



5. Classification

Ownership of Property/Category of Property/Number of Resources within Property

(Check as many boxes as apply) (check box) (do not include previously listed resources in the count)

[x]private [x]building(s) Contributing Noncontributing
[ ]public-local [ ]district 1 buildings
[ ]public-State [ ]site sites
[ ]public-Federal [ ]structure structures
[ ]object objects
1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM:

COBBLESTONE ARCHITECTURE OF NEW YORK STATE (National Register: 1992)

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Current Function

EDUCATION; SCHOOL

COMMERCE; SPECIALTY STORE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic: Federal

foundation cobblestone

walls cobblestone

roof modern shingles

other

Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Mendon Cobblestone Academy  
Mendon, Monroe County, New York

Section 7, Description, page 1

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**Description**

The Mendon Cobblestone Academy is located on the west side of Mendon-Ionia Road in the historic core of the hamlet of Mendon, a small crossroads hamlet which once served as one of several commercial centers for the surrounding rural agrarian town of Mendon. (The town of Mendon, once sparsely populated, has recently gained popularity as an upscale, bedroom community for the nearby city of Rochester.) The former academy is surrounded by residential, religious and commercial properties, many of which date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, because of extensive alterations to many of these older buildings, as well as several modern intrusions and vacant lots, there is no historic district potential in the hamlet according to National Register standards. There are no outbuildings on the property, but a modern (ca. 1950), cobblestone wing is attached to the south (side) elevation of the building.

The former academy (ca. 1835), an imposing, Federal style building constructed of variously colored and shaped field cobbles, is a two-story, five-bay, center-hall building resting on a raised cobblestone foundation and surmounted by an asphalt shingle-clad roof. Fenestration is regular, and 8/8 double-hung replacement sash have been added to several of the openings. (Openings originally may have contained 6/6 double-hung sash, although several late nineteenth century photographs show 2/2 sash.) Window and door openings are stabilized by and decorated with stone quoins, stone lintels and flat-arched stone headers. The front entrance is distinguished by a massive, segmentally arched stone lintel with a large keystone. (The door itself, the half-sidelights and the molded woodwork are all recreated.) Lunettes decorate the apexes of the gable ends on the side elevations of the building.

All walls of the building are constructed of irregularly shaped and sized field cobbles and feature carefully cut quoins measuring 8" x 12" x 6," i.e., the standard size for quoins during the period for cobblestone construction. The three-bay deep side elevations feature 6/6 double-hung sash replacement windows. The apexes of the side gable ends are distinguished by delicate lunettes. Historic photos show a frame cupola and belfry centrally placed on the ridge of the roof; the fire department replaced the cupola with a siren tower. The current owner intends to replicate the old cupola according to Department of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

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A one-story, flat-roofed cobblestone wing (non-contributing) is attached to the south side of the main block. Built ca. 1950 to house fire engines, the wing originally featured two large garage doors and a secondary entrance. The garage bays recently have been converted into two large display windows to accommodate the commercial needs of the current owners. A large, one-story, concrete block wing, also added by the fire department in the 1950s/60s, recently was converted into residential quarters for the current owners.

Virtually no historic fabric survives intact on the interior of the former academy. Most was lost when the fire department remodelled the building for departmental use; the remainder was lost when the current owners converted the building for use as commercial space, an art gallery and an artist's studio.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

**Criteria Considerations: NA**

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Area of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
ca. 1835  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
ca. 1835  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)  
na  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
na  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See attached continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Mendon, New York. Mendon Historical Society. Research files.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):**      **Primary location of additional data:**
- 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 Building Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering
  - State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other: Mendon Historical Society

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Section 8, Significance, page 1

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**Statement of Significance**

The Mendon Cobblestone Academy is an architecturally significant example of the cobblestone method of construction in Western New York and is a distinguished example of Federal style civic architecture in the town of Mendon. Built ca. 1835, the building retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, materials and craftsmanship and remains a fine example of cobblestone architecture in Mendon.

The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the cobblestone method of construction as discussed at length in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form Cobblestone Architecture of New York State (NR: 1992) in the use of medium sized field cobbles (2" to 2 1/2") laid in horizontal rows and bonded with limestone mortar, the use of limestone quoins to decorate and stabilize the corners of the building and the use of stone trim to ornament and reinforce the door and window openings. The building is fairly typical of the Middle period of cobblestone construction (i.e., ca. 1835 - ca. 1845) in its use of relatively large and irregular cobblestones. Like many cobblestone buildings in the region, the building features rectangular, standard-sized (i.e., 8" x 12" x 6") stone quoins to stabilize the corners of the building and plain stone lintels and sills around door and window openings. The former academy is particularly distinguished by the decorative quoins along the sides of the window openings.

The former academy is one of only ten surviving cobblestone buildings in Mendon, most of which, according to a comprehensive level survey prepared by the Mendon Historical Society in 1995, appear to survive with a relatively high degree of physical integrity. Most of the other cobblestone buildings in Mendon are rural domestic buildings, although there are two intact cobblestone buildings (including the old academy) in the village of Mendon. Including the nominated property, Mendon's seven most notable cobblestone buildings are as follows: the Adsit house at 3871 Clover Street (One Dixon Woods), the Cole house at 933 Mile Square Road, the Gates/Livermore house at 4389 Clover Street, the former Mendon Academy at 16 Mendon-Ionia Road, the Sheldon house at 21 Mendon-Ionia Road, the Stewart house on Douglas Road in Mendon Ponds Park and the Whitcomb house at 437 Pond Road. (Three additional extant buildings, none of which appear to be eligible

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for the National Register, include the Foote house at 1312 Pittsford-Mendon Road, the Hubbell house at 683 Quaker Meetinghouse Road and the former District #12 Schoolhouse in Sibleyville at 7027 Rush-Lima Road.) In addition to the ten that survive, at least two have been lost - a church and a farmhouse.

In addition to its significance as a cobblestone building, the former academy is also architecturally significant as a distinguished example of Federal style civic architecture in Mendon; characteristic features include its imposing scale in such a small, crossroads setting, its rectangular, gable-roofed form, its two-story, five-bay, center-hall plan and its slightly recessed front door surrounded by half-sidelights and a large, segmentally arched stone header.

According to extensive historical information gathered by Diane Ham of the Mendon Historical Society, the building was built ca. 1835. The following year, Rev. Marcenus Stone opened the Mendon Academy, which operated only three years before being taken over the Mendon Public School District. District School #2, which had been created in 1815 and housed in several temporary quarters, moved into permanent quarters at the former private academy in 1839. The school operated for more than a century, serving the needs of elementary students from the surrounding rural regions before promoting them to nearby high schools in Honeoye Falls, Victor or Pittsford.

The academy was acquired by the Mendon Fire Department in 1950 and remodelled for use as a firehouse. A new wing, carefully executed in the cobblestone method of construction to match the main block, was built to house the fire engines. Four decades later a new firehouse was built on the southern edge of the hamlet, and the former firehouse was acquired by a private concern and converted into a commercial art gallery.

Prominently sited in this still-active crossroads hamlet, the former academy remains an important local landmark for both its association with the history of education in the community as well as for its cobblestone method of construction.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.62 acres

**UTM References**

A. 18/295794/4763271

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The boundary coincides with the 0.62-acre parcel as identified by county tax map 216.11-1-17 (see attached).

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the property has been drawn to coincide with the historic and current boundaries of the former academy.

**11. Form Prepared By: Diane C. Ham, Mendon Town Historian**

contact: Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst  
organization NYSHPO, Division for Historic Preservation date July 1996  
street & number Pebbles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643  
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mendon Cobblestone Academy  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Cobblestone Architecture of New York State MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 10/24/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/05/96  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/21/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/08/96  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96001395

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 11-29-96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



DIST. No. 2

MENDON

#12 Mendon Academy  
Mendon - Louisa Rd, Mendon  
Mendocino Co

Photo & Neg: E. Malin, Mendon  
Historical Society, 1996

Front facade

6101N-1N12

DIS'T. No. 2 MENDON



#16 Mendon Academy  
Mendon - Ionia Rd Mendon  
Mendon Co

Photo & Neg: E. Malin, 1996  
Mendon Historical Society

Front door

6101N1NN2

Mendon Academy  
Mendon, Monroe Co.

Monroe, 1:24,000  
Zone 18

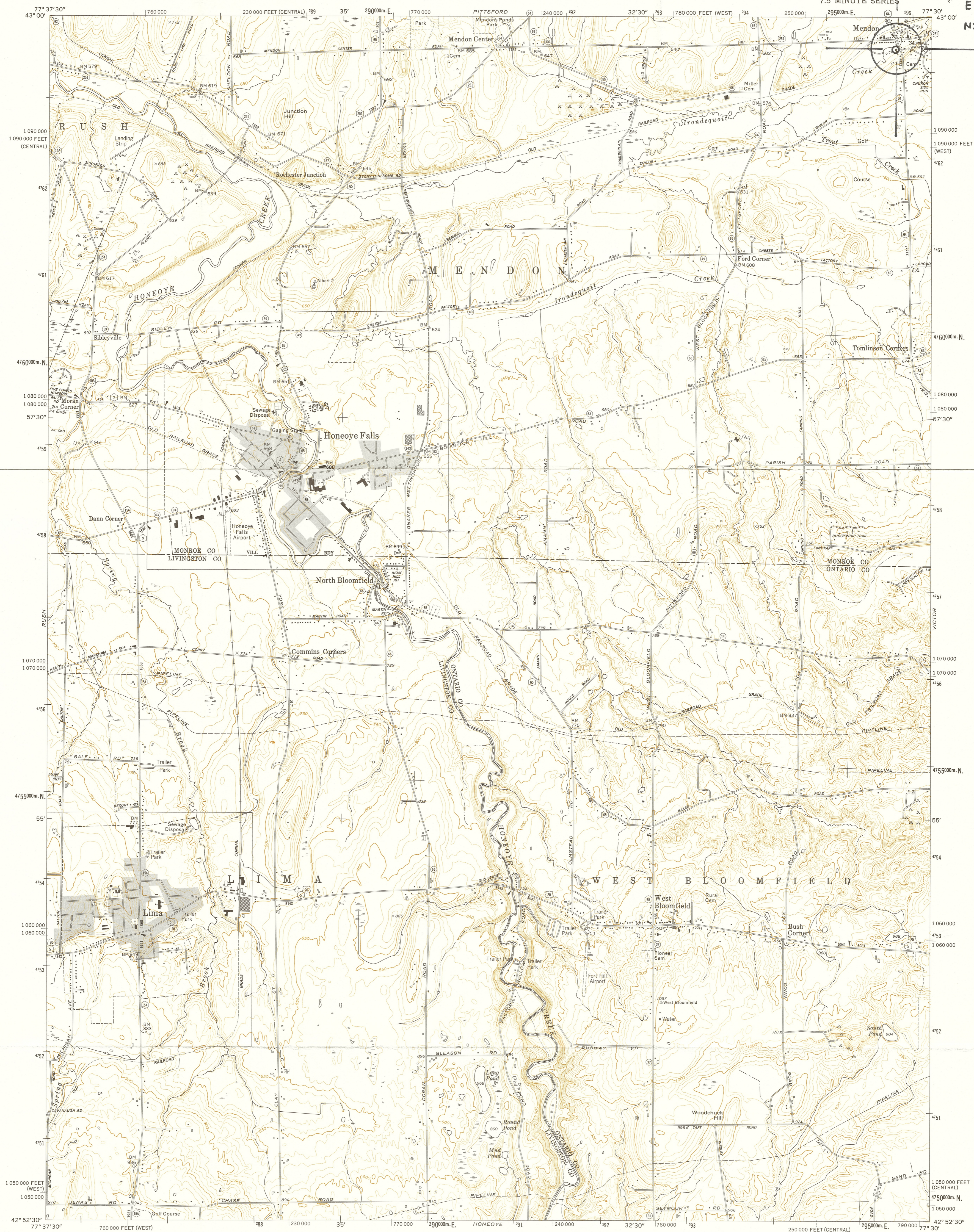
E: 295794  
N: 4763271

NEW YORK STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



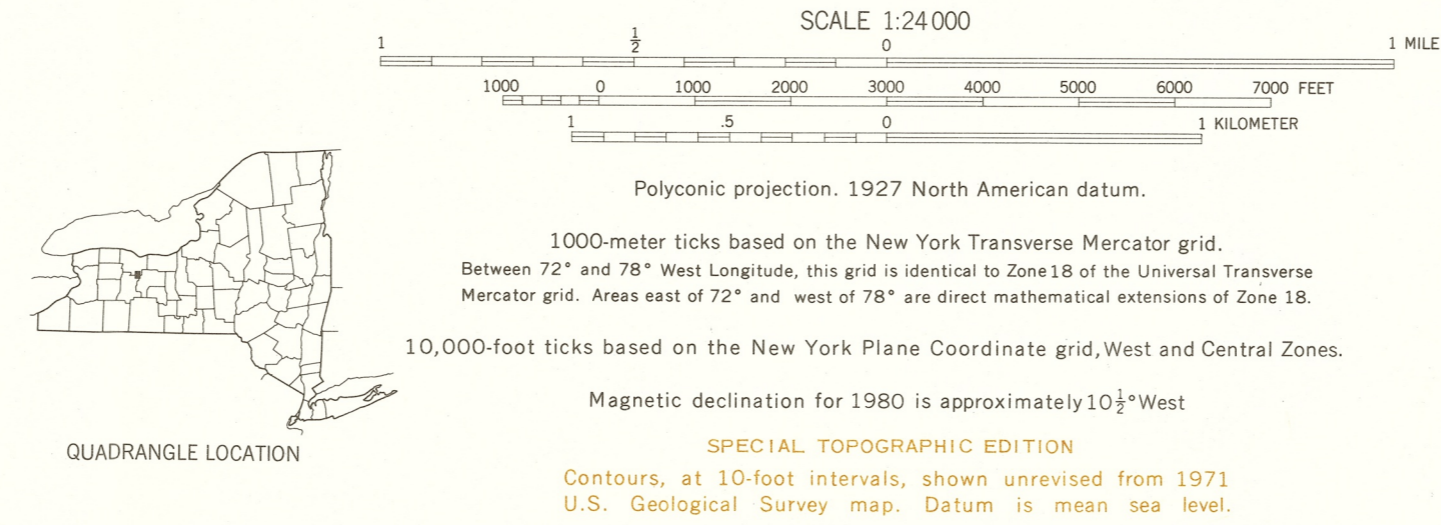
HONEOYE FALLS QUADRANGLE  
NEW YORK  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES

WEST HENRIETTA



96 N 1086

Prepared and published in 1980 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.  
Map base from 1971 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 intensely 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.  
1980 revisions by G. D. Schmidt



INDEX TO 1:9600 (1" = 800') MAP COVERAGE

State	.....
County	.....
Town or City	.....
Incorporated Village	.....

ROADS:

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