

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB No. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

0002

JAN 05 1990

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. Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Bement-Billings House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number New York State Route 38 | | not for publication
city, town Newark Valley | | vicinity
state New York code 036 county Tioga code 107 zip code 13811

3. Classification

Ownership of property	Category	Number of resources within property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listings: _____ 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, this property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Julia A. Spore _____ Date 12/21/89
Signature of certifying official
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
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:)

Signature of keeper Date of Action

Beth Savage 02-19-90
Signature of keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION AND CULTURE/MUSEUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification
enter categories from instructions)
FEDERAL/GREEK REVIVAL

Materials(enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bement-Billings House is located about one mile north of the village of Newark Valley, Tioga County, New York (Map 1). The five-acre property is bounded on the east by New York State Route 38, on the west by the Owego Creek and on the north and south by fields and private residences (Map 2). The terrain of the nominated property is relatively flat with grassy lawns, open fields and wooded areas. The general character of the surrounding neighborhood is rural, with a few residences and a school located nearby. There are two contributing buildings (the farmhouse and a late-nineteenth century privy) and six non-contributing farm buildings on the property. All of the non-contributing buildings have either been moved to the site or are modern re-creations of historic farm buildings. Historically, this property was part of a ninety to one hundred acre parcel known as Lot 177 of the Boston Purchase. Lot 177 was originally owned by Asa Bement, one of Newark Valley's first settlers. The current five-acre nominated property was deeded to the Newark Valley Historical Society in two portions: one-and-one half acres, containing the house, in 1977 and three-and-one half acres in 1987. The rest of lot 177 has been divided and contains overgrown fields, private residences and a school. This extensive modern infill on the original farm acreage has destroyed the historical integrity and setting of the larger farm. The five nominated acres are all that remain of the original farm associated with the house.

Because of the sequential nature of the house's development the present configuration will be described first, followed by an approximate chronology. The Bement-Billings House is a one-and-one-half story clapboard farmhouse exhibiting characteristic features of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. In its present form, the house is an example of an eclectic nineteenth-century farmhouse. Development of the house appears to have been completed in stages as the changing conditions of the owners necessitated alterations to the existing structure. The farmhouse originated as a one-room cabin and evolved during the nineteenth century into the extensive fifteen-room building that exists today.

The house is essentially rectangular in shape, measuring 30 feet by 46 feet. Its long axis and roof line, running north to south, are parallel with the road and the Owego Creek behind the house. There is an L-shaped addition on the north elevation (room fifteen), which protrudes slightly to the west of the main block's rear wall, as well as to the north. Two original central brick chimneys pierce the roof ridge. A third concrete block chimney, installed on the outside of the rear wall in the 1960s, was brick veneered in 1977. A fourth chimney was installed during the 1977 restoration in the L-shaped addition, which is known as the summer kitchen. The roof is a low-pitched gable, sheathed with asphalt shingles. The narrow eave is marked by a boxed cornice with simple frieze and entablature returns. A simple cornice at the roof edge runs along the eastern and western elevations. The cellar, which is currently not in use, is approximately eight feet deep, except for the section directly under the original part of the house, which is little more than a crawlspace. The random ashlar stone foundation rises approximately one foot above ground level around the entire house.

[X] See continuation sheet

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The eastern or primary facade is divided into seven bays symmetrically arranged around a single window, which occupies the wide center bay; there is a door and two windows located on either side. The northern entrance is a five-panel door surrounded by a simple molded architrave and topped by a simple frieze and shelf. To the south is a narrower six-panel door added around 1840. It is flanked by Tuscan pilasters supporting a panelled entablature. Large stone slabs serve as a doorstep for this entrance, while a wooden stoop serves the northern entrance. The windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash with simple wooden sills and lintels, flanked by louvered wooden shutters.

The southern elevation is divided into two symmetrical bays, with two windows on each story. The first story windows are twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash, while those on the second story are twelve-over-eight double-hung sash. Both sets of windows have simple wooden sills and lintels and are flanked by louvered wooden shutters.

The first story of the western elevation is divided into eight bays consisting of three doors and five double-hung sash windows. The more southerly window at the first story is a nine-over-six double-hung sash. Moving north, the next two windows on this story are twelve-over-eight double-hung sash. Located below these windows is a wooden double-door covering the entrance to the cellar stairs. The most northerly two windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash. The first story windows have simple wooden sills and lintels and are flanked by louvered wooden shutters. There is a five-panel door with a wooden doorstep located between the second and third windows when viewing from north to south. A modern exterior chimney, constructed of cement blocks with a brick veneer, runs just north of this door. There are also two other doors on this elevation. A narrow one, with a wooden doorstep, is located in the short protruding south wall of the northern addition while the other is located on the northern addition's west wall. The second story is divided into three bays consisting of three double-hung sash windows. There is a nine-pane fixed-sash window on the southern side. Two additional windows, which are both six-over-six double-hung sash, are located between windows three and four of the first story and above the five-panel door. The second story windows, while having similar sills and lintels as those on the first story, are not flanked by shutters.

The north elevation is irregular in plan because of an addition. This portion of the house is a small gable-roofed clapboard structure joined to the main block by a board-and-batten entry. A small porch with a wooden shingled shed roof is attached to both this addition and the main block of the house. Stone slabs serve as steps at the western and northern sides of the porch. Three nine-over-six double-hung sash windows, two on the second floor lighting the upper story of the main block and one on the lower story (under the porch) are located at this

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elevation. These windows have simple sills and lintels and are flanked by louvered wooden shutters. A glazed and paneled door, facing westward, opens from the porch onto the entry, and a similar one on the west wall leads directly into the wing. A six-over-six double-hung sash window pierces the entry's north side, while two two-over-two double-hung sash windows on the north wall and a small nine-pane window in the gable light the wing. These windows have similar sills and lintels to those on the main block, but they are not flanked by shutters.

The interior of the Bement-Billings house includes a variety of intact features from throughout the period of significance. The first floor is divided into ten rooms of varying dimensions, including a kitchen, thought to be the original one-room house built in 1796, a buttery, a borning room, three bedrooms, an early parlor dating from 1810-1832 (now used as a dining room), an 1880s summer kitchen, a parlor dating from 1840 and a beehive oven with a central chimney (Figure 1). This floor has undergone a restoration in 1977 and is decorated with period furnishings.

The second story is divided into five rooms of varying dimensions including three bedrooms, a sap or storage room and a small room with a window frame in it, thought to have been used as an office (Figure 1). The second floor did not undergo the 1977 restoration and is still largely as it was around the turn of the century.

Examples of intact interior features include hand-wrought heart and lima bean latches, fireplaces and a beehive oven. There is fine wood paneling over the fireplace in the early parlor, Greek Revival woodwork on the doors and windows of the 1840's parlor, Federal style molding and woodworking in the rest of the house and a clock cabinet dating from 1810-1832 in the early parlor built into the wall and surrounded by fine wood paneling. The original clock and its works no longer exist; a new clock was installed in the original cabinet in 1983. Additional features from the period of significance include a wide single-board door to the cellar stairs and Shaker type wooden pegs in the upstairs closets, a two-board door with hand-wrought hinges, a massive summer beam kitchen, hand-hewn beams with mortise and tenon joints, exposed ceiling rafters of hand-hewn heavy timbers, a plank door between the main block and the summer kitchen, and a soleplate which interlocks with the summer beam.

The interior plan of the house is irregular, reflecting the many alterations and additions that distinguish the house's history. The chronology has not been fully documented, but the structural and historical evidence suggests the following possible development. Asa Bement constructed a small house or cabin on this site in 1794. Portions of this original small house or cabin may be incorporated into the cellar of the present house in the form of a stone chimney and a rubble stone foundation wall running from east to west (perpendicular to the front of the house) south of the northern wall of the foundation. The stone wall

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does not line up with the existing post and beam system above it that supports the earliest portion of the present building. It has not been determined whether this wall interfaces with the east or west foundation walls. In addition, the cellar is at different levels on either side of this wall. The area to the south is at least four feet deeper than that to the north, which is little more than a crawlspace. This may indicate the existence of an earlier building on this site that no longer exists.

The next stage of development appears to have been a one-room kitchen with a loft for sleeping above and the stone chimney on its west wall (Figure 1). This section, which includes what are now rooms one and two and the southeast corner of room five, is believed to be the original one-room home built by Asa Bement to replace the cabin when he brought his family from Stockbridge, Massachusetts to Newark Valley in 1796. The rear or west wall of this early building was probably located just behind the stone chimney or in line with the existing west wall of room two. The area described is defined by a soleplate on four sides, which is strengthened by a summer beam that runs east to west at the midpoint of the ceiling of room two. The beams are notched and chamfered at the joints unlike the mortise and tenon construction used in other portions of the house. The assertion that this area of the house is the earliest section is supported by these remaining features: the simple paneled treatment of the south and west walls of room one, a massive summer beam, the larger cooking hearth with its adjoining beehive oven, and strap hinges and lima bean and heart shaped wrought-iron hardware on several of the doors that lead to room one, probably made in Asa Bement's blacksmith shop. A plank door, leading from room one to room fifteen (a summer kitchen added much later) appears to have been the original entrance into the house.

The window openings on the east wall of room one were enlarged when the parlor, room seven, was added to the house in the mid-nineteenth century. At that time the chair rail beneath them was lowered to accommodate the larger window sash. However, what is probably an earlier, if not original, window remains on the north wall of the room, and the chair rail beneath it remains several inches higher than that of the east wall. This window contains nine-over-six double-hung sash surrounded by a delicate Federal style molding.

The ceiling of room one consisted of exposed beams and ceiling joists for a long period. At that time a space existed between the west or fireplace wall and the ceiling. This was rectified probably in the mid-nineteenth century when a sawn lath plaster ceiling was attached to the ceiling joists and covered the space. No nail holes other than the ones that were made to attach the previously mentioned sawn lath are evident. The beams are a dark color, perhaps due to exposure to smoke from the fireplace over a long period of time. Split lath exists in other portions of the house. For all these sections it would appear that the beams were

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exposed for the initial period of the house and remained so until the mid-nineteenth century.

The third stage of development is the most difficult to trace clearly, due to extensive later alterations. It appears that sometime between 1810 and 1832, the building was expanded to the south and west, forming the rectangle now occupied by rooms one through six (Figure 1). This is indicated by the presence of two almost identical sills in the cellar on the west and east elevations, one extending from the north wall of room one to the south wall of room six and the other extending from the northeast corner of room three to the southeast corner of room five. The second story was also added during this stage. This section employed vertical plank construction, portions of which are visible in the cellar along the south wall.

The building may not have been covered with clapboard siding, as it exists today. During the 1977 restoration, openings above the east windows of room one were discovered when the clapboard was removed. This could indicate the presence of eyebrow windows at one time (this type of window was used in Greek Revival style houses). It appears that the house was re-sided sometime in the nineteenth century, obscuring these openings, or that they were only obvious when the house had a simple plank exterior. It is believed that during this stage, the house had a five-bay facade with a central entry, now the northernmost door of the main block, similar to many of the early nineteenth century houses in this area. There may have been a window, adding symmetry to the design, located directly south of this entry that has since been removed.

It is possible that during this period the house was arranged on a center hall plan, with two rooms located to either side of the hallway, the stairs running along the south wall of room five. Entry would go through room one into room five and then up the stairway to the second story, which was added during this stage. The existence of a seam with matching boards on either side, running in a north-south direction across the floor of room five on line with posts in the north and south walls, may indicate that there were partition walls at these locations. Massive patching appears to have been done to the boards in the northeast corner of the second floor hallway, where short boards have been nailed in a narrow strip; in addition patched areas exist near the fireplace in room five. The existence of these seams and patched areas may provide evidence that the house did have a center hall plan during this period with two rooms located to either side of the hallway. The walls of room six, with the exception of the east, which is plastered, are of tongue and groove pineboard. The entry to the room, located at the northeast corner, appears to have been cut out of the wall after the wall was in place. It appears that room six may have been much larger, extending north to where the existing stairway is now located, and west, including portions of room five. Interior features remaining from this period of expansion are two brick fireplaces with similar brick and clay hearth tile added to the

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original stone flue and pine board flooring and grained mopboard in rooms four and five. These similarities appear to indicate that these two rooms were added at approximately the same time.

The fourth stage of development took place around 1840, when William Bement, who had received the house from his father Asa, added rooms ten through twelve to the south end of the building and rooms thirteen and fourteen on the second story (Figure 1). This section is of frame construction with studs and horizontal sheathing in contrast to the earlier plank construction. A second front entry and two large windows were added to the first floor facade and at the same time other first floor windows were added to the north and south elevations. A wide fascia board was added and returns were applied to the north and south elevations in the popular Greek Revival style of the period. On the interior, the parlor was decorated in the Greek Revival style with heavily carved moldings punctuated by ornate corner blocks.

In 1880 the north wing, consisting of a summer kitchen and entryway, was added (room 15). It is likely that this gable-roofed section was a separate building which was moved up against the house at this time, since it retains horizontal board sheathing on the end that abuts the house. The original construction date of this building is not known; however, its framing would indicate mid-to-late-nineteenth century. With the exception of installing clapboard siding during the later half of the nineteenth century and construction of a concrete chimney in the 1960s, the house underwent few exterior alterations until the 1977 restoration.

There has been some significant interior remodeling throughout the period of significance as new rooms were added and older ones took on new uses. A chair rail and paneled chimney piece were added to room five in emulation of those in room one. At about the turn of the century, the twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows on the first floor were replaced by two-over-two double-hung sash; reproductions were subsequently installed during the 1977 restoration.

Between the 1950s and 1977 the Bement-Billings House was empty and allowed to deteriorate. Restoration work begun in 1977, with the cedar clapboard siding and all of the window sills being replaced and the doors refitted. The board and batten side entrance, which had completely collapsed, had to be reconstructed using an 1893 photograph. All the retaining walls were replaced. Maple flooring in room one was replaced by rough wide board flooring salvaged from a nineteenth-century tavern. The beehive oven and hearth in room one were rebuilt. Steel supports were added in the cellar to prevent settling. In addition, a number of cosmetic changes were made such as painting, plastering, whitewashing and installation of period style wall paper.

The integrity of workmanship and materials of the exterior of the house was lost due to extensive deterioration. The interior still retains

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a great deal of integrity in its workmanship, materials and design, including its original room configurations, hand-wrought hinges and latches, hand-hewn heavy timbers and beams with mortise and tenon joints (including a summer-beam with interlocking soleplate and notched and chamfered beams in room one), original doors (including vertical plank, a wide single-board and a two-board door), original framing techniques including plank and frame construction, two fireplaces dating from 1810-1832, original plaster on the second floor, Greek Revival and Federal style moldings and woodwork and fine wood paneling over the fireplace in room four.

Despite the partial loss of integrity of materials and craftsmanship on the exterior, the Bement-Billings House retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, design and association. In terms of design elements, the house retains its original form (as of 1840), proportion, framing techniques and fenestration. In addition, although the actual surface materials are new, similar types of materials (cedar clapboard siding, twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows, wooden trim, and period style paints and wall papers) were employed during the 1977 restoration, thus preserving the overall visual and architectural character of the house. In terms of feeling and association, the house in its intact agrarian setting provides an historic sense of nineteenth-century rural domestic activity in Newark Valley.

In addition to the main house, which sits very near the road, the Bement-Billings property also includes a barn, a blacksmith shop, a sugar shack, a corn crib, a grain shed, a smokehouse, and a late-nineteenth century privy. All of these outbuildings are of simple frame construction with plank siding except for the blacksmith shop, which is of log construction. The privy, which is contributing, is the only outbuilding original to the site. All of the other buildings have either been moved from other locations or reconstructed on the nominated property.

The Bement-Billings House is a rare intact example of a colonial farmhouse built during the settlement period as a one-room cabin and modified into the extensive building that exists today. As the builder prospered and his family grew, the house was modified to accommodate these changing conditions. The additions also reflect the taste and design styles popular during each stage of the house's development. Examples of the use of popular decorative and design styles include the use of mortise and tenon joints, plank construction and Federal style molding and woodwork in the 1810-1832 additions and the use of frame construction and Greek Revival style molding and woodwork in the 1840 addition. The additions reflect the changing tastes and styles occurring during Newark Valley's colonial period and illustrate the house's construction methods, original appearance and functional history. The Bement-Billings House is a distinctive historical and architectural resource in the town of Newark Valley.

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The settlement of the Newark Valley area was typical of the post-Revolutionary War migration of settlers from New England. Soldiers having passed through the area during the War for Independence brought back tales of flood plains and rich soil that was in direct contrast to the rocks and hilly terrain that they were accustomed to in most of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1785, a group of eleven men formed the Boston Purchase Company to acquire land in the west. The company was enlarged to sixty shareholders who, in 1789, purchased 230,000 acres, much of what is now Broome and Tioga Counties, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This land, known as the Boston Purchase or the Ten Townships, was divided into lots with each shareholder taking his portion according to the amount of money he had invested. It is not known how large these lots were; however, records list transactions with lots having as many as two-hundred and seventy acres.

Asa Bement (1764-1847), a farmer and a blacksmith from Stockbridge Massachusetts, drew lot 177, which is located just north of the present town of Newark Valley. Asa Bement apparently also owned other lots in the Ten Townships, as there are records of transactions concerning lots 66, 89, 176, 184 and 186. Bement first visited his property in 1792, at which time it is believed that he cleared some of the land and built a small cabin. In 1794 he brought his family to lot 177 and by 1796 had built the one-room dwelling which now forms the kitchen of the present house.

Asa Bement, like many other settlers from Massachusetts, built his house in the well-established vernacular New England building tradition familiar to him. Characteristics of this New England building type include plank construction sheathed in clapboard siding, hand-forged wrought-iron hinges, handles, latches and nails, hand-hewn notched and chamfered posts and beams, plank and board doors and rectangular gable-roofed forms. The basic plan of the New England cabin usually began as a one-room half house with a sleeping loft and a chimney. Later stages saw the additions of rooms on a center hall plan massed around central chimneys, the addition of a full second story, symmetrical facades and central entrances. Similarities to this plan can be seen in room one and in the 1810-1832 additions to the Bement-Billings House.

The later additions to the Bement-Billings House reflect the changes in taste and style occurring during the mid-nineteenth century. These stylistic changes included the use of ornamentation and formal organizing devices to set off doors, windows, floor levels and rooflines. Use of this type of ornamentation at the Bement-Billings House includes Federal and Greek Revival styles of molding and woodwork, a box cornice with simple frieze and entablature returns, symmetrically spaced double-hung sash windows with shutters, a simple cornice at the roof edge, paneled doors, chair rails and fine wood paneling.

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By 1798 Bement had also constructed a water-powered sawmill, a mill pond dam, a grist mill and a blacksmith shop on his property. No above-ground remains of this eighteenth-century development have been found but the stone chimney and a portion of the foundation wall may date from this period. It appears that Asa Bement engaged in agriculture primarily for his family's own use rather than as a business enterprise.

During the summer of 1978 an archaeological survey of the grounds around the Bement-Billings House was undertaken. To date this survey has found no evidence of the outbuildings associated with the house. Therefore, the property is being nominated solely for its architectural and historical significance. If additional survey and research provides evidence of archaeological features, the site will be evaluated, and, if necessary, the nomination will be amended at that time.

As the Newark Valley region became more settled, it increased in importance as an agricultural area. It also became an important trading and commercial center servicing the surrounding agricultural region. Throughout this early period of commercial and agricultural development, Asa Bement was known as an enterprising and successful businessman.

Structural evidence suggests that at some time in the early nineteenth century Asa Bement expanded the square one-room house he had built in 1796 into a rectangle by adding rooms two through nine, possibly arranged symmetrically with a formal five-bay facade, a center hall and other trappings of the Federal style. Asa Bement's commercial and industrial enterprises flourished; by 1827 he had decided to build a more substantial house at the northern end of his property. He deeded the old house and approximately one hundred and sixty acres to his son William in 1832.

Like his father, William carried out substantial additions on the house by adding rooms ten through fourteen to accommodate his growing family (Figure 1). By 1840, the house had achieved its present size and plan except for the northern wing, which was added in 1880.

In 1854 William Bement deeded the house to his son Egbert, who also concentrated his efforts on the family sawmill rather than on farming. Egbert lived in the house until 1875, at which time he moved into the village and opened a store. Egbert leased the house and farm to Ichabod Ford. Ford was a local farmer who purchased the land and house in 1891. Ford passed the house on to his son-in-law William Billings in 1899. None of Ford's descendents worked the farm.

Beginning in 1880 and running through 1916, that portion of lot 177 located on the east side of Route 38 was leased to the Northern Tioga County Fair, an event jointly sponsored by the towns of Richford, Newark Valley and Berkshire. This property was known as Ford's Grove, giving evidence to Ichabod Ford's occupancy of the Bement farm at this time. It

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is believed that participants of the fair and racehorses were boarded at the Ford-Billings farm. The summer kitchen may have been added at this time to accommodate the participants and increased traffic brought on by the fair.

Between 1950 and 1977 The Bement-Billings house was empty and allowed to deteriorate, resulting in the loss of a great deal of exterior workmanship and material integrity. In 1977 the Newark Valley Historical Society acquired the house and nominated property and began a restoration. Much of the rotted and deteriorated woodwork, sills, clapboard siding and windows were replaced with original and reproduced materials. Although the actual surface materials are new, similar types of materials (cedar clapboard siding, twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows, wooden trim and period style paints) were employed during the 1977 restoration, thus preserving the overall character of the house. The interior retains a great deal of integrity, including its hand-hewn beams and timbers, original paneling, woodwork and doors and original framing techniques, including mortise and tenon and notched and chamfered joints. However, the beehive oven was restored and some plastering, whitewashing, painting and the installation of period style wallpaper was completed.

The Bement-Billings house is a a rare surviving example of a nineteenth-century farmhouse began during the early settlement period of Newark Valley by pioneer farmer and businessman Asa Bement. As the builder and his family prospered in Newark Valley, the house was modified, expanded and aggrandized to accommodate the changing conditions. During the nineteenth century, the house grew from what may have been a one-room cabin to the extensive building that exists today. This transformation occurred in a complex series of changes and additions. Taken individually, some were simple and straightforward, while others were quite sophisticated. For example, when the southwest parlor was added, probably during the 1840s, it was finished off using Greek Revival woodwork and other details, which were typical of their period and widely used throughout New York during that time. Because of their economic standing, the Bements had access to a higher level of quality of design and fine craftsmanship than would have been available to the average farmer. The building, in its present restored condition, reflects this. Because these modifications, which date from a number of periods, have survived intact, they provide a very valuable record of the development of both architectural styles and building technology during the nineteenth century in central New York.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gay, W.B.. Historical Gazetter of Tioga County, New York. Syracuse: Gay and Co., 1878.
Jones, Electra F. Stockbridge: Past and Present, An Old Mission Station. Springfield, Mass: Samuel Bowles and Co., 1854.
Pierce, Henry B. History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, New York: Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Co., 1879.

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:
[X] State historic preservation office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property FIVE-ACRES

UTM References

A	1 8	4 0 2 7 0 0	4 6 7 6 4 4 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The five-acre nominated property is bounded on the east by New York State Route 38, on the west by the Owego Creek and on the north and south by fields and private residences.

[] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The five-acre nominated property, originally part of a ninety to one hundred acre parcel known as Lot 177, was deeded to the Newark Valley Historical Society in two portions: one-and-one half acres in 1977 and three-and-one half acres in 1987. The rest of Lot 177 has been divided and contains overgrown fields, private residences and a school. This extensive modern infill on the original farm acreage has destroyed the historical setting of the larger farm. The nominated five-acres are all that remain of the original farm associated with the house.

[] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anthony J. Ardito
organization Parks, Recreation & Hist. Pres. date October 4, 1989
street & number Empire State Plaza, Agency #1 telephone (518) 474-0479
city or town Albany state New York zip code 12238-0001

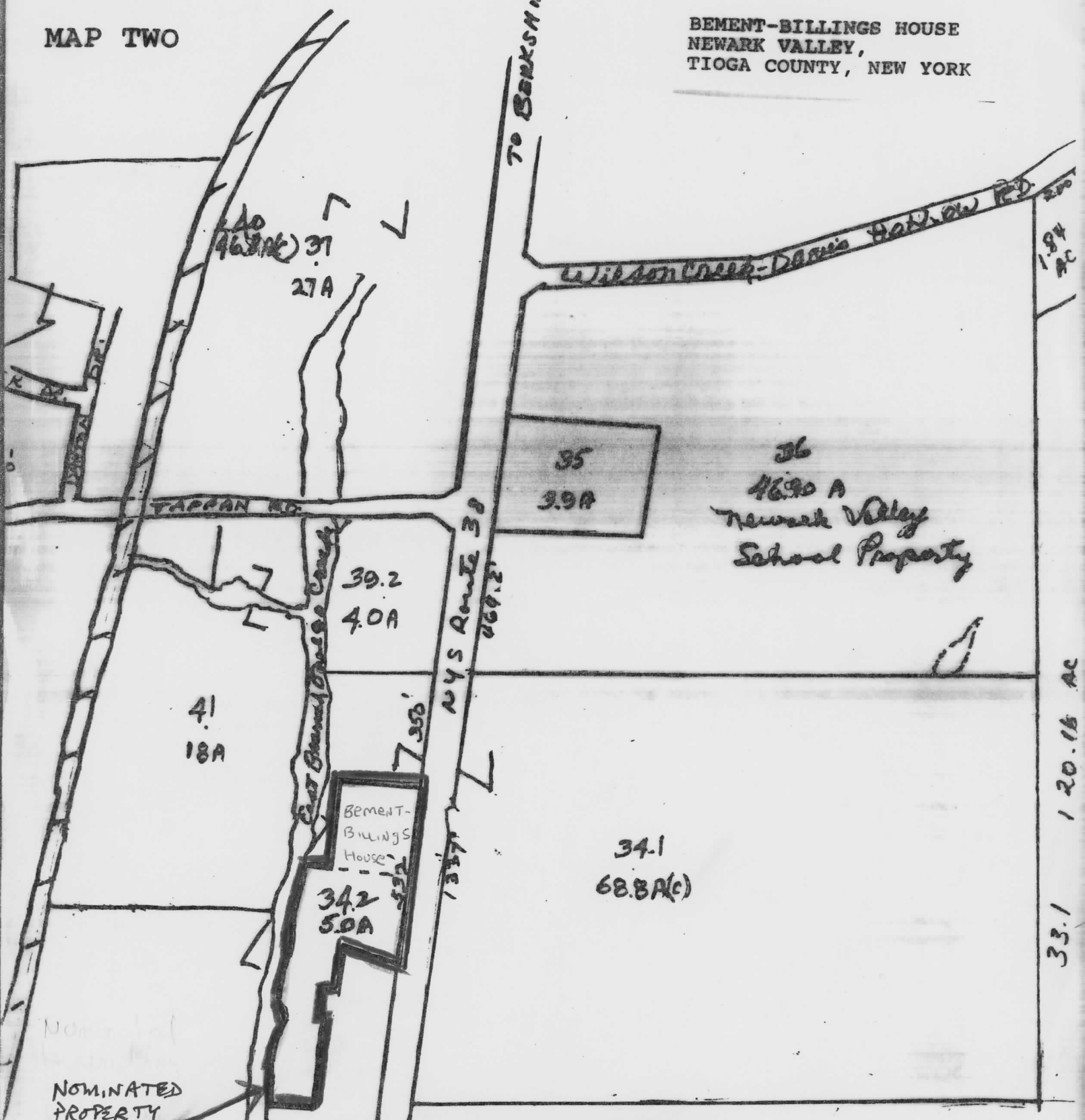
SECTION 10N
TEN TOWNSHIPS

LOT 177

MAP TWO

↑ NORTH ↑

BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE
NEWARK VALLEY,
TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK



NOMINATED
PROPERTY
BOUNDARY

TAX MAP TOWN OF NEWARK VALLEY
TIOGA CO., N. Y. 53.00

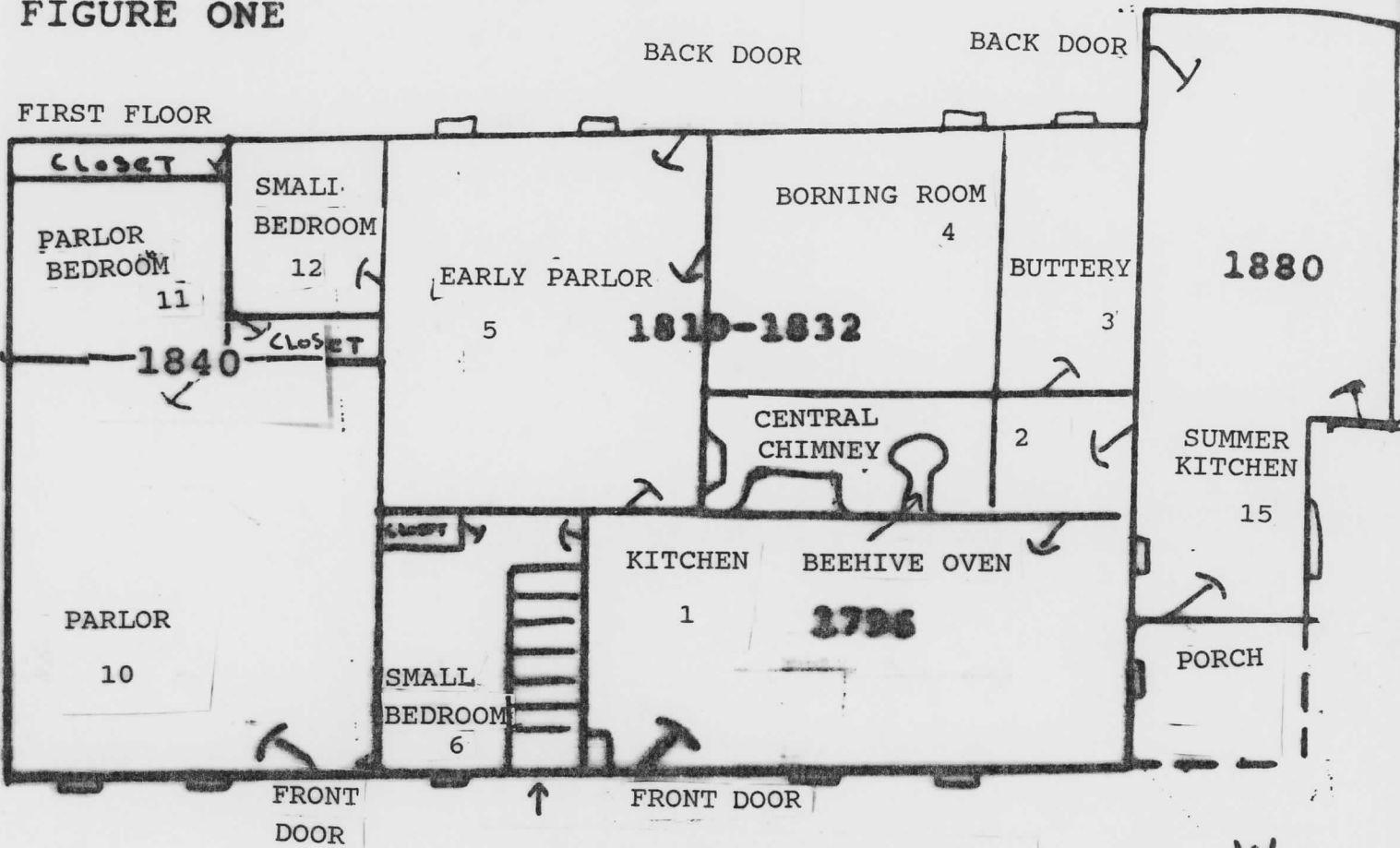
1" = 400"
MAP DATE: 12-1-76

Deed = Book 370 P. 900

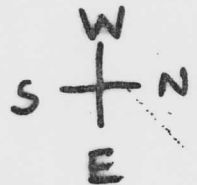
1.84 AC

33.1 120.16 AC

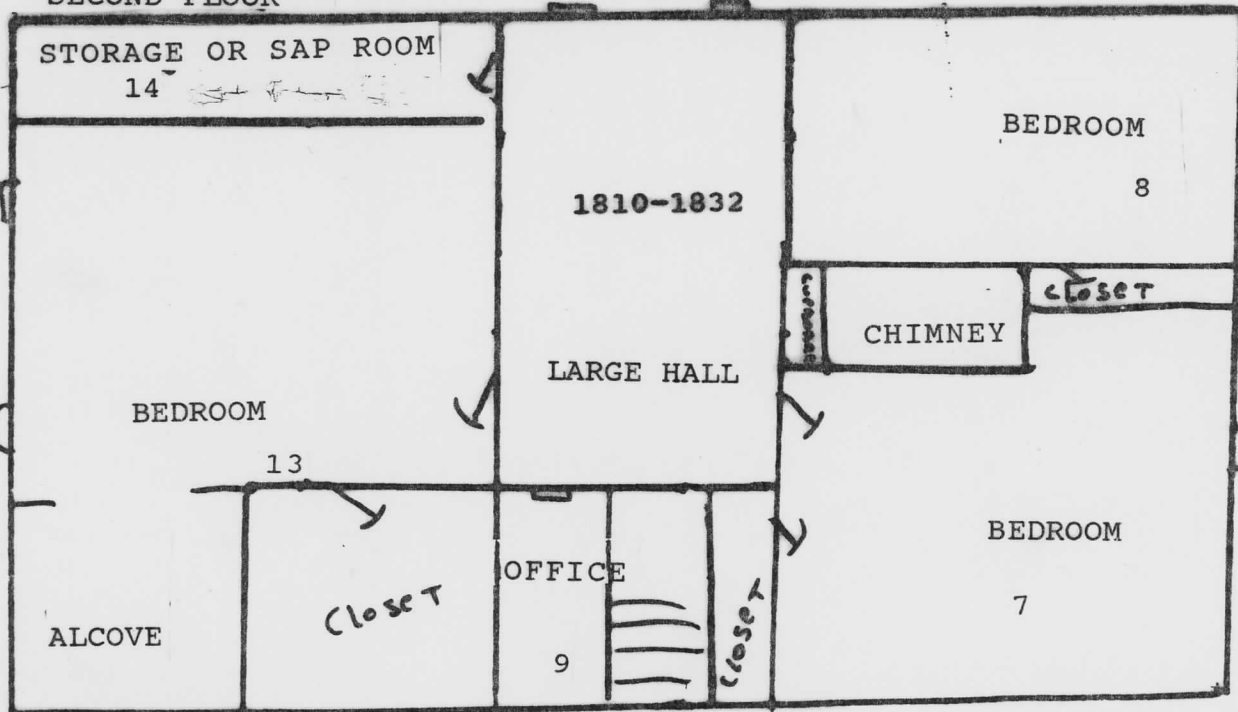
FIGURE ONE



stairs to second floor,
under them are stairs
to the cellar.



SECOND FLOOR



—) - DOORS
□ - WINDOWS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000002

Date Listed: 02/19/90

Bement--Billings House
Property Name

Tioga
County

NY
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

John B. Savage
Signature of the Keeper

02-19-90
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

3. Classification: Number of Resources Within the Property

- 2 C building(s)
- 6 NC building(s)
- 0 C structure(s)
- 0 C object(s)
- 0 C site(s)

The count indicated in the text is correct, not the total indicated on page #1 of the nomination form.

This information was confirmed with Kathleen LaFrank, NYSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bement--Billings House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Tioga

DATE RECEIVED: 1/05/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/17/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/19/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000002

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/19/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant architecturally
and historically for association with
settlement and vernacular evolutionary
building practices in the region.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Swal
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 02-19-90

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
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



NAME: BEMENT - BILLINGS HOUSE, RT 38
LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK
PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT 1989
NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK
VIEW 1 OF 13: EAST (FRONT) FACADE



NAME: BEMONT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

View 2 OF 13: NORTH ELEVATION



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

VIEW 3 OF 13: WEST ELEVATION



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT 38
LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK
PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989
Neg.: OPRHP, ALBANY NEW YORK
View 4 OF 13: SOUTH ELEVATION

4

1899172 N M N NR



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, Tioga County, New York

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT 1985

Neg.: OPRHP, ALBANY, New York

View 5 of 13: KITCHEN, WITH RESTORED BEEHIVE OVEN



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

VIEW 6 OF 13. KITCHEN CEILING SHOWING SUMMERBEAM



NAME: BEMENT - BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, Tioga County, New York

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

Neg.: OPRHP, ALBANY, New York

View 7 of 13: BERNING Room

118891172 Y N H N NR



NAME: BEMENT. BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT, 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

View 8 OF 13: PARLOR



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

VIEW 9 OF 13: SECOND FLOOR, SOUTHEAST BEDROOM



NAME: BEMENT- BILLINGS House, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, Tioga County, New York

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1988

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, New York

View 10 of 13: CELLAR



NAME: BEMENT - BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, New YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, New YORK

VIEW 11 OF 13: EARLY PARLOR (NOW DINING ROOM)



NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT 38

13

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIoga COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

NEG.: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

View 12 OF 13: DETAIL OF LIMA BEAN STRAP
HINGES ON KITCHEN DOOR

03900270 H+1 N-1R



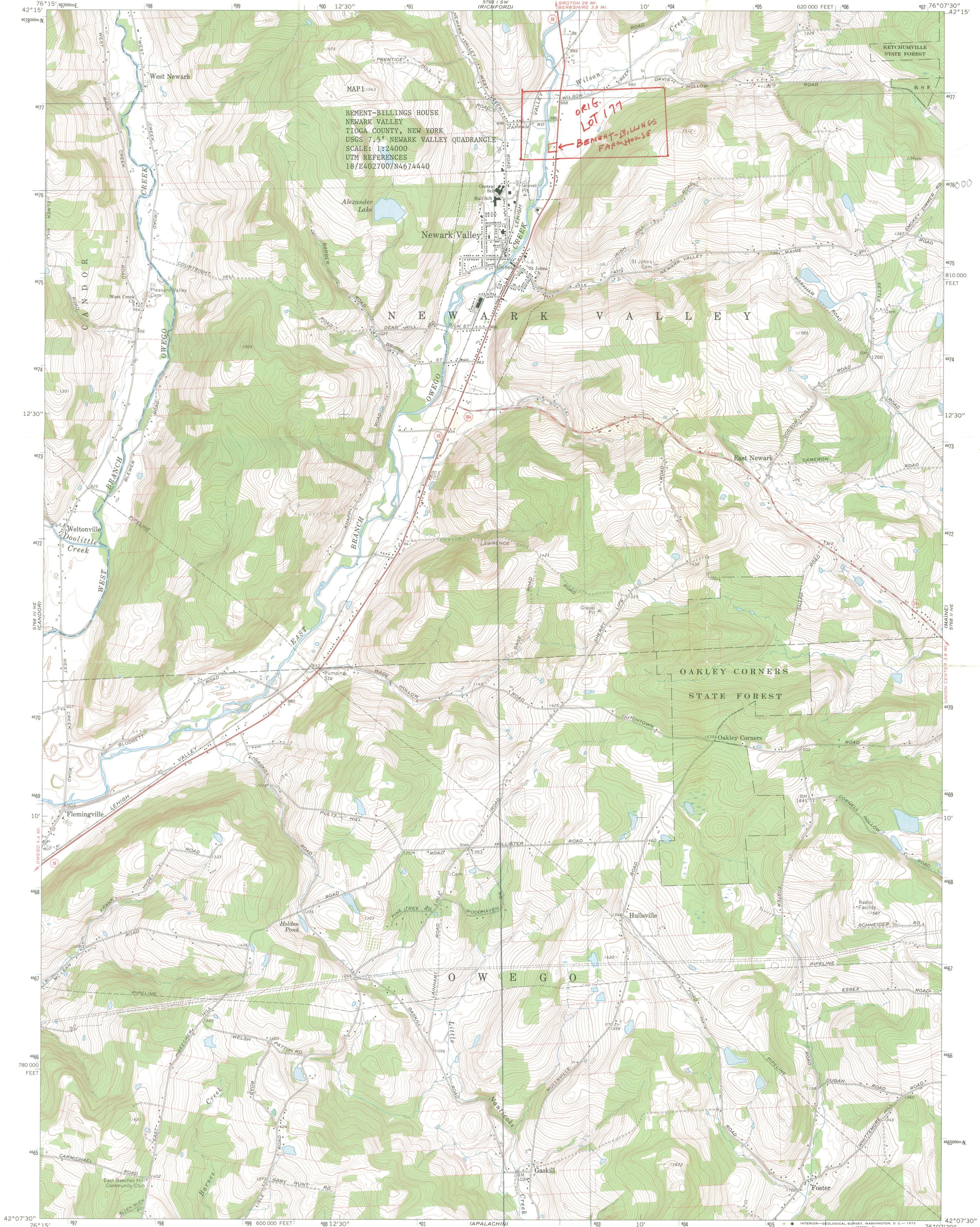
NAME: BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE, RT. 38

LOCATION: NEWARK VALLEY, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

PHOTO: L. CHATFIELD, SEPT. 1989

NEG: OPRHP, ALBANY, NEW YORK

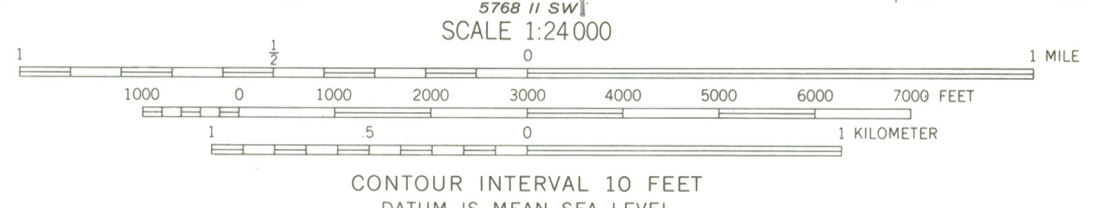
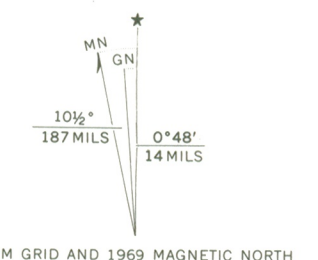
VIEW 13 OF 13: OUTHOUSE (CONTRIBUTING)



BEMENT-BILLINGS HOUSE
NEWARK VALLEY
TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK
USGS 7.5' NEWARK VALLEY QUADRANGLE
SCALE: 1:24000
UTM REFERENCES
18/E402700/N4674440

ORIG.
LOT 177
BEMENT-BILLINGS
FARMHOUSE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with New York
Department of Transportation
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1942, 1944, and 1948. Field
checked 1956. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1968. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
central 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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
	State Route

NEWARK VALLEY, N. Y.
NW/4 ENDICOTT 15' QUADRANGLE
N4207.5-W7607.5/7.5

1969

AMS 5768 II NW-SERIES 7821

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