

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York
COUNTY: Cortland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 9 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cortland County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 32
Rep.: James Hanley

STATE New York	CODE 36	COUNTY: Cortland	CODE 023
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Cortland

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cortland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

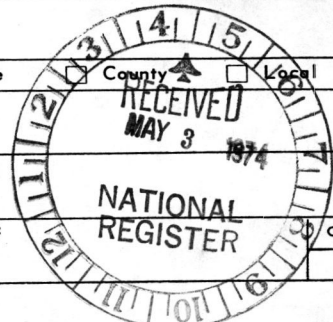
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: New York
COUNTY: Cortland
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 9 1974
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1924 Cortland County Courthouse is a three story building constructed of smooth cut Indiana limestone. Located within a three acre park, the cupola highlighted structure is heavily influenced by Beaux Arts Classicism.

In the shape of a Latin cross, the building has a three bay wide front on the north facade. Above the entrance way including the second and third stories is a balcony with Doric columns --single columns at each end and two interior pairs of columns. Similarly, engaged columns interrupt the window treatment of the second and third floors on the east and west elevations.

A low profile hip roof covers the structure. The original slate was replaced with asphalt shingles in 1969. The roof cornice is topped with a parapet also of Indiana limestone.

The outstanding architectural feature of the structure is its cupola, which rests on a balustraded octagonal base above which are twenty-four Corinthian columns. Next, the modillions of the building's cornice are repeated in proper scale. Over the top of the order is a four inch concrete dome, overlaid with copper and sixteen inch steel arc beams that meet at a circular opening in the top. Above the drum is an Ionic columned finial on which stands the statue of justice.

The dome is also the central feature of the interior. Inside the building is a rotunda towering to the dome. Columned balconies on the second and third floors overlook the rotunda; the dome's interior has a coffered ceiling of plaster with a stained glass skylight covering the central opening. Marble waincoting is found throughout the building.

A one story circular limestone war monument, constructed of eight columns and a roof is directly in front of the main entrance on the north facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1924

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cortland County Courthouse designed by the noted architect James Riley Gordon is significant at the local level as public architecture influenced by the design of the National Capitol. It is the third of the County's courthouses.

Location for the courthouse, the site of the old Normal School, was largely based on the locations of its two predecessors. All three structures were erected on or adjacent to West Court Street, within approximately two and one half blocks of each other, and near the geographic center of the City of Cortland.

The third courthouse resulted from a desire to consolidate under one roof the scattered public offices. Many groups had stressed this need, including such organizations as the Bar Association. Finally when the old Normal School burned several members of the Board of Supervisors thought the ideal site was now available and voted to purchase it from the State for \$4,750. When it opened in 1924 the Courthouse contained all of the County's offices, a situation no longer true.

In 1922, when the Supervisors voted to construct the new building they hired James Riley Gordon, an architect with a reputation for designing fine public buildings. Gordon had left San Antonio in 1904 to join the New York firm of Tracy and Swartwout. Seven years later he formed his own firm. As a designer of courthouses, said to number sixty-nine, Gordon was noted for such structures as the first Unit of the Lee County building in San Antonio, Texas and the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack.

The Courthouse's significant architectural feature is its cupola and corresponding interior rotunda. Its imitation of the U.S. Capitol reflects both the grandeur in public buildings of the period and the desire to copy a national model on the local level.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cortland County Historical Society. Bulletin Vol. No. 8 (August, 1947).
 Cortland County Board of Supervisors. Proceedings, 1921, 1969.
 Cortland Standard. various issues Scrapbook, Cortland County Historical Society.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		42 0 35 . 55 "	76 0 10 . 37 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

UTM
 18/403440
 4716720
 CD



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Steven S. Levy

ORGANIZATION: Division for Historic Preservation DATE: January, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: South Swan Street Building

CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: New York CODE: 36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date: 4/30/74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/9/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10.7.74

PROPERTY Cortland County Courthouse STATE N.Y.

WORKING NUMBER 5.3.74.698

Cortland
Co
74001228

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 3
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW
OK

cm
5.8.
74

HISTORIAN

Accept
H. J. ...
9/10/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
JCT
7/15/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
C. J. ...
9/12/74

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

accept
H. J. ...
10.1.74

National Register Write-up 11/74

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 12/3/74

Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 9 1974

WRITE-UP COMMENT
SHEET
(leave attached to nomination)

PROPERTY: Cortland County Courthouse -- N. Y.

If there are comments (negative or positive) which will affect the write up, please indicate them below.

NAME:

LOCATION:

DESCRIPTION:

STYLE OR CULTURE:

DATE AND INSTIGATOR (builder, architect, group, engineer, etc.):

PRESENT CONDITION (altered, covered, ruins, deteriorated--archeological):

SIGNIFICANCE (specify paragraph or line):

SURVEY RECORDS (is form correct?):

COMMENTS:



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Cortland	
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CITY OR TOWN:

Cortland

STATE:

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY:

Cortland

CODE

023

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Steven S. Levy

DATE OF PHOTO: 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

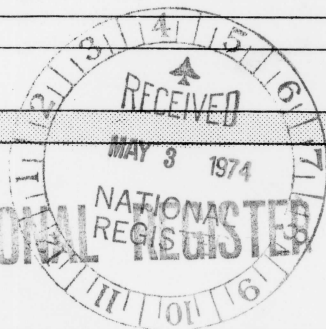
Division for Historic Preservation

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Main courtroom, 2nd floor.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



#1 of 3



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
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Cortland	
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OCT 9 1974	

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CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New York	36	Cortland	023

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

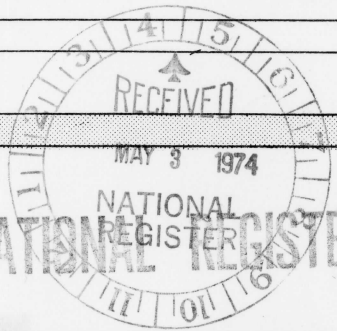
PHOTO CREDIT: Steven Levy

DATE OF PHOTO: 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Division for Historic Preservation

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Exterior view of north (front) and west facades.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#2 of 3



CORTLAND CO. COURTHOUSE
CORTLAND, CORTLAND CO
NORTH FACADE

17

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Cortland	
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36

COUNTY:

Cortland

CODE

023

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Steven Levy

DATE OF PHOTO: 1973

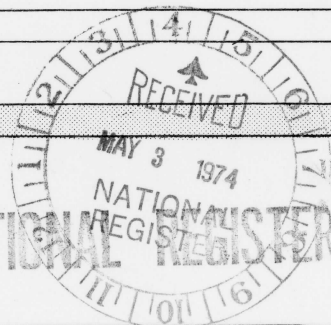
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Division for Historic Preservation

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

North facade.



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#3

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Cortland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 9 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Cortland County Courthouse
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Park
CITY OR TOWN:
Cortland
STATE: New York CODE: 36 COUNTY: Cortland CODE: 023

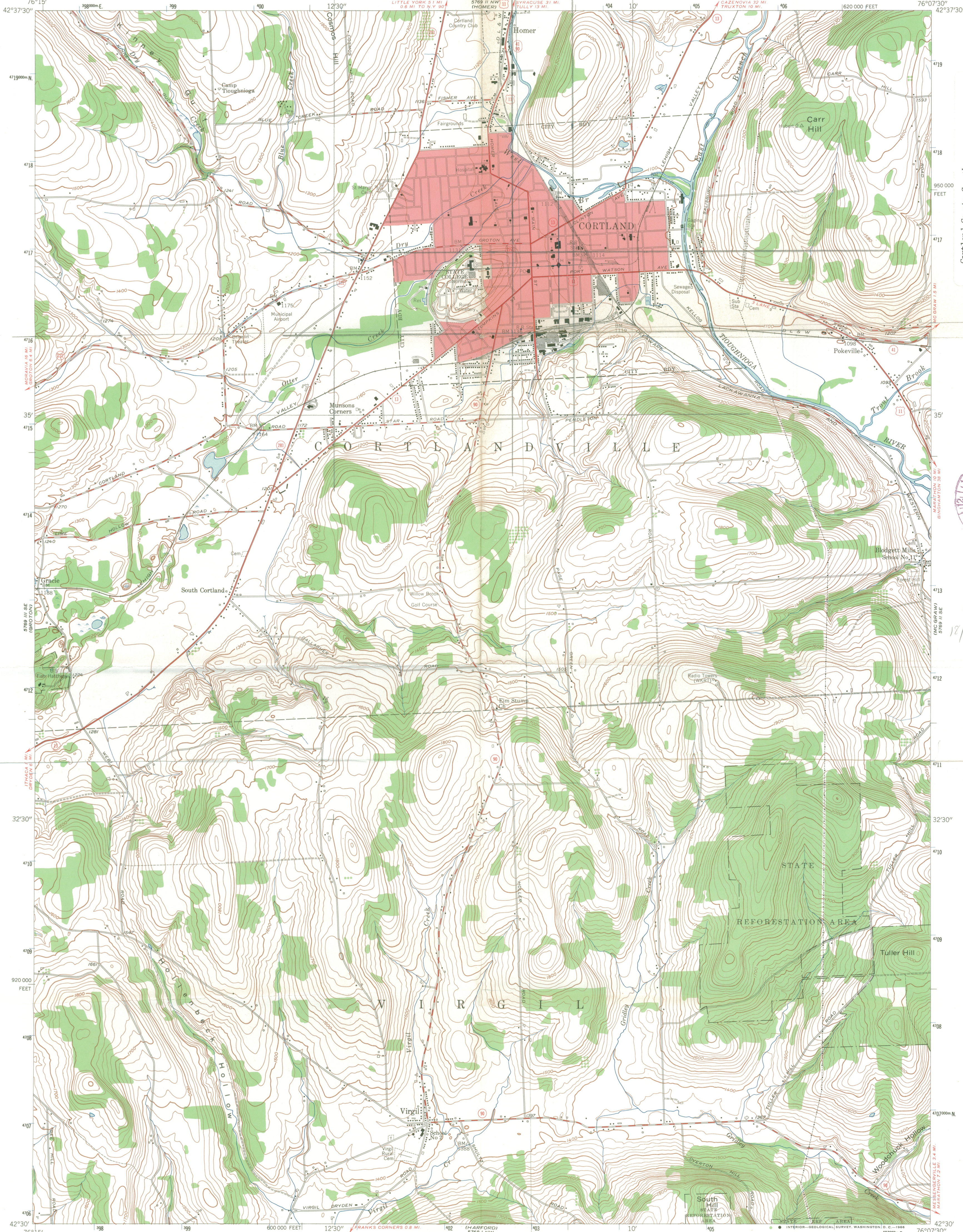
3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S.
SCALE: 1:24,000
DATE:

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



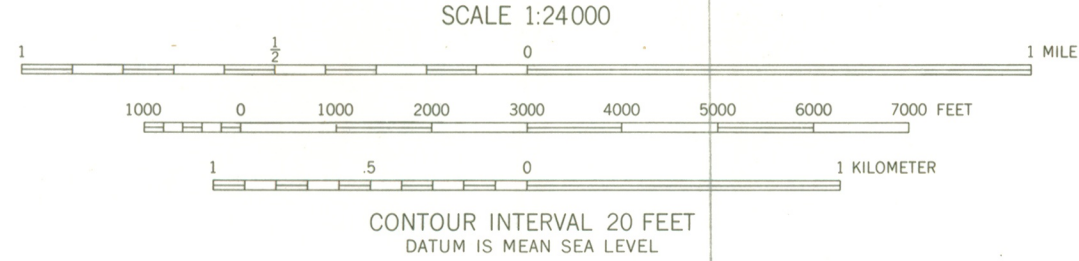
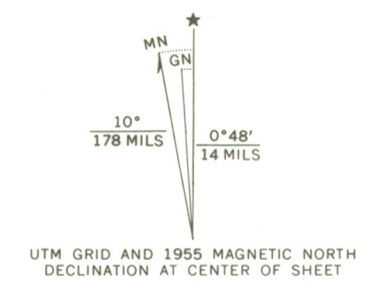


Cortland County Courthouse
Cortland, Cortland County
Latitude 42 35 55
Longitude 76 10 37



UTM
18/403440
4716720
00

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS, and TVA
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1942. Field check 1943
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1955
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, central zone
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue



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

CORTLAND, N. Y.
SW/4 CORTLAND 15' QUADRANGLE
N4230—W7607.5/7.5
1955
AMS 5769 II SW—SERIES W821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION South Swan Street Bldg. South Mall, Albany, New York 12223 Information 518 474-0456
Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner

April 30, 1974

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Historic Preservation Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Cortland County Courthouse, Courthouse Park, Cortland, New York
Cortland County

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on Registers in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the New York State Division for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH
State Historic Preservation
Officer

By:

F. L. Rath, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered **OCT 9 1974**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cold Brook Feed Mill	Town of Russia Herkimer County
Cortland County Courthouse	Cortland Cortland County
Federal Building and Post Office	New York (Brooklyn) Kings County
United States Customs House	Ogdensburg St. Lawrence County

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits State Historic Preservation Officer
 Hon. James L. Buckley Mr. Alexander Aldrich, Commissioner
 Hon. Donald J. Mitchell Parks and Recreation
 Hon. James M. Hanley Room 303, South Swan Street Building
 Hon. John J. Rooney Albany, New York 12223
 Hon. Robert C. McEwen
 Mr. Steven Rutenbaum, GSA
 Regional Director, North
 Atlantic Region

PR

MMott/cha

10/15/74