National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received AUG 1 6 1985 date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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7. Description			
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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The historic resources of the town of Cape Vincent were identified by a comprehensive survey/inventory compiled between 1980 and 1984 by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission with the consultation of the New York State Historic Preservation Office staff. All properties included in the nomination were recorded on New York State building/structure inventory forms and systematically evaluated against the National Register criteria for their architectural and/or historical significance.

The multiple resource area includes all properties within the corporate limits of the town of Cape Vincent whose architectural or historical significance can be determined from currently available information. Other properties and districts may be added to the nomination in the future should additional information substantiate their significance. One property within the multiple resource area, the Stone House (on Broadway in the village of Cape Vincent) was listed on the National Register in 1973.

The twenty-seven components of the Cape Vincent Multiple Resource Area contain a total of seventy-eight contributing features, reflecting the historical development of Cape Vincent from 1815 to c1930. The components of the nomination include the Broadway Historic District, containing a total of seven contributing features, and twenty-six individual properties, containing a total of seventy-one contributing features. The seventy-eight historic features of the multiple resource area are divided as follows: sixty-six buildings, ten structures, two objects (see also individual inventory forms). The individual properties include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and religious buildings. All of the individual properties, except for ten farms and one church, are located in the village of Cape Vincent in areas which lack sufficient integrity to warrant nomination as historic districts.

The largest component of the multiple resource area, the Broadway Historic District, encompasses 22 acres of the historic grand-scale residential area on the St. Lawrence River at the west edge of the village of Cape Vincent. It includes three large Neoclassical style residences in limestone, wood and brick; two vernacular wood frame residences which were originally used as service buildings, and two contributing early twentieth century outbuildings. Built between 1815-c1930, the buildings in the historic district remain substantially intact, exhibit a high level of craftsmanship and are complementary in style and scale.

The twenty-six individual properties in the multiple resource area, built between 1815-c1930, represent the early nineteenth century settlement and agricultural development and the late nineteenth century commercial expansion of Cape Vincent. They represent the vernacular building tradition of the region and a broad range of popular nineteenth-century architectural styles, including Federal, Neoclassical, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Colonial Revival. Constructed of limestone, wood or brick, the individual properties possess integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of their type, style, period and/or method of construction. They are outstanding examples or the most intact representative examples of their types.

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

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CAPE VINCENT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

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The town of Cape Vincent is located where Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River meet, in the northwestern corner of Jefferson County, New York. Inland it is bounded by the towns of Clayton, to the east, and Lyme, to the south. The long shoreline is the primary natural attraction in the town. The land, which is low and rolling, rises gradually to the southeast. It is generally open, with pasture, cultivated fields and abandoned cropland, interspersed with wetlands, mixed hardwood forest and stands of conifers.

Underlying the area is Ordovician Limestone which is the primary building material in thirteen buildings included in this nomination and as foundation material in others.

The town of Cape Vincent has a population of 1,823. Development is concentrated in the village of Cape Vincent, the hamlets of Millens Bay, Rosiere and St. Lawrence, and in a narrow strip along the shoreline where State Route 12E parallels the river. Most of this shoreline development consists of summer homes. During the summer season, summer residents double the population of the town and contribute significantly to the local economy. Inland, most of the population is dispersed on small family farmsteads located on a web of two-lane county roads. Farming is the other primary component of the local economy. The Broadway Historic District and fifteen of the individual components are located in the village of Cape Vincent, and the remaining eleven individual components are located in hamlets and throughout the rural areas of the town.

The town is linked to population centers to the south by State Route 12E which turns east in the center of the village of Cape Vincent and follows the river. The village is also the point of departure for the ferry to Wolfe Island, the only remaining St. Lawrence River ferry between the United States and Canada.

The village of Cape Vincent has one small commercial area, parallel to the river on Route 12E (Broadway). Five individual properties in this area were identified for nomination. The Broadway Historic District and three individual components are located on the river near the commercial area. Seven individual components are located in the residential area south of the commercial center, which is characterized by detached single family homes of various styles and periods on small lots. Despite an occasional mobile home, new building or unsympathetic alteration to an old structure, the village retains its nineteenth century pattern of development and atmosphere. However, except in the Broadway Historic District, the village lacks cohesive spatial groupings of historic resources necessary for historic districts.

The St. Lawrence River, which provided transportation to the densely forested area, as well as the promise of trade with established settlements nearby in Canada, was the primary determinant of the pattern of settlement. Early settlers located on the river banks, and later settlers moved inland to farm. Ten nominated properties are located in the rural areas of the town, surrounded by small dairy farms with cultivated cropland, pasture or inactive farmland partitioned by hedgerows. One nominated property is located in the hamlet of Millens Bay where small summer homes cluster around a natural bay.

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In 1815 James LeRay had the Stone House built for his son Vincent. This house, a two-story, Georgian style limestone building, was listed on the National Register in 1973. It is the oldest intact building in the multiple resource area and the centerpiece of the Broadway Historic District.

The earliest individual components in this nomination include the <u>Jean Philippe Galband du Fort House</u> (1818) and the <u>John Borland House</u> (1818-1828). Both are vernacular one and one-half story frame structures located in the village of Cape Vincent. The du Fort House features two gabled wings joined with a hyphen. The south wing was added pre-1854. The Borland House has a full facade open porch and a Federal style doorway with pilasters and sidelights.

Another early (1820) building in the village of Cape Vincent, the Otis Starkey House is a two-story frame Federal style residence with a blind arcade and modillions on the front-gable cornice. This is the only Federal style building in the nomination and exhibits excellent craftsmanship in its detailing.

The nomination also contains ten limestone farmhouses in the town of Cape Vincent, built between 1830 and 1855. They represent the best of the vernacular house building tradition in the town and are distinguished by simple rectangular massing, symmetrical three- or five-bay facades with central entries, and the use of indigenous limestone, which is characteristic of the rural areas of the town. Eight of these houses, Warren Wilson House (1830's), Capt. Louis Peugnet House (1837-1843), George Reynolds House (1837), the Reuter Dyer House (1839), the Nicholas Cocaigne House (1839), the Johnson House (1840), the Remy Dezengremel House (1850's), and the Joseph Docteur House (1850) have a one and one-half story, gabled three- or five-bay main block with a central doorway, and except for Capt. Louis Peugnet House, a one-story wing. Two of these buildings have a different plan. The Xavier Chevalier House (1852) is a one and one-half story L-shaped residence with a front gabled entry. The Claude Vautrin House (1855) is a two-story square building with a hipped roof.

Each building has distinctive details reflecting local adaptations and building techniques. The <u>Warren Wilson House</u> (1830's) has rubble walls, limestone lintels and sills and rustic quoins. The <u>Capt. Louis Peugnet House</u> (1837) has a flared roof, open porch and casement windows characteristic of French Colonial architecture and a Greek Revival style entrance. The <u>Reuter Dyer House</u> (1839) also has an open porch, Greek Revival style entry and flat-arched lintels.

The George Reynolds House (1837) has a watertable of square blocks and irregular quoining. The Nicholas Cocaigne House (1830) has a successful addition of a cross gable and pedimented porch, supported by columns. The Johnson House (1840) has finely dressed limestone, a belt course over the top of the windows and a smooth stone arch over the main door. The Remy Dezengremel House (1850) has a recessed front door with transom and sidelights, and a central chimney.

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All of the limestone farmhouses are set in the rural areas of the town. All except Capt, Louis Peugnet House and George Reynolds House have some agricultural outbuildings including nineteenth-century barns and limestone smokehouses or corncribs and are surrounded by cropland, pasture or inactive farm land, consistent with their original agricultural character. Some of these houses are within sight of each other; however, none form a cohesive grouping without the intrusion of altered or non-historic structures.

Three architecturally significant church buildings (all individual components) are included in this nomination; St. John's Episcopal Church (1841), St. Vincent of Paul Catholic Church (1858), and Union Meeting House (1869). St. John's is a one-story frame Greek Revival style church with a tall three-tiered entry tower with a steeple and a pedimented facade. St. Vincent of Paul is a Gothic style church built of finely dressed limestone with pointed-arched windows and doors. Both churches are located in residential areas of the village of Cape Vincent. The Union Meeting House is a simple vernacular clapboard church with a roof top steeple, a double door with fanlight and round-arched windows. Located in the hamlet of Millen Bay, it serves a rural population.

The residential areas of the village of Cape Vincent expanded in the era of commercial prosperity in the mid to late nineteenth century. Five residences from this era (all individual components) in a variety of romantic styles, are included in this nomination. They include the <u>James Buckley House</u> (1845), a Gothic Revival style house with board and batten siding and decorative braces in the gable apex. The <u>Erastus K. Burnham House</u> (1870) is an example of the Italianate style, with its two-story square block, shallow hipped roof with decorative brackets and central belvedere. The <u>General Sacket House</u> (1872) is a two and one-half story Second Empire style house with a mansard roof and round-headed dormers. The <u>Lewis House</u> (1875) is a modest eclectic one and one-half story gabled house, with a three and one-half story mansard-roof tower. The <u>Cornelius Sacket House</u> (1900) is a two-story Colonial Revival style house with a gambrel roof and wrap-around porch.

During the same period, a commercial area developed along Broadway. The four-story limestone <u>Duvillard Mill</u> (1856) (individual component) is a vernacular building with Stick style multi-gabled porch, decorative finials and gable trusses. Three Italianate style commercial buildings (all individual components), the <u>Aubertine Building</u> (1880's), <u>Levi Anthony Building</u> (1884) and the <u>Glen Building</u> (1887) are the best examples of Cape Vincent's commercial architecture that survive from this era. The Aubertine Building is a three-story wood building with a large molded cornice, which has ground floor storefronts and a second story theater. The Levi Anthony Building is a three-story brick building with ground floor storefronts, decorative cornice and pointed window crowns. The Glen Building is a small-scale two-story commercial and residential building with a storefront with original hand-pressed glass and decorative lacework and brackets on the cornice.

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The Roxy Hotel (1894) is a prominent three-story brick building located in the center of the village of Cape Vincent. It features modest turn-of-the-century design with arched windows and doors on the ground floor, segmental-arched windows on upper floors and a restrained brickwork pattern on its frieze.

The <u>Broadway Historic District</u> is a cohesive group of three neighboring estates built between 1815 and 1840 on the St. Lawrence River on the west edge of the village of Cape Vincent. It includes: the Stone House (1815); two Greek Revival style mansions; Beechwood (1840) and Maple Grove (1838); two houses which were Stone House service buildings, the Servants Quarters (1820) and Bragden House (1840); and two contributing outbuildings on the original Stone House property. The high-style and grand scale of the three large residences in the district reflect the wealth and prominence of their original French owners.

A complete list of nominated properties follows. Additional detailed information concerning all properties included in the multiple resource nomination is enclosed on the New York State building/structure inventory forms.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art x commerce communications		J landscape architectu law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c.1815-c1930	Builder/Architect V	arious	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cape Vincent Multiple Resource Area contains a significant collection of intact architectural and historic resources representing the settlement and development of the town of Cape Vincent as an agrarian community and St. Lawrence River port from 1815-c1930. The twenty-six individual properties and one historic district constitute a building inventory of the most intact and significant surviving examples of nineteenth-century residential, agricultural, religious, commercial; and industrial building types in the The nominated properties include representative examples of the regional vernacular building tradition, most employing indigenous limestone as the primary building material; intact surviving farm complexes with original agricultural outbuildings and farmland; and distinctive regional examples of Georgian, French Colonial, Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Colonial Revival design. architectural heritage of the town of Cape Vincent reflects its settlement by American pioneers and prominent French immigrants, the continuity and increasing refinement of vermagular masonry building traditions and the development of agriculture and mercantile prosperity. Cape Vincent has seen little, if any, twentieth-century growth. Its historic resources retain integrity of both architecture and setting, reflecting the nineteenth and early twentieth century development of this rural community.

Cape Vincent was originally a heavily forested area, used by Iroquois for hunting expeditions. In the seventeenth century, when French explorers, traders, trappers and missionaries were travelling the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley, two missionaries, Fathers Dablon and Chaumont, arrived to work with the Indians. The French, primarily traders, did establish settlements and farms, but only on the north side of the river, where they enjoyed peace with the Huron Indians.

When settlement began in Cape Vincent, the St. Lawrence had been a trade route for almost 200 years, and there were well established markets in Canada. Development of Cape Vincent was promoted by James LeRay deChaumont to capitalize on the commercial potential of his extensive land holdings in the area. LeRay, a French aristocrat, came to the area because of his father's support for the American Revolution. James Donatien LeRay deChaumont made substantial donations of equiptment to LaFayette's army, sent a shipment of gunpowder to Boston and outfitted a squadron of John Paul Jones's ships. He also befriended Benjamin Franklin and provided a house in France for his use. After the war, in 1785, when it became evident that LeRay's American business transactions required personal attention, he sent his twenty-five year old son, James, to New York. During the next five years, New York Governor Morris persuaded James to invest in wilderness lands in onorthern New York.

James, through his agent Jacob Brown, sent Abijah Putnam to the area in 1801. Putnam founded both the short-lived Port Putnam, west of the village of Cape Vincent, and the first ferry to Canada. In 1808 LeRay built a land office in the village and offered small parcels for sale in order to promote settlement. In 1809 the few settlers at Port Putnam moved to Cape Vincent where Eber Kelsey and his men had cleared land, built a wharf and public buildings and started lumbering. Their first export was potash made from wood ashes and used in making glass and gunpowder.

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CAPE VINCENT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK

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With the War of 1812, trade with Canada was disrupted and the British posed an immediate threat. At the time only six families resided in the town of Cape Vincent. Following the conclusion of the war and peace with the Indians, James LeRay put his son Vincent in charge of the land office and built the Stone House (1815) overlooking the St. Lawrence River, in the village of Cape Vincent. The first road (now Route 12E) was constructed to Watertown (1816) and the headquarters of the U.S. Customs District was located in Cape Vincent (1818), making it the chief port in Jefferson County. As a result both settlement and trade increased.

Many of the early settlers were American pioneers moving west from an already welldeveloped New England. In addition, in 1818-1820, James LeRay attracted a group of prominent French Bonapartistes to Cape Vincent, following Napoleon's political downfall. These men developed a plan to rescue Napoleon from exile and bring him to Cape Vincent. However, Napoleon's death in 1821 put an end to the plan. Although some of these Bonapartistes returned to France in the 1830's, several remained as prominent citizens of Cape Vincent.

The Broadway Historic District in the village of Cape Vincent (1815-1840) is the highstyle residential area associated with the wealthy and prominent French families. earliest building in the historic district is Vincent LeRay's Stone House (1815) (National Register listed), an outstanding example of high-style Georgian architecture and masonry craftsmanship in indigenous limestone, which recalls the wealth and influence of the LeRay family. The Broadway Historic District also includes two distinguished Greek Revival style residences, Maple Grove (1838) and Beechwood (1840). Two buildings originally constructed as service buildings for the Stone House, the Servants Quarters (1820) and Bragden House (1840) also contribute to the streetscape of the district. The Servants Quarters exhibits the French Colonial style, recalling the French heritage of its builders. The district also includes two contributing early twentieth century outbuildings from the Stone House property, the stable and gazebo.

Other historic resources that represent Cape Vincent's settlement period include the Jean Philippe Galband du Fort House (1818-1821) (individual component). It is a vernacular frame residence which is distinguised by its intact high-style interior furnishings and decoration installed by its original owner, a knight under Napoleon. Another resource that recalls Cape Vincent's French immigrant settlers is the Capt. Louis Peugnet House (1837-1843), a vernacular limestone farmhouse, featuring an open flared roof porch, reflecting the influence of the French Colonial style and a doorway with engaged pilasters and sidelights, reflecting the influence of the Greek Revival style. Located in the town of Cape Vincent, it was built by one of Napoleon's bodyguards.

Other historic resources from the period located in the village of Cape Vincent reflect the migration of American pioneers. The John Borland House (1818-1828) (individual component) is significant as a rare surviving example of a residence with Federal style details. The Otis Starkey House (1820) (individual component) is significant as a rare example of high-style Federal period residential architecture in the town, reflecting the prosperity of its owner, Cape Vincent's first banker.

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The agricultural development of the rural areas of the town increased in the 1830's with the continuing arrival of American pioneers moving west and a new wave of immigrants from France and Germany. These settlers adopted a simple vernacular one and one-half story, three- or five-bay farmhouse with a gable roof, a central entry and a side wing. This building form is typical of farmhouses in both wood and indigenous limestone throughout the town and is displayed in eight of the ten nominated stone farmhouses.

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Indigenous limestone is an important building element in the area and the primary material in thirteen buildings in the nomination: the Stone House (1815) in the Broadway Historic District, the Duvillard Mill (1856), St. Vincent of Paul Church (1858) and all ten farmhouses (1830-1855). With the exception of the Stone House, which features highly skilled craftsmanship, the other stone buildings show a pattern of refinement of local craftsmanship over time and illustrate the evolution of the town's vernacular residential architecture through the period of significance. The early farmhouses, such as Warren Wilson House (1830) and George Reynolds House (1837) feature uncoursed rubble construction, while the later houses, such as the Joseph Docteur House (c. 1850) and the Claude Vautrin House (1855) feature regular coursed square-cut stone. Each farmhouse is distHinguished by restrained detail such as the ashlar belt course with an elliptical arched block over the door in the Johnson House (1840), or the Greek Revival style doorway in the Remy Dezengremel House (c. $\overline{1850}$). The wide molded cornice and front gable entry in the Xavier Chevalier House (1852) shows the influence of the Greek Revival style. The hipped roof and square two-story massing of the Claude Vautrin House (1855) shows the influence of the Italianate style. The ten nominated farmhouses, which retain their historic settings, many with original acreage and outbuildings

also recall the agricultural heritage of the town.

Both French and American settlers established religious organizations, with circuitriding clergy, from the earliest settlement. By the mid-nineteenth century the frame Neoclassical style St. John's Episcopal Church (1841) and the stone Gothic Revival style St. Vincent of Paul Catholic Church (1858) were constructed in the village of Cape The St. John's Episcopal Church is built in the New England meeting house tradition and reflects the New England origins of its founders. St. Vincent of Paul Catholic Church, associated with the community of French emigrés, is the only limestone church building in the town. The Union Meeting House (1869) was constructed in the hamlet of Millens Bay as a circuit church for Episcopal and Methodist congregations who shared expenses and met on alternate Sundays. The Union Meeting House is an outstanding intact example of simple vernacular church architecture. These three buildings are significant for their architectural integrity and their central roles in their communities.

The development of the village of Cape Vincent was modest before the advent of the railroad in 1853. The James Buckley House (1841) (individual component) is one of few residences in the village which survive from this period. A Gothic Cottage style residence, it is the earliest example of a picturesque style residence in the town.

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The period from 1853 to the end of the nineteenth century was an era of unprecendented prosperity, stimulated by the advent of the Rome-Watertown railroad (1853). Cape Vincent was a busy international port where cargo was transferred between steamboats and railway cars, providing a key link in a new trade route between the midwest, Canada and the transported to markets. The railroad also made Cape Vincent more accessible to tourists and sportsmen. At the same time, local businesses engaged in the and sportsmen., At the same time, local businesses engaged in the processing and packaging of agricultural products, including two large seed houses, a grain elevator, a grist mill, a cheese factory and a brewery, were established. The Duvillard Mill (1856) (individual component), built to house a steam powered grist mill, is the only surviving building from this period of industrial development and the largest vernacular stone building in the town. Its later application of Stick style decoration reflects its late nineteenth century use as a shingle mill.

The boom in shipping stimulated the development of the commercial center of the village. Mercantile enterprises, including stores, hotels and saloons flourished in the commercial district on Broadway, serving the influx of sailors, workers and teamsters, as well as tourists and local farmers. Local entrepreneurs, like Levi Anthony, built large multipurpose commercial structures. Two such Italianate style commercial buildings survive from this period. The frame Aubertine Building (1880's) and the brick Levi Anthony Building (1884), three-story buildings with street level stores, reflect the commercial prosperity of the late nineteenth century in their size and highly decorative cornices and window crowns. The Aubertine Building housed the only theater in the town. Levi Anthony Building housed the U.S. Customs Office. Both probably had residential space on the upper floors.

In contrast to the large multiple-use commercial buildings, the Italianate style Glen Building (c. 1887), a small two-story frame Italianate style building is an owneroccupied combination family home and store from this period, reflecting the range of commercial development in the village.

The Roxy Hotel (1894) is the only surviving nineteenth century hotel building in the village of Cape Vincent, reflecting the commercial prosperity of the period and the need to rebuild after a fire (1894) devastated seven buildings on Broadway in the center of the commercial district.

Residences in the village, which reflect the late nineteenth century prosperity in Cape Vincent include the Erastus K. Burnham House (1870) and the Lewis House (1875). The Burnham House is a significant example of Italianate style residential architecture reflecting in its high-style details, the wealth and prominence of the owner of Cape Vincent's only grain elevator. The Lewis House is a more modest example of Victorian-period eclectic residential architecture with a fanciful Second Empire style tower.

Two distinguished high-style residential properties in the village survive from one of Cape Vincent's oldest and wealthest families. The General Sacket House (1872) is significant as an outstanding example of the Second Empire style and reflects the national prominence of Brigadier General Delos B. Sacket, who served in the U.S. Army



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in the Mexican War and the Civil War. The <u>Cornelius Sacket House</u> (1900), owned by the general's son, is significant as an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style, displaying a wealth of refined detail and craftsmanship. Its location on the St. Lawrence River, with a boathouse and dock, reflect the increasing importance of recreational use of the river in the late nineteenth century.

The historic resources of Cape Vincent Multiple Resource Area represent the two major phases of development of the town, the early to mid-nineteenth century settlement and agrarian development of the town and the late nineteenth century growth of commerce. Subsequent development has produced only minor changes in the historic fabric of the community, with most historic resources remaining in use, in settings appropriate to their historic functions, continuing to serve as integral elements of the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

10. Geogra	phical Data		
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2. State Hi	storic Prese	ervation	Officer Certification
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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l .	Anthony, Levi, Building	Substantive Review	Keeper	Muchan Non 1.9/2
2.	Aubertine Building	Entered in the National Register	Attest	Actor Byun 9/27
3.	Borland, John, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest Keeper Attest	Autonof Byun 1/20
ŀ.	Broadway Historic Distr	ict Substantive Revie	3	Brue for Dough 9/21/8
5 .	Buckley, James, House	Matered in Whistor	Attest	Allow Byen Eps,
i.	Burnham, E.K., House	Entered in the \ National Regists:		Show Byen 9/20
•	Chevalier, Xavier, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest Keeper	Stelone Byen 9/2
•	Cocaigne, Nicholas, Hous	se Entered in the National Registe	Attest Keeper	Delous Byen 1/27
•	Dezengremel, Remy, House		Attest Keeper	Alouis Byun 4/27
0.	Docteur, Joseph, House	In verse.	Attest Keeper	Delous Byen 8/211

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12. Dyer, Reuter, House	Entered The Colonial Mathons J. 1887 11703	Attest Keeper Attest	Alone Byen 9/21/8
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15. Glen Building	Entered in the	√ Keeper	Selone Byun 4/27/
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