

1209



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mumford, Lewis, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 187 Leedsville Road (CR 2) not for publication

city or town Amenia vicinity

state New York code NY county Dutchess code 027 zip code 12501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J.W. Allen Deputy Commissioner 21 Sept. 98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Carol S. Shull

10-15-99

Mumford, Lewis, House
Name of Property

Dutchess County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

foundation stone

walls clapboards, shingles

roof asphalt shingles

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Narrative Description

The Lewis Mumford House, an early-19th century farmhouse, is located among the small hamlet grouping of houses known as Leedsville in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, less than a mile west of the Connecticut state line. The property consists of approximately 14 acres with the house sitting close to County Route 2 (Leedsville Road) on the east and Webutuck Creek wrapping around the parcel to the west. Directly across the street to the east is another early 19th century farmhouse. A short gravel driveway leads into a small turnaround on the north side of the house near the former carriage house and simple stone paths lead around the house. Mature trees, ornamental shrubs and perennial plants surround the house and there are several curvilinear beds in the lawn on the south and west sides of the house. Intersecting paths in the back yard lead through openings in the trees into a large open field on the west side of the property. This nomination consists of two contributing buildings (house and carriage house) and one contributing site (landscape).

The Mumford House property retains its rural setting and a high degree of historic integrity, although a few modern houses have been built nearby along Leedsville Road. The simple frame farmhouse and the similar but more architecturally detailed house directly across the road, "each behind its traditional pair of bridal maples" flanking the front walkways, were built around 1837 according to Mumford.¹ The house retains much of its 19th-century exterior appearance. (Please note - it is the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Office that the house dates to at least a decade earlier than Lewis Mumford states in his autobiography.) The house was remodeled by the Mumfords after they purchased it in 1929 and was renovated in 1998-99, but it retains a high degree of integrity on the exterior and a moderate degree of integrity on the interior to the period of significance, 1929-1990.

The eastern section of the house facing the road is a two-story, side gable structure with asphalt shingles on the roof. The front has three bays of 12-over-12 double-hung sash windows on the first story and 12-over-8 sash windows on the second story. The siding, painted wood shingles on the first level and clapboard on the second story and rear sections of the house, appear to have been added over the original siding. The half-round window openings in the gable ends have been covered by boards. Exterior wood shutters were added in the 1998-99 renovation.

A single bay porch with an arched pediment supported by two slender round columns covers the front entrance door. The door surrounds feature Federal style projected crown moldings, pilasters, and fielded side panels. The side benches and column bases are later additions, likely by the Mumfords. A brick chimney was added to the north side of the front section in 1936 when the house was upgraded for central heating and electricity. The chimney for the living room fireplace on the south side was later removed by the Mumfords.

The rear wing of the house, set perpendicular to the front section, steps down from a full two stories to a one-and-one-half story section and a one story sun-room to the rear. The two-story section was raised from the original one-and-one-half stories in 1941, although the kitchen chimney remains intact to the rear. The windows in the upper bedrooms were replaced at that time, but the first story 6-over-6, 9-over-6, and 12-over-8 windows still survive. The siding is clapboards and there are side entrance doors on

¹ Lewis Mumford, Sketches From Life: The Autobiography of Lewis Mumford. (New York: Dial, 1982) p. 484.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 2

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

both the north and south sides of this central section.

The original one-and-one-half story section of the wing with multipane windows remains for the first floor dining room and second floor rear bedroom. A shed-roofed, single story sun-room is attached to the rear with recent double French doors that replace 1941-era windows installed for the Mumfords. This small wing was likely a 19th-century addition.

On the interior, the house is framed with large interlocking beams that have been exposed in the living room ceiling (likely by the Mumfords) and are evident in the cellar under the front section of the house. The cellar has a dirt floor and stone foundation walls. The first floor has a front living room and small entry hall, a study, a kitchen with pantry, a dining room, a bathroom and the sun-room to the rear. The bathroom was added in the early 1970s to allow the Mumfords to avoid climbing stairs. The second floor has a large bedroom, a hallway, and a bath in front and three bedrooms and a half-bath to the rear. There are two stairways to the second floor; the one in front, once enclosed, has been recently opened up to provide more light to the upstairs. In the front bedroom, a closet was added by the Mumfords, probably in 1936, and it obscures a window on the south side that on the outside is covered with closed shutters. The back staircase, between the kitchen and dining room, is narrow and steep. Flooring in most of the house is wide pine boards, some of which were covered up by the Mumfords with other materials over the years. They have recently been stripped and varnished.

The interior window frames and paneled doors are simple, but mostly intact from the original construction and from 19th-century remodelings. Interior features of note include a large brick fireplace with bake oven and mantel in the west wall of the kitchen. The kitchen was remodeled in 1998-99, although the adjoining pantry is intact. The dining room just to the rear of the kitchen also has a large brick fireplace that has recently been renovated. Between these two rooms is a narrow rear stairway that splits at the landing with a door into both the kitchen and dining room. The living room and front hall were once lined with attached bookshelves, covering most wall surfaces as well as the original fireplace on the living room's south side. In the 1998-99 renovation, most of these were removed and the fireplace was restored. The small study off the living room, where Lewis Mumford did most of his writing, is a plain room with built-in bookshelves on the south wall and two rows of hooks above the desk that held notes for future reference.

The only contributing outbuilding on the property is a single-story carriage house with a short addition on the north side to accommodate the length of an automobile. The carriage house/garage is wood pegged, post and beam construction with a low loft and asphalt shingled roof, clapboard siding, and three small 8-pane and 6-pane windows on the south side. The site features a gravel driveway leading to the garage and stone pathways to the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "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 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 prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL HISTORY
COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE
ART
LITERATURE

Period of Significance

1929-1990

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Mumford, Lewis

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

see continuation sheets

Mumford, Lewis, House
Name of Property

Dutchess County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.58 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	8
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6	2	3	6	4	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	3	9	4	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

1	8
---	---

6	2	3	1	7	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	3	9	4	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	8
---	---

6	2	3	4	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	4	1	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

4

1	8
---	---

6	2	3	5	5	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	3	4	0	7	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

contact:

name/title Peter D. Shaver (see continuation sheet)

organization NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Pres. date Sept. 20, 1998

P.O. Box 189

street & number Peebles Island

telephone 518-237-8643, ext. 3264

city or town Waterford, NY

state NY

zip code 12188

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 _____ telephone _____

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Statement of Significance

The Lewis Mumford House is historically significant for its association with the life of the nationally prominent author and humanist Lewis Mumford, who lived in this house in rural Dutchess County for most of his productive life. Although a child of New York City, Mr. Mumford lived in this 19th-century farmhouse which he and his wife bought in 1929 and was his permanent residence from 1936 until his death in 1990.

The Mumfords bought the house in 1929, first as a summer retreat, then a permanent home in 1936, living in Leedsville for most of their remaining years. Lewis Mumford describes the house and property in his 1982 autobiography, Sketches From Life:

So we readily agreed to the princely sum of twenty-five hundred dollars for the house and its acre of land... The transformation of the ramshackle house and our first weedy acre into a densely cultivated tract constitutes a vital part of the story of our marriage... Without any set intention on our part our acres eventually became, at the climax of our cultivation, a small cross-section of the potential rural environment, with a woodlot, a swath of cleared meadow, a vegetable garden, two asparagus beds, a raspberry patch, a row of currant bushes, strawberries, and assorted flower beds, encircled by a miniature woodland walk - a **Philosophenweg**, as our German friends called it - that leads to what was once an open view across the valley to the exposed flanks of Oblong Mountain, some twelve hundred feet high.¹

Mr. Mumford was perhaps best known as a writer on cities and architecture. His books The Culture of Cities (1938) and The City in History (1961) are considered landmark works on urban civilization. However, over his sixty plus year career as a writer Mr. Mumford wrote on a diverse array of subjects, making important contributions to the field of American cultural criticism. Although a generalist by intention and interest, Mr. Mumford was a pioneer scholar in several specialty fields: American architecture after 1835, American art and literature, the history of Western technology, contemporary urban and regional development, and the origins and historical development of cities. Mr. Mumford once remarked, "if I have any field of specialization at all, it is the all-inclusive one of the social philosopher."² In total, he authored some twenty-nine books and over a thousand essays and reviews. (A list of his books is attached in the bibliography). With occasional interruptions, he also wrote the "Skyline" column on architecture for The New Yorker magazine from 1931 to 1963.

In recognition of his life's work, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964) and the National Medal of Arts (1986), and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II (1975). He also received almost every literary award this country can bestow on a writer of nonfiction, including the National Book Award for The City in History (1961), the National Medal for Literature (1972), and the Smithsonian Institution's rarely awarded Hodgkins Gold Medal for his pioneering work in bringing together the arts and

¹Lewis Mumford, Sketches From Life: The Autobiography of Lewis Mumford. (New York: Dial, 1982) pp. 490-91.

²New York Times, "Lewis Mumford, a Visionary Social Critic Dies at 94" Jan. 28, 1990, p.30

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Section number 8 Page 2

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

technology (1971).

Lewis Mumford was born in Flushing, Queens, on October 19, 1895 and spent most of his formative years exploring New York's streets, buildings and neighborhoods. After briefly contemplating careers as an engineer or novelist, he discovered the writings of Patrick Geddes, the Scottish botanist, sociologist and town planner. Geddes' work rekindled Mumford's interest in the urban environment. "In a succession of books and essays on architecture and the city, beginning with his sharply observant classic, Sticks and Stones (1924), the first general history of American architecture, he pointed out a new way of looking at the built environment, brilliantly establishing the connection between architecture and civilization."³ His pioneering work "helped to establish the city as a subject of scholarly concern, and drew attention to the formative role of the city in the development of Western culture."⁴ In 1923 Mumford co-founded the Regional Plan Association of America (RPPA) and quickly became the most prominent spokesman for this distinguished group of architects, planners, economists and visionary social critics. The RPPA organized the experimental housing projects at Sunnyside Gardens, Queens (1923) and Radburn, New Jersey (1928), worked to establish the Appalachian Trail and helped to inspire several New Deal programs, including the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mumford was largely self-educated in the streets and libraries of New York, although he did take courses at the College of the City of New York and Columbia University. He later held an honorary LL.D from the University of Edinburgh and an Honorary Doctorate in architecture from the University of Rome. He had been at various times a professor of city planning at the University of Pennsylvania, a professor of humanities at Stanford University, and a visiting professor at MIT and the University of California at Berkeley.

Lewis Mumford and his wife, Sophia, married in 1921, living first in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, and then later in Sunnyside Gardens, Queens, a garden community inspired by the English garden cities of the early 20th century. In 1926, Sophia and Lewis spent their first summer in Amenia as the guests of Joel Spingarn, the noted literary scholar and philanthropist. Over the next ten years, the Mumfords returned to Amenia each summer, buying the house in Leedsville in 1929 and finally moving full-time into the house in 1936. At that time, he and Sophia had no intention of leaving the city for good, assuring friends they would return in a few years. However, Lewis found the quiet of country living conducive to writing and he never left. Over time, he and Sophia gradually transformed the rundown house into a comfortable home, adding a central heating system and enlarging the upstairs to provide bedrooms for their two children. They devoted particular attention to the landscape, planting shrubs and trees obtained from family, friends and neighbors and designing elaborate gardens, complete with woodland paths and berry patches. At some point, they acquired more acreage until their property reached its present size of approximately 14 acres.

³The Lewis Mumford Reader, Donald L. Miller, Editor, "Introduction," (New York: Pantheon Books, 1986) p. 8.

⁴Ibid., p. 7-8.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Although not architecturally elaborate, Mumford took pride in the simplicity of his home in rural Leedsville, writing in his autobiography:

... we gradually fell in love with our shabby house as a young man might fall in love with a homely girl whose voice and smile were irresistible. As with faces -- Abe Lincoln bears witness - character is more ingratiating and enduring than mere good looks. No rise in our income has ever tempted us to look elsewhere for another house, still less to build a more commodious or fashionable one. In no sense was this the house of our dreams. But over our lifetime it has slowly turned into something better, the house of our realities. In all its year-by-year changes, under the batterings of age and the bludgeonings of chance, this dear house has enfolded and remodeled our family character - exposing our limitations as well as our virtues.⁵

During the next half-century Lewis Mumford wrote over twenty books from his small, monk-like study in the house in Amenia, including some of his most famous works -- The Culture of Cities (1938), Art and Technics (1952) and The City in History (1961). Over the course of their lives, Lewis and Sophia traveled extensively, living elsewhere for as long as a year at a time. However, they always returned to this "Great Good Place," as they called their old farmhouse and its surrounding acres. "In the very act of living in this house and making it over it became like a person to them; and like a good friend, they grew more fond of it with closer and deeper acquaintance. Every patch garden and lawn, every vista and view, carried the imprint of some of the best hours of their lives."⁶

In his later years, after he could no longer write, the home became Mumford's sanctuary. Ultimately, both he and Sophia died at home in bed, Lewis in 1990, Sophia, seven years later in 1997. The New York Times obituary cited Ada Louise Huxtable, the long-time Times architectural critic, who called Mr. Mumford "a scholar of cosmic cultural reach and conspicuous public conscience, a distinguished critic of life, arts and letters, an unequalled observer of cities and civilizations...the values Mr. Mumford espoused, the foundation of his reputation as one of the most original minds and influential writers of our times, simply no longer exist."⁷

⁵ Lewis Mumford, Sketches From Life: The Autobiography of Lewis Mumford. (New York: Dial, 1982) p. 485.

⁶ Miller, Donald, Lewis Mumford: A Life, (Weidenfeld & Nicolson: New York 1989) p. 377.

⁷ New York Times, "Lewis Mumford, a Visionary Social Critic Dies at 94," January 28, 1990, p. 30

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Continuation Sheet**

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Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Major Bibliographical References

Books by Lewis Mumford:

The Story of Utopias. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1922.

Sticks and Stones: A Study of American Architecture and Civilization. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1924.

The Golden Day: A Study in American Experience and Culture. New York: Boni and Liveright, 1926.

Herman Melville. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1929.

The Brown Decades: A Study of the Arts in America, 1865-1895. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1931.

Technics and Civilization. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1934.

The Culture of Cities. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1938.

Men Must Act. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1939.

Faith for Living. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1940.

The South in Architecture. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1941.

The Condition of Man. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1944.

City Development: Studies in Urban Disintegration and Renewal. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1945.

Values for Survival: Essays, Addresses, and Letters on Politics and Education. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1946.

Green Memories: The Story of Geddes Mumford. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1947.

The Conduct of Life. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1951.

Art and Technics. New York: Columbia University Press, 1952.

In the Name of Sanity. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1954.

From the Ground Up. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1956.

The Transformations of Man. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1956

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Section number 9 Page 2

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

The City in History: Its Origins, Its Transformations, and Its Prospects. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1961.

The Highway and the City. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1963.

The Urban Prospect. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1968.

The Myth of the Machine: I. Technics and Human Development. New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1967.

The Myth of the Machine: II. The Pentagon of Power. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970.

Interpretations and Forecasts: 1922-1972. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972.

Findings and Keepings: Analects for an Autobiography. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975.

My Works and Days: A Personal Chronicle. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979.

Sketches from Life: The Autobiography of Lewis Mumford. New York: Dial, 1982.

Also:

Davern, Jeanne M. (Ed.) Lewis Mumford: Architecture as a Home for Man, Essays for Architectural Record. New York: Architectural Records Books, 1975.

Miller, Donald L. (Ed.) The Lewis Mumford Reader. New York: Pantheon Books, 1986.

Miller, Donald L. Lewis Mumford, A Life. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989.

New York Times, "Lewis Mumford, a Visionary Social Critic, Dies at 94," January 28, 1990, p. 30

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Section number 9 Page 3

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Location of Additional Data

Mumford Archives:

Nancy Shawcross, Curator of Special Collections
Van Pelt Library
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206

Mumford Personal Library and Artwork:

Richard M. Cochran, Dean of the Library
Murray and Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 10 Page 1

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Geographical Data

Boundary Description and Justification:

The Mumford House sits on a small 1.88 acre site on Leedsville Road (County Route 2) in the northeast corner of Amenia, less than one mile west of the Connecticut state line. The house parcel has an irregular shape with approximately 440 feet of frontage along Leedsville Road and approximately 275 feet at its greatest depth. The parcel is enclosed by trees, so except for partial views of the house across the road and to the west toward the open field, there is little sense of the neighboring properties.

Surrounding the rear of the house parcel is a larger irregularly shaped property extending west to a large bend in the Webutuck Creek. This second 11.7 acre parcel has a 175-foot frontage on Leedsville Road and a depth of approximately 1350 feet. The property contains a large open plowed field with a dense line of trees along the southern border and a wooded buffer along the floodplain of the creek.

Both parcels belonged to the Mumfords and were treasured for their rural qualities. The house lot contained their "prosaic beloved dwelling"¹ and was carefully cultivated as a garden and woodlot. The field parcel gave them and their two children unobstructed access to the creek, as well as an open view of the surrounding farmland and mountains in the distance. Indeed, they chose to buy this house rather than the slightly fancier house across the road because it seemed better constructed and "its view of the hills above and down to the river in back was infinitely superior."²

¹ Lewis Mumford, Sketches From Life: The Autobiography of Lewis Mumford. (New York: Dial, 1982) p. 486.

² *Ibid.*, p. 484.

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Section number 11 Page 1

Lewis Mumford House
Columbia County, New York

Form Prepared By

Draft nomination form prepared by:

John Clarke
Senior Planner
Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development
27 High Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Edited by:

Peter Shaver, SHPO

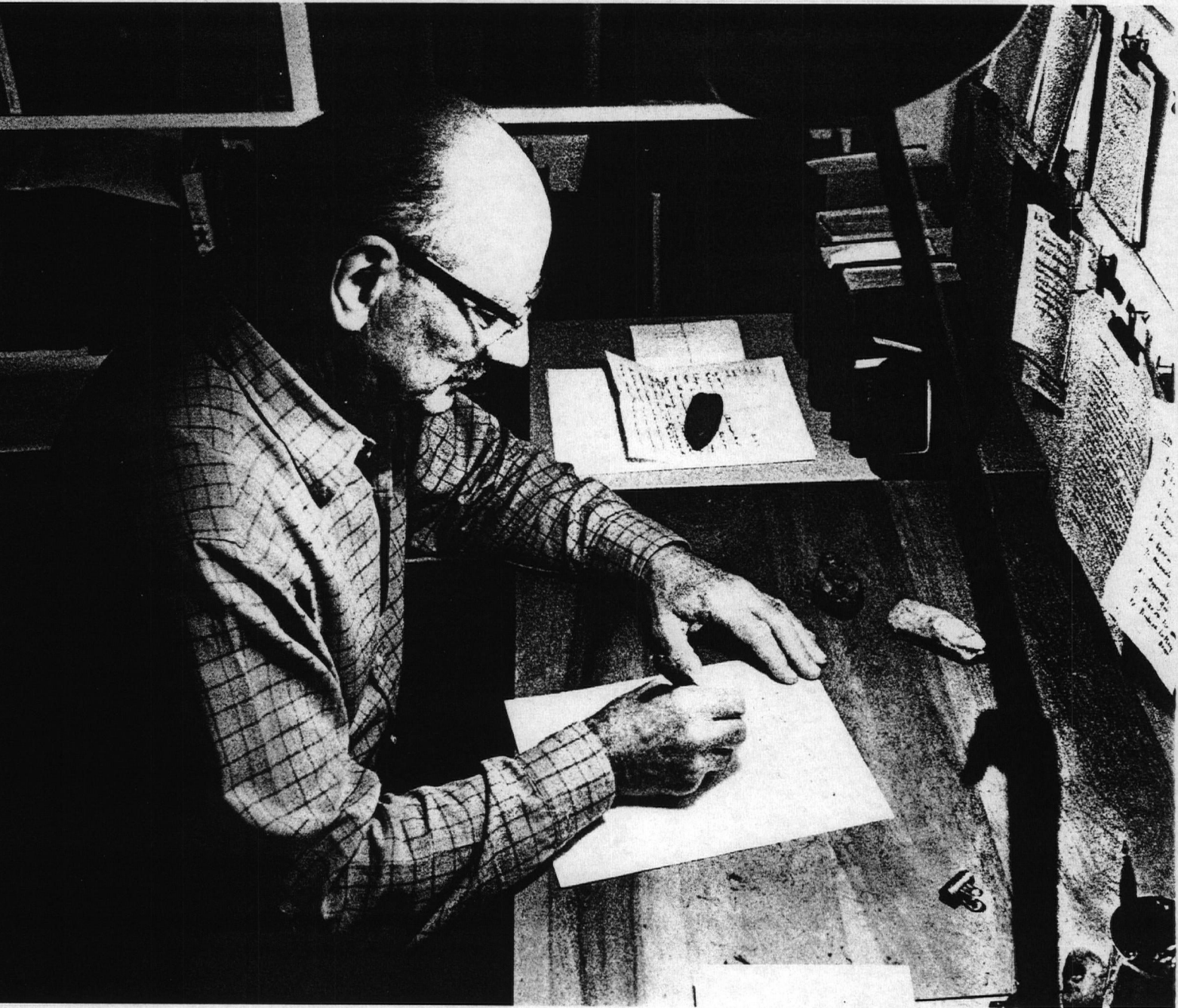


Photo: Jill Krementz

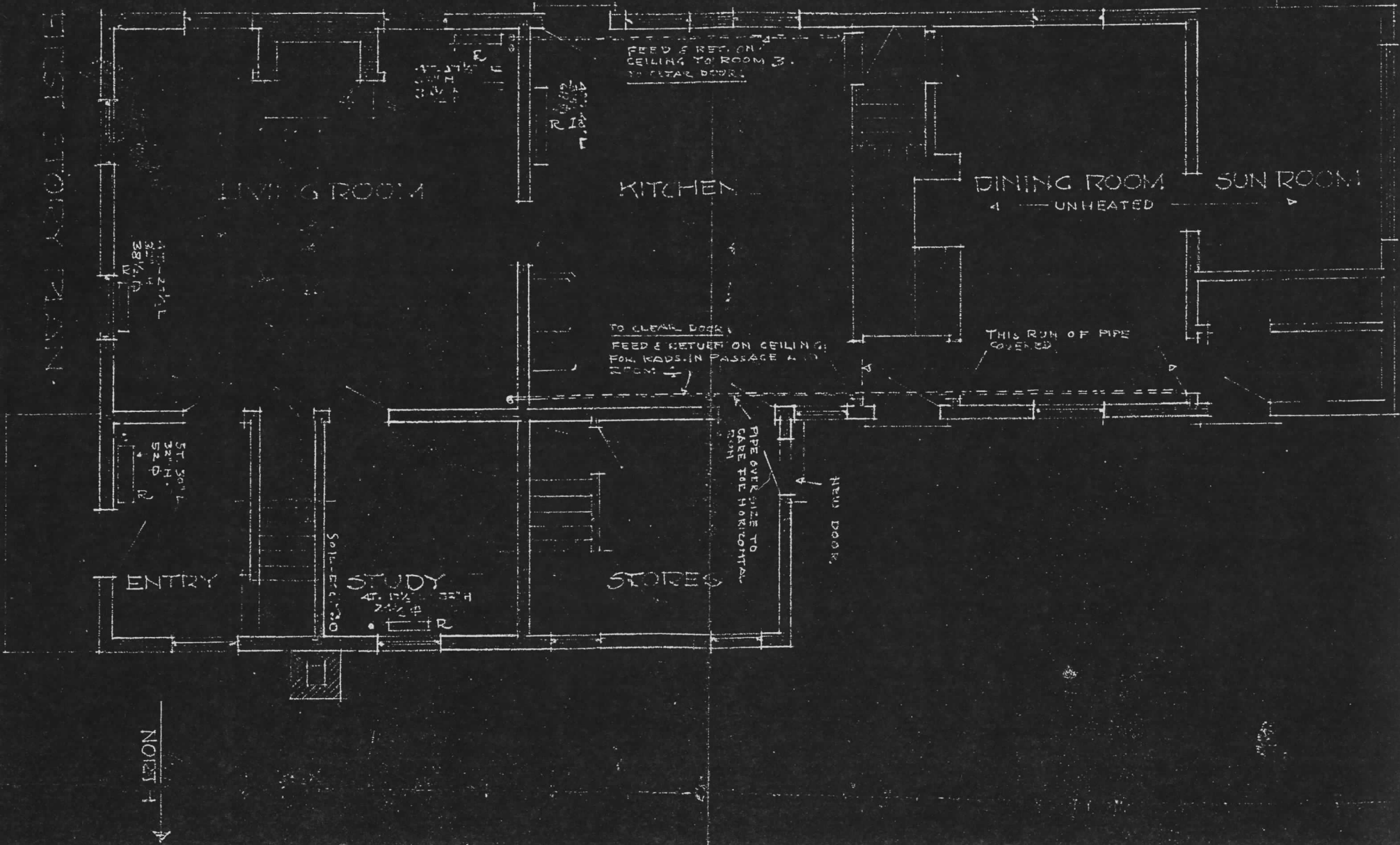
Lewis Mumford at work in his study

Source: Jeanne M. Davern (ed) Lewis Mumford,
Architecture as a Home for Man,
New York: Architectural Record Books, 1975

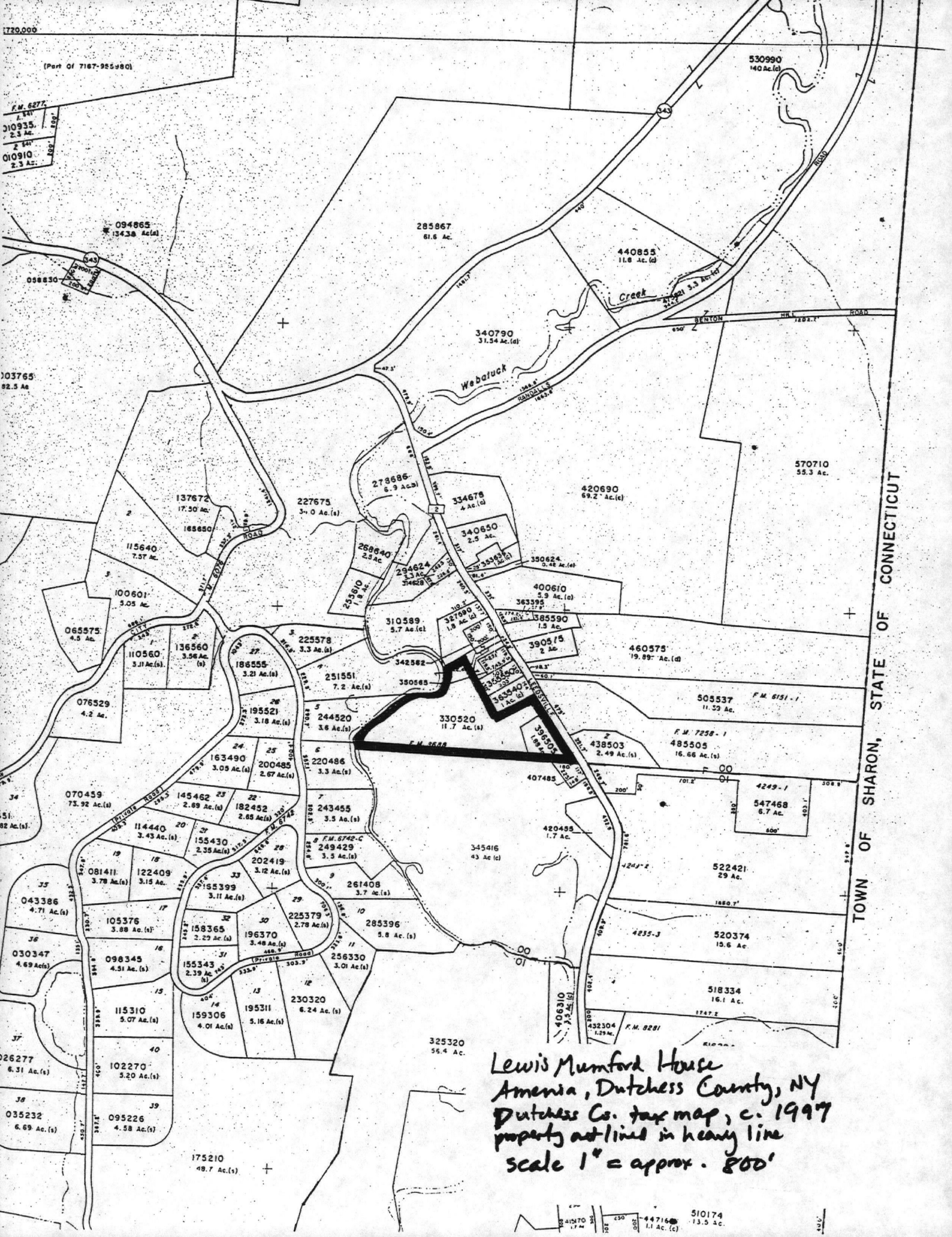
RECEIVED
JUL 29 1998
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

ELEC. OUTLET
STAIRWAY
STEELING CHIMNEY

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Lewis Mumford House, Armonia, Dutchess County, NY
First floor plan, 1936.



(Part of 7167-955980)

F.M. 6277
 010935 2.3 Ac.
 010910 2.3 Ac.

530990
 140 Ac.(c)

094865
 134.38 Ac.(a)

285867
 61.6 Ac.

440855
 11.8 Ac. (d)

340790
 31.54 Ac.(d)

570710
 55.3 Ac.

137672
 17.50 Ac.

227675
 31.0 Ac.(s)

278686
 6.9 Ac.(b)

334678
 4 Ac.(d)

420690
 69.2 Ac.(c)

115640
 7.57 Ac.

268640
 2.3 Ac.

340650
 2.5 Ac.

350624
 0.48 Ac.(e)

100601
 5.05 Ac.

065575
 4.5 Ac.

110560
 5.11 Ac.(s)

136560
 3.58 Ac.(s)

186555
 3.21 Ac.(s)

225578
 3.3 Ac.(s)

310589
 5.7 Ac.(c)

321980
 1.8 Ac.(d)

385590
 1.5 Ac.

390575
 2 Ac.

460575
 19.89 Ac.(d)

076529
 4.2 Ac.

195521
 3.18 Ac.(s)

163490
 3.05 Ac.(s)

200485
 2.67 Ac.(s)

244520
 3.6 Ac.(s)

220486
 3.3 Ac.(s)

243455
 3.5 Ac.(s)

249429
 3.5 Ac.(s)

330520
 11.7 Ac.(s)

396504
 1.9 Ac.

438503
 2.49 Ac.(s)

485505
 16.66 Ac.(s)

505537
 11.53 Ac.

547468
 6.7 Ac.

070459
 73.92 Ac.(s)

114440
 3.43 Ac.(s)

155430
 2.35 Ac.(s)

182452
 2.65 Ac.(s)

202419
 3.12 Ac.(s)

220486
 3.3 Ac.(s)

243455
 3.5 Ac.(s)

249429
 3.5 Ac.(s)

330520
 11.7 Ac.(s)

396504
 1.9 Ac.

438503
 2.49 Ac.(s)

485505
 16.66 Ac.(s)

505537
 11.53 Ac.

547468
 6.7 Ac.

043386
 4.71 Ac.(s)

081411
 3.78 Ac.(s)

122409
 3.15 Ac.

155399
 3.11 Ac.(s)

158365
 2.29 Ac.(s)

196370
 3.48 Ac.(s)

202419
 3.12 Ac.(s)

225379
 2.78 Ac.(s)

256330
 3.01 Ac.(s)

261408
 3.7 Ac.(s)

285396
 5.8 Ac.(s)

325320
 56.4 Ac.

420485
 1.7 Ac.

522421
 29 Ac.

520374
 15.6 Ac.

026277
 6.31 Ac.(s)

030347
 4.69 Ac.(s)

098345
 4.51 Ac.(s)

115310
 5.07 Ac.(s)

155343
 2.39 Ac.(s)

159306
 4.01 Ac.(s)

195311
 5.16 Ac.(s)

230320
 6.24 Ac.(s)

256330
 3.01 Ac.(s)

325320
 56.4 Ac.

406310
 3.5 Ac.(s)

432304
 1.29 Ac.

518334
 16.1 Ac.

520374
 15.6 Ac.

522421
 29 Ac.

035232
 6.69 Ac.(s)

095226
 4.58 Ac.(s)

102270
 5.20 Ac.(s)

175210
 49.7 Ac.(s)

Lewis Mumford House
 Amenia, Dutchess County, NY
 Dutchess Co. tax map, c. 1999
 property outlined in heavy line
 scale 1" = approx. 800'

41970 1.4 Ac. (c)
 44716 1.1 Ac. (c)
 510174 13.5 Ac.

TOWN OF SHARON, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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: 99001209

Date Listed: 10/15/99

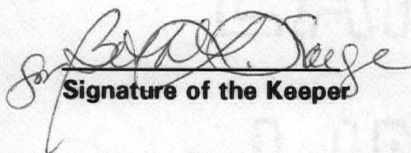
Mumford, Lewis, House
Property Name

Dutchess
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.


Signature of the Keeper

10/15/99
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Consideration(s)

Criteria exception g. is applicable and justified for the property's exceptional historic associations with internationally prominent author and social theorist Lewis Mumford from 1929 until his death in 1990.

This information was confirmed with Peter Shaver, NYSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mumford, Lewis, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Dutchess

DATE RECEIVED: 9/03/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/18/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99001209

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B+g.

REVIEWER Savage

DISCIPLINE Architectural History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 10/15/99

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



Lewis Mumford House

Amenia, Dutchess County, NY

View: main facade and north elev., facing southwest

Photo by: Peter Shaver, NY SHPO, July, 1999

Neg: NY SHPO

Photo # 1 of 6



Lewis Mumford House

Amenia, Dutchess County, NY

View: rear and south elevations, facing northeast

Contributing garage at left

Photo by: Peter Shaver, NYSHPD, July 1999

Neg: NYSHPD

Photo # 2 of 6



Lewis Mumford Howe,
Amenia, Dutchess County, NY
View: Kitchen, facing west
Photo by: Peter Shaver, NYSHPo,
Neg: NYSHPo July, 1999
Photo # 3 of 6



Lewis Mumford House
Amenic, Dutchess County, NY

View: living room, facing south

Photo by: Peter Shaver, NYSHPD, July
1999

Neg: NYSHPD

Photo # 4 of 6



Lewis Mumford House
Amenia, Dutchess County, NY
View: ~~Mumford~~ Mumford study from
living room, facing south
Photo by: Peter Shaver, NYSHPD,
Neg: NYSHPD July, 1999
Photo # 5 of 6



Lewis Mumford House
Amenia, Dutchess County, NY
View: back stairs, looking down
from second floor

Photo by: Peter Shaver, NY SHPO,
Neg. NY SHPO July 1999

Photo # 6 of 6



NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AMENIA QUADRANGLE NEW YORK-CONNECTICUT 7.5 MINUTE SERIES



LEWIS MUMFORD HOUSE
TOWN OF AMENIA
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY
AMENIA QUAD
ZONE 18

	Easting	Northing
1	623646	4633944
2	623176	4633947
3	623430	4634114
4	623559	4634077

Published in 1989 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

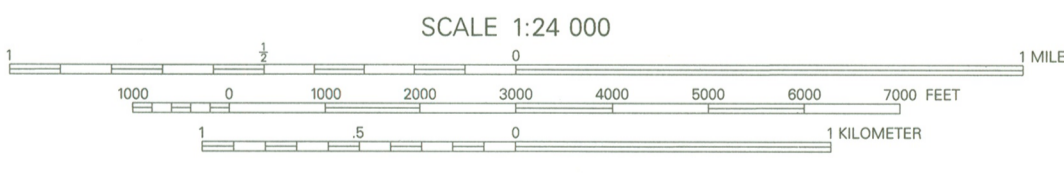
Map base from 1958 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Map revisions made using aerial photography dated 1988, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Gray tint indicates developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Darker gray tint indicates open water features.

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.

Revisions by B.D. Conrad and C.H. Lamb



SCALE 1:24 000

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.

1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid. Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.

10,000-foot ticks based on the New York State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone.

Magnetic declination for 1989 is approximately 14° West

Contours, at 10-foot intervals, shown unrevised from 1958 U.S. Geological Survey map. Datum is mean sea level.

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

**Evaluation Comments:
Lewis Mumford House
Amenia, Dutchess County, New York**

The rural residence and work place of internationally prominent author and social theorist Lewis Mumford (1895-1990), this house is exceptionally nationally significant under Criterion B and Criterion exception g as Mumford's permanent home where he wrote the majority of his most influential and widely acclaimed works from 1936 until his death in 1990. Purchased by Mumford and his wife Sophia in 1929, first as a summer retreat and then as their permanent residence by 1936, Mumford fondly recalls the house and property in his 1982 autobiography *Sketches From Life*. Of his 29 books and over a thousand essays and reviews, 22 books were written in this house including his most renowned masterpieces--*Culture of Cities* (1938) and *The City in History* (1961). Mumford's outstanding work was highly acclaimed and widely recognized by several honors that he received, most notably the National Book Award (1961), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1964), the Smithsonian's Hodgkins Gold Medal (1971), the National Medal for Literature (1972), knighthood (1975), and the National Medal of Arts (1986).



Beth L. Savage
Architectural Historian
National Register of Historic Places