



**BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM**

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION  
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
UNIQUE SITE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd DATE: August 1987

YOUR ADDRESS: E.S.P. Agency Bldg 1 TELEPHONE: 518-474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for historic Preservation

\*\*\*\*\* See continuation sheet 11 \*\*\*\*\*

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Rolling Ridge Farm, Component #11
- 2. COUNTY: Madison TOWN/CITY: Cazenovia VILLAGE: na; Cazenovia vic.
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 3937 Number Nine Road
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: George Thompson ADDRESS: 3937 Number Nine Road, Cazenovia  
13035
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain no; private residence

**DESCRIPTION**

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
(if known) b. wood frame with light members   
c. masonry load bearing walls   
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent  b. good  c. fair  d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site  b. moved  if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

See item #18

12. PHOTO: N. Todd, 1987;  
Cazenovia Preservation  
Foundation, 1985

13. MAP: See continuation sheets  
Acreage: 27.69 acres

1. Front (east) facade



COMPONENT #11

SEP 18 1987

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known  b. zoning  c. roads   
 d. developers  e. deterioration   
 f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
 a. barn  b. carriage house  c. garage   
 d. privy  e. shed  f. greenhouse   
 g. shop  h. gardens   
 i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
 j. other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
 a. open land  b. woodland   
 c. scattered buildings   
 d. densely built-up  e. commercial   
 f. industrial  g. residential   
 h. other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

**See continuation sheet**

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

**See continuation sheet**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDER: \_\_\_\_\_

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

**See continuation sheet**

21. SOURCES:

**See cover form, item #9**

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet, page 1  
Rolling Ridge Farm, Component 11

17. Rolling Ridge Farm is a 27.69-acre farm on the southwest side of Number Nine Road approximately one and one-quarter miles southeast of the village of Cazenovia. The immediate vicinity is rural in character; scattered farmsteads with modern or altered older farmhouses predominate. Abutting the northeast corner of Rolling Ridge Farm is the Sweetland Farmhouse property (Component #3). The property features wooded and cultivated land, thus preserving its historic rural character. Two large ponds, a dry laid stone wall, a variety of mature trees and shrubbery and a complex of three farm-related outbuildings, including two frame barns and a former carriage house, and a modern, non-contributing garage surround the house. The entire acreage of the farm, although substantially reduced from its original size, is included in the nomination as it reflects the historic agricultural use of the property. The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map (107.1-1-20) identifies the boundary of the property.

Contributing buildings: 4  
Contributing structures: 1  
Non-contributing buildings: 1

18. Rolling Ridge Farm consists of a brick farmhouse built ca. 1837 and a group of three late nineteenth century farm-related dependencies. The original farmhouse is a rectangular, two-story, gable-roofed brick building with its principal elevation on the east gable end. The entrance, offset to the south side of the three-bay front, is sheltered by a classical portico of fluted Doric columns supporting a molded entablature. The entrance door has been altered from its original configuration by the addition of a semi-circular transom. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical, the windows set beneath flat brick arches and flanked by louvered shutters. A raking cornice with modillions accentuates the gable roof, and a lunette with wood louvers distinguishes the gable field.

A brick kitchen service wing projects from the south side of the house. A covered, one-story raised porch supported by Tuscan columns extends across the east front of the wing.

The house retains many significant interior features, including door moldings with corner blocks, a staircase with turned balusters, an ornate Federal style parlor mantel and original pine floors.

The late nineteenth century outbuildings that are part of the nominated property include two frame barns and a former carriage house that has been converted to gallery space. Each of these

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet, page 2  
Rolling Ridge Farm, Component 11

contributing buildings is characterized by a gable roof and horizontal board siding. A dry laid stone wall east of the farmhouse also contributes to the significance of the property. Southeast of the farmhouse is a non-contributing frame garage.

20. The Rolling Ridge Farm (ca. 1837), composed of a farmhouse, two barns and a former carriage house in an intact rural agrarian setting, is significant as a distinctive collection of nineteenth-century farm architecture. The farmhouse is architecturally significant as a representative example of late Federal style residential farm architecture and as a rare surviving example of the use of brick as a building material in Cazenovia, particularly in the rural, agricultural areas of the town. Brick, a rare and costly material in the area in the 1830s, was employed in only a few of Cazenovia's most sophisticated, elegant structures from this period, most notably Lorenzo on Ledyard Avenue, the Meadows on Rippleton Road and White Lilacs and the Lincklaen House on Albany Street. (All are included in the Cazenovia Village Historic District.) Not until the 1870s did the use of brick become more widespread; even then it was generally limited to commercial or religious architecture and a few of the larger, late nineteenth century summer estates. In terms of scale, craftsmanship and detailing the farmhouse is a relatively sophisticated interpretation of the Federal style and retains a remarkably high degree of integrity of design and materials. It is a rather late example of the style, constructed at a time when the Greek Revival style was already well established in the area. Typical Federal style attributes embodied in the Rolling Ridge farmhouse include a gable roof with slight returns, a narrow cornice, delicately flared brick lintels above window openings, a restrained, semi-elliptical fanlight above the side entrance and a louvered ventilator in the front gable end. The significance of the property is enhanced by the survival of three contributing farm-related support structures and a substantial portion of the farmstead's original acreage.

The Rolling Ridge farmhouse is one of eleven examples of Federal style domestic architecture in the town included in the multiple resource area nomination. The earliest extant examples of the type, most of which date from the first decade of the nineteenth century, generally embody a variety of distinctive features associated with regional building traditions. Common in Cazenovia, as throughout central New York and much of the northeast, these Federal style buildings generally are characterized by symmetrical configurations and fenestration, regular forms and a variety of delicate, classically inspired decorative details. One and one-half to two-story, rectangular

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet, page 3  
Rolling Ridge Farm, Component 11

gable-roofed forms predominate. Some of the earliest, most sophisticated examples in Cazenovia, including Lorenzo (ca. 1807, Ledyard Avenue; the lake-side estate of John Lincklaen, Cazenovia's founder), the earliest portion of Willowbank (ca. 1811, 21 Forman Street) and the Old Presbyterian Manse (ca. 1806, 24 Forman Street) (all are included in the Cazenovia Village Historic District) display the common two-story, five-bay center-hall plan. These earliest buildings established prototypes of form, design and decoration that influenced building traditions in both village and rural settings in Cazenovia for many decades. Located near the core of the village, these earliest examples of Federal style residential architecture reflect the adoption of standard building traditions of the period in the region by Cazenovia's wealthier, more cosmopolitan citizens.

Vernacular interpretations of the style (such as the Rolling Ridge farmhouse) survive as well, particularly in rural settings and on the fringes of the historic core of the village. By the 1820s, the standard five-bay-wide center-hall plan had given way to the smaller three-bay-wide side- or center-hall form, numerous intact examples of which are found on Lincklaen, Chenango and Albany Streets in the Cazenovia Village Historic District. Like the Rolling Ridge farmhouse, these buildings are characterized by the placement of the formal front facade at the gable end. Other than the use of brick as a building material, the exterior of the farmhouse is a rather typical interpretation of the Federal style, incorporating characteristic features such as a narrow cornice with restrained modillions, simple entrance trim and a modest, louvered ventilator in the apex of the front gable end. The remarkably intact, elegant and finely crafted interior fabric, however, greatly enhances the significance of the property and places the farmhouse among the finer dwellings of the type, period and style.

The Rolling Ridge Farmhouse is additionally significant as one of numerous early nineteenth century farmhouses that recall Cazenovia's prominence as a prosperous agricultural region. The property is notable for its full complement of intact, farm-related outbuildings, including two nineteenth-century barns and a former carriage house, and the rural, pastoral setting, which includes a relatively large portion of the farmstead's original acreage. Most farms in Cazenovia have been extensively subdivided; few farmhouses included in the nomination retain more than several acres of their original settings. Intact historic outbuildings, other than small sheds, are equally scarce in Cazenovia.) Numerous earlier examples of rural farmsteads, including the Beckwith Farmhouse (ca. 1810), the Niles Farmhouse

Cazenovia Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet, page 4  
Rolling Ridge Farm, Component 11

(ca. 1807), the Sweetland Farmhouse (ca. 1825), the Middle Farmhouse (ca. 1820), Evergreen Acres (ca. 1814), and the Parker Farmhouse (ca. 1820), Components #1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 17, and many contemporary examples, including Tall Pines (ca. 1835), the Zephnia Comstock Farmhouse (ca. 1830), the Chappell Farmhouse (ca. 1835), the Annas Farmhouse (ca. 1832), Rolling Ridge Farm (ca. 1837) and the Maples (ca. 1830), Components #4, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 10, all reflect the historical agricultural development of rural Cazenovia during the early to mid-nineteenth century and provide important information on farming and rural vernacular building traditions in the central New York region. The continued agricultural history of Cazenovia during the late nineteenth century is represented by several examples of Picturesque farm architecture, including the Crandall Farm Complex, the Brick House, the Jabez Abell Farmhouse and Barn, the Meadows and Glenwood Farm, Components #13, 14, 15, 16, and 18.)

According to local tradition, the land was purchased from the Holland Land Company by Ebenezer Backus in 1803. His son, Talcott, built the original farmhouse in 1837. Four generations of the Backus family occupied and worked the Rolling Ridge farm throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Cazenovia Town MRA  
State Madison County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                      |                                     |                                 |                |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 11. | Maples, The          | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 12. | Meadows Farm Complex | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 13. | Middle Farmhouse     | Substantive Review                  | Keeper <u>Linda McClelland</u>  | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 14. | Niles Farmhouse      | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 15. | Parker Farmhouse     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 16. | Rolling Ridge Farm   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 17. | Sweetland Farmhouse  | Substantive Review                  | Keeper <u>Linda McClelland</u>  | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 18. | Tall Pines           | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> | <u>11/2/87</u> |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 19. |                      |                                     | Keeper _____                    |                |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |
| 20. |                      |                                     | Keeper _____                    |                |
|     |                      |                                     | Attest _____                    |                |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rolling Ridge Farm (Cazenovia Town MRA)  
Madison County  
NEW YORK

SEP 18 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89

Date Due: 10/15/87 - 11/2/87

Action:  ACCEPT 11/2/87

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas 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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York

ROLLING RIDGE FARM, Component #11

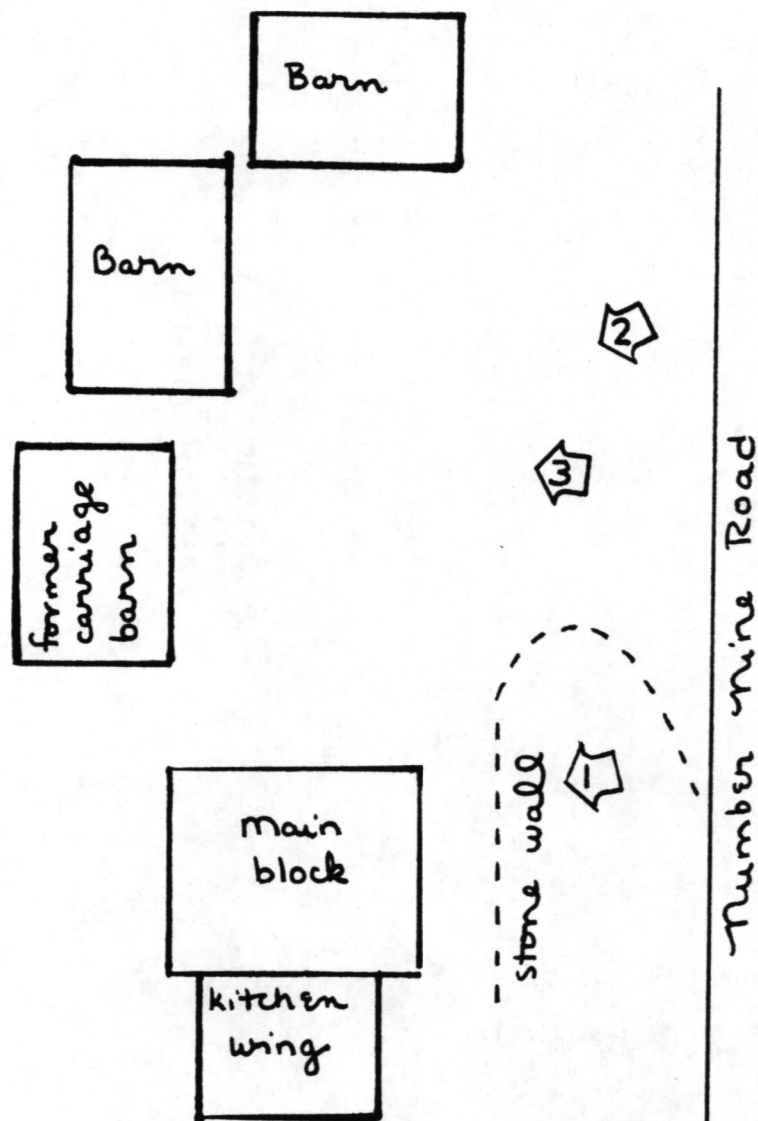


2. Farm complex; viewed from northeast

3. Former carriage house and barns; viewed from east




Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, New York



ROLLING RIDGE FARM  
Component #11

Photo key and site map -  
approximate location and  
orientation of features

non-contributing  
garage



11,004,000  
2,000,000

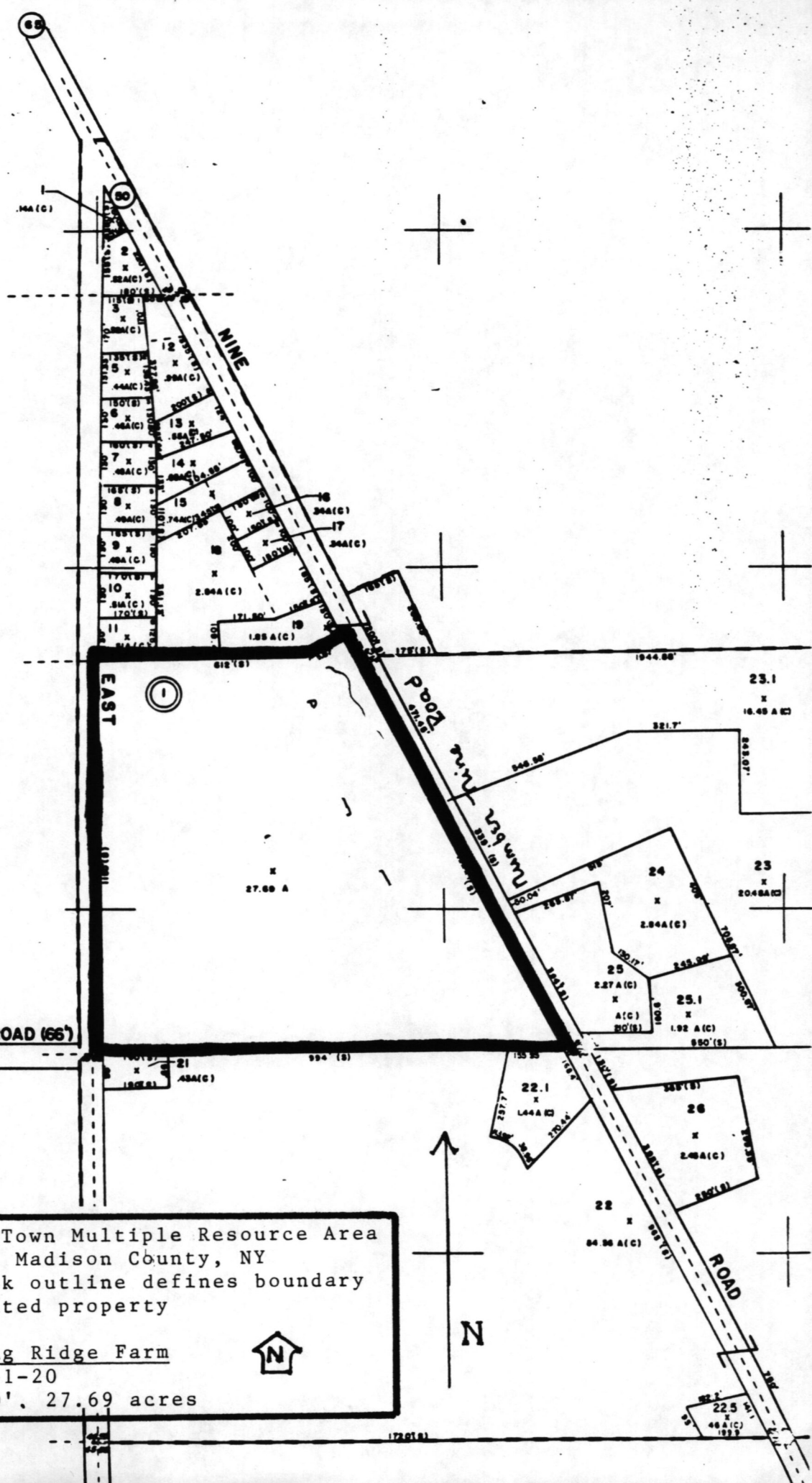
RIPPLETON CROSS ROAD (66')

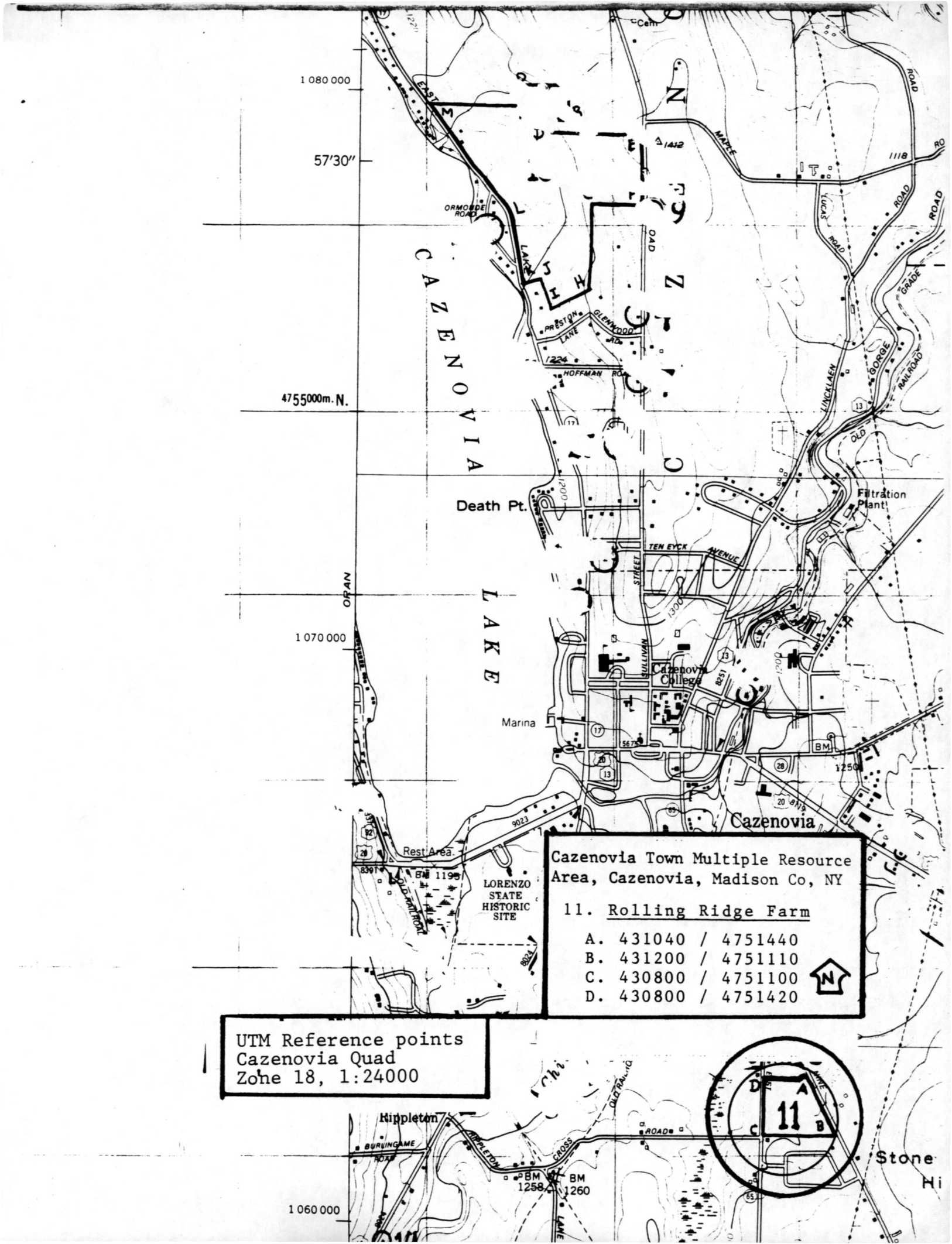
Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area  
Cazenovia, Madison County, NY  
Heavy black outline defines boundary  
of nominated property

11. Rolling Ridge Farm  
107.1-1-20  
1"=400', 27.69 acres



N





1 080 000

57'30"

4755000m. N.

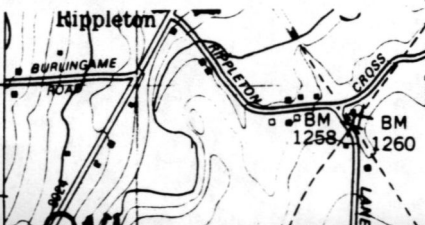
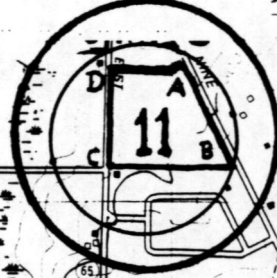
1 070 000

UTM Reference points  
Cazenovia Quad  
Zone 18, 1:24000

Cazenovia Town Multiple Resource Area, Cazenovia, Madison Co, NY

11. Rolling Ridge Farm

A. 431040 / 4751440  
 B. 431200 / 4751110  
 C. 430800 / 4751100  
 D. 430800 / 4751420



1 060 000

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000541