

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received DEC 04 1979

date entered FEB 8 1980

1. Name

historic Estabrook Octagon House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 8 River Street ___ not for publication

city, town Hoosick Falls ___ vicinity of congressional district 29th

state New York code 036 county Rensselaer code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Frederick Fay Driscoll

street & number 8 River Street

city, town Hoosick Falls ___ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rensselaer County Courthouse

street & number Second Street

city, town Troy state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1978 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N.Y.S. Dept. Parks & Rec., Div. Historic Preservation

city, town Agency Bldg. 1, Albany state New York

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Estabrook Octagon House is located on New York Route 22 in the southeast area of Hoosick Falls, New York. Situated on a corner lot, the property is surrounded by nineteenth-century residences and stands adjacent to the tracks of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

The octagonal house is two stories high with exterior walls constructed of grout mixed with Rosendale cement and covered with stucco. The hipped roof is supported by eight principal rafters radiating from an octagonal center post. The roof projection is finished with a dentiled bargeboard surmounted by intricate wood cresting, behind which are four symmetrically placed dormers with similar trim. The roof is crowned by a small cupola with matching trim and cresting. Two small chimneys protrude from the cupola. The decoration on the roof is repeated on the half-octagonal open front portico. There is a small, square enclosed rear porch which was added in the 1920's.

The interior room plan is typical of this style, with four large rooms on each floor and a central staircase. The smaller, angular rooms are closets, pantries, and baths. The alternating fenestration pattern of two windows then one makes the house very light and airy.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1853-54

Builder/Architect Ezra Estabrook

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Estabrook Octagon House is a prime example of the octagonal style of building popularized by Orson S. Fowler in the 1850's. The house was constructed from 1853-54 by Ezra Estabrook, aided by his father and brother. The construction of the house followed nearly all the techniques for building the best octagonal home recommended by Fowler in his book, A Home for All.

Orson Fowler, a phrenologist and sex educator by profession, practiced architecture as a hobby. He was intrigued by the polygonal building unit as found in nature and used by man. In 1848 he first published A Home for All, or A Cheap, New, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building, which promoted the octagonal design. The book was very well received, and a revised edition was published in 1853. It was at this time that the Estabrooks commenced building an octagonal home. As Fowler proclaimed, the construction of the house was very economical because so much of the building could be done by the owner. In a diary which he kept during construction, Ezra Estabrook stated that they poured approximately one foot of concrete wall between wooden forms each day. Following Fowler's book closely, the men installed a ventilating system in the walls, the prescribed number of windows, a central stairway, and decorative cresting on the roof, cupola, and porch.

The Estabrooks digressed slightly from Fowler's formula for constructing exterior walls: Fowler urged that the walls be made of water, lime and an aggregate, then finished with plaster. He favored these materials because their general availability throughout the country made his design widely adaptable. However, because the natural, or Rosendale cement produced in upstate New York since the 1830's proved to be more durable than lime mortar, the Estabrooks chose for the walls a combination of this cement and a coarse gravel that is common to this area.

The house was occupied by descendants of Ezra Estabrook until 1943, and has had two owners since that time. There have been very few alterations to the interior, and the house survives as one of the few octagons constructed in such strict adherence to Fowler's recommendations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Fowler, Orson, W., A Home For All. Reprint, New York: Dover Publications, 1973.
 Schmidt, Carl, F., The Octagon Fad. Scotsville, N.Y.: 1958.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Hoosick Falls

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	6	3	4	4	8	0	4	7	5	0	4	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H

Zone				Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The two-acre corner lot is bounded on the north by River Street, the west by Railroad Ave., the south by the Rogers' property, and the east by the Thomas property.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John F. Harwood consultant ed. Raymond Smith
 organization _____ date November 15, 1979
 street & number 448 Clinton Avenue telephone 518-474-0479
 city or town Albany state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

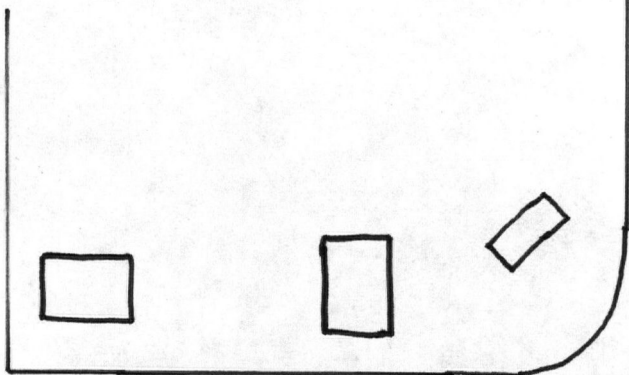
national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

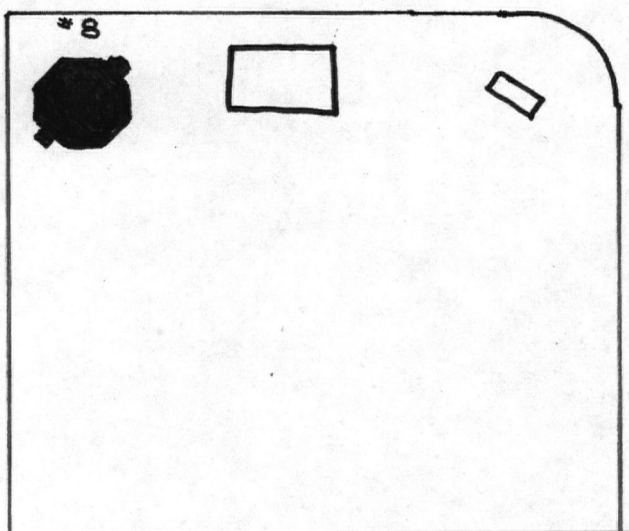
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Stephen White
 title Director, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date 12/29/79

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Carol O'Shull date 2-8-80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 2/5/80
 Chief of Registration

N.Y. ROUTE 22

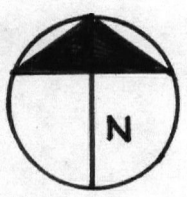


RIVER STREET



RAILROAD AVENUE

N.Y. ROUTE 22



Estabrook Octagon House
 Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
 Sketch Map

No Scale

FEB 8 1980

DEC 04 1979

80002755

Property Westbrook Octagon House

State NY-Rensselaer

Working Number 12-4-79 2871

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 6

Maps 1

Built in 1853-4 this 2 story stucco covered cement building is a fine example of the Octagon style building, the builder closely followed the directions written by the initiator of the octagon house, Orson Fowler - the same family lives here for 100 yrs. nominated for architecture.

HISTORIAN

*accept
Patrick Andrus
1/30/80*

WRL

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered FEB 8 1980



Estabrook Octagon House
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by: Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg filed: N.Y.S. Div.H. Preservation
Albany, N.Y.
View: North Elevation

1. FEB 8 1980

DEC 04 1979



Estabrook Octagon House
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by: Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg. filed: N.Y.S. Div.H. Preservation
Albany. N.Y.

View: Detail of Front Porch

FEB 8 1980

2.

DEC 04 1979



Estabrook Octagon House
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by; Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg. Filed: N.Y.S. Div.H. Preservation
Albany, N.Y.
View: South Elevation with Rear Porch

3. FEB 8 1980 DEC 04 1979



Estabrook Octagon House
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by: Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg. filed: N.Y.S. Div.H. Preservation
Albany, N.Y.

View: Detail of concrete wall construction in basement

4.

FEB 8 1980

DEC 04 1979

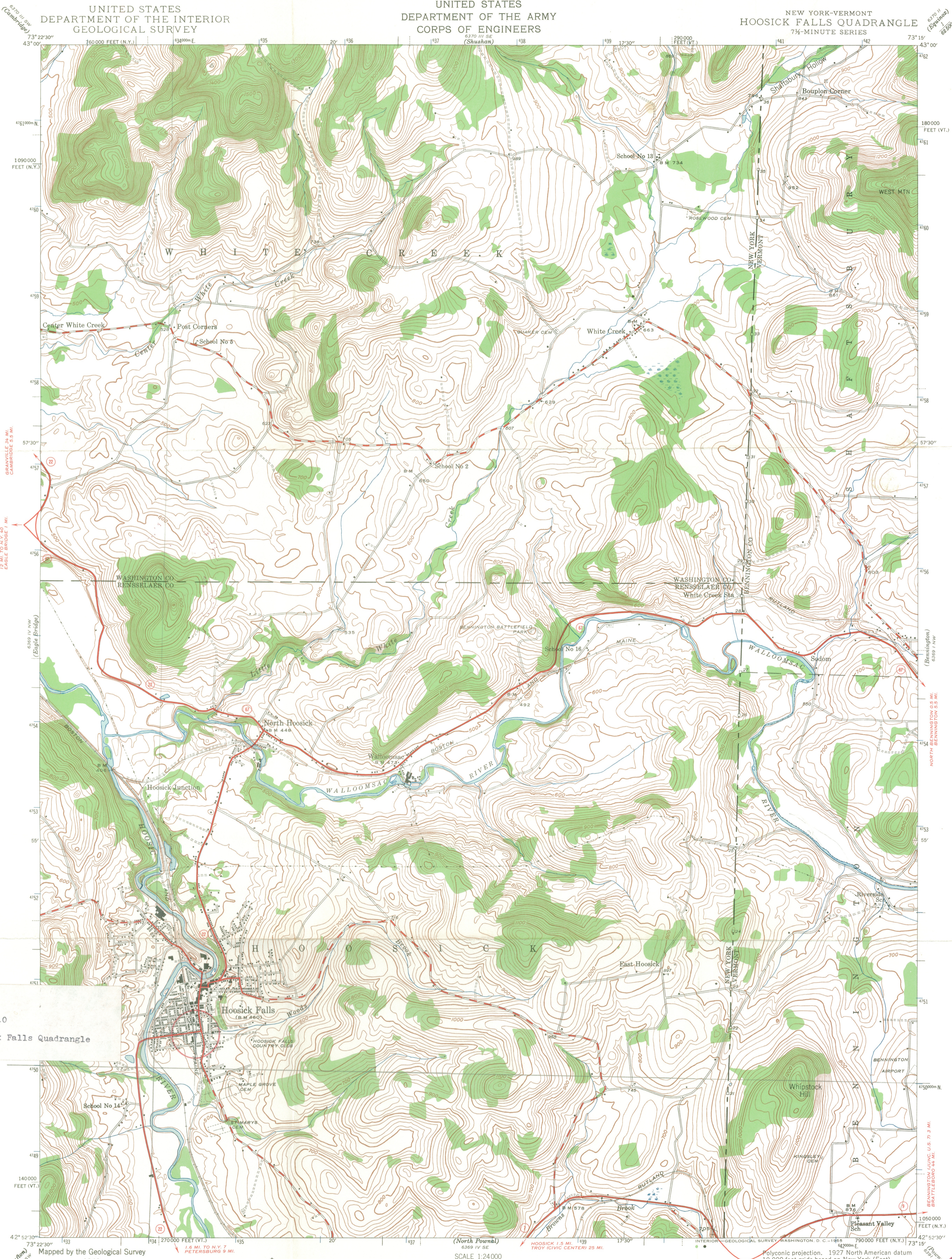


Estabrook Octagon House FEB 8 1980
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by: Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg. filed: N.Y.S.DIV. H. Preservation
Albany, New York

View: Detail of radiating principal
5. roof rafters DEC 04 1979



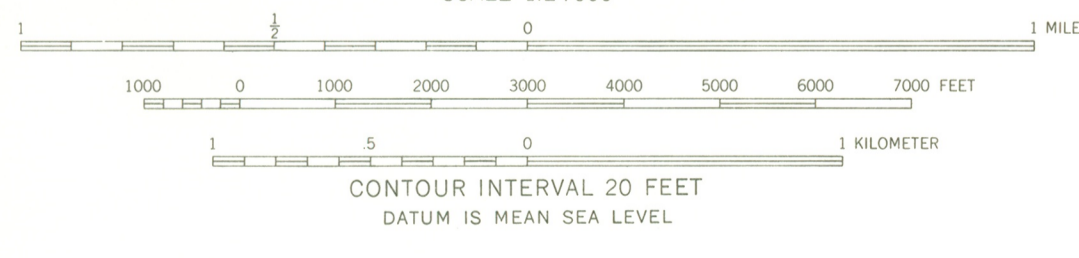
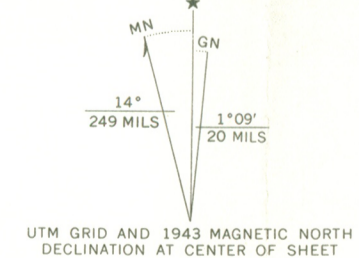
Estabrook Octagon House
Rensselaer County Hoosick Falls, N.Y.
Photo by: Ray Smith Sept. 1979
Neg. filed: N.Y.S. Div. H. Preservation
Albany, N.Y.
View: Detail of chimney construction
to allow exit through cupola
6. DEC 04 1979



UMT References
Zone: 18
Easting: 634480
Northing: 4750410
USGS Map Hoosick Falls Quadrangle
1943

Mapped by the Geological Survey
1943

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route



Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000 foot grids based on New York (East)
and Vermont rectangular coordinate systems
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y.-VT.
N 4252.5 - W 7315.7/5
1943
AMS 6369 IV NE-SERIES V821



Frederick F. Driscoll
8 River Street
Hoosick Falls, N. Y.
12090

Estabrook Octagon

House 12/18/79

Rensselaer Co. NY

January 3, 1980

4P
Ms. Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Pension Building
440 G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

As present owner of the well-known Ezra Estabrook Octagon House in Hoosick Falls, I certainly trust full and conscientious consideration will make it accepted by the National Register of Historic Places.

In the past several years, I have put numerous dollars and hard work into preserving this resplendent building with its unique cupolas, towers, fretwork and frills which add so much to our present way of life but, also, is a constant reminder of our forefathers.

As noted in the Library of Congress, Catalog Card #59-14088, these so-called architectural follies of America were put to use by Mr. Orson Squire Fowler in 1854. Mr. Fowler published a book in 1848 entitled, "A Home for All", which was refreshingly functional and void of sentimental overtones.

Joseph Goodrich of Milton Academy (later Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin) came up with the first proposed composition of lime, coarse sand and gravel applied in the manner of poured concrete.

Again, a most distinctive structure was built in 1804 by Thomas Jefferson in Poplar Forest, south west of Charlottesville, Va. Facsimilies of this were published in 1916 by Fiske Kimball in Boston and Cambridge, Mass.

As I close I would like to remind anyone interested in preserving, in any way, our American heritage to consider this building (Octagon House) to be of dignity, accomplishment and pride to the State of New York as well as our country.

Sincerely,

Frederick F. Driscoll

Frederick F. Driscoll

FFD:ehc

MAR 1 1980

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D JAN 7 1980

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED) _____

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT _____

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED) _____

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS as/1/1/ or

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered FEB 8 1980

Name

Location

Estabrook Octagon House

Hoosick Falls
Rensselaer County

Also Notified

Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan

Honorable Jacob K. Javits
Honorable Gerald B. Solomon

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Orin Lehman
Commissioner
Parks and Recreation
Agency Building #1
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

NR Byers/bjr 2/13/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.