

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form462
APR 28 1989NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The John Jones Homestead

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue

☐ not for publication

city, town Van Cortlandtville

☐ vicinity

state New York

code 036

county Westchester

code 119

zip code 10566

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private☐ public-local☐ public-State☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

2

0

0

0

2

Noncontributing

0 buildings

0 sites

0 structures

0 objects

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)Entered in the
National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood

roof Asbestos

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John Jones homestead is located on the north side of Oregon Road in the hamlet of Van Cortlandtville, town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York (map 1). Situated in the northwest corner of the county, on the northern outskirts of the city of Peekskill, the hamlet is a suburban residential community. Elements of a historic village are evident at the crossroads of Oregon Road and Locust Avenue, and the homestead is in close proximity to the National Register listed St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1767), VanCortlandt Upper Manor House (circa 1770;1850), and Van Cortlandtville School (circa 1810;1850). While the impact of modern residential construction has limited the area's historic district potential, these resources and the John Jones homestead help to preserve the rich heritage of historic Van Cortlandtville.

The approximately two-and-one-half acre nominated building lot is situated along one of the oldest roads in the area. Laid out in colonial times, Oregon Road follows a northeasterly direction parallel to Annsville Creek. The nominated land, only a small part of what was once a large farm, is an open and level clearing. It is situated on a corner created by the intersection of Durrin Avenue, a twentieth-century cul-de-sac, and Oregon Road. To the north, east and west, the John Jones homestead is surrounded by modern suburban residences. On the opposite side of Oregon Road, to the south, are the Hillside cemetery and the Old Van Cortlandtville cemetery associated with St. Peter's Church.

The extent of the original farmland, which may have stretched from Oregon Road to Annsville Creek, is not precisely known. By 1911 the farm was reduced to eighty acres, and by 1947 this land was sold off and subdivided for suburban residential housing. These modern changes have destroyed the original setting of the homestead. Of the original farmland, the two-and-one-half acre nominated lot is all that remains associated with the house. The residence is situated near the center of the

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nominated property and there is a small barn (one contributing building) located to the north. The nominated parcel is drawn to coincide with the legal lot lines of this property (map 2).

The nominated building is a large, one-and-one-half story eighteenth-century residence with Federal style detailing. Constructed on a massive rubble stone foundation, this five-bay, rectangular, heavy timber frame building is sheathed in wood shingles with beaded edge corner boards. The broadly pitched gambrel roof is pierced by three massive brick end chimneys and is sheathed in replacement asbestos shingles.

The rectangular main block is built into a hill, with a full subsurface cellar that is exposed on the northwest corner, as a result of the slope. Off this corner a one-story rectangular wing extends out to the north. The heavy hewn timber framing of the wing has brick nogging on the cellar level. The appendage is sheathed in wood shingles and has a gable roof. The wing may represent an earlier dwelling that was incorporated into the late-eighteenth-century main block.

The front elevation of the John Jones homestead faces south. The one-and-one-half story, five-bay facade has four six-over-six double-hung sash windows with original paneled shutters on either side of a center entrance. The facade is sheathed in wood shingles, exposed seven inches to the weather. The oversized front door is an eight-paneled Georgian variety with ogee molding and box lock. The elaborate entrance includes four-pane sidelights and a leaded transom surmounting the door, with a highly detailed paneled and molded wood veneer entrance surround. A square stone, measuring nine feet, five inches by four feet, two inches, forms the base of a small porch which protects the entrance. Two delicate unfluted columns with simple capitals support a full entablature of unorthodox proportions. The hipped roof of the porch, covered in modern asbestos shingles, may be the result of a later alteration.

The gambrel roof of the front facade is pierced by three evenly spaced dormers. The identical dormers are narrow, gable-roofed, and shingled on the sides. Each has a single double-hung sash window in the face. The top sash in each of these windows is arched and has decorative tracery. While the square panes of the sash have been replaced, some of the small panes in the tracery have original crown glass.

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The east side of the John Jones residence is shingled and has four asymmetrically placed windows. Centered on the ridge line and tucked under the gable is a single attic window. This double-hung window is arched and has a traceried upper sash. It is identical to the dormer windows on the front of the house. The other three windows, two on the second story and one on the first, are all six-over-six double-hung sash. Also on this elevation, the brick end-wall chimney is left exposed on the first floor level. The exposed portion of the chimney, laid in an English bond pattern with alternating courses of headers and stretchers, has an original beaded-board surround.

The west side of the John Jones homestead includes the side of the main block as well as the side of the one-story western wing. Both are sheathed in wood shingles identical to the front facade. The fenestration on both side walls is unbalanced. All of the windows are six-over-six double-hung sash with original paneled shutters. A single double-hung arched window is tucked under the gable of the main block. This window undoubtedly matched the traceried window on the east side of the house; however, the muntins of the upper sash have been removed and replaced by a single pane of glass.

The slope of the hill exposes the massive stone foundation of the main block on the western side. A batten door with strap hinges leading into the basement is located near the front corner of the foundation wall. There are no other entrances into the building from this side. The stone foundation wall continues on the south side of the wing, but the west wall of the wing is constructed, at ground level, of heavy timber framing and brick nogging, sheathed over with wood shingles. A stone wall built of massive dry-laid boulders extends south from the southwest corner of the residence.

The rear or north side of the homestead includes the rear of the wing to the west and the set-back rear of the main block to the east. The exposed basement level of the wing is sheathed in clapboard. It has an old door with beaded edge wood surround. The first floor level of the wing is sheathed in wood shingle exposed fourteen inches to the weather, and has three asymmetrically placed windows. The short east wall of the wing, created by the setback of the main block, contains a six-panel door with ogee moldings. The rear wall of the main block has asymmetrical fenestration. On the first floor level there are two six-over-six double-hung sash windows. To the east of these

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windows a new doorway with a reproduction Dutch door has been cut into the rear of the house. On the second floor level, above the roofline of the overlapping wing, are four small, square, asymmetrically placed casement windows.

A porch extends along the rear of the main block. The support posts and roof of this porch do not appear to be original; however, the long stoop probably dates to the period of house construction. The stoop consists of massive mortared stones, not unlike the foundation of the house. Many of these stones are quite large, measuring as much as eleven by six-and-one-half feet.

The interior of the John Jones homestead retains a remarkable degree of physical integrity. The basement level of the northwest wing, which apparently dates earlier than the main block, appears to have been a kitchen at one time. It has a brick and stone fireplace with heavy-hewn lintel beam, a brick bake oven, and a stone floor constructed of flat, dry-laid, rough-cut stone blocks. Most of the floor stones are approximately three-foot square. The walls of this room are constructed of heavy hewn posts with brick nogging that has been plastered over. Since it is built into a hill, this "basement" room is accessible from ground level through a rear door.

The cellar of the main block has a dirt floor and foundation walls constructed of massive boulder stone, heavily mortared. A monumental (eleven foot by fifteen foot) chimney support constructed of these same stones consumes most of the west wall of the foundation. The support incorporates the fireplace in the basement kitchen and provides a foundation for the kitchen and parlor fireplaces on the first floor. On the east wall of the foundation is a second smaller stone mass that supports the fireplace of the formal parlor on the first floor.

The timber sills and floor joists of the building's frame are left exposed in the basement. The house was framed without summer beams. The floor joists extend from front to back, across the approximately twenty-five-foot span of the cellar. The hand-hewn and mill-sawn joists are supported by an interior wall constructed of timber posts and brick nogging that may be of later construction. The two principal joists in the center, which support the two interior parallel walls of the house, are connected by a series of short tie beams. Mortise and tenon joints were employed.

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The first floor layout is a characteristic center passage floor plan with two rooms on either side. The two front rooms are square rooms measuring approximately fifteen and one-half feet. The two rear rooms are smaller, measuring only nine and one-quarter feet wide. The eight and three-quarter foot wide center passageway does not extend the width of the building, but ends at about the same location as the rear wall of the front two rooms.

The rectangular front hall retains original wide board flooring. An elaborate front entrance surround, with detailed molding, highlights the door, sidelights, and transom. A similar molding surrounds the doorway into the formal parlor. The hall has wide, molded baseboard and a chair rail. The three doors leading off the hallway into interior rooms are original six-panel doors. The stairs to the rear of the hall have a cherry banister with plain, slim balusters and a scroll end volute. Detailed scroll brackets adorn the open stringer under the end nosing of each stair. The staircase returns upon itself, and the return is supported by a round, delicately fluted post with detailed capital. A stairwell into the cellar is located under the landing.

The east front room of the house was the formal parlor. It has the most highly detailed mantelpiece in the house with a five field entablature and deeply molded sides that give the appearance of colonnettes. A single large rectangular stone forms the hearth. The fireplace wall may have been entirely paneled. Portions of the original paneling and cabinetry are preserved on either side of the fireplace; however, modern built-in bookcases have been installed at the corners of the wall. The formal parlor also retains original wide-board flooring, wide 1 1/2 inch baseboard, paneling under the windows, and door and window surrounds that match those of the front hall.

The west front room of the house was originally a second parlor. It has door and window surrounds, baseboard, wide board flooring, panels under the windows, and six-panel doors like the formal parlor. The wood mantelpiece is similar to the one in the first parlor, but less highly detailed.

The rear rooms on the first floor have been altered. The east room extends behind the center hall and has had a modern bathroom installed. The west room, which incorporates the first floor room of the wing, has been separated into a kitchen and a

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dining area. The kitchen has been completely modernized. The dining room is the most intact of the rear rooms. Originally a kitchen, it retains a fireplace and brick bake oven. The fireplace wall retains original wide board, beaded edge, horizontal wainscoting. The fireplace has a plain mantelpiece, and a nine and three-quarter foot hearth stone. A small closet, which may have been a smoke closet, exists above the beehive oven. The room has intact beaded-edge door surrounds on the doorway leading into the front parlor.

Originally the second floor also followed the center passage layout with two rooms on either side. Three of the four rooms are intact. The northwest (rear) room; however, has been divided into two smaller rooms and a stairwell into the first floor kitchen. The other three rooms on the floor are also used as bedrooms. The center hall has been shortened, and a modern bathroom installed in the rear. Although altered, the second floor does retain wide board flooring and some beaded-edge door and window surrounds.

The roof framing system is visible in the attic. The roof lacks a ridge pole. The mill-sawn rafters interlock and have been pegged, nailed, and shimmed. Massive heavy-hewn purlins, supported by queen posts, extend the length of the house at the intermediate ridgelines of the gambrel roof. The mill-sawn queen posts are notched into the purlins and pegged. The original split roofing lath is visible in the attic, as are some of the original wood shingles (now covered with asbestos shingle on the exterior). The brick chimneys corbel out towards the eaves in the attic. The one intact traceried window in the east attic wall retains panes of original crown glass.

In summary, the John Jones homestead retains an exceptional degree of architectural integrity. There have been no major additions to the exterior of the residence since the eighteenth century. The interior retains a significant proportion of its original structural elements, and period finishes are apparent in the primary rooms of the house. Although the historic setting has been lost to modern suburban development, the property retains a contributing barn behind the house.

The barn (one contributing building) is located behind the residence to the north. It is a small, one-story, one-bay building with a gable roof. The barn has a boulder stone foundation that is similar, in many respects, to the foundation

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of the house. Original elements of the barn's heavy timber framing are intact in the foundation level of the barn. The upper level of the barn has been largely rebuilt and resheathed. The barn appears to have been built contemporaneously with the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1750 to 1800

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John Jones Homestead is architecturally significant as a rare, highly intact example of eighteenth-century domestic architecture in the lower Hudson Valley region of New York State. The house, located north of Peekskill in the small hamlet of Van Cortlandtville, Westchester County, retains original materials and craftsmanship characteristic of historic vernacular building practices in the region. These elements, including the rough hewn, heavy timber beams and mortise and tenon jointing in the house framing, the brick nogging of the wall construction, and the massive boulders in the foundation walls, reflect the construction practices of pre-industrial America. The plan and form of the nominated resource conforms to a vernacular building type specific to the Hudson Valley during the 1750 to 1800 period. This colonial type, influenced by settlement period, Georgian, and Federal design idioms, is characterized by one-and-one-half story, five-bay, center entrance massing, a double-pile floor plan, gambrel roof, and simple Adamesque detailing and ornamentation. The domicile is a classic example of regional Hudson Valley architecture of the second half of the eighteenth century. Because of its high degree of integrity and distinctively regional character, the John Jones Homestead is a well-recognized landmark in the historic communities of Peekskill and Van Cortlandtville, Westchester County, New York.

The town of Cortlandt, first settled around 1655, is located approximately fifty miles north of New York City. Originally a fur trading outpost, the area was not permanently occupied until the eighteenth century. Patent lands for the Manor of Cortlandt were first granted to Stephanus Van Cortlandt in the year 1697. They included 87,000 acres along the east side of the Hudson River. Settlement in this area was very slow until the Manor

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albertson, J. Donald and C. J. Varian. Historic Van Cortlandtville.
Peekskill, New York: The Van Cortlandtville Historical Society, 1976.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Van Cortlandtville Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.5 acres

UTM References

A

1	8
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5	9	2	0	7	0
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4	5	7	4	2	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The John Jones Homestead is located on the north side of Oregon Road in the hamlet of Van Cortlandtville. The boundary of the property is defined by the current legal lot lines of the parcel associated with the house. (See Map 2).

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The extent of the original farm land is not known and the house is presently surrounded by modern suburban residential developments. The 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot is all that remains associated with the house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Robert Kuhn, Historic Preservation Program Assistant</u>		
organization	<u>Office Parks, Recreation & Historic Pres.</u>	date	<u>April 1989</u>
street & number	<u>Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza</u>	telephone	<u>(518) 474-0479</u>
city or town	<u>Albany</u>	state	<u>New York</u> zip code <u>12238</u>

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lands were partitioned in 1734. After this date settlement increased, as colonists took advantage of the productive lands along Annsville Creek and the direct water route to New York City markets provided by the Hudson River. By the Revolutionary War there were over thirty farmsteads on the roads radiating out from Peekskill (map 3).

Cortlandtville (later Van Cortlandtville), a small crossroads hamlet northeast of Peekskill, began to develop during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. By the mid-nineteenth century the community was a recognized locality that included a school, two churches and sixteen residences (map 4). The community had strong associations with the Cortlandt family and the manorial history of the area, as it originated around the upper manor house of Pierre Van Cortlandt. The John Jones house was located on the northern outskirts of the hamlet.

The exact date of construction of the John Jones house is not known. A residence appears on the Erskine Survey map of this area (map 3) dated 1778-1780, and documentation suggests that this land was occupied decades earlier. Nevertheless, the massing, form, and ornamentation of the present building are most characteristic of the late eighteenth century. A likely date of construction for the John Jones house would be circa 1790; however, portions of the building, including the side hill wing, may date circa 1750.

The house is identified on the Erskine map as the homestead of John Jones. The Jones genealogy has been traced back five generations to the first John Jones, who was a practicing minister in Boston, Massachusetts, around 1635. Jones's son, the second John Jones, attended Howard College. The third John Jones lived in Bedford, New York, and the fourth John Jones lived in Westchester. John Jones (the fifth) was born in 1732. He married Sarah Currey (Curry), daughter of Richard Currey, and took up land adjacent to his father-in-law's farm at this time. The couple had two sons, Smith W. Jones and John Jones (1761-1844) the sixth. John Jones died in 1806 and the will was executed by his two sons. The house was sold to George Fowler for \$6,500. Shortly thereafter the property came into the possession of James Strang. The Strang family subsequently lost the farm and it was purchased at auction in White Plains by Mrs. Elizabeth A. Durrin, in June of 1865, for a price of \$8,100. A Beers map of Van Cortlandtville dated 1867 identifies the house as Mrs. Durrin's (map 4). The house and property later came into

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the possession of Thomas Nelson III, who continued to develop the farm. A 1911 map of the area identifies the house and eighty acres as Nelson's property (map 5). During the twentieth century this farm property was subdivided for a suburban residential development known as Van Cortlandt Estates. Two side streets, Cortlandt and Durrin Avenue, were constructed across the former farm property, perpendicular to Oregon Road. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gaines, purchased the house and two-and-one-half acres of land (all that remained of the original farm) from the Voss family around 1968.

Much of the historic character of Van Cortlandtville has been lost as a result of modern suburban development; however, the Episcopal Church (1767), Upper Manor House (circa 1770; 1850), and Van Cortlandtville School (circa 1810; 1850) have been protected through National Register listing. The church and school are representative examples of early religious and educational facilities, and the manor house (heavily altered in the mid-nineteenth century) is a Gothic Revival style domicile. The John Jones homestead is the most intact, and one of the only remaining, Colonial era dwellings in the area.

The architectural construction practices evident in the Jones house recall the technology, resources, and capital available to the colonial settlers of the Hudson Valley and reflect their architectural taste, lifestyle, social position, and ethnic heritage as well. The construction materials utilized were locally derived, and the building and finishing techniques employed were the product of skilled craftsmen who developed local if not personal styles and preferences in ornament. The John Jones homestead is a representative example of this eighteenth-century local building tradition. The materials and techniques employed in its construction are typical of most eighteenth-century frame residences in the Hudson Valley. The massive stones for the foundation and heavy timbers for the frame were selected by the builders from the glacial terrain and virgin forests of the local area. The bricks were produced from the rich clay deposits of the valley by local brickmakers. Only the glass and finished hardware are likely to have come from more distant sources. These items were still commonly imported from England during the mid-eighteenth century.

The heavy timber frame of the residence incorporates materials, jointing techniques, and framing construction worthy of note. The builders employed hand-hewn timbers for the heavy

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vertical and horizontal members of the frame, and smaller mill-sawn elements for the joists, studs and rafters. The major timbers were shaped by hand using a technique employing a broad ax and adze. The broad ax was used to score the log across the grain at short regular intervals, and then to hew a line the length of the log, to serve as a guide for squaring it up. The adze was then used to chip away the rounded surface of the log. This procedure was followed on four sides of the log, creating a massive, rough-hewn, square timber suitable for use. The heavy timber sills and principal joists visible in the basement of the John Jones homestead, were cut and shaped by this method. They extend to lengths of twenty-five feet and measure as much as 5 1/4 by 7 3/4 inches. The rough hewn purlins supporting the gambrel roof in the attic are slightly smaller, measuring 5 by 6 1/2 inches.

Mill-sawn lumber was a valuable commodity in the eighteenth century and its use in the John Jones homestead serves as a testament to the financial position of its owner. The lumber was probably produced at a local sawmill along Annsville Creek, which offered any number of promising locations for mill sites. (A mill referred to as Robinson's Mill is noted on a 1778-1780 map of the area [map 3].) These crude water-powered mills produced rough-cut lumber from slow sash or band saws. Since the cost of transporting large amounts of timber was prohibitive, the production of local mills was always in high demand. The builder of the John Jones house employed this type of lumber for the lesser elements of the house framing, such as the roof rafters, which measure an unorthodox 2 3/4 by 4 1/2 inches.

These rough hewn and mill sawn materials were used to frame the homestead in traditional eighteenth-century fashion. The frame took the form of a simple rectangular block with vertical posts positioned at each corner of the house and on either side of the central entrance passageway. The vertical posts were connected with horizontal sills and two primary joists at ground level, end and side girts at the first story, and plates and end girts at the roof line. Diagonal braces were used to tie horizontal and vertical members together. Rough hewn timbers were employed for these principal load bearing elements of the frame. Additional joists, studs and rafters of lesser mill-sawn lumber were attached to the timber frame. To these were nailed the floor boards, wall and roof shingling that enclosed the house.

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The vertical and horizontal elements of the frame were connected together by mortise-and-tenon joints as well as other types of interlocking techniques. Mortise-and-tenon jointing produced an extremely sturdy connection in which the projecting part of one frame member fit into a corresponding cutout on the other piece. Holes were drilled through both the mortise and tenon and pegged with octagonal tree nails to strengthen the joint. Joints of this type are apparent in the basement of the John Jones homestead, where structural elements of the house framing were left exposed.

An alternative interlocking joint technique was the half-lap arrangement. A half-lap joint is formed by cutting away one half of the thickness of the face of one timber and one half of the thickness of the back of the other, so when the two pieces are put together the outer surfaces are flush. A simpler joint to construct, the half-lap technique was used in the rafter system of the John Jones homestead. The roofing system of the house lacks a ridgepole; instead, the rafters were separately paired. Each pair of rafters was joined at the ridgeline using a half-lap joint that was carefully drilled and pegged, shimmed, and nailed. The strength of the joint made collar beams unnecessary.

The interlocking nature of mortise-and-tenon and half-lap joints required that much of the entire frame of the house be assembled at one time. As such, joints for all the principal timbers were constructed and test fitted prior to the assembly of the frame. Each joint was individually cut and fit by hand, making it essential that each timber was correctly placed when the frame was later assembled. To alleviate any confusion, the two members of each joint were numbered. Matching Roman numerals were carved on each timber near the joint. In this way timbers could be cut and jointed, then taken apart and set aside for later re-assembly.

The evidence for this construction system is still apparent in the exposed framing of the Jones house attic. Each of the twenty sets of rafters was numbered with carved Roman numerals near the half-lap joints at the ridgeline. The carefully chiseled numbers are all one inch high on the rear rafters, but two inches high on the forward rafters. In this way, the builder would know which rafters matched, and the correct orientation of the set as well.

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After the frame of the dwelling was assembled, the walls of the house were built. Wood shingles were used for the exterior cladding of the Jones house, exposed fourteen inches to-the-weather on the rear wing, and seven inches to-the-weather on the later main block. Brick nogging was used as an insulating material between the studs. On the interior, these walls were plastered over the brick. Brick nogging was not used for interior walls with no exterior exposure, such as room partitions. Here the walls were constructed of plaster-covered lath. The brick nogging of the exterior walls is readily apparent in the ground floor room of the early wing of the house, where the plaster covering has not been maintained. Some of the mill-sawn lath used for interior walls has been exposed in the stairwell to the attic where the plaster has also been allowed to deteriorate.

While the construction of the shell of the John Jones house recalls the technical skills of colonial builders, the finishing details of the residence reflect the aesthetics of their craftsmanship. The paneled doors and shutters, highly molded door and window surrounds, detailed mantelpieces, and traceried sash are functional elements that, by virtue of their craftsmanship, adorn the residence as well. The gambrel roof form of the house, its balanced center-entrance plan, and refined Adamesque detailing indicate that the builders recognized and employed established building designs influenced by settlement period, Georgian and Federal traditions in the region. The character of ornamentation expressed in the John Jones homestead recalls established building practices in the Hudson Valley during the late eighteenth century.

The John Jones homestead is significant as a rare surviving eighteenth-century frame residence that recalls the traditional building practices of the Hudson Valley region. The materials, method of construction, design and ornamentation of the house embody the distinctive characteristics of a once common building type. As one of the few surviving components of the early crossroads community of Van Cortlandtville, the resource is particularly significant in the local context. A recognized landmark in the area, listing of the John Jones house will help preserve the character of this historic community.

The small contributing barn located behind the house enhances the architectural significance of the nominated resource. The barn foundation is constructed of massive boulder

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 7

**The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue
Hamlet of Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York**

stones and is built into the side of a hill. In many respects the barn foundation recalls the approach used in constructing the cellar for the house and both were probably built around the same time. Although the barn has been resheathed, most of the original heavy timber frame remains intact. The building retains its original location in close proximity to the main house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

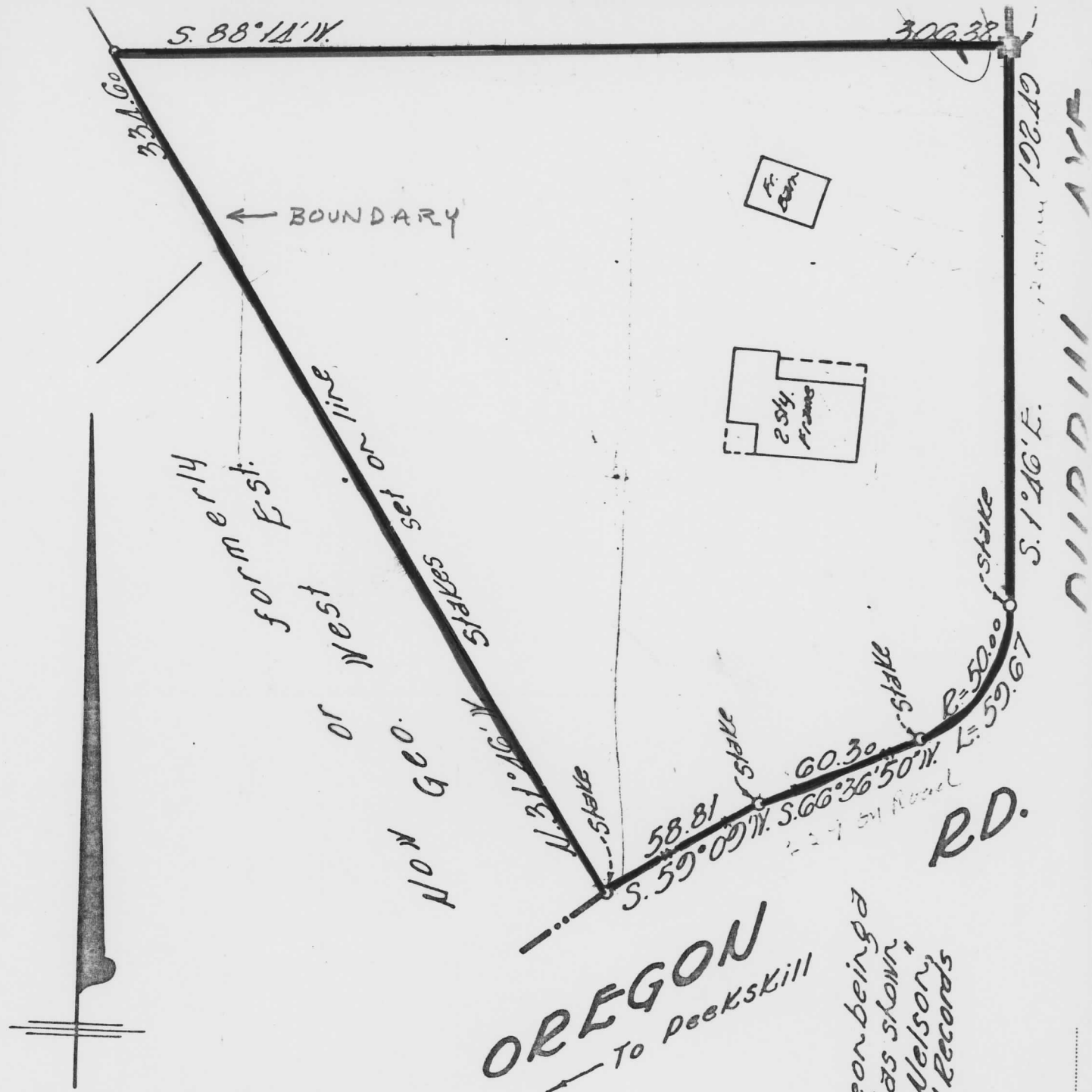
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 2

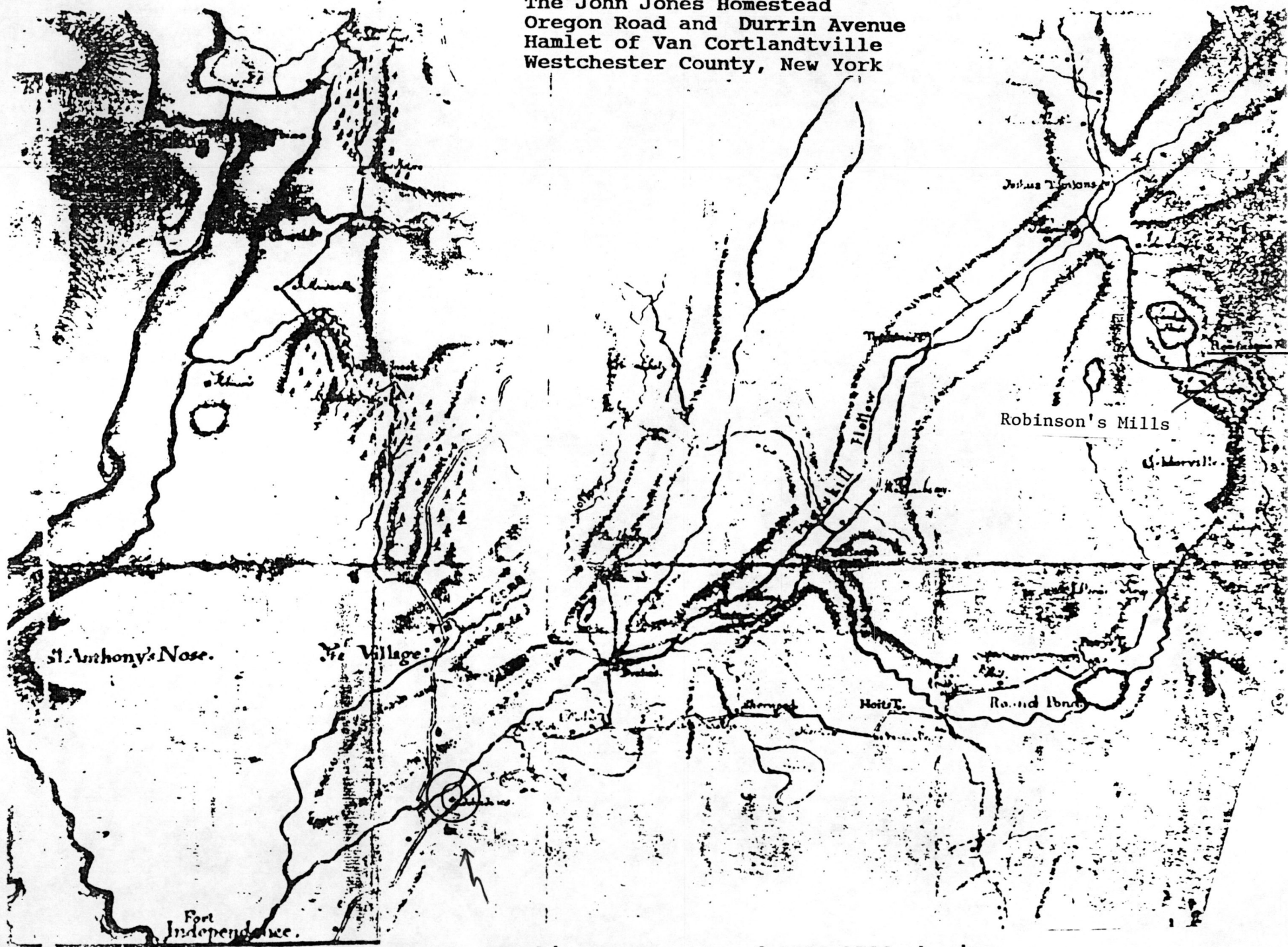
The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue
Hamlet of Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York

Research prepared by:

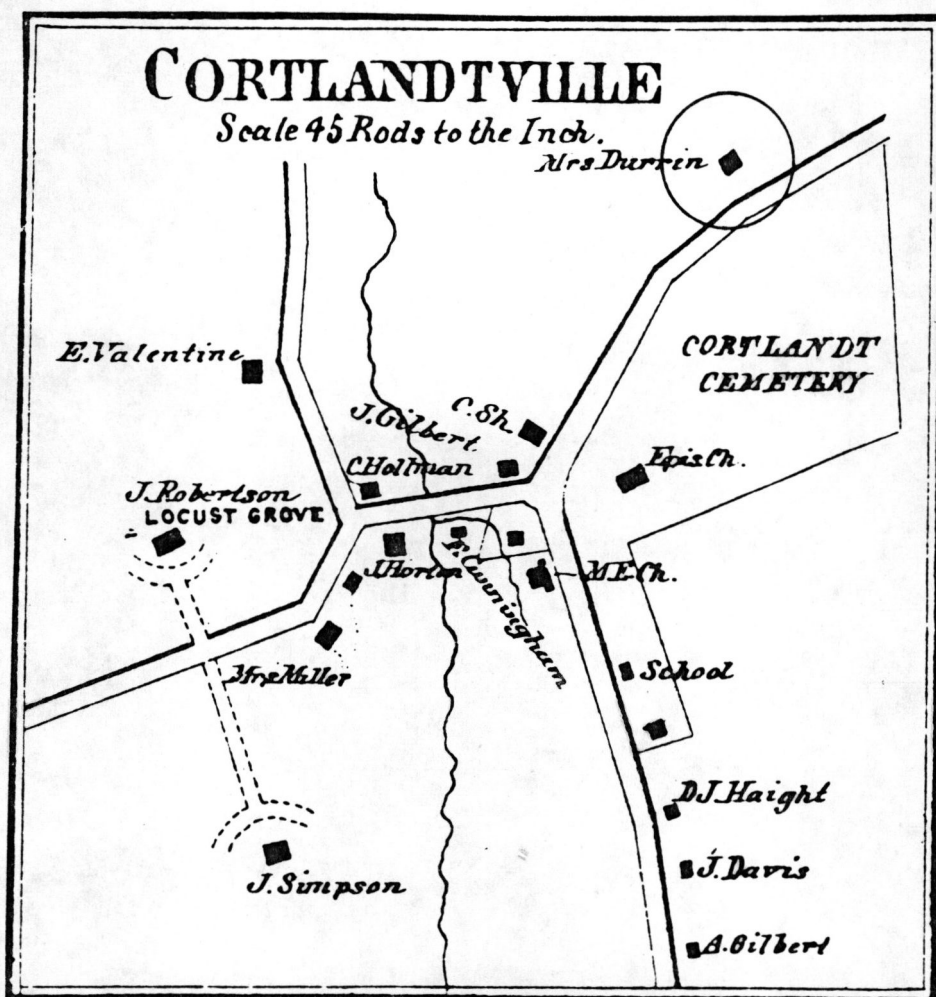
Marie Carano-Ferrara, President
Van Cortlandtville Historical Society
297 Locust Avenue
Peekskill, New York 10566



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue
Hamlet of Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York

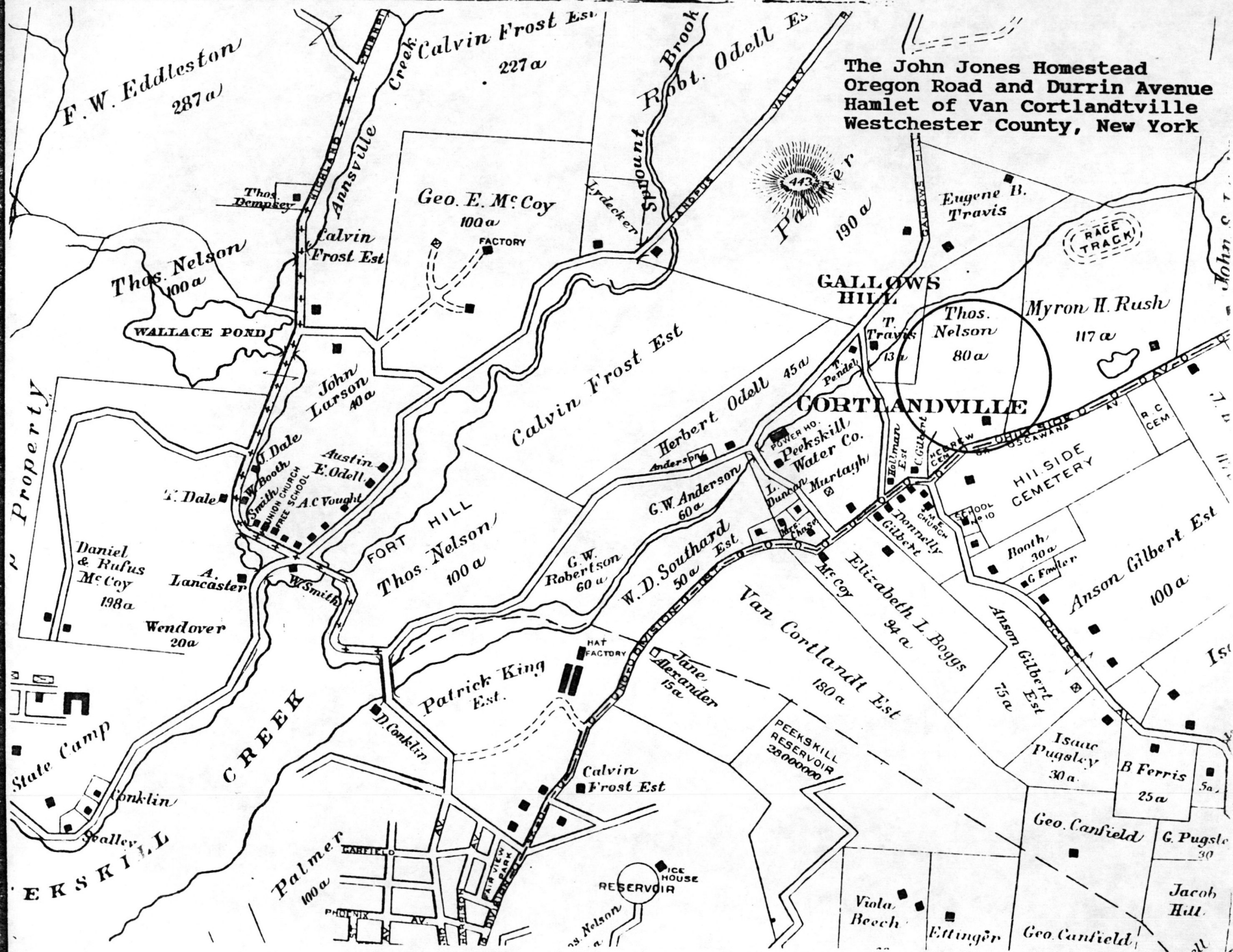


Map 3 - Erskine Survey map of 1778-1780 showing the John Jones Homestead.



Map 4 - 1867 Beers map of Cortlandtville. The John Jones Homestead is identified as the residence of Mrs. Durrin.

The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue
Hamlet of Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York



Map 5 - 1911 Atlas of Westchester County. The John Jones House is identified as the residence of Thomas Nelson.

The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue
Hamlet of Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York

UTM COORDINATES:
18 E592070 N4574220



Map 1 - 7.5' USGS Peekskill Quadrangle showing location of the John Jones Homestead. Scale - 1:24000.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Jones, John, Homestead

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Westchester

DATE RECEIVED: 4/28/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/09/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/25/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000462

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 5/25/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989.
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 1: Front (South)
Facade.

MAR8902435 N3N21



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 2: Side (East)
Facade.

MPR8902435 N3N31



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 3: Rear (North)
Facade.

MAR8902435 N3N31



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 4: Rear (North) and
Side (West) Facade.

MAP8902435 N3N31



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 5: Interior, Front Hall

MPR8902435 N3N21



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 6: Interior, Parlor
Mantelpiece.



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 7: Interior, Second
Parlor Mantelpiece.



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 8: Interior, Kitchen
Mantelpiece.



MR8902435 N3N21

The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 9: Interior, basement
fireplace with bake oven.



The John Jones Homestead
Oregon Road, Van Cortlandtville
Westchester County, New York
Photo by: R. Kuhn, 1989
Neg. at: OPRHP, Albany
Photo No. 10: Contributing
Barn.

MAR8902435 N3N31



NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PEEKSKILL QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK
7.5 MINUTE SERIES



Prepared and published in 1982 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

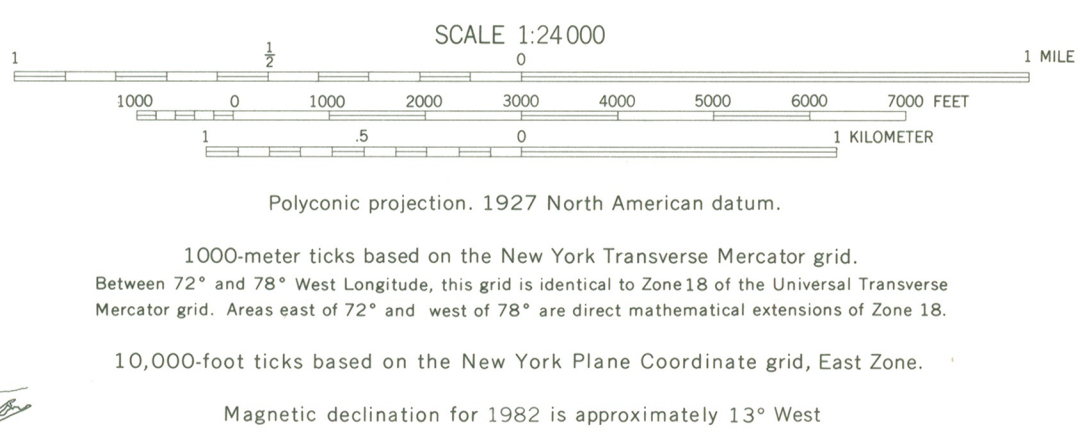
Map base from 1957 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using 1980 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensively developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.

1982 revisions by A.J. Carlos

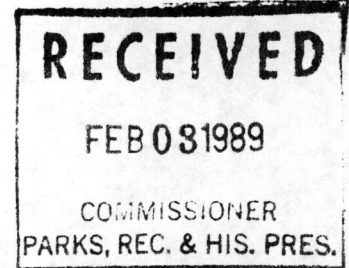


INDEX TO 1:6000 (1"=800') MAP COVERAGE
PEEKSKILL (north)
PEEKSKILL (south)

BOUNDARIES:	
State.....	-----
County.....	-----
Town or City.....	-----
Incorporated Village.....	-----
ROADS:	
Touring Route markers:	
Interstate.....	-----
U. S.	-----
State.....	-----
State Highway number and limit.....	-----
County road.....	-----
Interchange number.....	-----
Divided highways and streets:	
Wide mall.....	-----
Narrow mall or barrier.....	-----
Undivided highways and streets:	
4 or more lanes.....	-----
Less than 4 lanes.....	-----
Vehicle track; trail.....	-----



ANDREW P. O'ROURKE
County Executive



January 31, 1989

Hon. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, New York 12238-0001

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Recently, I received notification that the John Jones Homestead located at Oregon Road and Durrin Avenue in Peekskill, New York has been nominated to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

We, in Westchester County, are extremely proud of our history and architectural diversity. Therefore, the County of Westchester supports the nomination of the John Jones Homestead to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. O'Rourke
County Executive

AOR:BCS:rmb

FEB 14 1989

RECEIVED
FEB 7 1989
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION