836). Seth Hunt to Jacob Tuckerman.

December 31, 1823 (Book D, p. 374). Jacob Tuckerman to Ebenezer Wilson.

December 31, 1823 (Book D of mortgages, p. 171). Ebenezer Wilson to William D Ross.

September 17, 1836 (Deed Book S, p. 477). Deed for the Scragwood property sold to Orrin Clark by William D. Ross and Mary Ann Ross who purchased the rights from Ebenezer Wilson.

Sale of Stone Rights

November 14, 1831 (Book J, p. 368). Orrin Clark to Reuben Butler of Burlington for \$500. Clark sold the rights to quarry stone on his farm while retaining the right to burn lime made and pasture his animals. Butler was also granted rights to harvest wood to erect a building at the quarry (February 16, 1833 Deed Book K, p. 462-463, Reuben and Lucy Butler to Orange Butler). Tax record, 1838-9, for Reuben Butler stone quarry on Ligonier Point, NY.

May 9, 1840. Addendum of letter, Orange Butler to Orrin Clark, notes Orrin owns $\frac{1}{2}$ of the quarry rights, James Morse and Butler own $\frac{1}{4}$, with a third party maintaining the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$.

October 31, 1843 (Book W, p. 354). Orange Butler of Burlington to John Jackson of Milton, Vermont; rights to $\frac{1}{2}$ of stone quarry conveyed by Reuben on deed dated November 14, 1831.

1847, 1848, 1849, 1851. Willsboro tax bill for Morse Brothers and Butler and paid by Orrin Clark.

March 7, 1851 (Book II, p. 203). John Jackson of Milton, Vermont to S. W. Clark; one equal undivided half of stone quarry deeded to Reuben Butler by Orrin Clark November 13, 1831.

1853, 1854. Willsboro Property taxes paid by firm of S.W. Clark, Caleb Conger and James Morse & Brothers.

1854. Articles of Agreement between Orange Butler (then residing in Canada) and Orrin Clark and S. W. Clark that Butler would trade his interest in the quarry for a small house, 18 by 24 feet, divided into three rooms along with a lifetime supply of food, tea and tobacco and to keep his daughter Mary Y. Pierce until she wed.

October 15, 1855. Willsboro tax bill made out to Clark, William Conger and Morse.

November 5, 1855. S. W. Clark buys Caleb Conger interest and right to quarry stone for \$250.

November 19, 1857 (Book SS, p. 549). S. W. Clark and Caleb Conger, for $\frac{1}{4}$ part of stone quarry Reuben Butler conveyed to Hiram Putnam of Essex September 18, 1839 (Book JJ, 493).

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1858. Willsboro property taxes paid by firm of S.W. Clark for quarry.

Scragwood Lot and House

February 10, 1858 (Book V, p. 244). S. W. Clark to Orrin Clark for what appears to be the Scragwood parcel and house; this was a portion of a larger lot on which Asa Fisher formerly resided and where S. W. Clark resided at that date. Parcel contained 78 acres with right to quarry stone as specified in writing from Orrin Clark to Reuben Butler.

Additional Quarry Rights Transactions

April 22, 1859. Offer of S. W. Clark for James Morse & Brothers (legally known as Butler Quarry or Clark's Quarry) together with the Clark's Wharf, one small bar, one large bar and chain with crane and appurtenances, and interest in quarry, to be paid with \$300 in cut stone delivered to Burlington.

July 8, 1859. Quit claim deed from Seth Morse to S. W. Clark for \$300, one undivided equal share equal to 1/4 stone interest of quarry purchased from Reuben Butler by his deed dated September 3, 1839 in which his deed relates to deed from Orrin Clark dated November 14, 1831.

1860, 1865. Willsboro property taxes paid by firm of S.W. Clark for quarry

March 18, 1861 (Book X, p. 383). For a \$500 loan by A. Weldin on two parcels of land with a quarry, in vicinity of Clark's wharf, and note with Bank of Vergennes. Notes deeded stone rights on November 14, 1831 to Reuben Butler, then to John Jackson then to S. W. Clark, November 13, 1850. See Book TT or LL Deeds pages 203-4. 1/4 part to Hiram Putnam of Essex by Butler September 18, 1839 to Caleb Conger on April 9, 1851, recorded July 21, 1854, Book JJ of Deeds page 493 and on November 19, 1855 Conger sold to grantor of this indenture Book SS, Pages 549-55, June 24, 1857.

February 18, 1869 (Also see 1869, Book 31 pp.345 & 346). Newspaper advertisement publishing sale of foreclosure by Ruback Smith against Orrin Clark for sale of the so-called Fisher Farm sold to Orrin Clark by William D. Ross containing 60 acres more or less. See 1870 Book 33 p. 134 Book of Mortgages for mortgage Orrin to William Smith.

July 8, 1869 (Book 64 p. 99). Clark family sells to Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company for \$15,000. Also see Book 65 p. 126 where it is noted LCBS Company had issued \$90K of stock. Quarry owns 20 acres.

Possible Additional Documentation

Additional information may be found in the S. W. Clark Bankruptcy papers. Here is an example: December 23, 1875. List of property sold to satisfy Wesley G. Lyons mortgage amounting to \$1,679.55.

APPENDIX II: Transcription of Erwin Hale's tracing of Scragwood deeds; summary

Contract dated June 10, 1872

Contract between Orrin Clark and Rhoda P. Clark for the sale of entire parcel containing 5.94 acres to the latter on condition that she pay Mary Reba Cooley \$1,000. This contract mentioned in Orrin Clark's will, dated Aug. 25, 1879. Contract was never carried out. Only about \$200 was paid. Therefore Rhoda P. Clark assigned contract back to Mary Reba Cooley. See below.

Contract dated January 24, 1891

Assigned by Rhoda P. Clark to Mary Reba Cooley and recorded February 28, 1891 in Book 100, p. 446

Quit claim signed February 5, 1891

Quit claim signed by Solomon W. Clark and Rhoda P. Clark to Mary Reba Cooley recorded Feb. 28, 1891 Book 100, p. 23.

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Quit Claim signed February 21, 1891

Quit claim signed by Lewis H. Clark and Elizabeth B. Clark to Mary Reba Cooley recorded February 28, 1891 Book 100, p. 24.

Property Conveyance to Mary Reba Cooley February 21, 1891

Conveyed by Lewis H. Clark as sole surviving executor of Orrin Clark to Mary Reba Cooley dated February 21, 1891 and recorded in Book 100, p. 387.

Deed to Rhoda P. Clark from Mary Reba Cooley August 31, 1900

One acre parcel, including house and other buildings known as Scragwood, deeded to Rhoda P. Clark by Mary Reba Cooley on August 24, 1900 and recorded on August 31, 1900 in Book 120, p. 254. At the time of Rhoda's death on October 20, 1902 there were 4 surviving children: Olive A., Luella Jane, Willis Henry and Charles Wesley. Luella Jane wound up with the one-acre property. Luella died September 23, 1933 and left it by will to C. Fiske Wood

Solomon W. Clark and Rhoda P. Clark of the Town of Willsborough to Mary Reba Cooley February 28, 1891

Recorded in Book 100, p. 23. Description same as Quit Claim Deed between E.G. Cooley and Mary H. Cooley except "cedar tree" in place of "white cedar tree" and 5.95 acres in place of 5.94.

Lewis H. Clark and Elizabeth B. Clark to Mary Reba Cooley February 21, 1891

Conveyed "all the estate rights" to same parcel of land and recorded in Book 100, p. 24.

Lewis H. Clark as sole surviving executor of estate of Orrin Clark to Mary Reba Cooley February 21, 1891

Describes same property plus the following: "Being the same premises described in a certain contract to convey said land between Orrin Clark as party of the first part and Rhoda P. Clark as party of the 2nd part, which said contract is dated June 10, 1872, and which said contract was heretofore duly assigned by said Rhoda P. Clark to said Mary Reba Cooley, party hereto of the second part, and being also the same premises described in the last will and testament of said Orrin Clark, who is now deceased, which said last will and testament was duly admitted to probate by the Surrogate of the County of Essex."

Rhoda P. Clark to Mary Reba Clark on January 24, 1891

Recorded on February 28, 1891; Book 100, p. 446. Describes contract between Orrin Clark and Rhoda P. Clark dated June 10, 1872 for sale of premises (same description as in quit claim from E.G. Cooley to Mary R. Cooley). "To have and to hold the said piece or parcel of land with the appurtenances until the said party of the 2nd part, her heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, per the date hereof, yielding and paying thereof the annual interest on all sums unpaid (not exceeding \$1000) unto Mary Reba Clark daughter of Orrin, her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, until the full sum of \$1,000 and principal shall have been paid by the party of the 2nd part, may pay in payments of \$100 per year, with annual interest, or sooner at the pleasure of the 2nd party in this lease. And furthermore it is understood by the parties of the 1st and 2nd parts that a right of way to the lake shore about as it now is occupied for the purpose shall be kept free for the above parties, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever"

"At the time of execution of above contract Rhoda P. Clark was in possession of said premises and had for some time prior to thereto been in possession of them. After delivery of said contract to undersigned continued in possession and is now in possession."

Terms and conditions of said contract were never carried out – only about \$200 ever paid. "On or about September 22, 1885 Orrin Clark died leaving a last will and testament by the terms of which he recognized the making of said contract and provided therein for its being carried out; that the undersigned has been unable to comply with the provisions of said will and has failed to do so." It then goes on to state that undersigned has no right or claim to above premises except by above contract, and having failed to meet its terms and "desiring that the fee of the said premises shall be vested in Mary Reba Cooley, wife of James S. Cooley, who before her marriage was Mary Reba Clark, the person mentioned in said contract. "Now therefore in consideration of \$1.00 the undersigned Rhoda P. Clark do hereby sell, assign, transfer and let over to said Mary Reba Cooley the said contract heretofore fully set out, and all my rights, title and interest of, in and to

LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

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the same, this assignment being for the purpose of vesting in said M.R.C. the right to acquire the fee simple for said premises..." Recorded in Deed Book 120, p. 254

"This indenture made this 24th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred between M. Reba Cooley of Glen Cove, Nassau Co, NY of the first part and Rhoda P. Clark of Willsboro Point, Essex Co, NY of the second part, witnesseth that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of one dollar to her duly paid has sold and by these presents does grant and convey to the said party of the second part heirs and assigns."

"All that parcel of land situated and lying in the Town of Willsborough County of Essex and State of New York bounded and described as follow:

Beginning at a point in the south line of the property conveyed by L.H. Clark surviving executor of the Estate of Orrin Clark to the said M. Reba Cooley, party of the first part, in the center of the road or land leading from the stone quarry to the highway on Willsboro Point, said point or place of beginning being 2.50 chains S 67° 45'E along the center of said land or road 2.50 chains to a monument; thence N 22°15'E 4.00 chains to a monument near the old blacksmith shop; thence N67°45'W 2.50 chains to a monument; thence S22°15'W 4.00 chains to the point or place of beginning in the center of the road or lane leading from the stone quarry containing one acre of land, more or less."

Recorded on 31 day of August 1900 at 2 PM.

APPENDIX III: Various Listings of Ligonier Point Quarry Property and Equipment

1857 (Text in the front of S. W. Clark's 1857 Diary)

"...filled my hands and mind the past season having in the winter of 1856 taken a heavy job of furnishing a lot of stone for the construction of a new lock on the Champlain Canal at Fort Miller and in the spring another to finish up two locks at Fort Ann and in the summer another to furnish stone for the Marine Hospital at Burlington and these together with the farming on a farm of 140 acres together with several small stone jobs of house work. It has taken my time and attention together with my father and brother with whom I have been associated. We have given employment to about 20 men the most of which have boarded with us which of course has made, to say the least of it, slaves of all the women folks and a task for all the family.

We have laid a considerable expense for machinery and tools and have opened into a finer better quality of stone than ever before found in this quarry."

March 12, 1868. Letter from S.W. Clark to Mr. W. L. Van Alstine of Burlington, Vermont:

Dr. Sir.

Since I saw you on the matter of selling a part interest as well as investigating the prospects for business in our line I find more to be done than has ever before offered & this week we have had an offer of twenty thousand dollars for a half interest in the quarry property which consists of the Point on which the quarry is located, the dock, the derricks, tools of all kinds both for the quarry, cutting & blacksmithing purposes & has the boarding house, blacksmith shop, a new store & office nearly done, a building for shop & store house 50 x 20 feet in course of construction, tenements, etc. Now you wished me to give you the preference if I had a better offer than yours & if you want it—the half interest—as I offered fifteen thousand dollars down & five thousand out of your half of the profits (not backing down on my offer) & form a co-partnership & share equal in expenses & profits I will trade with you. I am offered ten thousand down & ten one year a man of abundant means but—I make you this offer because I told you should have the preference & believing you a good business man & a Christian man also.

Now as for business we have the Troy Church, the stone for the Fort Miller Locks, the state dam at Cohoes is to be built & Capitol at Albany both of which we have strong encouragement to furnish. The New York stone for the Central Park is not decided but the engineer gave me strong encouragement & I think we shall have a part of the 55 thousand dollar worth I bid for.

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July 8, 1869. Estimate of Quarry and Personal Property bought of S. W. Clark & Company by the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company.

QUARRY—Consisting of 28 & 88/100 acres according to map and specifications of survey--\$3,855

Buildings on same:

One Store 24 x 38 1½ story high with cellar \$1,500.

One Blacksmith Shop 20 x 30. \$200

One Cutting or Carpenter (shop) 20 x 30. \$200

One Summer Boarding house 20 x 50 near the store \$350

One Boarding House 28 x 38 1½ story. \$1,000.

Sub Total \$7,165. All good buildings frame & well covered.

One Tenement, 3 apartments 18 x 50 not finished off

Two Tenements 13 x 25 finished & shingled. \$200

One House in course of construction 20 x 36 1½ story two apartments \$400

One quarry blacksmith shop, not shingled

Total of above quarry property \$ 7,765.

Page two—Estimate of Personal Property bought of S. W. Clark by the LCBS Co.

One pair of brown mules & harnesses \$600

One pair Sorrel mules & harnesses \$400

One Chestnut mare \$100

One large wagon \$125

One light team wagon \$25

Two sets of blacksmith tools \$350

Three Derricks iron guys complete \$750

Two iron horse powers (For derricks?) \$600

One old Crain \$100

One new Crain, not up \$250

Three large chains \$80

Three large crobars & Hammers \$50

Drills, crobars & hammers \$225

With the derricks \$150

One RR car \$50

Total of personal property is \$3,855.

Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company Day Book, July 1869- May 5 1873.

Boarding Houses

Number 1. James W. Stone (Listing 34 pillows and 34 single blankets)

Number 2. William Bowen (40 pillow tics and 16 double blankets)

Number 3. Levi Whitney (6 blankets)

Number 4. Henry Lagor (36 single blankets and 26 pillow cases)

Number 5. James Bullis

Number 6. Joe Yeoprise

Number 7. John Delaria (5 single blankets and 38 pillow tics)

Number 8. Joseph St. George

280 linear feet of trestle work

566 linear feet of track

2 cars

1 car buggy on traveler

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1 hay cutter
1 boaring machine
4 heavy iron axel wagons
1 heavy wood axel wagon
1 buggy
1 two seat carry all

Engine House
Engine and firebox
Wire rope for hoisting
1 grind stone
1 pump for engine

Derrick Number 1. Horse Power. 9 Guys New Fall
Derrick Number 3. Engine Hoisting Power. 4 wire Guys
Derrick Number 4. Horse Power. 6 Guys 2 wire [P]. Bridge wood, New Fall.
Derrick Number 5. Engine Hoisting Power. 4 wire Guys. Wood bridge.
Derrick Number 6. Horse Power. 6 Guys, New Fall
Derrick Number 7. Horse Power. 9 Guys.
Derrick on the Dock. No horse power.
Crane on Dock.

Buildings in village
Number 14. Store and Office
Number 15. Carpenter Shop (with work benches) and Powder House
Number 16. Blacksmith House

1 Drilling Machine
5 Pair Bellows
4 Anvils
2 Vices
3 Tons of coal

October 26, 1871, *Essex County Republican*, "Willsborough."

"The Willsborough Blue Lime Rock is compact, and has great strength and durability, and weighs about 14 pounds more to the cubic foot than any granite. Tests made by government engineers at Washington have shown that it will bare a heavier pressure than any granite or other rock known, except the greywacke. Hence its importance for the foundations of heavy structures, like the new Capitol building at Albany, and the New York and Brooklyn Bridge across the East River. For an arch bridge like that at Keeseville for instance, for which it was employed, no eastern or other granite can have the preference. That after 16 years use, stands in a condition just as perfect as the day it was completed, and there is no probability of its standing otherwise five hundred years hence. ... Suffice to say with the derrick, elevated railway, and a 45 horse-power engine rocks of a half a dozen or more tons are moved with alacrity..."

August 26, 1875, *Essex County Republican*, "Willsboro Point."

In this article the Solomon W. Clark, the author of the column "Occasional," speaks of two Ligonier Point quarries. Of the LCBS Company quarry he wrote "All that superb outlay of fixtures lies entirely idle." He attributed this to the low prices being offered for stone and a general business depression. He did see signs of activity at the quarry of S. W. Clark & Company, writing "They employ six to eight hands on fine cemetery and building work, mostly for the worker trade."

June 28, 1878, *Plattsburgh Sentinel*, "Lake Champlain Bluestone Company."

The article noted that this quarry, which had for some time sat idle, was now showing great activity under management of the senior McDonald, who had negotiated a contract with the New York Central and Hudson River Railroads for 10,000

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cubic yards of stone. James McDonald, Jr. had assumed management of the work in the quarry. The works were moved (from the old pit on the north) over to the dock side of the quarry and 1,000 feet of new frontage was opened and 2,500 yards evacuated. Eight derricks had been erected; masts, heavily spliced and guyed with immense wire cables, were in operation and were capable of raising 15 tons. Four of these derricks were connected with 300 feet of shafting and carried by steam engine of 50 horse power. Lewis H. Clark was the principal engineer and George Clark was in charge of machinery; Stephen LeGrande, assisted by Peter Barritt, was the foreman of the stone cutters. W. A. Crooks was chief book keeper and [telegraph] operator. Stephen Bullis was foreman of the black smithing department. The stone was quarried for building 126 piers for a railroad line near 63rd street in Manhattan and extended out 500 feet into the river.

July 19, 1878, Plattsburgh Sentinel, "Willsboro Point."

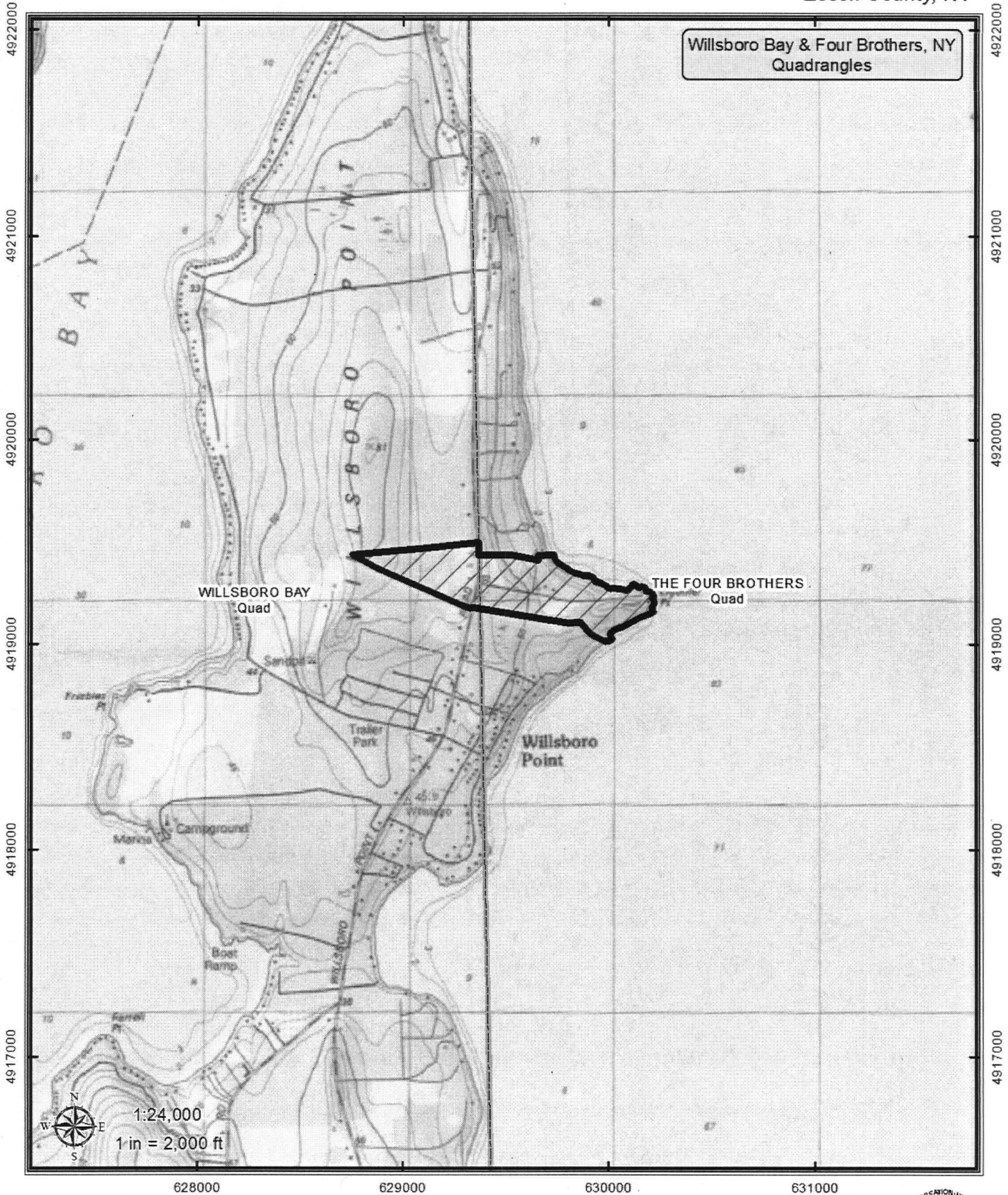
It is unclear what happened at the Lake Champlain Blue Stone Company [LCBS] quarry but the newspaper article noted: "W. G. Lyon & Co., under the management of E. W. Richardson, are doing a brisk trade in connection with the quarry, which is turning out stone of superior quality and large quantities. The re-arranging of machinery by Mr. L. H. Clark, master mechanic, still continues, and the sound of the hammer is not infrequently heard a quarter, and sometimes a half day over time." This article was written by S. W. Clark using the pen name "Twilight." Lyon and Richardson owned the Essex Bluestone quarry so it is interesting they also seem to have taken over the LCBS Company quarry on Ligonier Point. According to another newspaper article dating February 22, 1880, the LCBS Quarry had ceased operations about February 1879. In the June 10, 1880 edition of the *Essex County Republication* it was noted that S. W. Clark was shipping stone, the LCBS Company quarry was still idle and the Clark's ferry boat to Burlington, the *Comet*, was sailing from Brown's Dock on the Point.

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.460 et seq.).

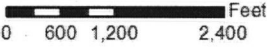
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Ligonier Point Historic District

Town of Willsboro,
Essex County, NY



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



 Ligonier Point
 Quad Index

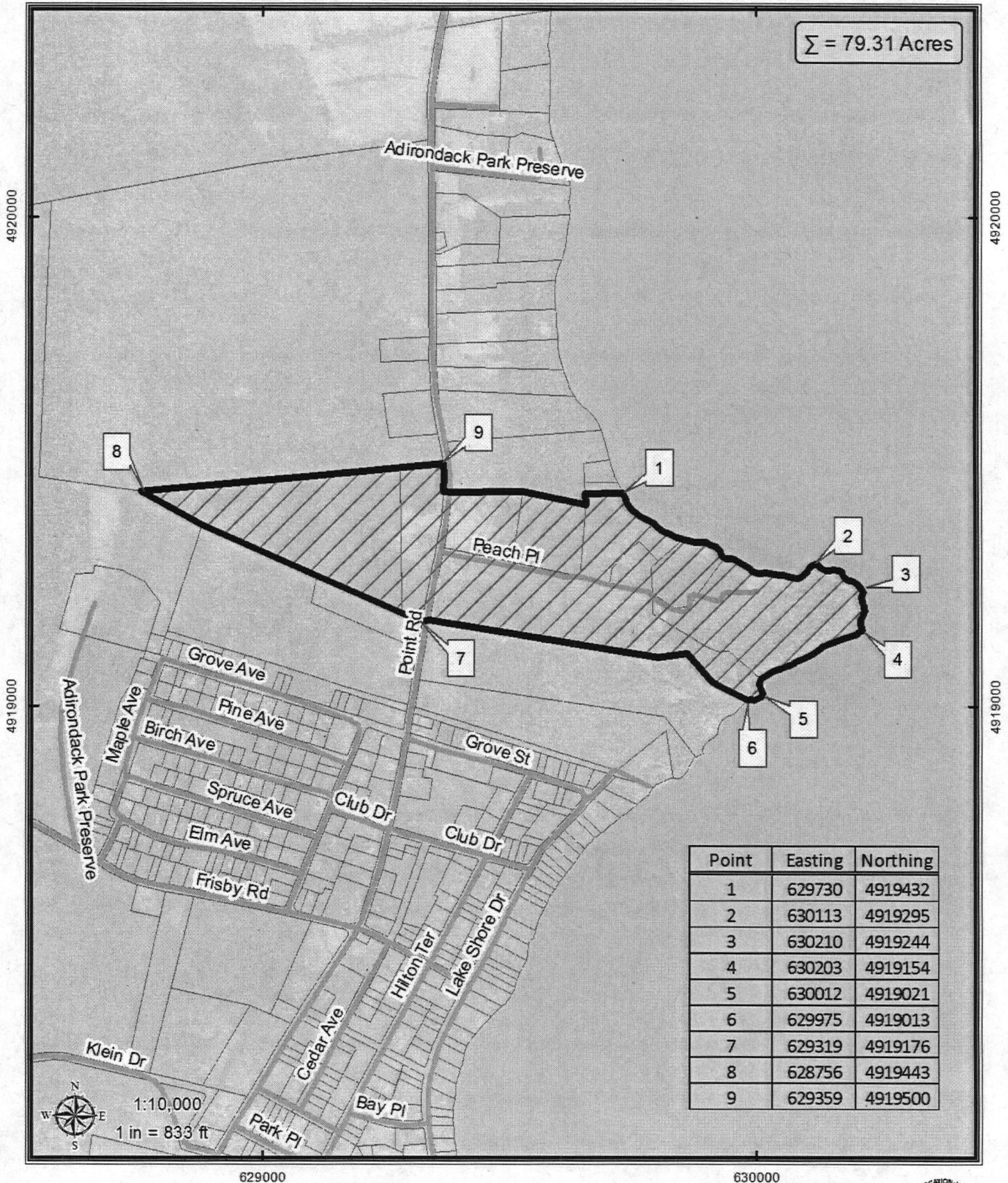
USGS Topo Quadrangle from:
Services@arcgisonline.com



Ligonier Point Historic District

Town of Willsboro,
Essex County, NY

$\Sigma = 79.31$ Acres



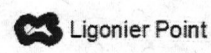
Point	Easting	Northing
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2	630113	4919295
3	630210	4919244
4	630203	4919154
5	630012	4919021
6	629975	4919013
7	629319	4919176
8	628756	4919443
9	629359	4919500



1:10,000
1 in = 833 ft

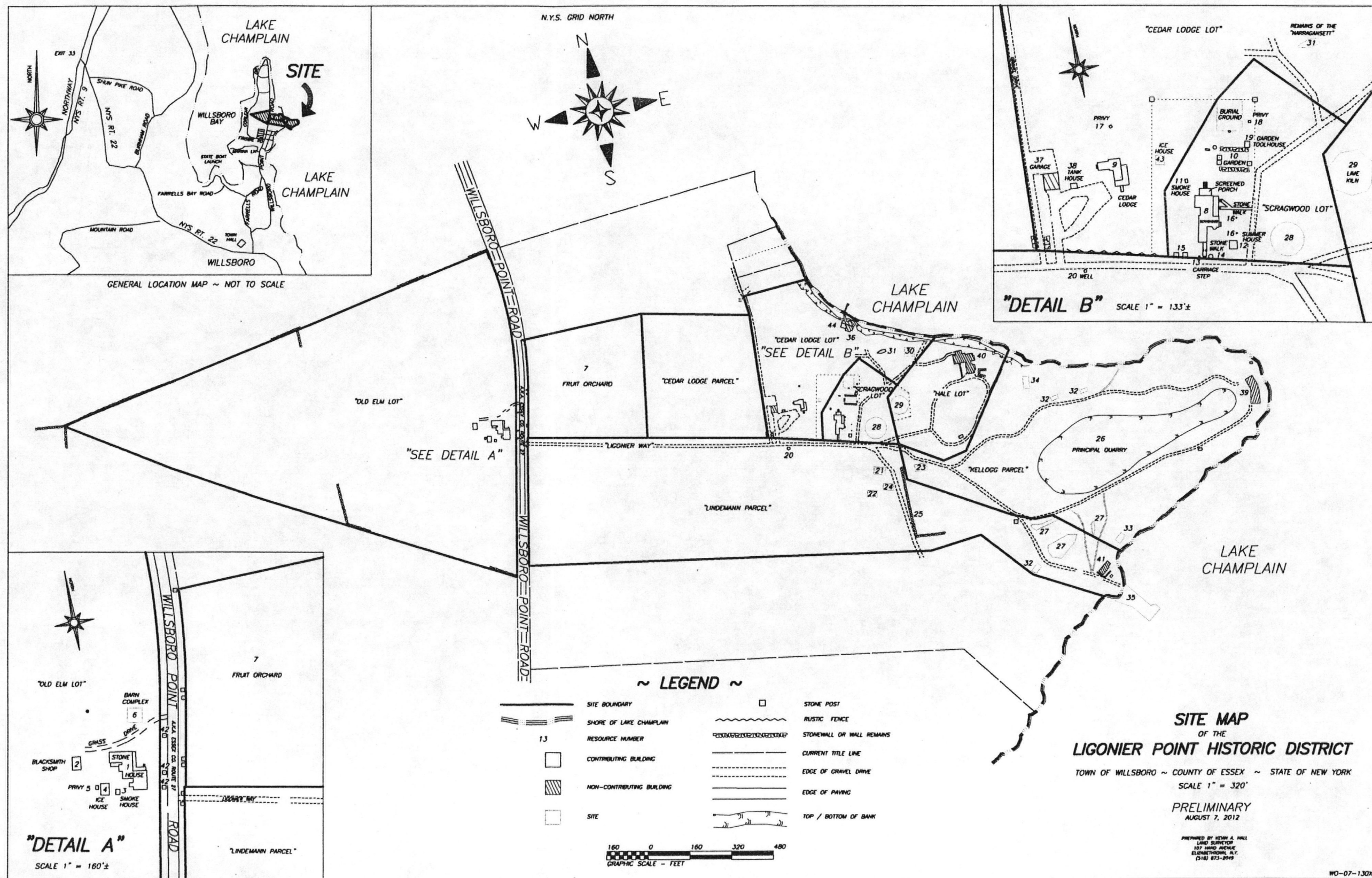
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 255 510 1,020 Feet



Tax Parcel Data:
Essex Co. RPS
<http://rpts-imate-web.co.essex.ny.us>





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ligonier Point Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/16/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/14/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/31/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/02/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001129

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 1.2.13 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.



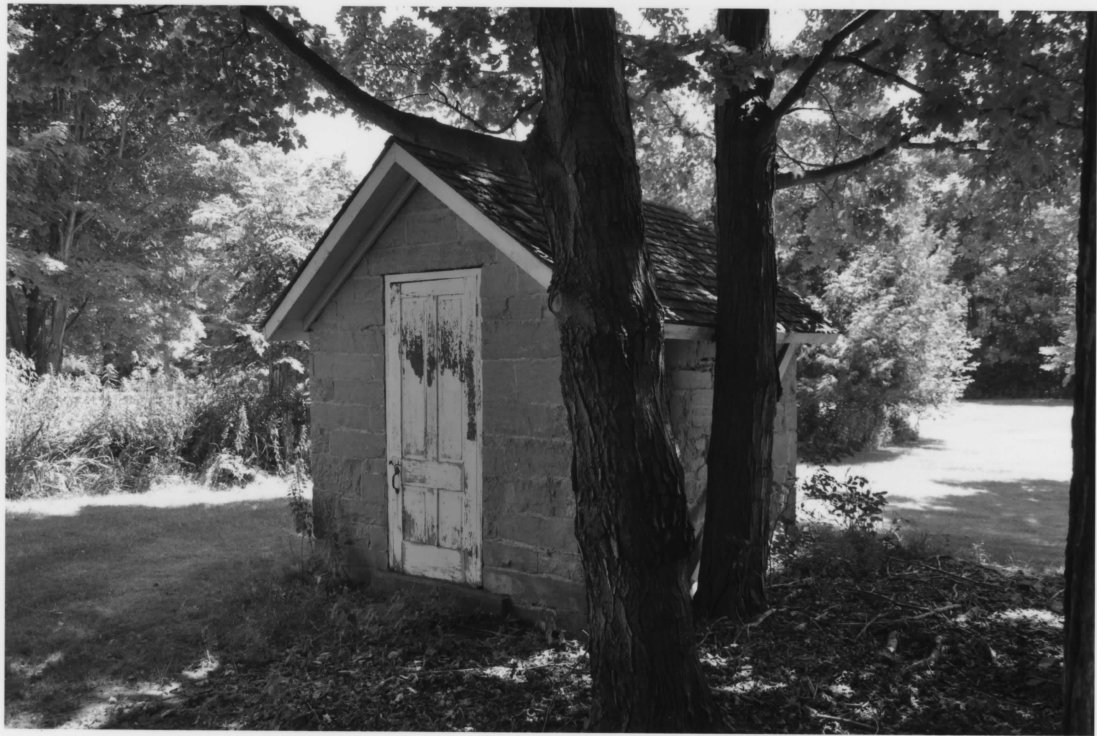
LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0001



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0002



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0003



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0004



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0005



LIFONER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0006



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0007



WAGONER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0008



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0009



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0010



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0011



LIBOURN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0012



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0013



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0014



LIGONIER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0015



LIGOUVER POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT
ESSEX CO. NY
0016

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name

Ligonier Point Historic District

County, State

Essex County, NY

Reference Number

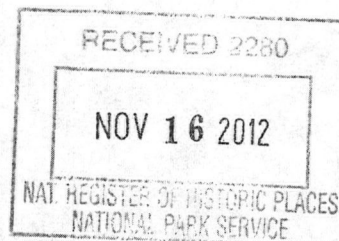
12001129

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☐ Photographs

☒ USGS Map



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

9 November 2012

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Ligonier Point Historic District, Essex County
Turner Brothers' Building; American Household Storage Company, Erie County
Downtown Ossining Historic District (Boundary Expansion), Westchester County
Cannon-Brownell-Herrington Farmstead, Rensselaer County (Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown MPDF)
Halford-Hayne Farmstead Rensselaer County (Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown MPDF) Rensselaer County
Baum-Wallis Farmstead, Rensselaer County (Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown MPDF)

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