

JAN 08 2016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Norton-Burnham House

other names/site number Chester Norton House; Daniel Hudson Burnham Birthplace

2. Location

street & number 8748 State Route 178 N/A not for publication

city or town Henderson N/A vicinity

state NY code 36 county Jefferson code 045 zip code 13650

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Rickie P. Pappas DSHPO 12/28/15
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Lee E. Olson, N. Beall 2-23-16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	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.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

AGRICULTURE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: STONE; WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other:

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Narrative Description

Descriptive Summary

The two-story, five-bay Norton-Burnham House (Chester Norton House; Daniel Hudson Burnham Birthplace) was built in 1818 of rough-cut limestone laid in regular courses. It faces north across State Route 178 on the western edge of Henderson (Jefferson County), NY. Each gable end has a large elliptical oculus with louvered shutters surrounded by a stone voussoir. Old photographs show five chimneys above the roof; however, today, only two fireplaces remain on the western side of the house. The windows, six-over-six downstairs and twelve-over-twelve upstairs, have smooth, straight stone lintels and sills. An arched stone lintel with keystone emphasizes the broad front entrance with fanlight and sidelights. Most of the exterior shutters, hardware, and second-story windows on the façade appear to be original to the house. On the interior, despite remodeling associated with electrification, many of the interior walls, doors, moldings, and floors are also intact. The main staircase in the entrance hall is distinguished by its flowing rail, decorated stair ends, and built-in drawers (under the steps). The front fireplace mantel has delicate reeded columns; the rear fireplace mantel in the original kitchen may be later but retains a large opening and iron crane for cooking.

Traces of roofing tar show that a wooden addition was once attached to the rear of the house; this structure was probably the original summer kitchen. It was moved between 1919 and 1930, and is now attached to the large early to mid-nineteenth century English barn. A small pig house with chimney for cooking feed is placed further from the house in a field. A twenty-first century garage/utility building completes the list of outbuildings.

Narrative Description

SITE

The Norton-Burnham House sits in a slightly sheltered dip of State Route 178 adjoining an unnamed tributary of Big Stony Creek, on the western edge of Henderson, NY. The creek itself forms the steep, south boundary of the approximately 26-acre property. The waterway runs 15 miles from Henderson Pond to Lake Ontario and was extensively used for water power for saw, grist, and carding mills in the nineteenth century.

The original farm is believed to have been comprised +/- 125 acres; the current property is one-fifth the size with two of the original farm outbuildings extant.¹ (The property was reduced to its current acreage by a series of sales in the late nineteenth and first third of the twentieth century.) The early to mid-nineteenth century English barn is situated about 200 feet from the house; the pig house is further away. In addition, two foundations have been located – one on the east bank of the tributary and another to the west of the house.

¹ The recently-constructed garage/utility building replaced a small mid-19th century barn.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

The one on the stream may be the remains of a tannery shown on an 1864 map of Henderson.² No other surface evidence of historic outbuildings remains.

It is possible that the stone for the house was quarried on the original property. A New York State Museum/ Geological Survey map (based on 1954-56 data) identifies a quarry near a depression that is now a spring-fed pond.³

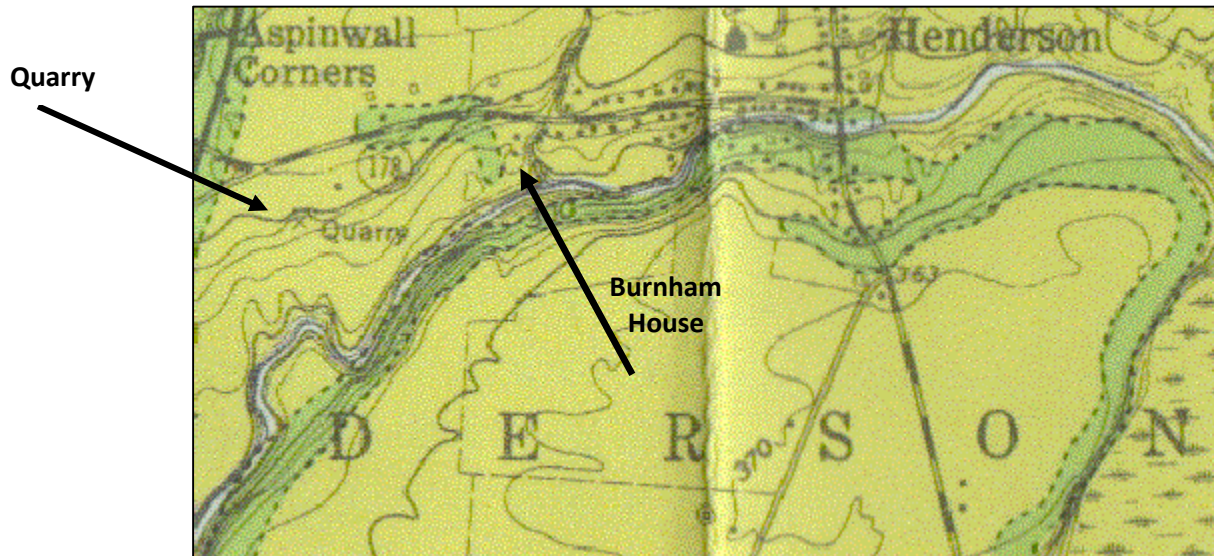


Figure 1. Detail of map showing quarry identified in 1954-56 survey of Jefferson County.

This part of Jefferson County is largely underlain by Trenton limestone. The 1890 *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County, NY* notes that:⁴

[Trenton limestone] ... mostly constitutes the rock underlying the soil in Champion, Rutland, Watertown, Hounsfield, Henderson, Ellisburgh, Adams, and a part of Rodman and Brownville. In extent, thickness, number of fossil remains, and economic importance it far surpasses the others... Its color is usually gray, and its fracture more or less crystalline, occurring usually in strata nearly or quite horizontal, and often separated by thin layers of shale.

EXTERIOR

The Norton-Burnham House is a two-story, five-bay rectangular limestone dwelling with its side-gable roof

² S.N. Beers & D.G. Beers, "Ellisburgh. Adams Centre. Rodman. Smithville. Lorraine. Whitesville. East Rodman. Henderson, New York." *New Topographical Atlas of Jefferson Co. New York From Actual Surveys By S.N. & D.G. Beers And Assistants*. Philadelphia: C.K. Stone, 1864.

³ New York State Museum and Science Service, "The Limestones (Middle Ordovician) of Jefferson County, New York," *Map and Chart Series No. 13* (Washington, DC: Williams and Heintz Map Corporation, 1970).

⁴ William H. Horton, Ed., *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y., 1684-1890* (Syracuse, NY: Hamilton Child, 1890), 18.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

paralleling old State Route 178, which runs between Henderson and Henderson Harbor. Both the foundation and walls are constructed of rough-hewn limestone blocks set in regular courses, divided by a narrow water table; the stonework on the facade is noticeably more finished than on the other elevations. The corner quoins have decorative pecked surfaces; window and door lintels and sills on all elevations are flat, smooth, and well-finished. Most of the stone appears to be grey Trenton limestone from the same quarry; however, the stone on the attic level of the side elevations changes character – slightly different in color, size, and finish. It may have come from another quarry or been cut at another time.⁵

Two chimneys rise above the roofline on the west of the house; the flues for both run through interior rooms. In historic photos, there is a matching pair on the east elevation. Interestingly, however, there is no evidence in the interior, attic, or basement for the existence of these two chimneys. Although David Lane described the house as having “four large fireplaces” in his 1941 article in the *Watertown Times*, they may have been purely decorative to balance out the Federal design of the house.⁶

The cornice is unadorned and extremely simple, with open returns and narrow molding instead of a broad frieze. The current roof is asphalt.

Façade (North Elevation)

The flanking bays of the five-bay façade are spaced around the central bay and emphasize the wide door with its fanlight, sidelights, and keystone arch. All second and first-floor windows are the same height, with flat, smooth lintels and sills and early (if not original) shutters. Second-floor windows retain their original glass; they are situated immediately below the cornice and soffit and thus partially protected from weather. On the first floor, original twelve-over-twelve wood sash was replaced in the nineteenth century with six-over-six wood windows. In each bay at ground level, small, original wooden windows (one by four) provide light to the basement.

The main entrance is a Federal-style six-panel door recessed into a wood surround; the paneling of the surround matches that of the door. Recessed five-light sidelights are placed above matching panels, and a recessed and divided fanlight spans both the door and lights. The interior door is protected by a combination wooden storm/screen door set into a wooden frame outlined with simple squared columns that are replicated on the interior. The exterior opening is accented by an arched limestone architrave with slightly protruding keystone.

Side (West Elevation)

Fenestration is limited to three bays on the west elevation. In the central bay at the top of the gable, there is a large, elliptical oculus with louvered shutters (around an eight-sided star motif) surrounded by stone

⁵ Chester Norton started construction of the house in 1814 but, apparently, it was not completed until 1818.

⁶ David Lane, “Old Mansions of North Country,” *Watertown Times* (December 9, 1941). The photo accompanying Lane’s article shows a low, fifth chimney on the east side of the house that appears to be a later furnace flue since it disrupts the symmetry of the building.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

voussoirs. In the side bays are windows into the corner rooms on the second floor, a side window into the front corner room of the first floor, and a side door into the back corner room on the first floor. (This door replaces an earlier window; the original lintel remains above stone infill.) The bulk of the elevation is solid stone; behind it are the interior fireplaces. There are no basement windows.

The winds off Lake Ontario strike this side of the house. Perhaps as a result, the oculus does not open into the attic and appears to be purely decorative.

Side (East Elevation)

The east elevation is almost identical to the other side (west) elevation with the same decorative oculus, stone voussoirs, and second and first-story windows. However there is a window in the back corner room of the first floor (instead of a door) and one basement window below.

Rear (South Elevation)

The back of the house has the only irregular pattern of bays and fenestration. There are roughly five bays but only two windows in bays four and five of the second floor; three windows in bays one, two, and three of the first floor; and a door in bay five of the first floor. The upstairs window in bay four is shorter than its neighbor in bay five, and bays three and four are misaligned. There is one basement window, approximately in the middle of the house.

On the east end, a frame one-room addition with shed roof and stone foundation (over a crawlspace) covers bay five of the first floor. A porch and stoop open from the west side of the addition onto the back yard of the house. On the east side, an outside pair of cellar doors gives access to a rough dugout lobby with an inside door to the basement under the main house. This awkward, angled access suggests that the addition was added at a later time in the nineteenth century.

On the west end of the rear elevation, a taller, gabled kitchen ell used to be attached to the house but was moved to the barn between 1919 and 1930 and converted into a cow shed; its outline remains visible in the mortar.⁷ Additional changes were made in stages through the mid-twentieth century. Probably at the time of the move, the window on the west elevation was changed into a door. A small open porch (now gone) was constructed where the kitchen ell once sat. The door in bay one, which opened out to the ell/porch, was subsequently replaced by a window. Finally, the first-floor window in bay two was also altered or inserted at some point. Both these windows have wooden lintels, unlike the rest of the windows in the house.

INTERIOR

When constructed, the Norton-Burnham House appears to have been two rooms deep with a central stair hall

⁷ The current owner was told that the ell many have been moved as early as 1919 – but not with great certainty. The end date is based on a dated concrete slab in the ell's new position in the barn. See photographs associated with this nomination.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

that once extended to the back of the house. This floorplan has changed with the removal of the back ell, the relocation of the kitchen, the elimination of the back stair hall, and the insertion of a modern bathroom/utility room between the kitchen and formal dining room. Nevertheless, the house retains its original circulation pattern and much of its original architectural detail and would be instantly recognized by former occupants.

A second major change took place at the beginning of the twentieth century. During renovations, the current owners discovered that the interior limestone walls were originally parged and painted. The formal dining room showed remnants of decorative stenciling.



Figure 2. Early nineteenth-century stenciling on exterior parged wall of formal dining room

In one area, the wall is signed, "Scott, 1903." Apparently, while electrifying the house, new plaster and lathe walls were added approximately 3" from the exterior stone surface to provide insulation.

First Floor

The rooms at the front of the house are the least changed. The main entrance opens into a central hall the breadth of the entry. A door to the left leads to a formal sitting room on the west side of the house; a door to the right leads to a formal dining room. On the west side of the hall, a delicate stairway with a straight balustrade and simple squared spindles leads to the second floor. The stringer is decorated with reverse double scrolls below each tread. Two stacked drawers are fitted into the lower part of the wall below the stair. This unusual feature has led the current owners to believe that the Norton-Burnham House may have been constructed by a ship's carpenter.⁸

The formal sitting room is roughly square, two bays wide on the north with a window and fireplace on the west. The windows are flush with the outside walls leaving a deep paneled recess painted white to reflect

⁸ In the 1820s, the village of Henderson was known to be a winter home for Lake Ontario sailors working from Naples (now Henderson Harbor) and other Jefferson County ports.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

light into the room. The fireplace is missing its original mantel shelf but retains delicate reeded columns on the sides.

The south wall of formal dining room was moved in the early twenty-first century to allow insertion of a bathroom/utility room between the dining room and the kitchen. (It was during this construction that the owners discovered that the exterior walls had been parged and the interior walls built out to create an air space.) The formal dining room is now roughly square (like the formal sitting room) with two windows on the north wall, a window on the east, and deep paneled recesses. Some of the window paneling has been replaced, using an upstairs window as a design guide.

The back rooms of the house are more changed. The original kitchen was in the southwest corner of the house. The wide cooking fireplace remains with the original crane in place; its mantel is simple, lacking a shelf, and may be a replacement. The three windows at the rear (south) of the room were once covered by the ell until it was moved to the barn. The window in bay one replaced a door and the other two windows seem to have been added later; all three lack stone lintels and are slightly shorter than the windows on the façade and side elevations. The door to the west replaced an earlier window. The room is wider than it was when originally constructed; the interior wall between the original kitchen and the central stair hall has been removed.

The new kitchen is in the southeast corner of the house and opens out to the one-room shed addition, with walk-in pantry, at the rear.

Second Floor

The floorplan of the second floor remains as it was originally, except for the addition of a full bathroom at the head of the stairs and closets in the bedrooms. The stair hall curves around to give access to two bedrooms at the front of the house. The windows, like those downstairs on the façade and side elevations, have deep paneled recesses. There is no sign of fireplaces in the bedrooms on the east side of the house; however, David Lane's 1941 newspaper article includes a photo with a fifth chimney on this side of the house that may have served stoves or a basement furnace.

Basement

The basement retains one of two stone cisterns along the western side of the house, along with supports for the two fireplaces; there do not appear to be any supports for full-sized chimneys on the eastern side of the house. Some of the hand-hewn beams retain bark. As previously mentioned, the space is lighted by small one-by-four windows on the façade, south, and east elevations. On the south side of the basement, a door exits to a small lobby under shed addition. According to early print sources, the name of Edwin Burnham is supposed to be scrawled in pencil on the door, but the current owner has not been able to find it.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Attic

The roof is constructed with hand-hewn oak rafters nailed to a ridge board in a common-rafter, purlin-plate style. An interesting feature is the outward-canted purlins attached with mortise and tenons to the purlin plate.

OUTBUILDINGS

English Barn with Attached Ell (From the House)

About 200 feet behind the Norton-Burnham House stands a large English barn; its ridgeline runs parallel to that of the house. The building was modified at some time in the mid-nineteenth century; the original structure may have been built at the same time as the house. The main block of the building is divided into three sections: a central floor for agricultural work and wagon storage; an open bay on the east; and animal stalls below a haymow on the west. A parapet wall, with open frame and ladder, divides the work area from the open bay, which appears to have lost its haymow and been reworked with large interior braces in the mid-nineteenth century to permit use of a mechanical hayfork. On the other side, a solid wood-shingled wall and haymow separate the central work area from the stalls.

Exterior: Two sets of sliding doors give access on the north side of the barn. One pair, in the center of the elevation, opens onto the work floor; a single, smaller door on the east opens into several horse stalls. An almost square window provides light into this area. On the west, the windows are staggered with two three-over-three windows in the loft and three six-over-six windows providing light for the animals. In addition, a small louvered ventilator facilitates air circulation at the top of the gable, and a hatch opens into the loft for use with a hay elevator. The east elevation has the same pattern of fenestration: ventilator, loft windows (now covered), and hatch. However, there is only a single sliding door at the ground level for egress to a small fenced pen.

Three of the four sliding doors on the barn, and the hatch on the east elevation, have all been painted with large geometric patterns. These murals are attributed to George J. Vander Sluis, painter, Syracuse University Professor, and Fulbright Scholar. In 1966, the Syracuse University Research Corporation received a New York State Council on the Arts grant to paint designs on barns in upstate New York as a way to “encourage an awareness of rural architecture” and to promote barn preservation. The Research Corporation appears to have hired Vander Sluis to do these murals; later works of his from 1981-82 continued to focus on the representation and celebration of barns.⁹

⁹ Artprice, “George J. Vander Sluis (1915-1984).” <http://www.artprice.com/artist/194409/george-j-vander-sluis/biography>; George Vander Sluis, *Homage to the Barn* [Exhibition Catalog] (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University, 1982).

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State



Figure 3. Barn doors painted by George J. Vander Sluis, circa 1966.

Additions: Three additions are attached to the rear of the building. The old ell from the house has been incorporated into the west elevation of the barn and converted into stall space; the interior partition wall has been removed and the space is heavily braced. Part of the concrete floor is marked, "H. M. Scott, Sept. 17, 1930."¹⁰ This may represent the date of the move or, simply, the date of the floor. On the interior, traces of paint, plaster, and lathe remain. On the exterior, the simple Federal door remains, along with its trim. It is flanked by one window to the north and three windows on the south. A sliding door and window on the south elevation of the ell have been closed and, on the east, two windows are covered with plywood. The rest of this east wall intersects with a shed-roofed addition that extends half-way along the back of the barn's main block. The interior of this space has been left open; it connects with the stalls in the ell and, through a plain (undecorated) sliding door, to pasture at the rear of the barn. The third and final addition is an open wagon shed (or possibly outside animal shelter) that runs along the rest of the back of the barn.

Pig House

In the middle of the field, approximately 300 feet from the house, southwest of the old ell, stands a rectangular outbuilding. There is a door in the north-facing gable with a square window above and two three-over-three sash on each side elevation; a square window in the south-facing gable has been removed. At some point, the building may have sat on grade; however, it is currently lifted up on an approximately three-

¹⁰ This corresponds with the ownership of the property by E. June and Harley M. Scott.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

foot concrete foundation. It has a metal roof and central vent or chimney. This is an indication that the building was originally a pig house with a stove for cooking feed for the animals. The interior is divided into concrete pens, with at least three separate exits through the concrete foundation to outside yards.

Similar structures are described in Visser's *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*:

Larger piggeries were typically divided into pens inside, each with access to a separate outdoor yard through a small, low opening in the wall. Access to the yards could be controlled with vertically sliding doors. These larger piggeries often had a separate room with a chimney for a stove to cook grains and root crops for the swine.¹¹

However, the building seems also to have served at some point as a chicken coop. In addition to the ground-level doors, there are two small exits cut into the building on the side elevations between the windows and above the concrete foundation. Similar doors are used in coops to give access to the interior by way of slanted walkways; these keep the coop clean and can reduce predation.

¹¹ Thomas Durant Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997), 156-157.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Period of Significance

1814 to 1930 (when the house achieved its final form)

Architect/Builder

John Rumsey, mason

Significant Dates

1814-1818 (construction)

1846 (birth of Daniel Hudson Burnham)

Period of Significance (justification): Its period of significance runs from its construction in 1814-18 to 1930 when it substantially achieved its final form.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Norton-Burnham House (built 1818) is locally significant under criterion C as an outstanding example of stone building construction in Jefferson County. In the early nineteenth century, both French and New England settlers in the county built with local Trenton limestone and established a vernacular style that synthesized elements from both traditions. The building is also locally significant under criterion A for its association with the initial settlement of Jefferson County and the Town and Village of Henderson and for its connection to the Burnham family. Its builder, Chester Norton, was one of the first settlers in the community, investing in a woolen mill in 1814 and helping found the Henderson Social Library in 1819. Less than thirty years later, it became the home of Edwin and Elizabeth Burnham and the birthplace of Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912), Chicago architect, urban planner, and key proponent of the City Beautiful Movement (1893-1920s). Burnham lived in Henderson until age eight and was strongly influenced by his parents' Swedenborgian faith (brought to Henderson by his grandfather). The period of significance for the Norton-Burnham House runs from its construction in 1814-18 to 1930, when it is known to have achieved its final form.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

History of Henderson, Jefferson County

In the early to mid-eighteenth century, all the land in what is now Jefferson County was part of Albany County. In 1772, that county was split into three parts, one of which was Tyron County, named for the colonial governor. After the Revolutionary War, Tyron County was renamed Montgomery County after General Richard Montgomery, who died in the Battle of Quebec. Herkimer County split off Montgomery County in 1791, and Oneida County split off Herkimer in 1798. Seven years later, Jefferson County was taken from Oneida County and named for Thomas Jefferson, then president of the United States.

The Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee were the aboriginal inhabitants of the area.¹² Before the Revolutionary War, the political situation throughout western and northern New York was too uncertain for permanent settlement by Europeans, except in the vicinity of permanent forts. In addition, little land had been accurately surveyed. However, once the war ended, the frontier areas of New York State opened up quickly. Two changes facilitated permanent European settlement in what became Jefferson County. First, the nations of the Haudenosaunee, most of whom had allied themselves with the British, were pressured to surrender ownership of their lands in a series of (illegal) treaties with the State of New York; many, including most of the Onondaga, moved to Canada or further west. Second, in 1784, the legislature established the New York State Land Commission to sell patents and raise money to pay off war debts. Eight years later, Alexander Macomb, William Constable, and Daniel McCormick negotiated the bargain price of 8 pence per acre for more

¹² "Approximate Area of Onondaga Nation Aboriginal Territory" [Map], 2005. <http://www.onondaganation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/landmap1.pdf>

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

than 3.6 million acres of land in the northern part of the state. The size of this purchase (1/8 the surface area of New York) triggered an investigation into political favoritism, but no one really knew the extent of what had been sold until the purchase was surveyed in the late 1790s.¹³ Until then, as the following figure shows, much of the survey work was wildly inaccurate.¹⁴



Figure 4. Detail showing what became Jefferson County from Samuel Lewis, *The State of New York Compiled from the Best Authorities*, (1795).

Knowledge of the area was soon placed on a better footing that facilitated development. The Macomb Purchase was subdivided several times and, in the spring and summer of 1796, surveyor Benjamin Wright divided the “Black River Tract” into eleven towns. Wright described Town Six as a “pretty good town” with mill sites on Stony Creek, good timber, and a good harbor on Lake Ontario.¹⁵ Later that year, the four owners of the tract allocated it amongst themselves by lot; William Henderson received townships 3 (Rutland), 6 (Henderson), and 9 (Pinckney), with part of Town of Worth. By 1801, the land was further broken down into lots, and Asher Miller became Henderson’s sales agent. Settlement began along the Lake Ontario shoreline in 1802. The first purchasers were New Englanders looking for good farmland; within the next five years, a group of Scottish immigrants founded another community.¹⁶ By 1807, the year after the Town of Henderson was

¹³ David Yehling Allen, *The Mapping of New York State: A Study in the History of Cartography*, Chapter 8: 9, 13. <http://digital.library.stonybrook.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/newyorkstatemaps/id/46>

¹⁴ Samuel Lewis, *The State of New York Compiled from the Best Authorities* (1795). [David Rumsey Historical Map Collection]

¹⁵ Edgar C. Emerson, *Our County and Its People: A Descriptive Work on Jefferson County, New York* (Boston: Boston History Company, 1898), 613.

¹⁶ Emerson, 615-616.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

subdivided out of the preexisting Town of Ellisburg (which had been subdivided out of Mexico, Oneida County), at least a thousand people lived in the area.¹⁷

The first settler in what became the Village of Henderson arrived around 1807, when a Presbyterian deacon named Fellows erected two mills on Stony Creek. He quickly built a plank and frame house – and opened a tavern. All three properties were soon sold to John Putnam who, within five years, sold them again to Lodowick Salisbury.¹⁸ Salisbury also built and operated a store near the mills so, not surprisingly, the settlement acquired the name Salisbury’s Mills. A man named Calkins started a distillery in 1810 or 1811. A carding mill joined the structures on the creek around 1812. That building and its equipment were bought in 1814 by the Henderson Woolen-Manufacturing Company. Elihu Shepard was president, and Allen Kilby, Hezekiah Doolittle, Joseph Dickey, Tilley F. Smead, and Chester Norton were trustees. This is the first mention of Chester Norton in the history of the Village of Henderson. Later industry included another distillery (owned by landowner William Henderson) in 1815 and two grist mills (one replacing the carding mill).¹⁹

The industrial development of the community may have fueled its growth as a religious center. As early as 1806, a Baptist society was formed in the township, with meetings in Smithville and Henderson led by the Rev. Emory Osgood. However, its members scattered and a successor organization, the Second Baptist Church of Henderson, was established in 1818; it built its first meeting house (with help from the local Masonic Lodge) in 1824, a little south of the center of the village. Next came the foundation of the First Congregational Church of Henderson in 1810, which built its meeting house sometime before 1819. The Universalist Charitable Society (with 13 members) followed in 1819. It reorganized as the Henderson Universalist Society in 1823 under the Rev. Pitt Morse but did not build a church until 1839. The Presbyterians also came together in 1819 and built a church a year later. The most unusual denomination was the Swedenborgian Society. The Rev. Holland Weeks established it in Ellisburg in 1825, but most of its members – including members of the Nathan Burnham family – came from Henderson. Finally, in 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Henderson Village was organized; the parent Methodist group had been established in the township in 1830.

During the same period, the village developed a variety of social institutions. The community attracted a physician as early as 1807. A Masonic Lodge was organized in 1816 and contributed half the cost of the Second Baptist Church so that it could establish a meeting room on the second floor. Chester Norton and others established the Henderson Social Library in 1819. The post office moved from Henderson Harbor (Naples) to the village in 1822, with the Rev. Holland Weeks as its first postmaster.

By 1820, the village had established a strong economic and social basis. However, it never grew much larger because it was not well connected to a strong transportation infrastructure. In 1854, when Franklin B. Hough published *A History of Jefferson County in the State of New York, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, he said Henderson Village had “three stores, an inn, two tanneries, a saw mill, a grist mill, a small woolen

¹⁷ Emerson, 620-621.

¹⁸ Salisbury was also elected an assessor for the town at the first town meeting on March 11, 1806.

¹⁹ Franklin B. Hough, *A History of Jefferson County in the State of New York, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time* (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell, 1854), 384-386.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

factory, most kinds of mechanic shops, and about sixty families. It has churches of the Methodist, Baptist, and Universalist orders.”²⁰ An 1864 map by Beers shows a single street laid out parallel to the Stony Creek.²¹

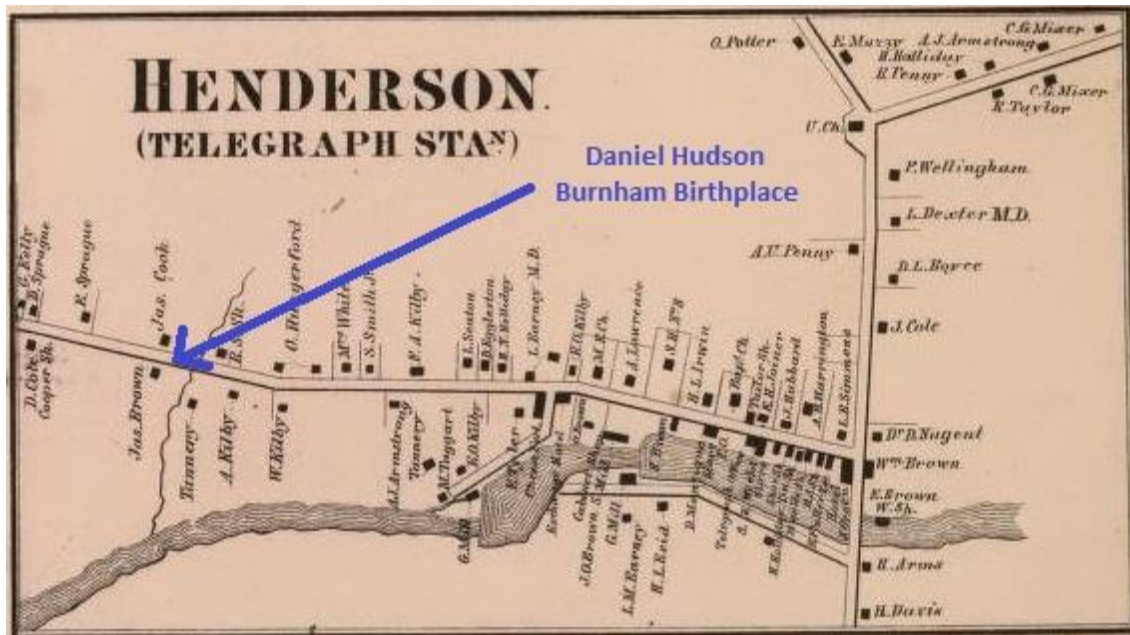


Figure 5: Inset map of the Village of Henderson

This may have been the village’s maximum extent. By the end of the century, Edgar Emerson noted that the overall population of the township in 1892 (1,665) had declined below the level it had before 1820 (1,919):²²

From this it is seen that the present population of Henderson is nearly 1,000 less than half a century ago, while the area of the town is unchanged. This decrease, however marked, is not peculiar to Henderson alone, yet is perhaps greater here than in many other divisions of the county. Henderson is one of the practically remote towns of the county, having neither railroad nor manufactures, and is devoted solely to agricultural and kindred pursuits.... Having no business center of importance, and nothing in the way of entertainment, together with the widespread claim that farming is impossible, the later generations of men and women have in many cases left the farms for the easier means of livelihood and the attractions and pleasures of life in larger villages and towns.

Chester Norton (dates unknown)

Construction of the house was started around 1814 by Chester Norton, one of the investors in the Henderson Woolen-Manufacturing Company that same year. Norton does not show up in the 1810 Federal Census, so he appears to have moved to Henderson at that time. Norton and his wife, Lorry, joined the Henderson

²⁰ Hough, 168.

²¹ Beers & Beers, “Ellisburgh.”

²² Emerson, 623.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

Congregational Church on August 11, 1816; their son Chester Willis Norton was baptized there a day earlier.²³ In 1818, the elder Norton was elected overseer of highways and “fence viewer” for Henderson Township; in 1819, he was one of the first trustees of the Social Library of Henderson.²⁴ In the 1820 Federal Census, his household consisted of three children (one boy and two girls under 10), two older girls (one aged 10-15 and the other 16-25), one female (aged 16-25), and two males (aged 26-44), both engaged in agriculture. Presumably, Lonnie was the woman aged 16-25 and Chester was one of the men aged 26-44. By 1830, Norton’s family had grown with the addition of two more girls (one under 5 and the other aged 5-9) and another son (aged 5-9). Other members of the family included two males (one aged 20-29 and the other 40-49) and four females (one 10-15, one 20-29, one 30-39, and one 60-69).²⁵ Four school-age children attended the District 8 School in 1831.²⁶ Norton left Henderson around July 1835, when he withdrew his membership from the Congregational Church and moved to Perrysburg, Wood County, Ohio, to open a store.²⁷

The large Norton family required a large house, but four years passed before the stone house was completed in 1818. John Rumsey was the stonemason – working for \$1 a day – and the stone seems to have been quarried on the property (as previously mentioned).²⁸ Rumsey, does not show up in the 1810 or 1820 Federal Censuses. However, the construction of military installations and barracks at Sacketts Harbor is known to have stimulated stone construction; some of the early masons may have been veterans of the War of 1812 who worked in the area for a while and then moved on.

The deed record is unclear about how long the Norton family actually lived in the house. They may have owned it through 1835, when they moved. However, it is certain (from research by the village historian) that George and Belinda Jeffers lived there at some point before 1842.

Architecture

The Norton-Burnham House is one of the earliest stone houses built in Jefferson County. The War of 1812 brought prosperity to local farmers and merchants who could now invest in stone homes.²⁹

In an area of upstate New York known for its harsh winters, the high risk of fire from open hearths, lanterns, and candles made stone a popular construction material, especially for public building. There was plenty of fine timber nearby, but wooden frame buildings were more likely to burn down and stone

²³ The membership list of the Congregational Church shows that Amasa and Barnabus Norton also joined the church August 11, 1816. These may have been Chester’s brothers. Eldad Norton had been a member since 1814.

²⁴ Elaine J. Scott [Village Historian], “Burnham House Question and the People Involved” [Letter] (October 21, 2015).

²⁵ U.S. Federal Census for Henderson, Jefferson County, NY: 1820, 1830.

²⁶ Scott.

²⁷ M. A. Leeson, *Commemorative Historical and Biographical Record of Wood County, Ohio: Its Past and Present*, Volume 2 (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Company, 1897), 562.

²⁸ Mrs. Ralph Berry, “Old Home Sold At Henderson,” *Watertown Daily Times* (August 17, 1946).

²⁹ Maureen Hubbard Barros, Brian W. Gorman & Robert A. Uhlig, Eds., *Stone Houses of Jefferson County* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 1-2.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

was easy to find in creek banks or exposed outcroppings. Many early settlers, though, used stone because of its durability and status; it linked them to historic building traditions in other parts of the world and it reflected their desire for permanence in a county that was still being settled.

A second influence on stone building in Jefferson County was the quarter-million acre Castorland Tract, owned by Frenchman James LeRay de Chaumont and marketed to French emigres after the defeat of Napoleon. A 2015 book, *Stone Houses of Jefferson County*, notes three stone houses built by LeRay. The first (1806-1816, National Register listed, 1990) was intended as a land office and advertisement for potential buyers; the second (1813-1815, National Register listed, 1985) was built for his son, Vincent, in Cape Vincent; and the third was a mansion (1825-1827, National Register listed, 1974) he built for himself in LeRaysville. Claire Bonney notes:³⁰

In textbooks one reads that the French population in North America had virtually no influence on American architecture with the exception of the development of the plantation house in the Deep South. This statement may well be true, but for the residents of northern New York, the French emigrés have had a deep-seated influence on the consciousness of many people. Among the few material remnants of this influence which remain is the architecture of the French landowners and their tenants...

While Chester Norton may not have been directly influenced by the activities of the LeRays (and, later, John LaFarge) in the northern part of the county, there are some similarities in style found between his stone house (built 1814-1818) and others listed by Bonney (beginning 1806) as part of the French Émigré tradition in Jefferson County.

For instance, the Norton-Burnham House shares the keystone over its front door with Vincent LeRay's 1813 home in Cape Vincent:

³⁰ Claire Bonney, *French Émigré Architecture in Jefferson County, New York* (Basel, Switzerland: Self-published, 2015), 19.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property



Figure 7. Norton-Burnham House

Jefferson County, NY

County and State



Figure 8. Vincent LeRay House ("The Stone House")

Its beautiful voussoirs (though more oval) are shared with the elliptical voussoirs of the LaFarge Secretary House (circa 1833, collapsed 2008) and the Russell B. Biddlecom House (1835, National Register listed 1997 as part of the La Farge Retainer Houses).



Figure 9. Norton-Burnham House



Figure 10. Biddlecom House, LaFarge Retainer Houses

However, the Norton-Burnham House fits more securely into the Federal style developed in New England and the Hudson Valley, which would have been brought by Chester Norton from Middletown, Vermont. The overall form of the Norton-Burnham House has many similarities with other buildings built by displaced New Englanders and New Yorkers. In particular, it shares a number of traits with two later Jefferson County stone houses, both in another part of the Black River Tract. It may have served as a model for them but, more likely, all three drew on the same New England Federal tradition.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

The first, the Orville Hungerford Homestead (built 1823-1825; dismantled and moved circa 1966), was erected in the City of Watertown by merchant, banker, and industrialist Orville Hungerford (1790-1851) when he was 33; he later became a two-term United States Representative for the 19th District in New York and railroad president.³¹ The second, the John Losee House (circa 1828, National Register listed, 2014), is situated in the Town of Watertown. John Losee emigrated from Fishkill to Jefferson County sometime before 1809 and also took advantage of the City of Watertown's rapid growth in the 1820s. The National Register nomination for the John Losee House notes that both it and the Hungerford house are:³²

...five-bay, center-hall form, embellished with Federal detailing, including a main entrance ... – a six-paneled wooden door recessed into an elaborate mounded wood surround, emphasized with recessed panels, sidelights, a full moulded entablature supported by engaged columns, and surmounted by an arched limestone architrave with projecting keystone. The only differences between the Losee and Hungerford entrances are the patterns of the tracery and the use of Doric order capitals on the former and Ionic order on the latter.

The Norton-Burnham House shares these same features.



Figure 11: Orville Hungerford Homestead



Figure 12: John Losee House

³¹ Richard W. Hungerford Jr. & Andre James Hungerford, "The Honorable Orville Hungerford: Humble Origins, Near Greatness," *Bulletin of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, 36 (Spring 2007).

³² Travis Bowman, *John Losee House, Town of Watertown, Jefferson County, NY*, National Register Nomination, 2014.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State



Figure 13: Norton-Burnham House

In summary, in terms of its architecture, the Norton-Burnham House is an early Federal-style example of the stone building tradition in Jefferson County, New York. While contemporary with the construction of the buildings by LeRay, LaForge, and other French emigrés, its most direct influence was New England or eastern New York domestic architecture. In any case, it is certainly an exemplar of a notable vernacular building type in New York State.

The Reverend Holland Weeks (circa 1768-1843)

A few years after Chester Norton built his stone house, another early resident of Henderson arrived. The Reverend Holland Weeks is considered one of the founders of the American Swedenborgian Church, also known as the New Church or Society of the New Jerusalem. Reverend Weeks was born around 1768, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1795, and installed in 1815 as a Congregationalist minister at the First Church of Christ in Abington, Massachusetts. He was known to be strong in his beliefs; his daughter said that other young ministers would come to him “to have their horns put on.”³³ Sometime before 1818, Weeks became influenced by the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772) and began to preach that “there is not a single truth remaining in the old church, but, what is falsified.” As a result, he was tried by a church council and excommunicated. A contemporary letter stated, “The editor of the ‘Boston recorder’ a religious paper [sic] seems alarmed that men should be exercising their reason.”³⁴

Like the Unitarians, the Swedenborgians believed that God should only be worshiped in the person of Jesus Christ; his teachings replaced those of the earlier church and were universal. In addition, Swedenborgians placed great emphasis on living a moral life and helping others. Among his other “heresies,” Weeks said that

³³ Thomas S. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1974), 4.

³⁴ Edward P. Page, “Letter to James Madison,” (circa September 24, 1820).
<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/04-02-02-0110>

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

Christians “may keep the commandments without claiming merit or reward for good works.”³⁵ (In other words, mere observance, without accompanying action, was insufficient for heaven.) This focus on “usefulness” rather than “faith alone” was in conflict with most Protestant teaching, but it made the Swedenborgians very inclusive. People of all faiths who did good in the world could go to heaven.

Swedenborgian teachings had come to the United States in 1784, soon after Emanuel Swedenborg’s death in 1772. The first church was founded in Baltimore in 1792, and sent a copy of Swedenborg’s *True Christian Religion* to President George Washington when he began his first term. In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson invited Baltimore minister John Hargrove to preach to the US Congress. However, these public successes did not lead to great growth; all the established churches rejected Swedenborgianism. Thereafter, most of the Society’s development took place on the then frontiers of the country, “planted” by missionaries such as John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) and the Rev. Holland Weeks.³⁶

Weeks was baptized into the New Church on April 15, 1821, and ordained a week later. He immediately left Massachusetts for Virginia and Pennsylvania on a preaching tour.³⁷ Later that year, he retired to Henderson and began to hold meetings in local schoolhouses.³⁸ Hough noted that Weeks, “was the promulgator of these doctrines in town, and preached gratuitously for many years.” A Swedenborgian church society was formed in Ellisburg on December 25, 1825, but most of the members came from Henderson, and the meetings soon moved to the local school house.³⁹

No more than 40 people were ever members of the New Church in Henderson. Among them was Weeks’s wife Harriet (a child of the theologian Samuel Hopkins) and members of his own family. In 1832 Weeks’s daughter Elizabeth married one of the other adherents, Edwin Burnham.

Edwin (1804-1874) and Elizabeth (c. 1810-unknown) Burnham⁴⁰

The first generation of the Burnham family to settle in Henderson appears to be Nathan and Elizabeth (Noble) Burnham, who arrived in Jefferson County around 1811, after Nathan’s father’s mills in Middletown, Vermont,

³⁵ Willard H. Hinkley, “An Historical Sketch of the Periodical Literature,” *The New Jerusalem Magazine*, 8:3 (1884), 140.

³⁶ A scientist (and son of a Pietist bishop), Swedenborg had been as curious about many aspects of the world, from mathematics to mining. He studied the anatomy of the brain and became interested in the relationship of the material world to the spirit. On a trip to England, he started receiving visions of Jesus Christ, Heaven, and Hell, and wrote down his discoveries in an eight-volume book, *Heavenly Mysteries* (published between 1749 and 1756). He never claimed to be a theologian, but his ideas about the “complementarity” between God and humans, faith and good works, and men and women influenced many progressive thinkers, both religious and non-religious. Emerson and the New England Transcendentalists used many Swedenborgian ideas in their philosophy.

³⁷ Carl Theophilus Odhner, *Annals of the New Church* (Philadelphia: Academy of the New Church, 1898), 279, 288, 489.

³⁸ One news article states that Weeks obtained his farm in Henderson by trading a horse for it with Henderson’s land agent, Jessie Hopkins. “Daniel Burnham’s ‘Rich Uncle’s’ House on Garden Tour July 13,” *Jefferson County Journal* (July 10, 2013).

³⁹ Hough, 170.

⁴⁰ Based on letters cited in Hines, Elizabeth Burnham died sometime after 1868.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

were "swept away by the freshet of that year."⁴¹ Nathan may have been the proprietor of first store in Woodville, some miles to the south on Sandy Creek. By 1820, he was in Henderson (although his residence is not known) and his household, as listed in the 1820 Federal Census, contained four boys (two under age 10 and two aged 10-15) and two girls (one aged 10-15 and one 16-25), along with an adult couple (the man aged +45 and the woman aged 26-44), presumably Nathan and Elizabeth. One of the teenagers was Edwin, the third child and oldest son.

When Edwin married Elizabeth Weeks, he was in his twenties. His first job as a merchant (perhaps at his father's store) did not work out. As a result, he moved to Detroit for a job with the Oliver Newberry Steamship Company in 1839. His father-in-law, the Reverend Holland Weeks, followed and helped Edwin and Elizabeth organize the first Detroit branch of the New Church. Edwin was elected leader and secretary of the new society and taught in the Sunday School. A member of the congregation said that Burnham also sold goods and would place religious tracts in the boxes he shipped to customers.⁴²

Less than a year later, in May 1840, the Burnhams returned to Henderson to look after the Reverend Weeks, then 72. They purchased a store in Henderson, sold it almost immediately, and moved to Smithville (five miles away). Sales there were no better and, around 1842, they returned to Henderson, repurchased their store, and purchased the stone house built by Chester Norton in 1818. The Reverend Holland Weeks died on July 14, 1843, and was buried in the Clark Cemetery in Henderson. Elizabeth and Edwin stayed on for another eleven years before returning west, this time to Chicago. Various travelers associated with the New Church lodged with them during this time, impressed by their hospitality and strength of belief. One, the Reverend George Field, compared his visit with the Burnhams in Henderson more favorably than meeting Nathaniel Hawthorne and the utopian residents of Brook Farm. Hines states, "... Edwin and Elizabeth Burnham became, over the years, quietly modest 'celebrities' of the New Jerusalem Church, in Detroit, New York, and later in Chicago."⁴³

Daniel Hudson Burnham was born September 4, 1846, in the stone house at Henderson, reputedly in the northwest-corner bedroom on the second floor. He appears in the next Federal Census, aged three.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Barnes Frisbie, *The History of Middletown, Vermont, Delivered in Three Discourses Before the Citizens of that Town* (Rutland, VT: Tuttle & Co., 1867), 40.

⁴² Hines, 4-11. Much of the rest of this section is drawn from Hines's biography of Daniel Hudson Burnham. He has built a strong chronology of Edwin and Elizabeth's many moves before 1854 with the exception of an error in dating her father's death as 1854.

⁴³ Hines, 6.

⁴⁴ U.S. Federal Census for Henderson, Jefferson County, NY: 1850.

Norton-Burnham House

Jefferson County, NY

Name of Property

County and State

172	177	Edwin Burnham	45	M	Merchant	3000	Vermont		
"	"	Elizabeth	40	F			"		
"	"	Edwin R.	17	M	Student				
"	"	Ellen W.	13	F					
"	"	Mary E.	8	F					
"	"	Leah S.	6	F					
"	"	Daniel H.	3	M					
"	"	Ellen Scott	18	F					

Figure 6. 1850 Federal Census entry for Edwin and Elizabeth Burnham and family, Henderson, NY.

Hines describes his early family life:⁴⁵

Though Edwin seems to have been a loving and attentive father, Elizabeth exerted the more dominant influence on the development of the children. Her youngest daughter Clara recalled that though her mother did not care for high society, she was friendly and “fun-loving” and “had a reserve fund of merry wit ... to which she often resorted under trying circumstances to ‘carry her through.’” She was a sympathetic listener and a reliable friend and many people came to her for counsel and advice. “To her dying day,” her daughter recalled, “she showed a remarkable openness of mind, with readiness to welcome progressive thought in any direction....”

Elizabeth’s legacies to Daniel were strongly moral, but they were cultural and intellectual as well. According to his respectful sister Clara, his traits of “courage, progressiveness, clear judgment, ready sympathy, sincerity, ... trustfulness, [and] moral responsibility” were “characteristics inherited ... from his mother.”

Elizabeth introduced her children to music, literature, and religion. Her eldest son, Edwin Ruthven Burnham, became a lawyer and active member of the New Church in Chicago. Daniel seemed positioned to follow a similar course. His first years at District School 8 went well. He apparently enjoyed his studies, maintaining a correspondence with one teacher, Harrison Montague, until 1902. However, his father’s business ventures continued to lag.

In 1854, Edwin Burnham suggested moving the family south to Rome, New York. Elizabeth countered that they should move to Chicago where prospects seemed brighter. Edwin’s brother Dyer was already established there as a lawyer and the city was poised for greater growth. Edwin went out, bought an interest in a stone quarry in Joliet, lost money to a corrupt partner, and was on the verge of returning to New York to farm, when Elizabeth acted quickly to forestall his return. She moved herself and the children west in January 1855, leaving behind Henderson, which lacked “a school and society suitable for their age.” Edwin joined a wholesale drug business in Chicago with an honest partner, prospered, and was elected president of the

⁴⁵ Hines, 6. Hines also attributes many of Daniel Hudson Burnham’s virtues to his New England Yankee heritage. These would have been equally inculcated by his father, born in Vermont, and his mother, born in Massachusetts. Both parents had Puritan ancestors, and Daniel was an eighth-generation American.

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

Chicago Mercantile Association in 1865. His success made it possible for his children to receive excellent educations. Daniel was directed towards Harvard, attending a prep school in Waltham, MA, and working with a tutor, the Swedenborgian minister, Tilly Brown Hayward. But he flunked the entrance exams for both Harvard and Yale.

Daniel Hudson Burnham (1846-1912)

The remainder of Burnham's life is well-documented – how he became a draftsman after an apprenticeship in the Chicago office of Loring and Jenney; how he became an architect working with Peter Wright of the firm Carter, Drake, and Wright; and how he met John Wellborn Root and set up his own firm, which lasted for eighteen years (and resulted in more than 300 buildings) before he went out on his own after Root's death. Burnham's architectural legacy includes the first skyscraper – the Montauk Block (1882-3) in Chicago, built on a novel concrete pad that permitted the erection of heavier buildings. As the decade of the 1880s continued, Burnham & Root experimented with ever-taller steel-frame buildings. The 1890s brought the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. Root died suddenly at the beginning of 1891, right as Burnham took on the task of managing the construction of a "White City" of more than 150 buildings along the waterfront.⁴⁶ Following the World's Fair, D.H. Burnham and Company completed another 200 buildings, including structures in New York State such as the 1896 Ellicott Square Building in Buffalo and the 1902 Flatiron Building (National Register, listed 1979; National Historic Landmark, 1989) in New York City. Toward the end of his life, Burnham focused on urban planning. His design for the Columbian Exposition showed him that cities could be designed to support progressive ideals, and the fair became the inspiration for the turn-of-the-century City Beautiful Movement. In 1901, Burnham worked with U.S. Senator James McMillan on a redesign of Pierre-Charles L'Enfant's 1791 plan for Washington, D.C. The following year, he helped prepare a "Group Plan" for Cleveland with architects Arnold W. Brunner and John M. Carrère. The culmination of his career was his 1909 *Plan for Chicago*, written with Edward Bennett for the Commercial Club of Chicago, which established the city's modern layout by preserving the lakefront as public parkland.⁴⁷

What is less well-understood about Daniel Hudson Burnham is the importance of his early life in Henderson. There, he received his grounding in the beliefs of the New Church from his parents and siblings. Their strong religious beliefs drove his, and his choice of a career was rooted in the need to do "good works" to improve life for all. When he finally settled on architecture, he wrote his mother:⁴⁸

"I am perfectly in love with my profession," adding, "And for the first time in my life I feel perfectly certain that I have found my vocation." The following spring Burnham told her that he was resolved "to become the greatest architect in the city or country." In his correspondence with his mother, he also

⁴⁶ Burnham's achievement is at the core of Erick Larson's popular biography, *The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair That Changed America* (New York: Crown Publishers, 2003).

⁴⁷ Judith Paine McBrien, "Daniel H. Burnham: American Architect," *Encyclopedia Britannica*.
<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Daniel-H-Burnham>

⁴⁸ Encyclopedia of Chicago, "The Plan Comes Together." <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/300004.html>

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

reaffirmed his belief—rooted in his upbringing in the Swedenborgian New Jerusalem Church—in the individual’s free-willed ability to work for good. A typical business career, Burnham confided, was full of moral pitfalls. “But there can be none in a man’s striving after the beautiful and useful laws God has created to govern his material universe,” he wrote, “and when I am trying to find them and apply them to use among my fellows He will reveal them and expand my mind and heart toward himself and all mankind.” This outlook shaped his entire professional and public life.

Burnham adhered to these progressive Swedenborgian beliefs lifelong. Every Sunday until the end of his life, he collected his children and, later, their children around him and read passages from Swedenborg. In 1908, as Burnham was finishing his *New Plan for Chicago*, he fell ill and was visited in hospital by his collaborator, Edward Bennett:⁴⁹

After visiting him in the hospital, Bennett noted in his diary that Burnham “was as usual – serene. We talked of Swedenborg or rather I listened to him discourse on the subject and came away strengthened in purpose.” After another visit several days later, he noted that Burnham seemed better. “We talked of the plan,” he wrote, “but more of the philosophy of life – and his belief in the infinite possibilities of the material expression of the spiritual.”

For good reason, the Emanuel Swedenborg Center for Worship and Study claims Burnham as their own:⁵⁰

Swedenborg, who believed that usefulness is the very heart of religion, wrote, “Everything in heaven, in the world, in the human body, both great and small, was created from use, in use and for use.” This belief attracts physicians, engineers, and others in the practical professions. Inspired by Swedenborg’s vision of the heavenly city, architect and city planner Daniel Burnham construct[ed] the setting for the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago as a dream city, all in white, using the new electric lighting on a vast scale.

Whether or not the link is that concrete, it is certain that Swedenborgism – as learned from his parents in Henderson – fueled Burnham’s progressive vision of the possibilities of architecture and urban reform and lasted life-long.

Significance of the Norton-Burnham House as the Birthplace of Daniel Hudson Burnham

Although Daniel Hudson Burnham built hundreds of commercial and residential buildings during his long career, few buildings associated with his own life remain – and none with the integrity of his birthplace in Henderson. No other buildings that he lived in with his parents are recorded, and his own home in Evanston,

⁴⁹ Hines, 326.

⁵⁰ Emanuel Swedenborg Center for Worship and Study, “Early Swedenborgian History in America.”
<http://www.swedenborgcenter.org/early.html>

Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

Illinois, no longer exists. A 2012 survey of *Architectural Resources in the Evanston Lakeshore Historic District* recounts the fate of his house:⁵¹

During the late 1920s and 1930s, a small number of estate houses were demolished within the district, and the land subsequently subdivided and opened for development, providing some small but concentrated pockets of development. The largest of these was the estate of Daniel H. Burnham, which occupied two blocks between Forest Avenue, Dempster Street, the lake, and what is now Burnham Place. The house on the estate was demolished, and the Burnham Park Subdivision was platted on the land in the 1930s.

By contrast, if Daniel Hudson Burnham returned to Henderson today, he would recognize his home and its setting on the outskirts of the town where his grandfather preached and his parents taught him the importance of living a moral – and useful – life.

The Stone House Since the Burnhams

The stone house in Henderson continued to stand strong on the west side of the village after Edwin and Elizabeth Burnham left for Chicago in 1855. The deed record is spotty, but it passed through at least four owners before 1900. The immediate owner after the Burnhams is unknown. However, in 1878, it was bought by Adolphus Kilby, who passed it to John H. Farman. Farman sold it in 1893 to Murray B. Scott, who passed it to his son and his wife, E. June and Harley M. Scott, in 1898.

The Scotts lived in the house until 1946. They were responsible for the last substantial remodeling of the house interior – adding electricity, constructing new interior walls, and extending the trim – and for moving the kitchen ell to the barn (in 1930 or a decade before). In 1946, when David Lane photographed the house for an article on “Old Mansions of the North Country” (his *Watertown Daily Times* series), the house still had four stone chimneys and a small porch on the rear where the kitchen ell had been attached. Two of those chimneys and the small porch were subsequently removed. The house then had two short-term owners before 1957, when William H. and Helen B. Quimby bought the home. They are responsible for George J. Vander Sluis’ paintings on the barn doors. Otherwise, excepting the new bathroom on the first floor, there has been little change to the building. The current owners, Yvonne Marie Bronson and Robert E. Aliasso, Jr., bought the property from the Quimbys in 1996 and are strong stewards of the Norton-Burnham House, its outbuildings, and remaining acreage.

⁵¹ Granacki Historic Consultants, *Architectural Resources in the Evanston Lakeshore Historic District* [Report prepared for the City of Evanston] (2012), 11.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Norton-Burnham House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY

County and State

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Correspondence

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Maps

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Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.50 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18N Zone	404275 Easting	4855457 Northing	5	18N Zone	404131 Easting	4855039 Northing
2	18N Zone	404433 Easting	4855442 Northing	6	18N Zone	404084 Easting	4854992 Northing
3	18N Zone	404468 Easting	4855379 Northing	7	18N Zone	404103 Easting	4855412 Northing
4	18N Zone	404467 Easting	4855320 Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Norton-Burnham House (Jefferson County tax parcel 106.09-2-60) is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed maps.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary was achieved approximately 1930 and represents the major surviving buildings and open farmland associated with the historic Norton-Burnham House.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Norton-Burnham House
Henderson, Jefferson Co., NY

8748 NYS Route 178
Henderson, NY 13650



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Norton-Burnham House



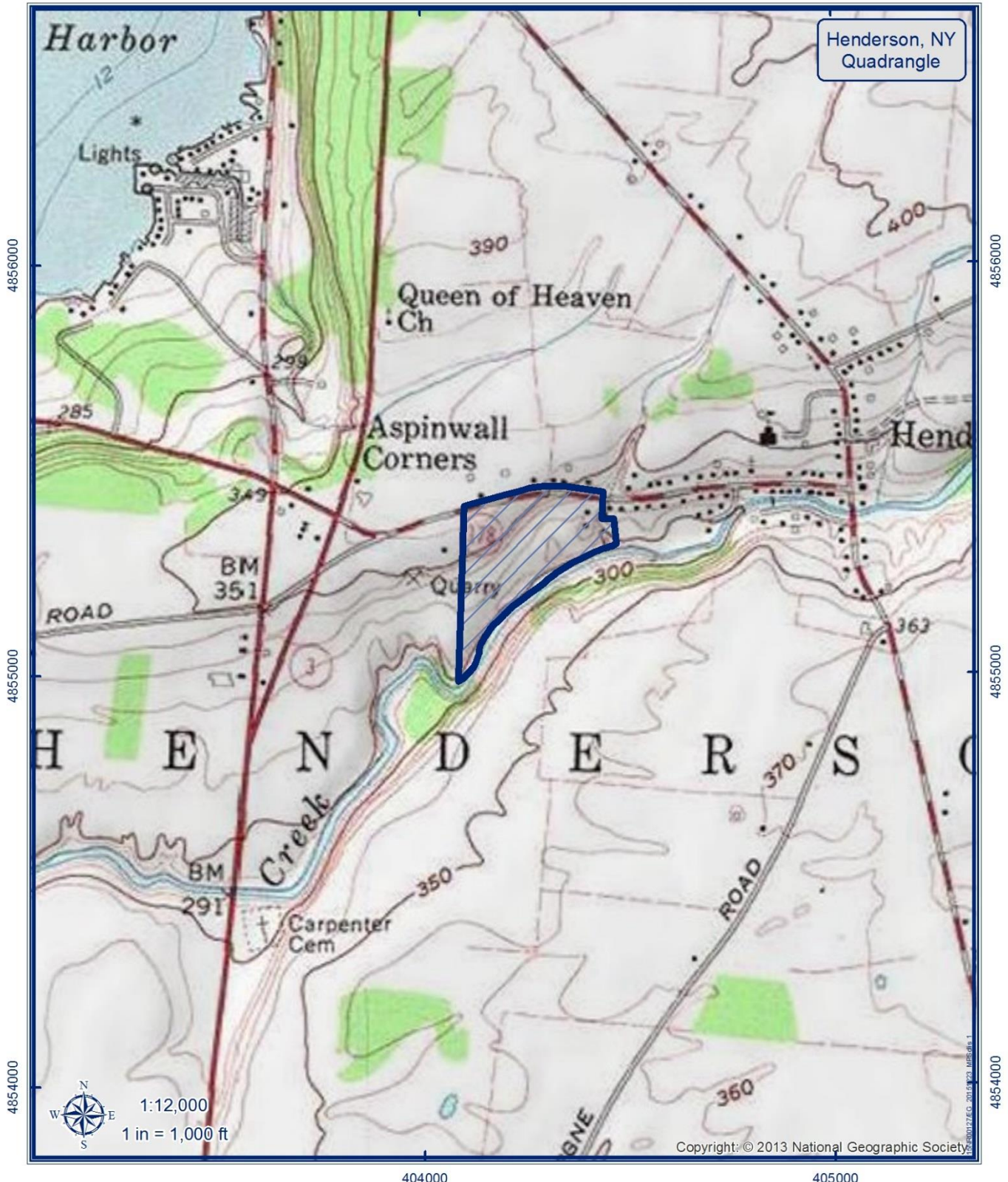
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Norton-Burnham House
Henderson, Jefferson Co., NY

8748 NYS Route 178
Henderson, NY 13650



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Norton-Bumham House



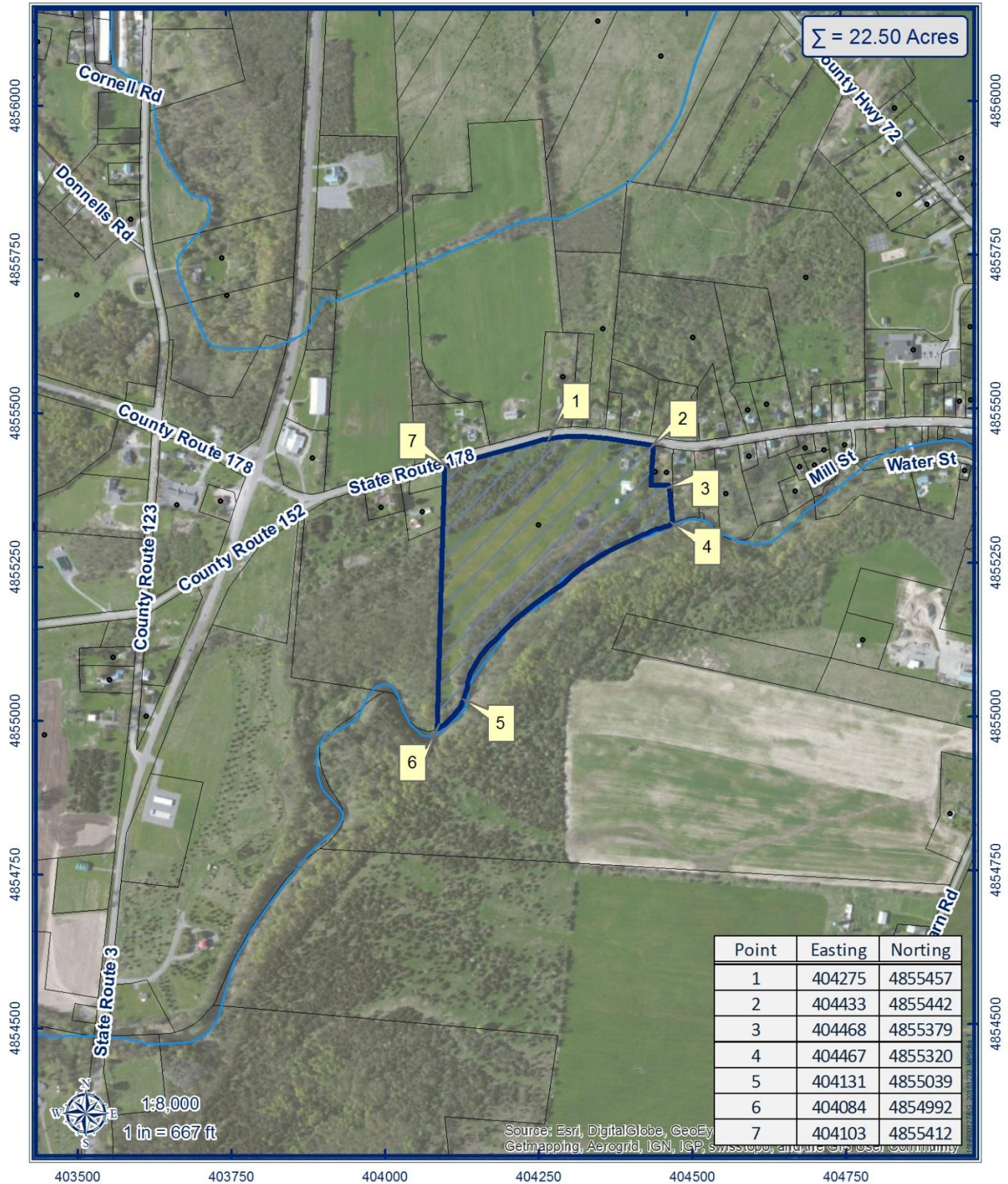
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Norton-Burnham House
 Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
 County and State

Norton-Burnham House
 Henderson, Jefferson Co., NY

8748 NYS Route 178
 Henderson, NY 13650



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Meter



Norton-Burnham House

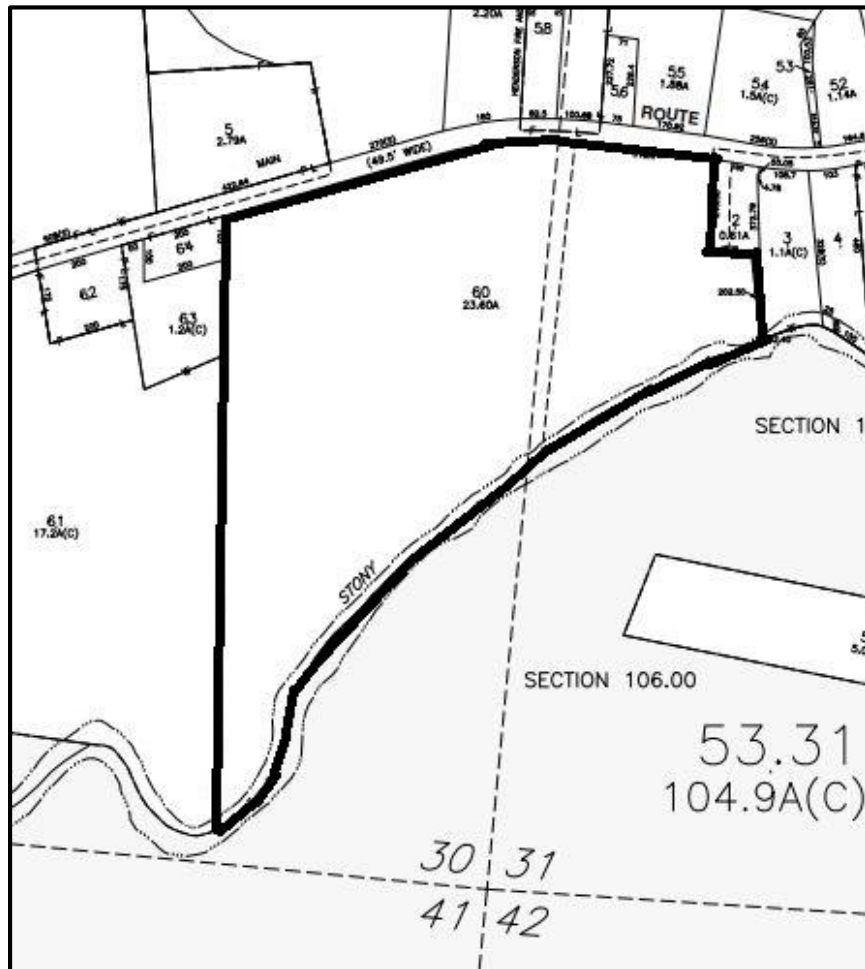


Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Tax Map



11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emilie W. Gould (Historic Preservation Program Analyst) with information from Robert Aliasso (Owner)
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation date November 3, 2015
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2201
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail Emilie.Gould@parks.ny.gov

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Supplemental Information – David Lane’s 1941 Description of the Norton-Burnham House

Old Mansions of North Country

12/9/41



—Photo by David F. Lane

This fine old limestone mansion at Henderson is the birthplace of one of America's great men, Daniel Hudson Burnham, famous architect, who built the first of the world's tallest buildings and coined the term "skyscraper." Descended from a Pilgrim who located at Ipswich, Mass., in 1635, Daniel H. Burnham was born Sept. 4, 1846, in the stone house shown here. The house, consisting of about ten rooms, four of which have large fireplaces, is reputed to have been built by Burnham's grandfather, Nathan Burnham, who came to this county from Burnham's Hollow, Middletown, Vt., driven out by a flood. Similarities in architecture indicate the house may have been constructed about the same time as the original stone building of Union academy, Belleville, 1828.

Edwin Burnham, father of Daniel Hudson Burnham, was married in 1832 to Elizabeth Keith Weeks, of Pilgrim ancestry, daughter of a Swedenborgian minister. In 1855 when Daniel was nine his parents left the old stone mansion at Henderson and moved to Chicago. There he was educated, his parents intending him for the ministry.

He failed to make either Harvard or Yale and imbued with an unusual talent for drawing entered an architect's office. With John Wellborn Root he formed the firm of Burnham & Root. After the Chicago fire in 1871, he had much to do with rebuilding the city.

In 1890 he built the Chicago Masonic temple, then the tallest building in the world. He planned the grounds and buildings for the Columbian exposition, world's fair of 1892-3; with John La Farge, Augustus Saint Gaudens and others became chairman of the World's Congress of Architects in 1893, president of the American Art Institute of Rome, Italy, in 1894, chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts established by President Taft June 15, 1910; and built the Flatiron building in 1902 in New York city, the then tallest building in the world.

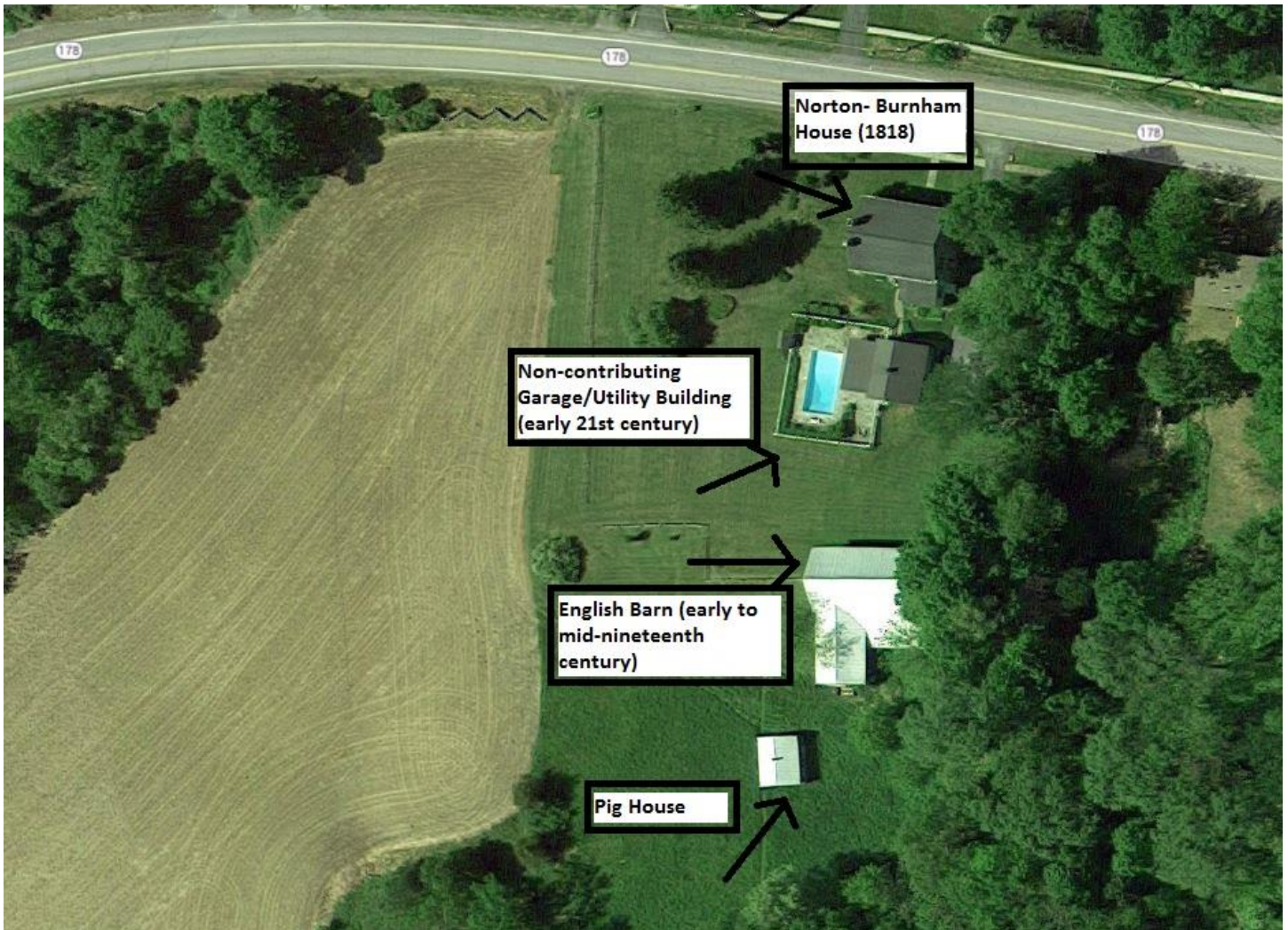
He died suddenly June 1, 1912.

For the past 50 or 60 years at least the Burnham homestead at Henderson has been the property of the Scott family. It is now owned by Harley M. Scott, who has had title for the past 30 or 35 years and prior to that it was owned for several years by his father, Murray Scott.

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

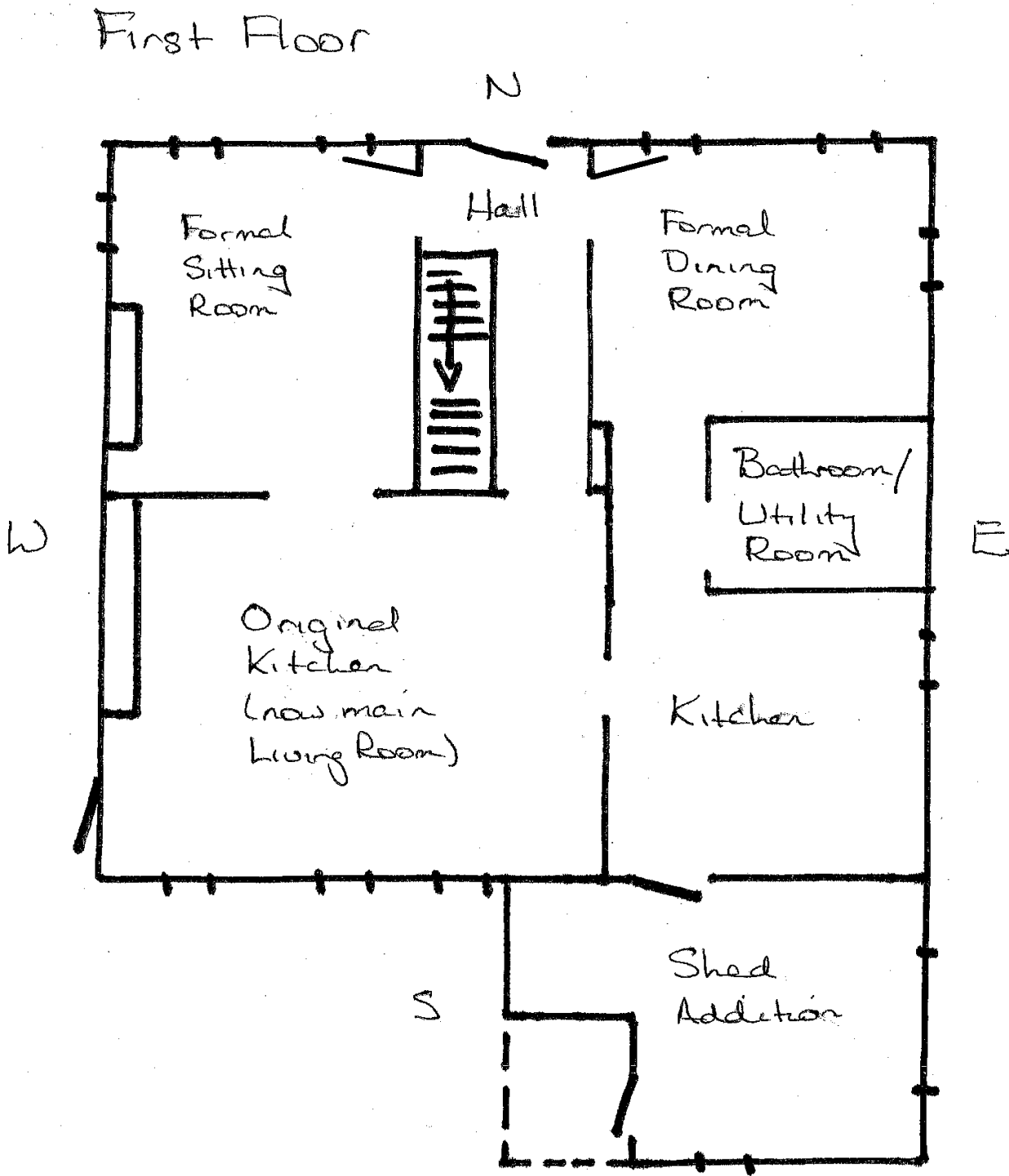
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.



Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

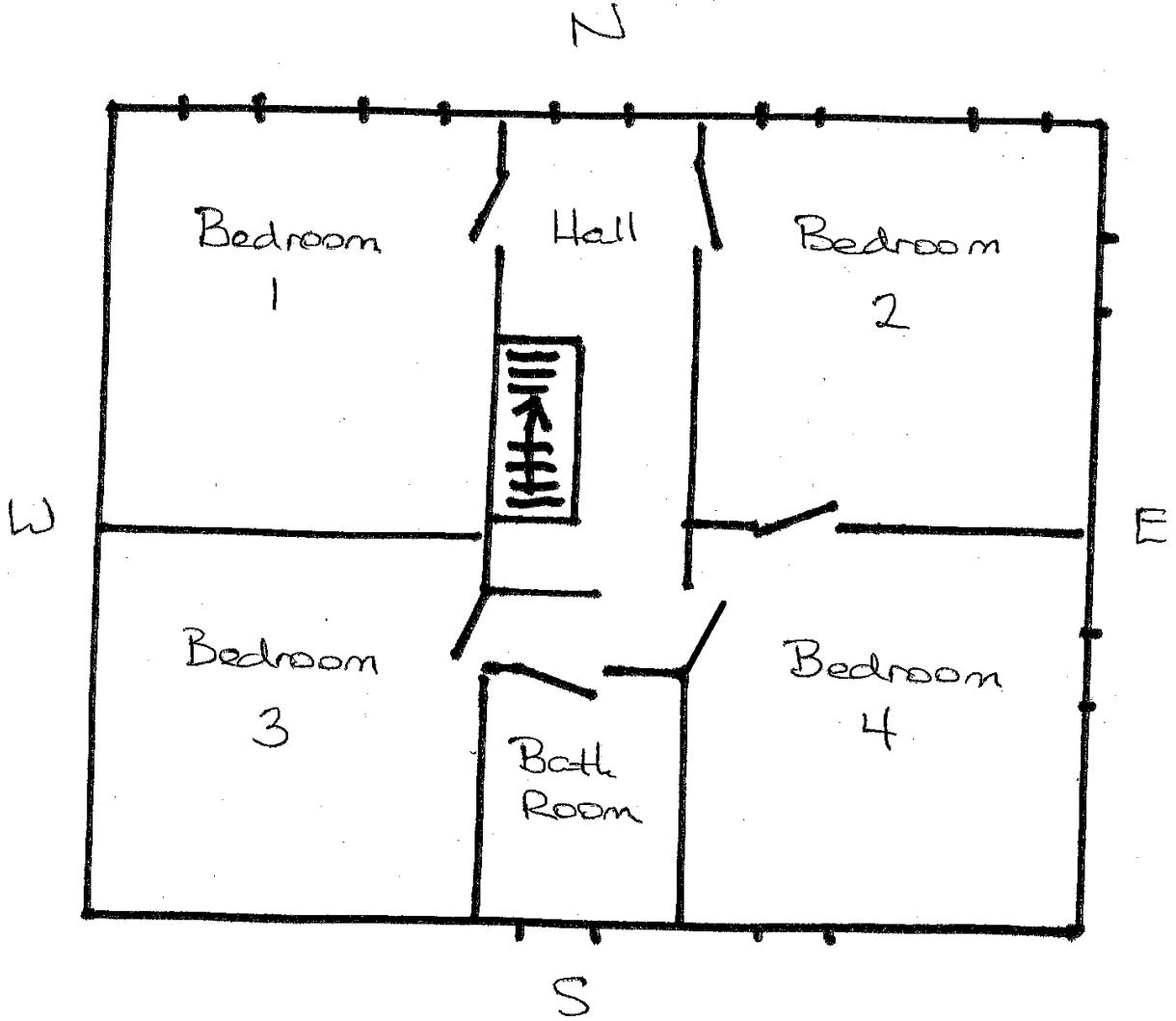
• Floor Plans



Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

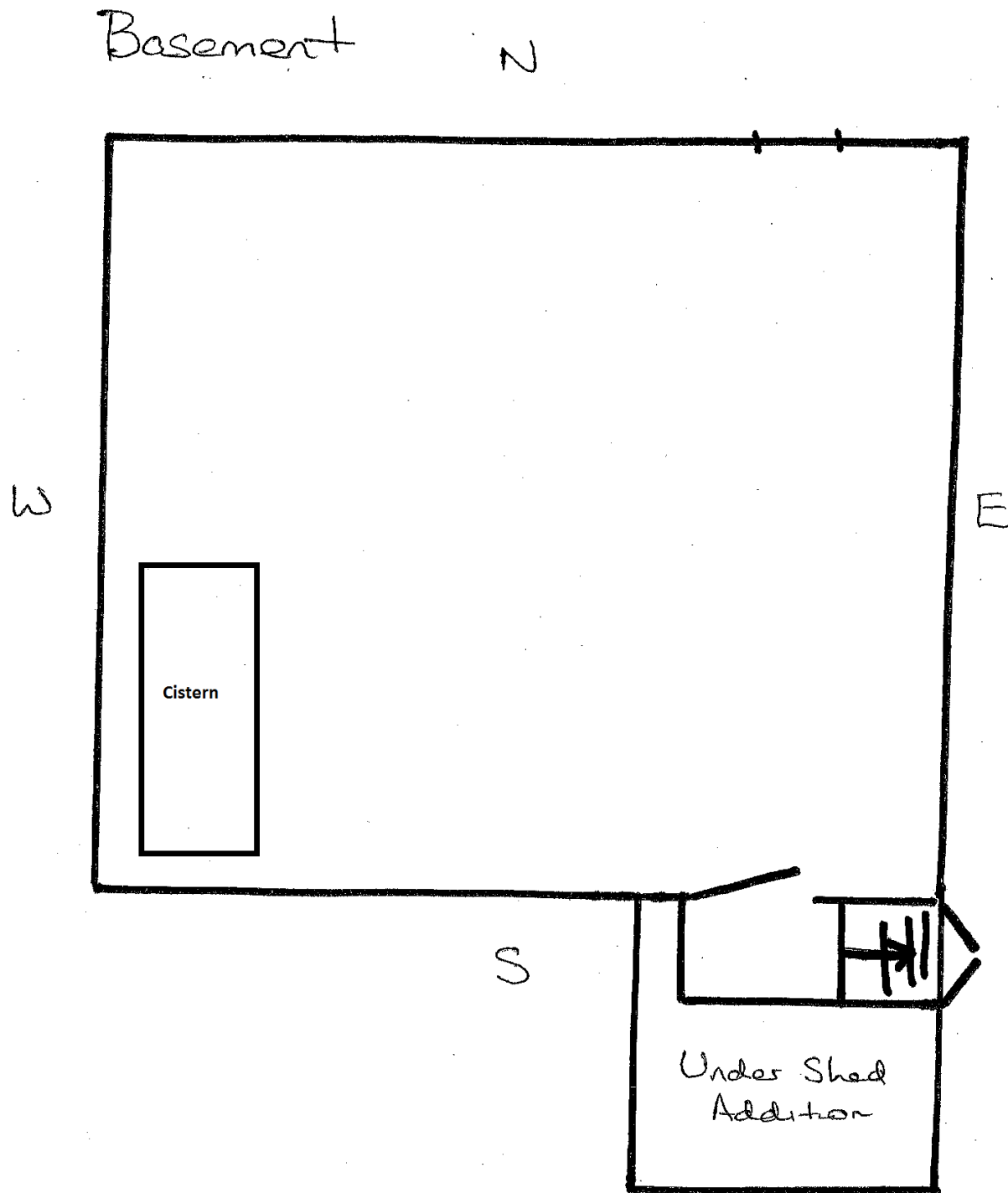
Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Second Floor



Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State



Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Photographs:

Name of Property: Norton-Burnham House

City or Vicinity: Henderson (Town)

County: Jefferson State: NY

Photographer: Emilie Gould

Date of Photographs: June 4, 2015

Location of Original Digital Files: NY SHPO, Peebles Island Recourse Center, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188

Number of Photographs: 19 (All photographs except Photos 5 and 7)

Name of Property: Norton-Burnham House

City or Vicinity: Henderson (Town)

County: Jefferson State: NY

Photographer: Richard Margolis

Date of Photographs: September 11, 2014

Location of Original Digital Files: Stone Building Society of Northern New York, PO Box 219, Dexter, NY 13634

Number of Photographs: Photos 5 and 7 (Credit: Courtesy of Richard Margolis)

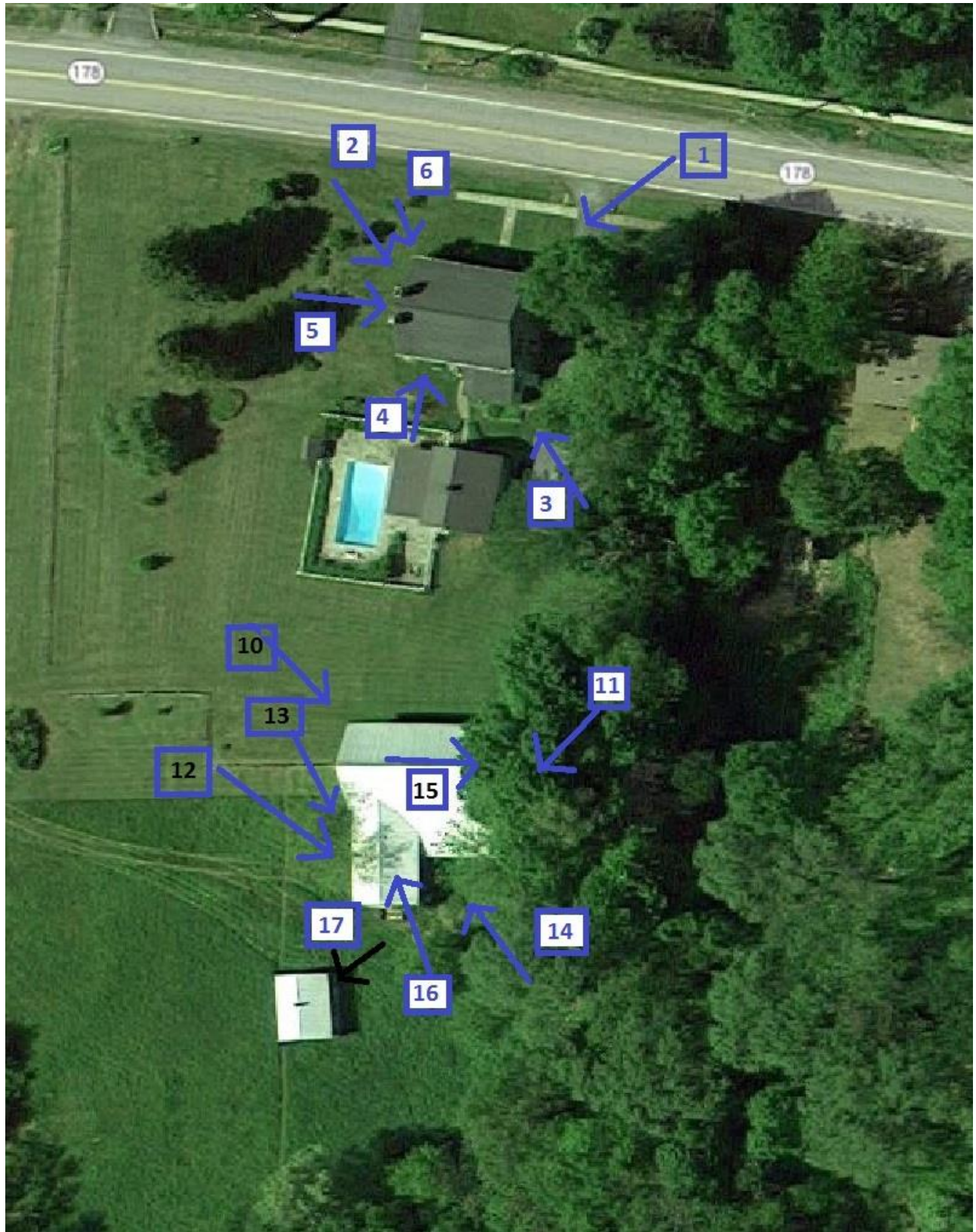
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0001: Facade and East Elevation
2. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0002: West Elevation
3. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0003: East and South Elevations
4. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0004: South Elevations with Mortar Marks from Ell
5. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0005: Oculus
6. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0006: Pecked Quoins
7. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0007: Stair Hall and Entry
8. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0008: Stair Decoration
9. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0009: Window Recess
10. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0010: Barn_North and West Elevations
11. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0011: Barn_East Elevation
12. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0012: House Ell Attached to Barn
13. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0013: House Ell Attached to Barn-Detail
14. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0014: Barn_South Elevation
15. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0015: Barn_Reconfigured Interior
16. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0016: Barn_Concrete Date Stone
17. NY_Jefferson County_ Norton-Burnham House _0017: Pig House

Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

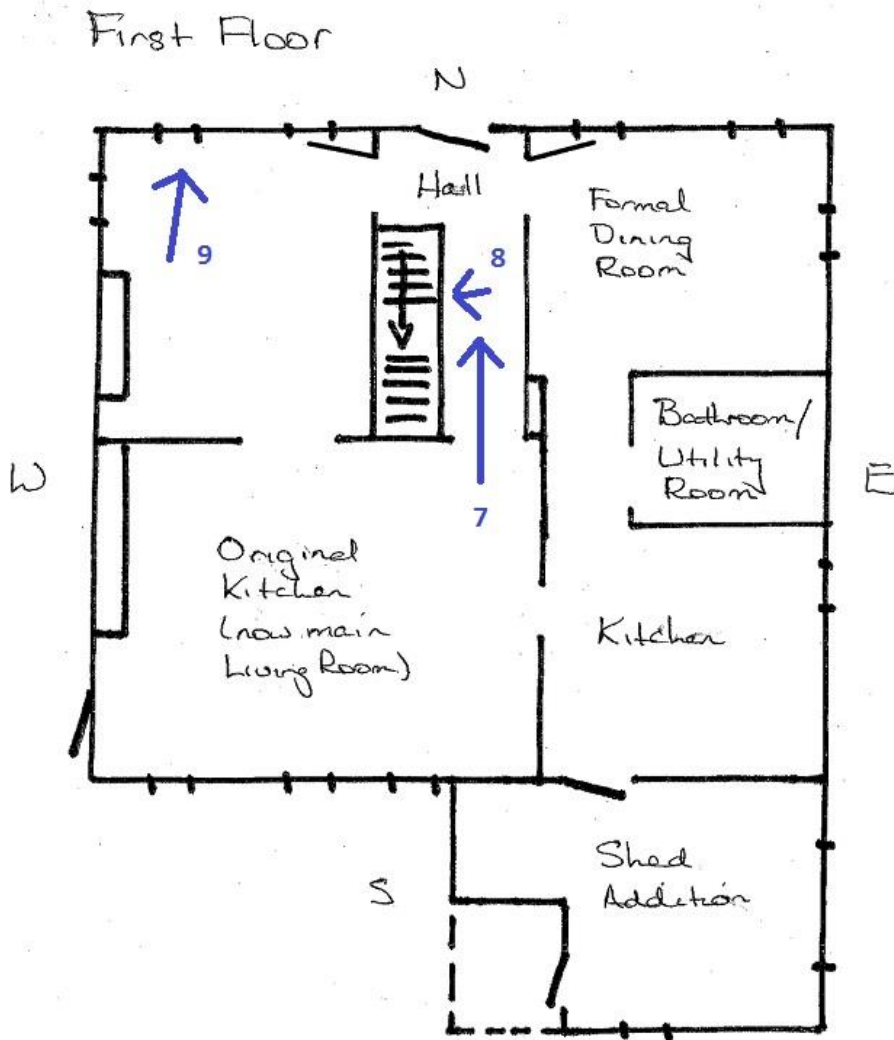
Photo Key - Exterior:



Norton-Burnham House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, NY
County and State

Photo Key – Interior:



Property Owner:

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

name Yvonne Marie Bronson and Robert E. Aliasso, Jr.
street & number 8748 State Route 178 telephone _____
city or town Henderson state NY zip code 13650

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.460 et seq.).

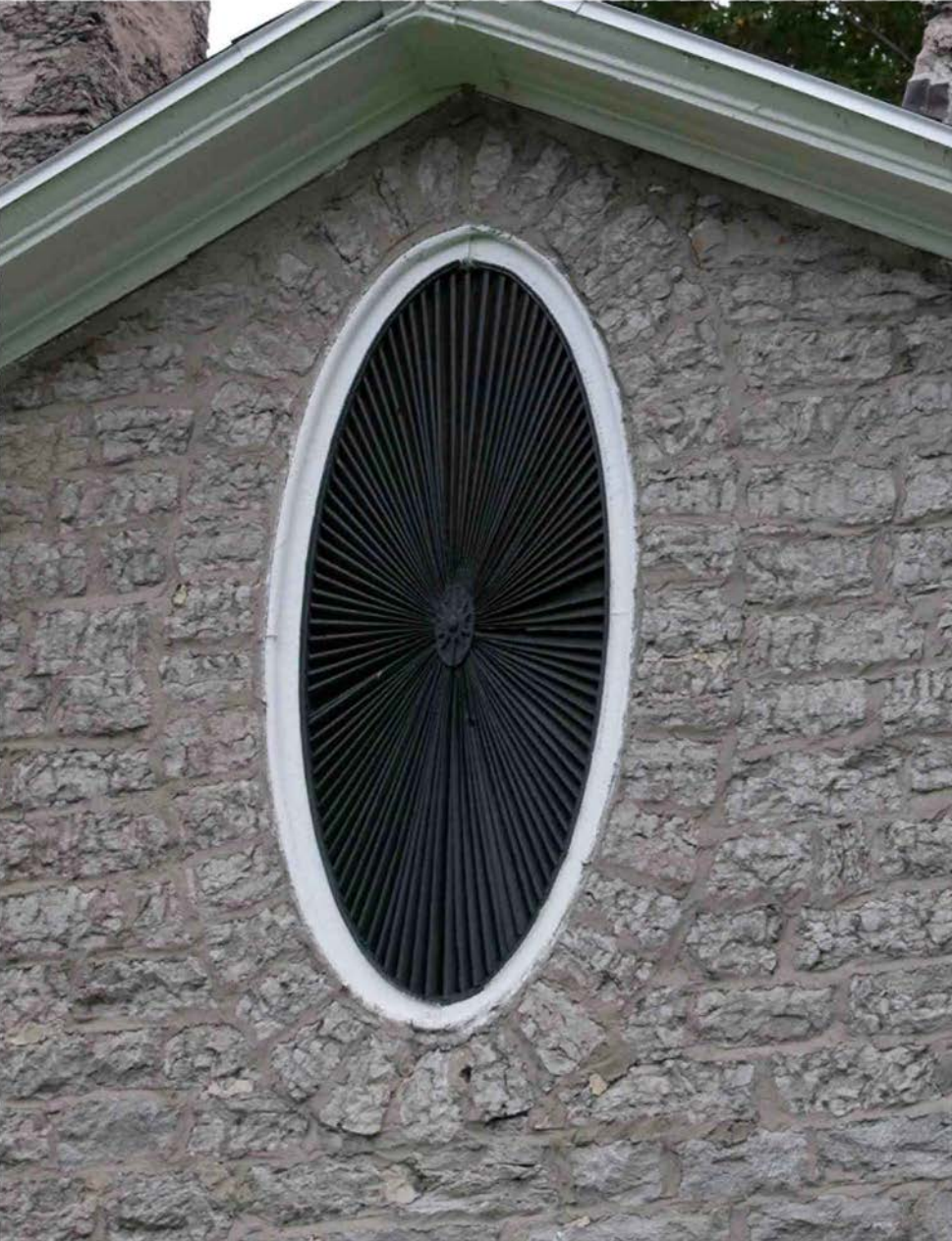
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Norton--Burnham House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 1/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/09/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/23/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000034

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 2-23-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Town of Henderson, NY
12105 Town Barn Road
Henderson, New York 13650
(315) 938 - 5542
www.townofhendersonny.org



Nov 12, 2015

Ms. Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Pebbles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont,

This is in response to your letter of November 2, 2015 regarding the nomination of the Nathan Burnham House, 8748 State Route 178, Henderson, NY 13650 for inclusion in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

We believe the property is an attractive and unique example of historic architecture and certainly deserves consideration for inclusion in those registers. The Town of Henderson is fully supportive of this endeavor.

Thank you for the opportunity to give an opinion in this process.

Sincerely,

John Culkin
Town Supervisor



**Henderson Historical Society
P.O. Box 322
Henderson, N.Y. 13650-0221**



November 19, 2015

**Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, N.Y. 12188-0189**

Deputy Commissioner Pierpont:

The Henderson Historical Society and the Henderson Town Historian support the inclusion of the Nathan Burnham House at 8748 State Route 178, Henderson, Jefferson County, on the National and State Registers of Historic Preservation, without reservation.

The society's members approved this endorsement without dissension at the monthly meeting Nov. 16, 2015. The society assisted the property owners with research for their application. We believe the property merits inclusion based on criteria B and C.

Sincerely,

**Eric C. Anderson
Henderson Town Historian & Henderson Historical Society trustee
P.O. Box 40
Henderson, N.Y. 13650
(315) 955-2800**



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JAN 08 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

30 December 2015

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following six nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Master Building, New York County
B&B Carousel, Kings County
1964-1965 New York World's Fair Carousel, Queens County
Johannes Lawyer Jr. House, Schoharie County
Whiffen-Ribat Building, Oneida County
Norton-Burnham House, Jefferson County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Happy New Year from the New York SHPO!

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office