

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received JUL 8 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Melius-Bentley House

and/or common

2. Location

N of Pine Plains on

street & number Mt. Ross Rd. not for publication

city, town Pine Plains *vic.* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state New York code 36 county Dutchess & Columbia code 027 & 021

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

4. Owner of Property

name Byrne R.S. Fone

street & number Mt. Ross Rd.

city, town Pine Plains vicinity of state N.Y. 12567

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dutchess County Courthouse

street & number Market St.

city, town Poughkeepsie state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NYS Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state NY 12238

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Melius-Bentley house is situated on wooded land which gently slopes down to the Roeliff Jansen Kill in a northerly direction from its frontage on Mount Ross Road. The 24.8-acre parcel nominated with the house is divided by the boundary line, as indicated on the site map, between Dutchess and Columbia Counties. The Melius house, outbuildings and 10.9 acres north of Mount Ross Road are located in the town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County; the remaining 13.9 acres of woodland south of the Roeliff Jansen Kill, traditionally associated with the house, are contained within the town of Gallatin, Columbia County. The parcel was part of Lot 51 of the Little Nine Partners Patent granted to Samuel Broughton in 1706 by Queene Anne.

As it currently exists, the house is composed of three distinct units; the one-room plan house that Johannes Jacob Melius built c.1717 (the central portion evident in Photos 1 & 2), the one-room-plan addition he erected soon after on the west, (the portion to the left in photos 1 & 2) and a two-story sidehall Federal portion added c.1802 (photos 1 and 3).

The original one-and-one-half-story frame structure is an extremely rare, intact example of an early eighteenth century Hudson Valley frame residence. Melius' property appears in the first tax list compiled in Dutchess County in 1717, although he may have been in residence before that date. Supported by a full stone basement, the structure is framed in a North European vernacular fashion prevalent in this region where settlement by Dutch and German groups predominated. Bents composed of massive posts and beams span the full depth of the house at regular intervals (Photo 5). The frame is made rigid by girts and plates at the front and rear of the house. Rafters of the steep gable roof extended beyond the plate and were cut to curve upward creating the customary "Dutch Kick" to the porch overhangs. The front porch survives while the rear porch has been consumed by a later lean-to shed addition. Flush board siding survives on the facade sheltered by the porch. The end walls were sheathed with wide sawn and beaded clapboards which remain on the house, hidden behind the more recent wings.

Interior walls on the first floor were plastered in between the bents and whitewashed. Large, square, riven lath was spaced within the framing posts and packed with clay and roughage, serving as both nogging and a base for the finish plaster (Photo 12). The beams are planed with beaded corners and retain traces of this original yellow paint. Floorboards from the garret, planed smooth on their underside, create the ceiling. The original floorboards also survive on the first floor (Photo 5).

A chimney, with its foundation in the basement, was removed from the west end of the early house in the 20th century. Unplaned portions of the girt once concealed by the chimney and patches on both upper and lower floors attest to placement of the chimney and fireplace. A door leading to the western addition has taken its place. The present enclosed winding stair to the garret in the southwest corner of the house is also a more recent addition. Physical evidence indicates the original stair to have been opposite the fireplace wall in the southeast corner. It was presumably removed with the Federal addition and replaced during the other 20th-century renovations. Also in this century, new rafters were attached to the ridge on the north side of the building enclosing the original rear roof and porch giving the profile of the house a "salt-box" appearance. Two small rooms were created on the north side of the house where the porch previously existed. From a crawl space above the addition, the original roof is still

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Melius-Bentley House

Continuation sheet Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., NY Item number 7
& Columbia Co., NY

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date entered

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visible. New clapboard siding was applied on the north and west sides during the renovation. None of the original sash survive; but the massive double door, divided horizontally in the "Dutch" fashion is still in use.

The garret room has kept its original dimensions and retains its wide board sheathing on the walls and rafters beneath a layer of wallboard. Windows at the west and east ends have been converted to doors to allow passage into the upper levels of the later flanking additions. In 1950, a massive dormer was raised on the south side of the roof.

Based on the unweathered condition of the siding of the original house exposed within the garret of next addition, little time elapsed before Johannes Jacob Melius expanded his home. Using identical building techniques and materials, Melius added a room to the west of his house in an unusual manner. Instead of having its front and rear walls in line with the original house, the new portion was built three or four feet south of the first so that the facade of the new building protruded beyond that of the first (Photo 2).

Two windows were built in the south facade with the entrance located around the corner on the small portion of the east wall exposed by the staggered configuration. The porch was extended to create a narrow passageway in front of the wing. The ridge of the roof of the addition was not as high as the original house and a stone and brick chimney was built on the west end leaving the exterior of the fire boxes exposed. Original sawn and beaded clapboard siding attached with wrought nails survives on most of the north and west walls.

The primary room of the addition exhibits exposed bents with beaded beams and a large fireplace with paneled chimney breast with shelf. The floor is covered with a second layer of wide boards. A closet was added north of the chimney sometime within the 19th century. However, an ill fitting 19th-century tavern bar on the other side of the chimney was brought in much later (Photo 6). The present door to the original house replaced a fireplace indicating that there was no interior communication between principal rooms. A third door on the east wall conceals modern stairs which lead to the basement. Access to the basement was originally via an exterior door on the west end of the house. A cooking fireplace survives in the basement in deteriorated condition and the dressed stone walls have been reinforced with concrete. A low, unsheathed garret was reached through an altered window of the original house rendered useless by the addition.

In c.1802, the third section of the house was built in the Federal style (Photos 1, 3 & 4). Designed with a conventional side hall plan of the period, the wing has a classically detailed entrance with sidelights which has been somewhat obscured by a twentieth-century extension of the porch roof. The clapboard siding is narrower than that on the previous house and on the east gable end, windlowless except for a small light in the attic, the clapboards are graduated in the amount of their exposure, beginning wide at the foundation and becoming quite narrow at the ridge line (Photo 4). The gable end also displays an exposed brick panel for the parlor fireplace keeping a stylistic continuity with the earlier portions of the house.

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& Columbia Co., NY

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The interior space is divided unevenly. The hall travels the full depth of the house. Immediately within the traditional double door (Photo 7) are the balanced opposing entrances to the earlier house and the Federal style parlor. The staircase with a very simple balustrade rises steeply to the second floor. The parlor is almost square and occupies the front two-thirds of the remaining house. It is distinguished by an elegant paneled chimney breast with an unusual cornice molding (Photo 8). Built-in cupboards flank the fireplace. Original doors, hardware, window moldings, chair rails, baseboards and flooring survive here as well as throughout the wing. A small parlor with a fireplace in the southeast corner occupies the remaining space in the rear of the house. A more modest mantelpiece decorates the smaller fireplace. This room has been converted to a modern kitchen.

The second floor plan follows the first with the front chamber exhibiting the most decoration, notably, a Federal mantelpiece and flanking closets (Photo 9). A room was enclosed originally above the entry on the second floor and has been converted into a bathroom. The stairs continue enclosed to the attic, and unfinished space, which again displays the beaded clapboard siding of the east wall of the original house. Weathered red paint is evident on this second of wall which was left exposed much longer than the siding found within the western wing.

The rear (north) wall of the last addition was sided with a wider clapboard than the principal facades (Photo 3). The entire house was always painted white on the eastern, southern and western exposures. It is evident, however, that the rear of the house was always painted red from the time of the Federal addition. This sparing use of white lead paint, a costly item, is a rare surviving example of what is believed to have been a fairly common practice.

Two small frame barns of nineteenth-century construction are located east of the house (Photos 10 & 11). Presently unpainted and weathered, both are intact and structurally sound support structures which relate to the house. Old photographs show a long carriage shed extending diagonally from the southwest corner of the second house component to the road. All above ground evidence of this building has disappeared. An outhouse survives but has been moved. Aside from stonewalls, there are no distinctive landscape features to the site. Fields once cleared for family and fuel have been reclaimed by nature.

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1717, c.1802 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Melius-Bentley house is a significant example of the early frame residential architecture in the Hudson Valley. Comprised of portions built between 1715 and 1725 and a portion built c.1802, the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of two divergent building types and methods of construction, dramatically illustrating the evolution of form and style of housing in the region. Because it contains substantial amounts of historic materials and evidence of early craftsmanship, the residence is an important document of local architectural practice considering the degree of attrition of 17th and 18th century frame houses, the Melius-Bentley House is a rare, intact survival of the earliest period of the Hudson Valley's development.

Little is known about Johannes Jacob Melius beyond his documented association with the early portions of the house. Melius was presumably a member of the German refugee community that immigrated to the area in 1710 under the sponsorship of Queen Anne of England. They were employed in the production of naval stores on Robert Livingston's manor in what is now Columbia County. Since he does not appear on period maps and surveys as a freehold, it is likely that Melius was a tenant on what was then Lot 51 of the Little Nine Partners Patent. The patent was granted by Queen Anne in 1706 to a group of Dutchess County land speculators. The oldest tax list in Dutchess County, compiled in 1717, identifies Melius as a resident of the patent.

Johannes Jacob Melius married Anna Maria Dings, another German refugee whose family settled on the northern or Livingston Manor, side of the Roeliff Jansen Kill. Their first child, John Jacob, was born in 1722 at the homestead.

The earliest recorded reference to the house is in surveyor Charles Clinton's field book on May 10, 1743. Clinton had been commissioned to remap disputed boundaries of the Little Nine Partners patent and, on May 10, 1743, Clinton "lodged at the home of Johannes Jacob Melius who lived 36 rods from the southernmost bend of the kill in a northwesterly direction."* This description corresponds with the location of the nominated property.

The unusual placement of the northernmost wing of the house, erected soon after the original one-room-plan house, has been attributed to the local legend that Johannes Melius operated a tavern. Although Charles Clinton made no direct reference to a commercial establishment, the irregular configuration of the building and the lack of communication between basement and first floor rooms could be explained by the separation of family and business sections of the house. (The present interior passages joining the two structures were made when the chimney of the old house was demolished in the twentieth century.)

*Isaac Hunting, Little Nine Partners (1895), pp. 26-27

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Dings Family in America (Chicago, 1927) p. 19
Hunting, Isaac. Little Nine Partners (Amenia, 1897) pp. 26-27

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 24.8

Quadrangle name ANCRAM

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	1	8
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

1	1	8
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

1	1	8
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

1	1	8
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached tax map

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

state New York code 36 county Dutchess code 027

state New York code 36 county Columbia code 021

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Neil G. Larson

organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation date June 1982

street & number Agency Bldg. 1, Empire State Plaza telephone (518) 474-0479

city or town Albany state New York 12238

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Clara Anna 6/29/82

title Commissioner

date

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Melius-Bentley House
Pine Plains, Dutchess Co., NY
& Columbia Co., NY

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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date entered

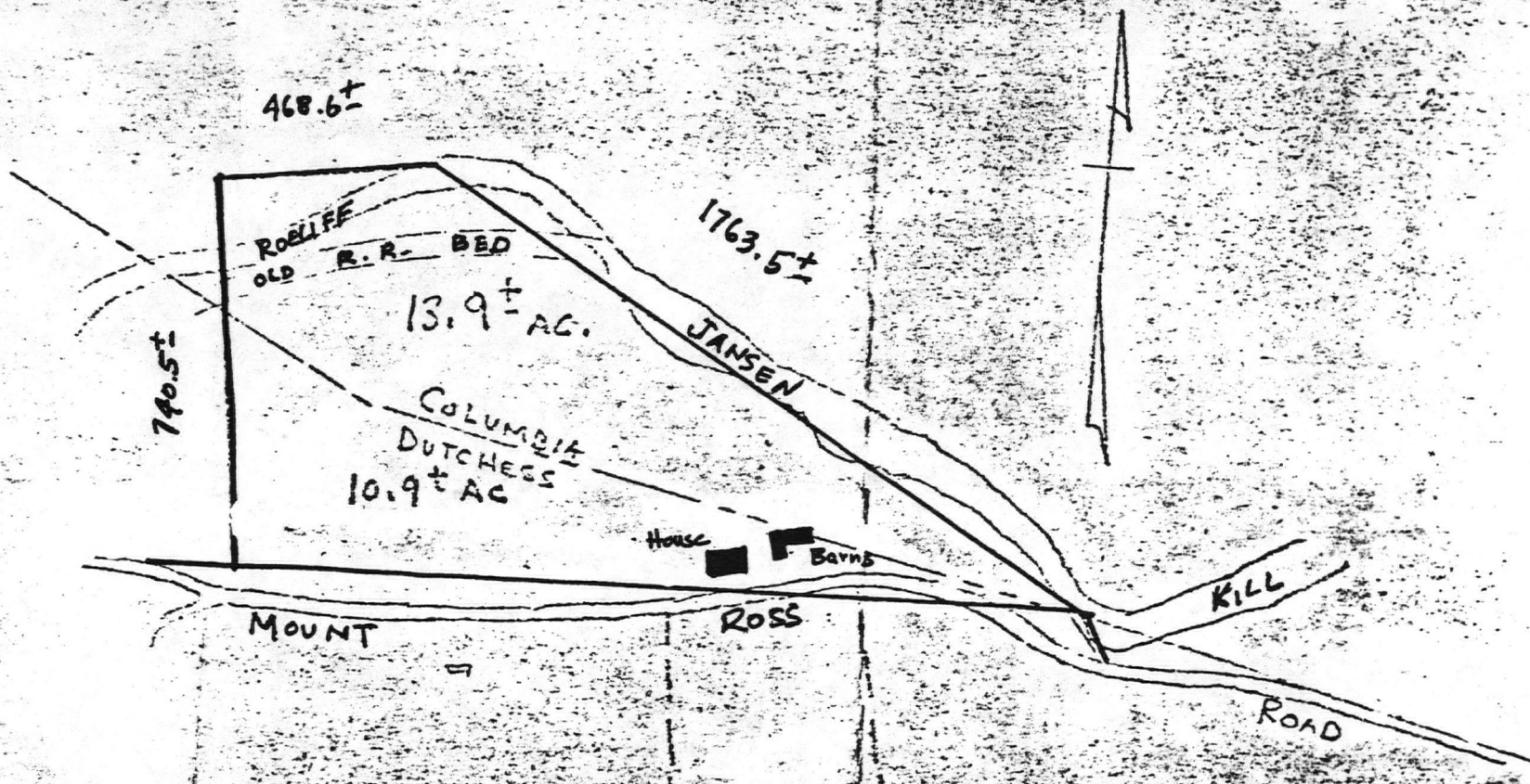
John Jacob Melius continued to occupy the house after his parents' death, and he can be found in tax and census records up to 1790. There is no document of any transaction, but the Melius name disappeared from the records after 1790, while the subsequent owner of the house, Henry Bentley, arrived in Mt. Ross in 1802.

Mt. Ross received its name from its association with an early resident, Thomas Ross. Known as "Baron Ross," Thomas Ross was not a patentee in the Little Nine Partners Patent, however, his prominence and title implies a close association with the landowners, such as a rent collector or mill operator. The substantial water power provided by the Roeliff Jansen Kill at Mount Ross made it a desirable location for industry. Saw, grist and fulling mills were established in the eighteenth century.

In May 1802, Henry Bentley and John Wrightman purchased the Mount Ross mills, improving the mill site and converting them over to textile manufacture. Henry Bentley owned the Melius house at his death in 1828, and he is traditionally associated with the building of the Federal addition. Title to the house was transferred to Benjamin Wilbur by Henry Bentley's heirs in 1844. Wilbur was not only the husband of Bentley's granddaughter, Antoinette, but he was also the son of Samuel Wilbur, who purchased Bentley's interest in the Mt. Ross mills in 1810. The property remained in the family until 1925.

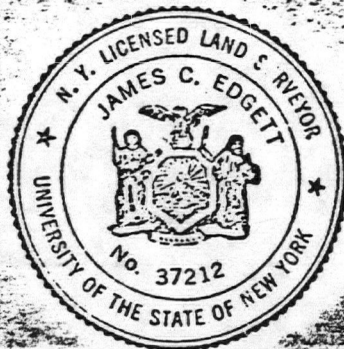
The survival of a frame house from the first quarter of the eighteenth century is extremely rare in the Hudson Valley. The historic fabric in such early structures is often substantially altered, removed, or restored following two-and-one-half centuries of use. However, the Melius-Bentley House remains structurally intact and retains an extraordinary amount of original siding, much nogging, and interior details from its various period of construction. As a historical document, the early part of the house contains a substantial amount of information about the method of frame construction and the materials used during the settlement period of the region's development. House use, as it expanded from a single-room structure to a multi-room dwelling, is graphically demonstrated and has particular interest because of the supposed function of part of the structure as a tavern.

The Federal addition is in itself significant for its physical integrity and distinctive detail. All interior woodwork survives, including a notable panelled chimney breast in the first floor parlor. Built-in cupboards and corner fireplaces in the rear rooms are rare features in houses of similar scale and pretention in the region. When considered with the eighteenth century house to which it is attached, the Federal wing acquires additional significance in its dramatic demonstration of the course of local architectural style through a century of development.



Melius-Bentley House
 Pine Plains, New York
 Dutchess and Columbia Counties

Tax Map



REFER TO
 TOWN OF GALLATIN TAX MAP # 217
 TOWN OF PINE PLAINS TAX MAP # 6773

SCALE 1" = 400'

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82005024

Melius-Bentley House, Dutchess and Columbia County,
NEW YORK,

Working No. 7/8/82-1895

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 8/4/82 - 8/24/82

Action: ACCEPT 8/4/82

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess & Columbia
Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg at: Pine Plains, NY

View: Facade from south

Date: 1981

#1



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg at: Pine Plains, NY
View: house from south-
 west #2
Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg at: Pine Plains, NY
View: house from north
Date: 1981 #3



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg at: Pine Plains, NY
View: house from east #4

Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone

& Neg at: Pine Plains, NY

View: first floor interior
c.1717 section #5

Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone

& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY

View: first floor interior
c.1722 section #6

Date: 1981

Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY

View: Detail of entrance
c.1802 section #7

Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess & Columbia
Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone

& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY

View: first floor parlor c.1802

section #8

Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY
View: second floor parlor/
chamber c.1802 section #9
Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess &
Columbia Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY

View: barns from south #10

Date: 1981



Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess & Columbia
Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY
View: barns from southwest #11
Date: 1981

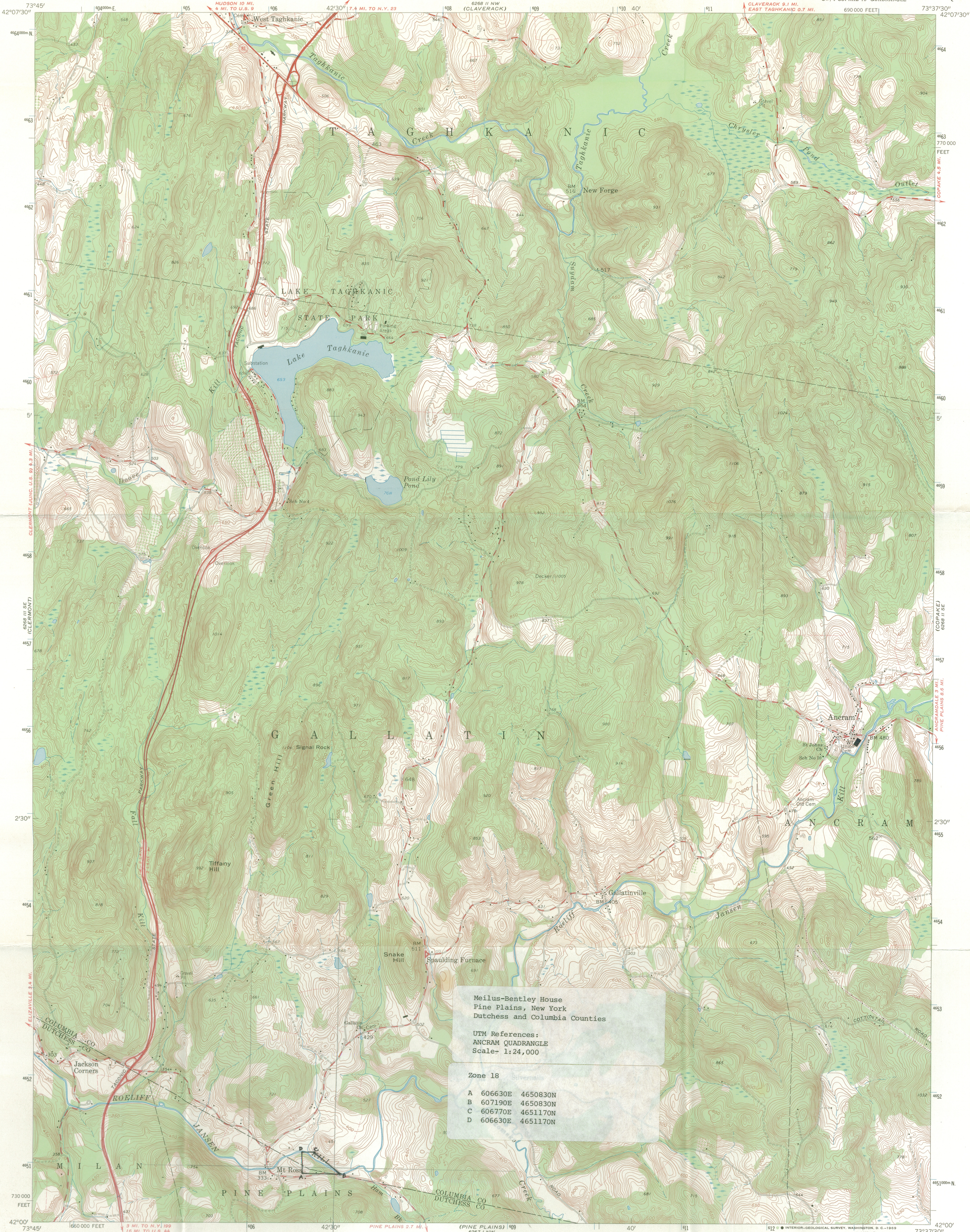


Melius-Bentley House, Pine
Plains, Dutchess & Columbia
Counties

Photo by Byrne R. Fone
& Neg. at: Pine Plains, NY

View: detail of lath and
mud nogging #12

Date: 1981



Meilus-Bentley House
Pine Plains, New York
Dutchess and Columbia Counties

UTM References:
ANCRAM QUADRANGLE
Scale- 1:24,000

Zone 18

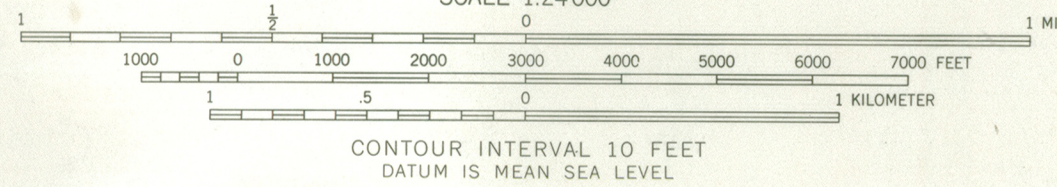
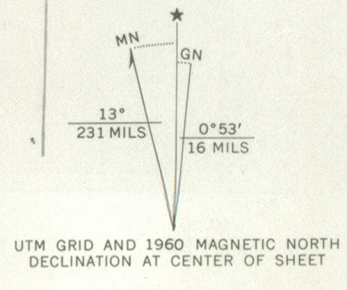
A	606630E	4650830N
B	607190E	4650830N
C	606770E	4651170N
D	606630E	4651170N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

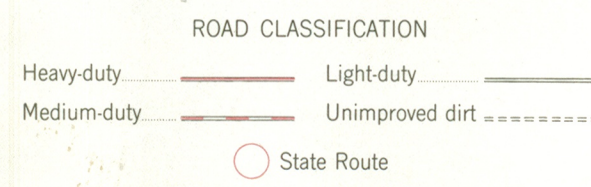
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1942. Topography by planetable surveys 1945. Revised 1960

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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



ANCRAM, N. Y.
SW/4 COPAKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4200-W7337.5/7.5

1960

AMS 6268 II SW-SERIES V821



County of Dutchess

Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JOYCE GHEE - HISTORIAN

June 8, 1982

Ann Webster Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
New York State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
New York State Parks & Recreation Agency
Building 1
Empire State Plaza
Albany New York 12238

RE: Melius Bentley House - Mt. Roos - Pine Plains, Dutchess County

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am delighted to learn that the Melius-Bentley House is being recommended for nomination to the National Register. I heartily endorse the recommendation

Dutchess County is rich in architectural treasures and those along the Hudson have been afforded their due recognition. Communities further to the east however, have equally exciting but less appreciated structures.

Dr. Fones meticulous documentation of the structure and it's history should be rewarded by nomination. The benefit to the Pine Plains area in terms of Community pride could not come at a better moment. This area of the county, despite the difficult economy, is now seen as prime development territory. It is vital that it's citizens be made aware of the truly important amenities of their environment now before it all too quickly disappears

I urge this nomination to the register.

Sincerely,

Joyce Ghee, Dutchess County Historian

JG/mm

RECEIVED

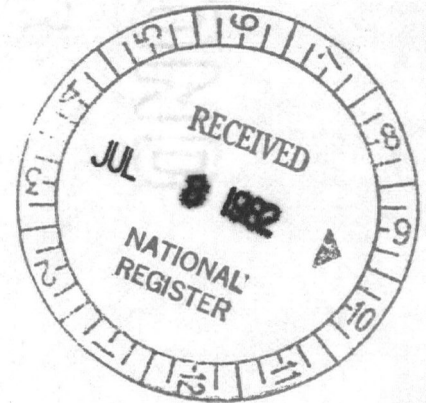
JUN 10 1982

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
A. W. S.



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12238 Information 518 474-0456
Orin Lehman, Commissioner

July 1, 1982



Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Department of the Interior
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Carol:

Re: Melius-Bentley House
Pine Plains, Dutchess and
Columbia Counties, New York

The area included in the enclosed nomination is located in Columbia and Dutchess Counties, New York. We would like to request that the primary listing for this property be under Dutchess County, rather than Columbia as is usual.

All of the historic structures on the property are located in Dutchess County and the history of the property is traditionally associated with Dutchess County. Furthermore, historical and legal records relative to the property's development are filed with Dutchess County.

Please call me if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gobrecht
National Register & Survey Coordinator
Historic Preservation Field Services

KL/cb