

56-2082



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 Kingston City Almshouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

name of related multiple property listing N/A

### Location

street & number 300 Flatbush Avenue

city or town Kingston

state NY

code NY

county Ulster

code 111

zip code 12401

not for publication

vicinity

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 X local

Ryan Daniel King  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/14/17  
Date

DSHPO  
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:

X 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:)

Allyis Albrook  
Signature of the Keeper

2-2-18  
Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

HEALTH CARE / Sanitarium

HEALTH CARE / Hospital

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT / Not in Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick (painted)

walls: Brick (painted)

roof: Asphalt

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Kingston City Almshouse complex is located toward the north border of the City of Kingston, at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and NY Route 9-West. The area immediately surrounding the site is characterized by subdivisions of single-family homes interspersed with wooded areas. The site abuts a wooded area and a group of low-rise housing developments and single-family homes to the west. To the east, across Flatbush Avenue, is a subdivision of single-family homes and a commercial property. Across Route-9 to the north is a gas station and a storage unit facility.

The complex is located on a roughly 15-acre site and includes the main almshouse building and four accessory structures: a laundry house, a barn, a stone cottage, and a brick office. The main almshouse building is situated on a slight rise facing Flatbush Avenue. The accessory structures are located to the north of the almshouse building and are not visible from Flatbush Avenue. Two stone pillars frame an asphalt drive which accesses the site from Flatbush Avenue. The drive loops around the almshouse building. There are four parking areas which are accessed by the drive, two small areas located adjacent to the almshouse, and two large lots located to the north of the almshouse. All of the buildings on the site are contributing.

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### Narrative Description

#### *Almshouse Building, 1874*

**Structure:** The Kingston Almshouse has brick load-bearing walls with a central three-story, five-bay-wide block, flanked by two-story, five-bay wide wings to the east and west which are angled toward the central block. The building has a subterranean ground floor but does not contain a basement. Attic spaces are located above the east and west wings. The building has a pitched roof with modern membrane roofing material that is not visible from the street. The roof also houses modern telecommunications equipment, including a tall antenna. A brick elevator shaft is located centrally at the north elevation.

**Exterior:** The building's massing forms a modified U-shape. All elevations are painted brick with ornamental millwork, characteristic of the Italianate style. All window openings at the primary elevation contain painted stone sills, and corbelled brick arches. The windows are modern vinyl units with internal muntins. The primary, south elevation and the east and west elevations front on Flatbush Avenue.

The façade (south elevation) is composed of the central three-story block, flanked by the two-story east and west wings. The partially subterranean ground floor is separated from the upper floors by a stone course and is painted in a darker color than the upper floors. The central block is five bays wide and features a central painted wood porch with ornamental columns and a bracketed cornice, accessible by painted masonry steps with a modern iron railing. A single lantern hangs from the porch ceiling. The steps are flanked by two masonry pillars. The primary entrance features a modern nine-light paneled door set in an arched wood surround. Rectangular inset panels of corbelled brick are located beneath the windows at the first floor. The second and third floors of the main block are also five bays wide and fenestrated by modern four-over-four vinyl windows in paired arrangements. Both floors contain a central tripartite arrangement of windows with the third floor containing a pair flanked by single windows. The windows at the third floor are shorter than those at the first and second

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floors. The partially subterranean ground floor contains two sets of paired windows which flank the central stair. The roofline above the third floor is pitched.

The west wing of the south elevation is two stories in height and is five bays wide. Floors one and two contain central paired windows, flanked by single windows. Like the central block, rectangular inset panels of corbelled brick are located beneath the windows at the first floor. The ground floor, which is painted in a darker color than the upper floors, is separated from the first floor by a painted stone course. The ground floor follows a similar fenestration pattern, but contains smaller windows than the upper floors. The roofline above the second floor is pitched. The east wing of the south elevation is identical to the west wing, except that the window openings in the easternmost bay are infilled with brick.

The east elevation is similar in design to the east wing of the south elevation: five bays wide with central paired windows at the first and second floors flanked by two windows. Like the south elevation, a stone course separates the ground floor from the first floor. The ground floor follows a similar fenestration pattern, but contains shorter windows than the upper floors and a single window in the central bay. The roofline above the first floor is pitched.

The north elevation, like the south elevation, is composed of a five-bay-wide central block with east and west wings. A painted brick elevator shaft, which rises a half-story over the roofline, is situated in the center of the elevation. The shaft contains an entrance at grade which features a modern metal single-paneled door, topped by a utilitarian painted metal awning. A secondary entrance is located directly to the west in a single-story painted brick addition to the tower. The secondary entrance also contains a modern metal single-paneled door. Two stair towers rise a quarter-story above the roofline and are located at the east and west wings adjacent to the center block. Each stair tower contains an entrance at grade with modern metal single-paneled doors. The center block is five bays wide, divided by the center elevator shaft, which projects from the building plane. Floors 1-3 contain two sets of paired windows which flank the elevator shaft. Windows at the third floor are smaller than those at floors 1 and 2. The ground floor is separated from the first floor by a painted stone course. The east section of the ground floor contains two sets of paired windows. The west section is identical, but the easternmost window is concealed by the one-story section of the elevator shaft. The roofline above this section of the elevation is pitched but is obscured from view in the center by the elevator shaft.

The east wing of the north elevation is composed of two sections: one is one bay wide, on the same building plane with the center block, and the other, located to the east of the center block, contains the stair tower and angles away from the center block. The section adjacent to the center block contains a single-story projection at the first floor, clad in clapboard, and is lit by a window at the first and second floors. The second and third floors contain two half-height windows. The ground floor contains a single window. The second section contains the stair tower, which has single windows at floors one and three. An entrance to the stair tower is located at grade and features a modern metal single-paneled door. Two additional windows are located at the west side of the stair tower on floors two and three. The roofline above this section of the elevation is flat. The remaining portion of the elevation is two-stories in height, with a central pair of narrow windows flanked by two windows on floors one and two. The ground floor is separated from the first floor by a painted stone course and contains four windows. The roofline above this section of the elevation is pitched.

The west wing of the north elevation is similar to the east wing. This section of the elevation is also composed of two sections: one is one bay wide, on the same building plane with the center block, and the other, located to the west of the center block contains the stair tower and angled away from the center block. The section on the building plan with the center block contains a two-story projection at floors one and two. Floors one and two are



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clad with clapboard, while the ground floor is painted brick. All floors of this bay contain a single window; the first floor contains an additional window. The second section contains the stair tower, which has single windows at floors one to three. An entrance to the stair tower is located at grade and features an arched painted wood paneled nine-light door topped by a utilitarian wood awning. One additional window is located at the east side of the stair tower at the third floor. The roofline above this section of the elevation is flat. The remaining portion of the elevation is two-stories in height, with a central pair of windows flanked by single windows on floors one and two. The ground floor is separated from the first floor by a painted stone course and contains a central pair of windows, flanked by two windows. The south window opening is partially infilled with masonry and stucco. The roofline above this section of the elevation is pitched.

The west elevation is similar to the east elevation, but contains a central entrance bay. The elevation is four bays wide, distinguished by a central painted wood porch with ornamental columns and a bracketed cornice, accessible by painted brick steps with stone treads and modern iron railings. The primary entrance at the first floor features a modern nine-light wood door set in an arched wood surround. The entrance bay is flanked by a tripartite window to the south and a single window to the north. The northernmost bay contains one window opening infilled with painted brick. The second floor is nearly identical to the first floor but contains a pair of windows in the central bay. The ground floor is separated from the first floor by a painted stone course. A secondary entrance is located at grade beneath the masonry stair. The entrance features a modern wood paneled four-light door with an exterior modern metal screen door.

**Interior:** The almshouse is divided into a central block which connects to an east and a west wing. The almshouse building is accessible at the south and west elevations on the first floor and at the north and west elevations on the ground floor. A double-loaded corridor which connects the central block, east wing, and west wing is located on each floor. An elevator lobby is located centrally at the north side of each corridor.

On the first floor, the double-loaded corridor accesses a series of rooms located to the north and south. The corridor features carpet floors, modern vinyl baseboard, gypsum board walls, and dropped acoustic tile ceilings. The rooms contain a variety of contemporary finishes including carpet floors, modern vinyl baseboard, modern wood paneled walls, and gypsum board walls. There are suspended acoustic tile ceilings throughout, which drop below window heads in some locations. There are limited areas of plaster at the exterior walls, and wood window trim, reflecting various styles. The corridor also provides access to the east and west stairs. Both stairs are metal; the stair halls have plaster walls, wood hand rails, slate treads, and ornamental metal newel posts and railings. In addition to the stairs, the upper floors are accessible by a modern elevator.

The second floor is similar in plan to the first floor and features two plaster archways in the corridor at the east and west wings. The corridor features carpet floors, wood baseboard, plaster and gypsum board walls, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings. The rooms accessible by the corridor contain a variety of finishes including carpet floors, wood baseboard, and a combination of gypsum board and plaster walls. There are suspended acoustic tile ceilings throughout, which drop below window heads in some locations. There are limited areas of plaster at the exterior walls, wood window trim and paneling, and wood door trim. The millwork reflects various styles.

The third floor is composed of the center block of the building, with unfinished attic spaces at the east and west wings. The corridor is finished with wood flooring, wood baseboard, plaster walls, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings. The rooms accessible by the corridor feature a variety of finishes including carpet floors, wood baseboard, and plaster walls. There are suspended acoustic ceilings throughout, which drop below window

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heads in some locations. Access to the attic and roof is provided by a utilitarian fold-up stair located within the ceiling of the elevator lobby.

The building contains a partially subterranean ground floor with a double-loaded corridor which accesses a series of rooms located to the north and south. The corridor features vinyl tile floors, painted wood baseboard, plaster walls, and acoustic ceiling tiles. There are dropped acoustic ceiling tiles throughout, which drop below window heads in some locations. There are limited areas of plaster at the exterior walls, and wood window trim and panels.

### *Stone Cottage, c. 1916*

**Exterior:** This one-story stone cottage, located at the western edge of the site, was formerly used by the Kingston City Almshouse either as isolation quarters for the sick or as a supportive structure to the barn or stables. The building is rectangular in form, with a gabled standing-seam metal roof. All window openings contain brick arches and trim with stone sills. No architect has been identified for the building.

The façade (east elevation) has a central pedestrian door within a modern metal overhead door, flanked by two six-over-six wood windows with iron security bars. A date stone, which dates the building to 1916, is located over the opening. A modern single-light window is positioned in the gable of the roof.

The north and south elevations are identical and are lit by four window openings. The windows at the north elevation are boarded, but the south elevation has historic wood windows. The west elevation features a central stone chimney, which rises above the roofline, flanked by boarded window openings at the first floor and within the gable of the roof.

**Interior:** The interior is utilitarian, unfinished, and open in plan, reflecting the building's current use as storage space. The interior features concrete floors, parged walls, and parged ceilings.

### *Laundry House, c. 1910*

**Exterior:** The laundry house is located directly to the north of the main almshouse building. The one-story building is composed of painted brick with a painted stone foundation. It is "J"-shaped with a standing seam metal roof with a monitor.

The façade (south elevation) is seven bays wide. The elevation features a central entrance with a wood paneled door topped by a simple pedimented canopy. Two sets of paired two-over-two wood windows flank the entrance. Another entrance is located in the westernmost bay and features modern double-panel wood doors. A third entrance, with a modern wood paneled door, is located in the easternmost bay. The east elevation has a single nine-light wood window in the gable of the roof.

The north elevation is six bays wide. An original entrance, located in the westernmost bay, features double paneled single-light wood doors and is accessible by a set of utilitarian wood steps. The remaining five bays contain one-over-one vinyl windows. The second westernmost window opening is filled by metal louvers. Two utilitarian wood awnings shelter mechanical equipment. The west elevation contains no fenestration and is obscured by an adjacent fenced area that houses mechanical equipment.

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**Interior:** The interior is utilitarian in character and houses mechanical and HVAC equipment for the almshouse building. The entrance leads to a central open space flanked by an office to the east and a mechanical room to the west.

### ***Barn, c. 1880***

**Exterior:** The three-story barn is located to the northwest of the almshouse. The building is rectangular in form, composed of brick. The barn is composed of two sections, the primary, original three-story brick section with a standing seam metal gabled roof and a one-story c. 1985 concrete block garage addition with a shed roof, located at the barn's south elevation.

The façade (east elevation) is four bays wide. The one-story story garage addition comprises the southernmost bay. The addition contains a modern metal overhead garage door. The first floor of the original section contains a central modern metal garage door flanked by two window bays. A stone wall intersects with the northern bay. The second floor contains three arched window openings with brick arches and stone sills. An additional arched window opening with a brick arch and stone sill is located in the gable of the roof. All windows are boarded over.

The south elevation is two bays wide with no fenestration. The first floor is composed of the 1-story concrete block addition. A fragment of the stone foundation of a former structure is incorporated into the southwest corner of the addition. The west elevation is three bays wide. Due to a change in grade, only a small section of the one-story addition is visible. Stacked double boarded and batten wood doors, located in the second and third stories, are centered on the elevation. The third-story door is capped by a stone lintel. The north elevation contains no fenestration. A metal vent is located at the east end of the first floor.

**Interior:** The interior is utilized for storage and is unfinished. The one-story addition is in use as a garage and has a concrete floor, concrete block walls, and an exposed modern wood-frame ceiling. The garage addition interior contains the remnants of stone wall encapsulated by a concrete block walls. The ceilings are unfinished with the wood framing exposed. At the ground floor, the barn has concrete and dirt floors, wood ceilings, and parged masonry walls with areas of drywall partitions. The first and second floors of the barn have wood plank floors, brick walls, and an exposed timber ceiling; a wooden staircase leads to the upper floor.

### ***Brick Office, c.1940***

**Exterior:** The brick office and garage building is located between the cottage and the barn. The two-story rectangular building is built of red brick with a gabled asphalt shingle roof. All window openings have stone sills and lintels.

The east elevation is two bays wide and contains a modern metal garage door at the first floor and a pair of one-over-one vinyl windows at the second floor. The south elevation is three bays wide and contains three wood twelve-light windows at the first floor which have been retrofitted to accommodate vents and an air conditioning unit. The second floor is lit by two wood six-light windows which have been retrofitted with vents in the western two bays. The east bay contains a vinyl one-over-one window.

The east elevation is two bays wide with no fenestration. A modern wood stair leads to a wood deck with a utilitarian wood awning. The deck accesses a central second floor entrance which contains a modern single-

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paneled wood door. The north elevation is three bays wide. On the first floor, an entrance is located at grade in the eastern bay. The entrance features a modern flush wood door. Two twelve-light steel windows are located in the western bays. Three one-over-one vinyl windows are located at the second floor.

**Interior:** The first floor of the office is an unfinished garage space with parged walls and a concrete floor. The second floor has vinyl tile floors and gypsum wall board walls and ceilings. Both floors are open in plan.

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**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1874-1947

**Significant Dates**

1874

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

John A. Wood

**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.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance spans from 1874, when the almshouse was completed, to 1947 when the complex was vacated by the City of Kingston. This includes the period of time that the complex was utilized as an almshouse by the City of Kingston.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Kingston City Almshouse, primarily constructed between 1872-1874, is significant under Criterion A in the area of social history for its association with the City of Kingston's efforts to care for the poor. While the Village of Kingston intended to establish an almshouse to care for its aging and impoverished residents, it lacked the means to do so until it merged with Rondout to become the City of Kingston. When planning for the building, Kingston's Almshouse Commission studied other almshouses in the region, as well as the publications of reformers who advocated for better facilities and living conditions at similar institutions. Located on the edge of the city, the almshouse offered housing for 150-200 people and was surrounded by a lawns and agricultural fields, which provided both meaningful work and recreation for the residents. During its early decades, the Kingston Almshouse was praised for its design, which allowed plentiful light and air, and practices, such as separating the sexes and maintaining clean, pleasant, and sanitary facilities. Kingston City Almshouse also reflects shifts in health care and social welfare practices throughout the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. While the almshouse model had begun falling out of favor decades before, the facility remained open until 1948; it was later repurposed as a county infirmary.

The complex is additionally significant under Criterion C as an intact example of Italianate architecture in the City of Kingston and representative example of the work of architect John A. Wood. Wood, a prolific mid-Hudson Valley architect during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, began his career in Kingston during the early 1860s. Wood became known for his religious, hotel, and institutional designs, and he had already designed Poughkeepsie's almshouse by the time he was commissioned for a similar project by Kingston in 1872. Wood's design for the Kingston Almshouse offered a tripartite design with simple, but bold, Italianate details including bracketed porches, window hoods, a decorative cornice, and shallow gables emerging from flat roofs. The building's minimal design, which is largely characterized by its fenestration, reflects the architect's interest in maximizing its functionality and keeping costs down for a municipal client while still creating a building that would be attractive to both its residents and members of the community. In addition to the main almshouse building, the complex is notable for retaining many of its accessory buildings, including the laundry house, a barn, a brick office and garage, and a stone cottage. By the late nineteenth century, variations on this campus plan were common among hospitals and almshouses. At the Kingston Almshouse, these accessory structures were necessary to the sanitary operation of the facility as well as its ability to feed and care for its patients.

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**Developmental history** (Explain the construction history or the creation of the property, and its evolution through the period of significance.)

### **The Kingston City Almshouse Building History & Site Evolution**

The history of the Kingston City Almshouse can be traced to 1872, when the neighboring villages of Kingston & Rondout merged to form the City of Kingston. At the first meeting of the newly formed Kingston Common Council, the Alms House Commission allocated \$10,000 to erect an almshouse building, the first public building constructed by the City of Kingston. Council members visited the nearby Poughkeepsie almshouse as a model for the new almshouse. Following the meeting, the council determined that the \$10,000 allocation was insufficient and requested \$25,000 in city bonds to fund the project. The council purchased a vacant 21-acre parcel on Flatbush Avenue for the new building for \$7,000; the new complex, which included the almshouse and a wood frame laundry building, cost \$23,000 to construct. An additional \$22,000 was later allocated for the

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property. The almshouse building was completed in 1874.<sup>1</sup> The Italianate building was designed by J. A. Wood, who was also known for the Vassar Brother's Institute in Poughkeepsie and the Poughkeepsie Almshouse, which served as a model for the Kingston Almshouse. Masonry work was done by local mason, Henry Otis.

During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the complex was known as the "Kingston City Home," and served Kingston's poor, providing housing and limited medical care for its inmates.<sup>2</sup> Some of the almshouse's inmates undertook farming and general tasks associated with the maintenance of the site. The complex included some farm buildings, including the barn (c. 1880) and a "hog pen," indicating that the site was a working farm run by inmates that supported the almshouse. The original wood-frame laundry building was replaced with a brick laundry house by 1910. The stone cottage was added in 1916, and the brick office building was constructed c. 1940. By 1940, the Board of Alms began transferring residents to a County-run facility in New Paltz.<sup>3</sup> The complex continued to function as an almshouse until 1948, when the enterprise was dissolved and the building was vacated.<sup>4</sup>

In 1954, Ulster County acquired the vacant building from the city, and rehabilitated the primary almshouse building to serve as the Ulster County Chronic Infirmity. This renovation was designed by architect Harry Halveston. By 1957, most of the small accessory farm buildings were demolished; the four largest accessory structures (the laundry house, barn, office, and cottage) remained in use and are still extant.<sup>5</sup> The infirmity operated in the building until new facilities were built at Golden Hill in 1973. After the infirmity vacated the building, the Ulster County Health Department renovated the building for use as offices. The Ulster County Health Department continued to use the building as offices until 2014, when the county vacated the building. In 2015, the property was transferred to the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Demonstrate each of the claims for significance made in the summary paragraph.)

## **National Register Criterion A: Social History**

### **History of Almshouses in New York State**

The history of the almshouse in New York State can be traced to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, under Dutch Colonial rule. In the state's colonial days, the poor were not granted the same rights, exemptions, and freedoms given to land holders. Throughout the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the poor were supported by charitable collections in churches, voluntary donations, and through various fines. There were no specific hospitals, almshouses, or asylums for children or old men, though there were widows' homes.<sup>6</sup> It was not until the 1650s that almshouses dedicated to the public support of the poor were established throughout the colony.<sup>7</sup> Laws passed later in the century required public support of the poor.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "City Alms House... What a Reporter Saw of Interest," *Kingston Daily Freeman*, June 2, 1880.

<sup>2</sup> The term "inmates" was historically used to describe the residents and almshouse patients

<sup>3</sup> Anthony P. Musso, "Kingston City Almshouse: A Regal Design," *Poughkeepsie Journal*, October 6, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Jane Kellar and Peter Roberts, "Preservation of the Kingston City Alms House. Comment by the Friends of Historic Kingston on the Preservation of the Kingston City Almshouse, 300 Flatbush Avenue." July 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Sanborn Map, 1957.

<sup>6</sup> Linda S. Stuhler, "A Brief History of Government Charity in New York (1603 - 1900)," Social Welfare History Project, April 17, 2017. Available at <<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/issues/brief-history-state-charity-new-york-1603-1900/>>.

<sup>7</sup> Joel Munsell, *The Annals of Albany* Vol. VII (Albany, NY: J. Munsell, 1850), 232-233.

<sup>8</sup> Edmund Bailey Callaghan, *Laws and ordinances of New Netherland, 1638-1674* (Albany: Weed, Parsons and company, 1868), 411-412; Stuhler, "A Brief History."



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When New Amsterdam was taken over by the English in 1664, the Duke of York's Laws established provisions for the care of poor. In 1691, public workhouses for the poor were established by the governor, based on models in England. These early workhouses had little regulation and essentially committed impoverished inmates to indentured servitude in the interest of the public good.

The first attempts towards reform occurred in Manhattan, where five overseers of the poor and public works were appointed in an effort to ensure better treatment of the poor. While the Dutch Colonial tradition of raising funds for the poor continued, the English colony was more conservative, with limitations to the monies raised for poor passed in 1702. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century little change or reform occurred within the workhouses, and the poor, infirm, elderly, and disabled were grouped together as one underclass dependent on the workhouse and charities. The first move towards reform came in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when the Society of the Hospital in the City of New York began to receive annual appropriations, and an act was passed for the settlement and relief of the poor (1773).

After gaining independence from the British, New York State maintained existing workhouses and almshouses, but this era marked a shift in attitudes towards and strategies for managing and caring for the poor. The idea that the poor could be confined to workhouses and hospitals in cities fell out of favor; instead, reformers advocated sending the poor from cities into the surrounding countryside and giving more authority to local governments to manage poor relief. In 1778, a commissioner was appointed to oversee the removal of poor inhabitants of New York into the countryside (including Ulster County). While the "poor" were generally referred to as paupers, various groups including the infirm, insane, elderly, sick, and disabled were categorized together into one impoverished underclass. However, able-bodied children were often separated out from the rest of poor to go into training as apprentices and servants. As the 18<sup>th</sup> century progressed, workhouses gradually fell by the wayside in favor of poorhouses.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, control of poor relief shifted to counties with An Act to Provide for the establishment of County Poorhouses, passed by the state (Chapter 331, Laws of 1824, 27 November 1824).<sup>9</sup> With authority granted to counties to create and manage poorhouses, the number of poorhouses (also referred to as almshouses and poor farms) expanded throughout the state. At the same time, new institutions were developing which catered to the needs of various impoverished groups. In 1864, Willard State Asylum, in Willard, NY, was established for the "insane pauper." Several years later, in 1871, an act was passed which authorized the Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities to approve poor counties to send inmates to Willard asylum. In 1872, the New York Soldiers Home was incorporated, which served impoverished, injured, and insane veterans. While institutions like asylums and "homes" existed statewide, poorhouses remained locally managed.

Despite moves towards reforming these institutions by separating various impoverished groups with specific needs, the reputation of the poorhouse was still bleak and conjured Dickensian images of poverty, sickness, and filth. With the advent of new institutions and an expanded system of poor relief in New York State, a wave of progressive reform followed which sought to remedy the ills of poorly managed poorhouses. In 1872, the State Charities Aid Association (SCAA), a non-profit organization, was founded to promote the awareness of abuses in the state's poorhouse system.<sup>10</sup> In its statewide advocacy the SCAA often worked closely with the New York

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<sup>9</sup> John Ordranau, "Questions Related to Poorhouses, Hospitals and Insane Asylums," (State Charities and Aid Association, 1874), 1. From Museum of disABILITY, *A Poorhouse Trilogy: Reprints from the Museum of disABILITY History collection* (Buffalo, NY: Museum of disABILITY History, 2015); Linda M. Crannell, "History of 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Poorhouses," The Poorhouse Story. Available at <<http://www.poorhousestory.com/index.htm>>

<sup>10</sup> Ordranau, "Questions Related to Poorhouses," 2.

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State Board of Charities. The state board and private agency often conducted investigations into the same issues, pushing for improvements and reform in the condition of poorhouses and care for the mentally ill across the state.<sup>11</sup> Just two years later, an act authorizing the transfer of paupers among almshouses across the state was passed by the state. The SCAA published a guidebook for members inspecting poorhouses, almshouses, and poor farms in an effort to improve the state-wide poorhouse system entitled “Questions Related to Poorhouses, Hospitals, and Insane Asylums” in 1874. However, members were not guaranteed entry into these institutions. Questions within the guidebook ranged from medical care, sanitation, diet, visitation policies, management, deaths, and production. One section of the guidebook inquired about any farms or workhouses on site, as it was a relatively common practice for poorhouses or almshouses to produce clothing, household items, bedding, food, or raw materials needed for the day to day function of the institution.<sup>12</sup>

In addition to the SCAA’s “Questions,” renowned landscape architect and progressive social activist Frederick Law Olmsted published the “Handbook for Visitors to the Poorhouse” with the SCAA. Among Olmsted’s Criteria for evaluation were physical conditions such as cleanliness, air quality & ventilation, temperature, and neatness, as well as criteria which evaluated the quality of furniture, the building(s), grounds, and amenities like libraries and burial services. In addition, the medical treatment of patients and overcrowding were principal concerns.<sup>13</sup> The concept that the poorhouses must practice economy and restraint, seen in the manufacture and production of household items, food, and raw materials on site and the labor of inmates, was partnered with the idea that certain standards of living and care must be upheld.

Chief among Olmsted and other reformers’ concerns were the intermixing and treatment of social classes. The idea that “persons of good character” could fall on hard times and end up at the mercy of the state poorhouses was all too real for some reformers. Without any other forms of social welfare, a death in the family, loss of a job, or a sickness left many otherwise financially stable and healthy households with no options other than servitude or the poorhouse. The idea that a respectable middle class or even upper class citizen could be faced with the prospect of entering a poor house was heavy on progressive reformers’ minds. Unlike earlier social welfare theories, late nineteenth century reformers began to separate groups among those who matriculated into the poorhouse, creating distinct groups with specific needs including the sick, the aged and infirm, the blind, deaf and dumb, the insane and idiotic, able bodied paupers, and children. Olmsted’s handbook also evaluated the provision of specific services and standards of care for each of these groups.<sup>14</sup> With changing ideas about social welfare and the separation of society’s poor into groups came changes to the design of the almshouse as a typology, as well as changes to standards of care for the inmates.

For the sick, the presence of infirmaries was especially important. In addition, cottages physically separated from the almshouse proper were designed to contain inmates with infectious diseases and prevent the spread of sickness. Laundry facilities that were close-by, or freestanding buildings separate from the almshouse, were also favorable, as to keep contaminated and soiled linens and clothing away from other inmates.<sup>15</sup> The poor who were designated as “able-bodied” and, therefore, capable of performing manual labor, were often employed

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<sup>11</sup> Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness, "State Charities Aid Association," in History of Poverty Homelessness in NYC. Accessed September 06, 2017. Available at: <<http://povertyhistory.org/?s=SCAA#new-york-state-charities-aid-association>>.

<sup>12</sup> Ordronaux, 18.

<sup>13</sup> Frederick Law Olmsted, “Handbook for Visitors to the Poorhouse,” (State Charities and Aid Association, 1876), 50-60. From Museum of disABILITY, *A Poorhouse Trilogy: Reprints from the Museum of disABILITY History collection* (Buffalo, NY: Museum of disABILITY History, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> Olmsted, 61-81.

<sup>15</sup> Olmsted, 61.

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within the almshouse to aid with cleaning and benchwork. Reformers aimed to restore an individual's independence from the almshouse rather than provide care like the other groups.<sup>16</sup> The awareness of class played heavily into the treatment of the aged and infirm within the almshouse. Inmates were separated by class to maintain the dignity of the once "respectable" citizens. Reformers also focused on keeping these groups entertained.<sup>17</sup>

While primitive by today's standards, an understanding of different types of psychiatric disorders emerged, designating the insane and idiotic into two classifications: the acute and the chronic. The state did provide asylums for both categories including the New York State Lunatic Asylum in Utica, the Hudson River State Hospital in Poughkeepsie, the Buffalo State Asylum for the Insane, and the State Homeopathic Asylum for the Insane in Middletown (another facility was later established in Ogdensburg) for the acute cases. The more severe "chronic" cases were sent to the Willard Asylum at Ovid. However, even with state hospitals and asylums, overcrowding remained an issue. Often, the insane were still warehoused within almshouses until openings were available in specialized institutions. Within almshouses, reformers stressed the importance of good diet, providing busy work for insane inmates and sunlight and access to the outdoors.<sup>18</sup>

Perhaps the most important reforms in social welfare thinking came with the recognition that children as a group required different resources than adults, including education and occupational training. A state law passed in 1875 effectively banned children of "sound mind and body" from entering almshouses. Alternately, children were sent to orphanages or to train for "proper" occupations. The law intended to prevent the abuse of children in almshouses and break the "hereditary cycle of pauperism" which plagued children born into poverty. However, children with disabilities were still admitted to the almshouse. For these children, the prevalence of indoor and outdoor activities and games were stressed.<sup>19</sup>

By the 1870s, more institutions emerged which specialized in the care and education of the blind, deaf, and dumb. New York established the New York State Institution for the Blind in New York City and another location in Batavia.<sup>20</sup> Despite these reforms, almshouses remained an effective "warehouse" for the poor, in particular, the mentally and physically disabled poor who had difficulty gaining access to newer medical institutions. By 1883, there were at least 27 institutions supported by the state. New charitable institutions were founded across the state, including those for the mentally disabled, deaf, blind, and sick, as well as disabled soldiers, widows, orphans, and other children. A new state act was passed which authorized the inspection of state or county poorhouses by private organizations, thereby enabling groups like the SCAA to inspect and report on the conditions and management of state and county-run facilities.

During this era, further advances were made in the care of the sick and mentally disabled, including the formation of local agencies charged with public health, and hospitals for the sick. By the 1890s, former "hospitals for the insane" as well as "asylums" transitioned to "State Hospitals" as ideals in the care of the mentally disabled advanced. In Kingston, the Health Department was organized in 1883 and charged with ensuring public health in the city.<sup>21</sup> One year later, the New York Hospital Association was founded, reflecting a larger trend toward health care advancement and the further specialization of medicine. The formation of

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<sup>16</sup> Olmsted, 79.

<sup>17</sup> Olmsted, 66.

<sup>18</sup> Olmsted, 71-75.

<sup>19</sup> Olmsted, 81.

<sup>20</sup> Olmsted, 67.

<sup>21</sup> Ulster County Historians, *The History of Ulster County, With Emphasis upon the Last 100 Years, 1883-1983* (Kingston, NY: Ulster County Historians, 1983), 122-137.

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hospitals and specialization began to remove the sick and mentally disabled from almshouses. As hospitals and institutions revolutionized care for the insane, sick, mentally disabled, physically disabled, and children, almshouses gradually shifted to facilities solely reserved for the poor

As institutions outside of the almshouse advanced, public opinions of the almshouse began to decline. During the twentieth century, many almshouse enterprises were transferred to the state or dissolved, including many in the Hudson River Valley. For instance, the Albany County Poorhouse closed in 1928, the Troy City Almshouse closed in the early 1930s, the Kingston City Almshouse closed in 1948, and the Newburgh City and Town Home and Infirmary closed c.1950.<sup>22</sup> After the Great Depression, the advent of social welfare legislation, including Workman's Compensation, Unemployment Benefits, and Social Security, provided a financial safety net for populations which the poorhouse had originally serviced, limiting the pervasiveness of "pauperism." Eventually, poorhouses evolved almost exclusively into nursing homes or state hospitals for dependent elderly people.<sup>23</sup>

### *The Kingston City Almshouse*

While the trustees of the township of Kingston were charged with being overseers of the poor by the colonial legislature in 1770, the task of building an almshouse devoted to the task was prolonged over nearly a century. The board of trustees first resolved to build an almshouse in 1790, but the effort was stalled and largely forgotten. When the Villages of Kingston and Rondout merged in 1872 to form the City of Kingston, Mayor Lindsley brought the idea before the new common council, which appointed an Alms House Commission to take on the task.

Constructed in 1874 as the City of Kingston's first public building, the Kingston City Almshouse was designed to accommodate the poor of the joined villages of Kingston and Rondout. The combined resources of both villages into one city increased the public's capacity to operate an institution for the poor. The Italianate building was designed by architect John A. Wood, who was also known for the nearby Vassar Brothers Institute in Poughkeepsie and the Poughkeepsie Almshouse (NR 1978), which served as a model for the Kingston Almshouse.

Like the Poughkeepsie Almshouse, Wood designed the Kingston Almshouse with a central three-story main block, flanked by identical two-story wings, angled forward from the main block. He chose the Italianate style for both buildings, decorating them with ornamental millwork, porches, window heads, cornices, and gabled roofs. At the Kingston Almshouse, the building consists of a central section with two wings, with one wing occupied by the superintendent for living quarters while the other served as the women's wing, while the central wing housed men. The building was designed to accommodate up to 200 paupers from the City of Kingston.

While the building was somewhat isolated from the center of Kingston, at the northeast border of the city, it was well-known in the community. In *The Story of Kingston* (1952), Andrew Hickey describes the almshouse, "erected on a hill in the northeastern section overlooking the city, quite an undertaking for an infant community."<sup>24</sup> The new almshouse's location on a hill in a far corner of the city offered sweeping views from

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<sup>22</sup> "Albany County Almshouse Cemetery," *Times Union*. Available at <<http://www.timesunion.com/albanyrural/almshouse/>>; Michael Randall, "Poorhouse Burial Place Begins New Life in Newburgh," *Times-Herald Record*, September 06, 2017. Available at <<http://www.recordonline.com/article/20000611/news/306119981>>.

<sup>23</sup> Stuhler, "A Brief History."

<sup>24</sup> Andrew S. Hickey, *The Story of Kingston, First Capitol of New York State, 1609-1952* (New York: Stratford House, 1952).

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the facility, but also distanced paupers (seen as undesirables) from the city. Six years after its construction, the *Kingston Daily Freeman* reported on the almshouse; the article invokes civic pride surrounding the new public institution and cites that inmates had performed work on the property:

...there has been an immense amount of work done by the inmates of the institution in the years since 1874 in grading. Other cities have their charitable institutions...but there are few cities that can boast of as good and well-kept Alms House as Kingston can. Much fault has been found of the cost of its erection, but those who conceived the plans were working for the future, and coming generations may praise them for their far-seeing wisdom. It is a substantial building, and when poor people have become so old that they have no kith or kin on which to depend for support may thank fortune to be allowed to live their remaining days in such a home as is here provided for them.<sup>25</sup>

The article goes on to praise the access to fresh air within the almshouse, and the sweeping views of the Catskill Mountains available from the upper floors. It also describes two offices of the superintendent adjacent to the main entrance, a dining room, kitchen, and a steam heat system. The complex included some farm buildings, including a “hog pen.” The almshouse’s working farm was operated and supported by inmates. Working farms with inmate labor were typical among contemporary almshouses. They helped meet the practical needs of the institution, which was distant from the city center, had a sizeable population to support, and provided inmates with meaningful work and exercise.

While the early days of the almshouse were optimistic, by 1884 the facility the well over capacity. In the following decade, admissions to the almshouse decreased (as the facility was at capacity), and some incremental improvements to the facility were undertaken. An annual publication, *Paupers in Almshouses*, cited varied conditions within the almshouse in 1908:

...the handsome, well-kept almshouse is maintained in a manner creditable to the city of Kingston. The interior painting recently done in the women’s wing has made a decided improvement, and it is hoped that the whole building will receive interior painting in the near future. Thoughtfulness for the comfort of inmates has prompted the purchase of high-backed rocking chairs and new dining-room chairs to replace the long, hard benches formerly used. The greatest need which confronts this almshouse at present is for safe exits from the building in case of fire. The steep winding staircases are impracticable for a public institution at any time and would be exceedingly dangerous in case of a panic or fire.<sup>26</sup>

In 1910, the Kingston City Almshouse listed a total of 52 paupers.<sup>27</sup> Despite the “well-kept” nature of the Kingston Almshouse and cosmetic improvement, throughout the following decade the Kingston Almshouse continued to experience a decline in public opinion. During this era the almshouse came to be known as the “Poor House.”<sup>28</sup> Throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the complex was known as the “Kingston City Home” and was later utilized as a tuberculosis hospital.

The Kingston City Almshouse embodied the beliefs of reformers of the day, like Olmsted and the SCAA, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The separation of inmates by sex reflected the gradual specialization of treatment that was advancing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The almshouse building’s large windows provided ample natural light and fresh air, and the extensive grounds provided opportunities for outdoor activities and leisure. The

<sup>25</sup> “City Alms House...What a Reporter Saw of Interest,” *Kingston Daily Freeman*, June 2, 1880.

<sup>26</sup> State of New York, Office of the State Board of Charities, *Annual Report of the State Board of Charities for the year 1908*. Vol. 1. (Albany, NY : State of New York, 1909), 314.

<sup>27</sup> Joseph A. Hill, Lewis Meriam, and E. A. Goldenweiser, *Paupers in almshouses: 1910* (Washington: U.S. G.P.O., 1915).

<sup>28</sup> Musso, “Kingston City Almshouse.”

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working farm run by inmates stressed the importance of self-sufficiency for able-bodied paupers. Alterations to the almshouse complex over time allowed for improvement, including the addition of accessory buildings, particularly the c. 1910 Laundry Building, considered sanitary. In addition, the removal and replacement of the “steep winding staircases,” which once presented a fire hazard, with rectilinear stairs with landings increased the safety of the almshouse building.

As national attitudes toward the care and treatment of the poor, sick, elderly, and mentally disabled began to shift, and new types of institutions as well as Social Security revolutionized social welfare, the reputation of the Kingston Almshouse, and almshouses in general, worsened. Almshouses throughout the Hudson River Valley began to close in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century—a trend that would continue through the mid-late twentieth century. In 1948, the Board of Alms shut down the poor house and residents were transferred to a county facility in New Paltz (also located in Ulster County).<sup>29</sup>

In 1954, Ulster County acquired the vacant building from the city and rehabilitated the primary almshouse building to serve as the Ulster County Chronic Infirmary. Ulster County hired architect Harry Halverson to rehabilitate the building. It was dedicated in 1954 with a bronze plaque stating: “this institution is dedicated to the tender care and sympathetic treatment of the Golden Age citizens of Ulster County.” The infirmary shifted the focus of the institution from a poorhouse for all to a care facility for impoverished senior citizens. The Ulster County Infirmary operated from the building until new facilities were built at another site (Golden Hill) in 1973. Thereafter, the building served as offices for the Ulster County Health Department until 2014.<sup>30</sup>

### **National Register Criterion C: Architectural Significance**

Architect J.A. Wood was a renowned late 19<sup>th</sup> century mid-Hudson River Valley architect. Originally from Bethel, New York, Wood began his career as an architect in 1863 in Poughkeepsie before moving his office to 153 Broadway in New York City. While in Poughkeepsie, Wood designed several local buildings including the Poughkeepsie Almshouse (1868) and buildings at Vassar College. The *Poughkeepsie Daily Press* first printed in the *New York Globe*, July 15, 1871: “Mr. J. A. Wood, formerly of Poughkeepsie, the man who is responsible for so much in the way of beautifying the villages of the Hudson River valley, has located at No. 240 Broadway, this city.” A popular local architect, Wood received commissions for the First Baptist Church in Kingston (1868) and the renovation of the former Old Dutch Church on Main Street for a new St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (1869). He also designed the Kingston Music Hall (later Opera House) on Fair Street (1867-69) and the Ulster County Savings Bank on Wall Street (1868-69). Although he moved his practice to New York City, he remained active in the Hudson Valley.<sup>31</sup> While most of Wood’s work was located in the Hudson River Valley, he also completed projects in Georgia, as well as two well-known projects in Tampa, Florida: the Tampa Bay Hotel (NR 1972) and the old Hillsborough County Courthouse.<sup>32</sup>

J. A. Wood went on to design a number of other prominent Kingston buildings, including the Children’s Church in nearby Ponckhockie, an early experiment in building with large cement blocks (1870-71); the Kingston City Alms House on Flatbush Avenue (1872-74); the Thomas Cornell Carriage House (1873); the Dr. Robert Loughran house on Fair Street (1873); the First Presbyterian Church on Elemendorf Street (1878); the New York State Armory on Broadway (1878); and the Stuyvesant Hotel at John and Fair Street (1910). In later years,

<sup>29</sup> Kellar and Roberts, “Preservation of the Kingston City Alms House.”

<sup>30</sup> Kellar and Roberts, “Preservation of the Kingston City Alms House.”

<sup>31</sup> Lowell Thing, “Fitch Bluestone Company Office.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, (2016), 10.

<sup>32</sup> Research on J.A. Wood compiled by Anon Adams, Poughkeepsie, NY.

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Wood was in great demand as a hotel architect. He designed the second Overlook Mountain House in Woodstock (1878); the Tremper House in Phoenicia (1879); and the Grand Hotel at Highmount (1881). He also designed hotels in Georgia and Florida, the most famous of which was the Tampa Bay Hotel (1891), now preserved as part of the University of Tampa. He died in Middletown in 1910 and he is buried there in the Evergreen Cemetery.<sup>33</sup>

### *Italianate Style*

The Italianate style was first developed in Britain in at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Italianate style was further developed and popularized throughout the first decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Britain. It was not until later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, between 1840-1880, that the style was popularized in the United States, promoted by architect Alexander Jackson Davis. The style drew heavily on Italian Renaissance motifs, typically featuring gently sloping roofs and deep overhanging eaves, rows of decorative brackets (corbels). Brick, stone or stucco was normally used as exterior cladding, and buildings often contained tall, rounded windows. The Kingston City Almshouse is an intact representation of the style with its wide eaves, large brackets, tall first floor windows, low-pitched gabled roof, glazed double-leaf doors, string courses, and segmented arch windows. In addition to its representation of Wood's Italianate design, the design provided plentiful natural light and ventilation, with large windows in each room at the ends of halls—a feature that was essential to the function of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century almshouse.

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<sup>33</sup> Lowell Thing, "Fitch Bluestone Company Office," 10.



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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):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 15.59 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>583881</u> Easting	<u>4643852</u> Northing	3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>583621</u> Easting	<u>4643625</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>583619</u> Easting	<u>4643869</u> Northing	4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>583844</u> Easting	<u>4643650</u> Northing

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

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

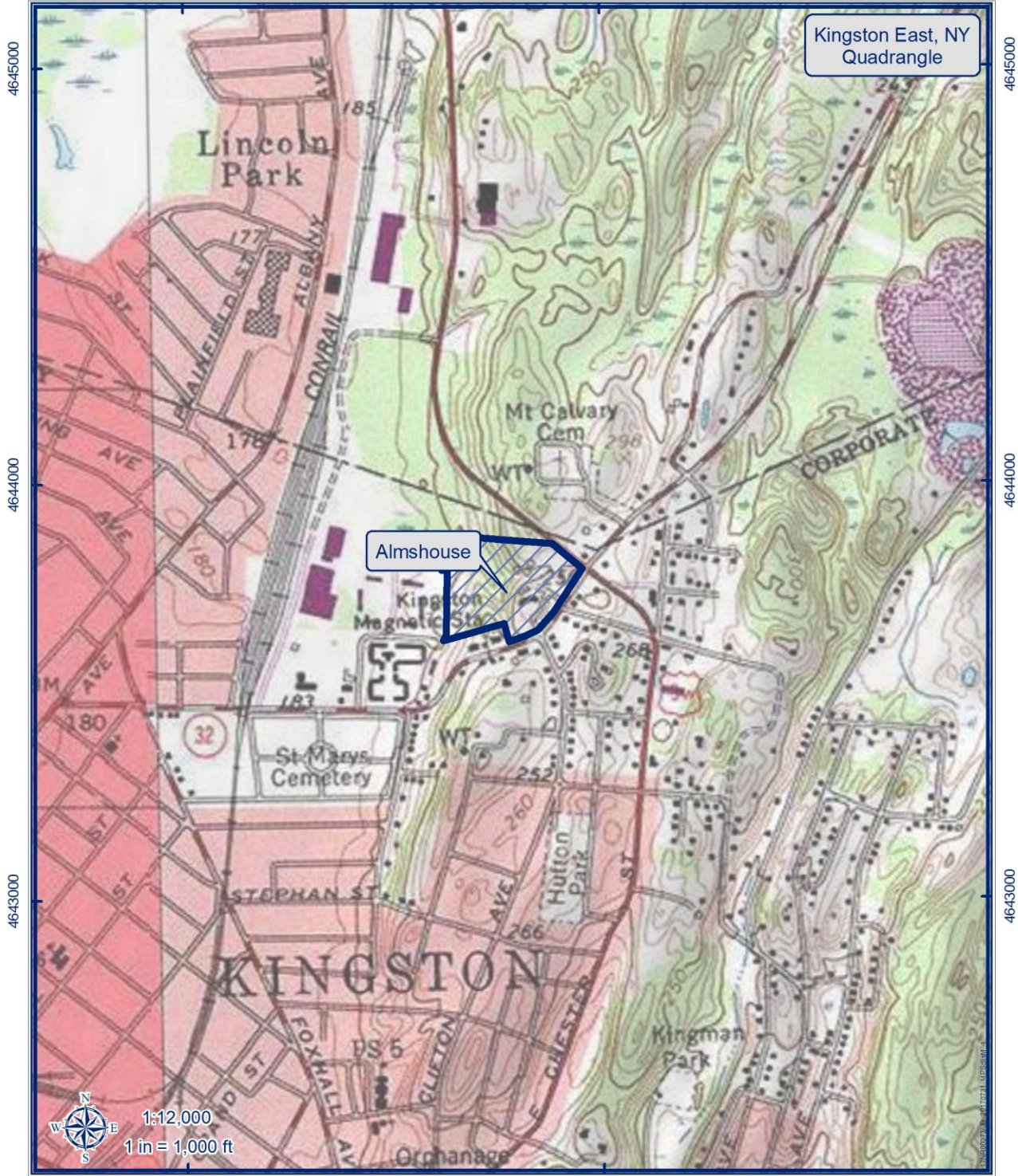
While the Kingston City Almshouse was historically associated with additional acreage, which largely served as agricultural land, it was subdivided and sold during the twentieth century. This land has been developed and no longer retains integrity to its historic appearance. The National Register boundary reflects the current legal tax parcel (parcel no.: 14.1-14.9A) and includes all buildings which contributed to the significance of the Kingston City Almshouse during the period of significance including the almshouse building, laundry house, stone cottage, brick office, and barn, as well as the related grounds which compose the legal parcel.

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Kingston City Almshouse  
Kingston, Ulster Co., NY

300 Flatbush Avenue  
Kingston, NY 12401



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



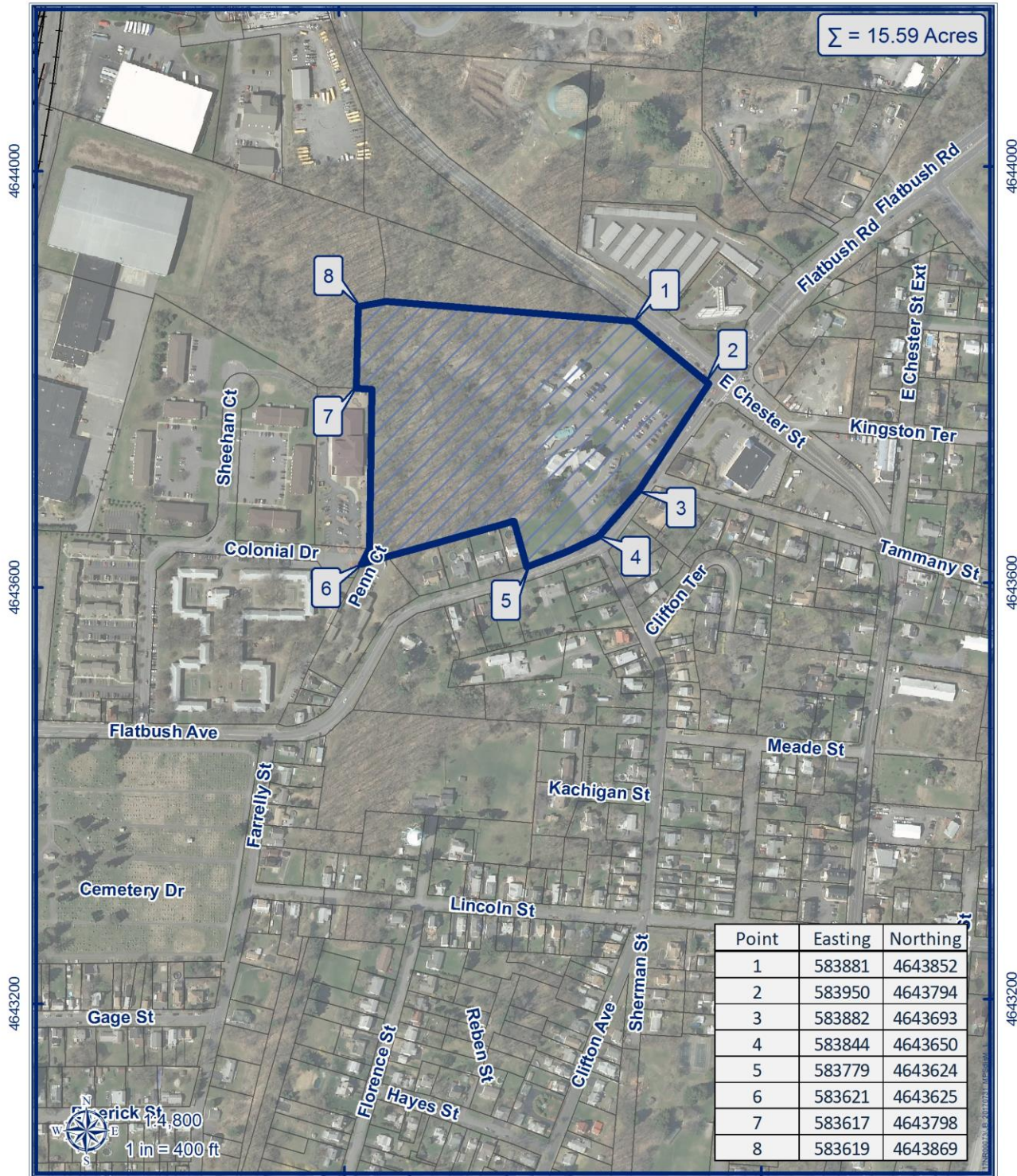


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Kingston City Almshouse  
 Kingston, Ulster Co., NY

300 Flatbush Avenue  
 Kingston, NY 12401



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



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County and State

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lee Riccetti / Cindy Hamilton

organization Heritage Consulting Group

date 6/12/17

street & number 15 West Highland Avenue

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Philadelphia

state PA

zip code 19118

e-mail chamilton@heritage-consulting.com

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Kingston City Almshouse

City or Vicinity: Kingston

County: Ulster State: NY

Photographer: Lee Riccetti

Date Photographed: November 11, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0001  
View of the almshouse, south elevation, looking northeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0002  
View of the almshouse, south elevation, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0003  
View of the almshouse, north elevation, looking southwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0004  
View of the almshouse, north elevation, looking southwest.

Kingston City Almshouse

Name of Property

Ulster County, NY

County and State

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0005

View of the almshouse, north elevation, looking south.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0006

View of the almshouse, north elevation, looking south.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0007

View of the almshouse, north elevation, looking southeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0008

View of the almshouse, west elevation, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0009

View of the almshouse, west elevation, looking east at the entrance.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0010

Almshouse, First floor, west stairwell, looking northwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0011

Almshouse, First floor, corridor, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0012

Almshouse, first floor entryway, looking south.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0013

Almshouse, first floor entryway, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0014

Almshouse, first floor, bathroom, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0015

Almshouse, first floor corridor, looking southeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0016

Almshouse, first floor, east stairwell, looking northeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0017

Almshouse, second floor office, looking southeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0018

Almshouse, Second floor corridor, looking west.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0019

Almshouse, second floor bathroom, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0020

Almshouse, third floor corridor, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0021

Almshouse, third floor corridor, looking west.



Kingston City Almshouse

Name of Property

Ulster County, NY

County and State

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0022

Almshouse, third floor elevator lobby, looking south.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0023

Almshouse, ground floor, east stairwell, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0024

View of driveway, looking south at the intersection with Flatbush Avenue.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0025

View of the outbuildings, looking northwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0026

View of the laundry building, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0027

View of the boiler house and laundry building, north elevation, looking southeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0028

View of the boiler house and laundry building, north elevation, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0029

Boiler house and laundry room interior, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0030

View of office, looking northwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0031

View of office, looking north.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0032

View of office, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0033

Office, second floor office, looking southeast.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0034

View of the c. 1916 stone cottage, looking southwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0035

View of the c. 1916 stone cottage, east elevation, looking west.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0036

View of the c. 1916 stone cottage, west elevation, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0037

First floor, c. 1916 stone cottage, looking west.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0038

View of the barn, east elevation, looking northwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0039

View of the barn, south elevation, looking north.

Kingston City Almshouse  
Name of Property

Ulster County, NY  
County and State

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0040  
View of the barn, west elevation, looking east.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0041  
View of the barn, east and north elevations, looking southwest.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0042  
Barn, first story garage addition, looking west.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0043  
Barn, first floor, looking west.

NY\_Ulster Co\_Kingston City Almshouse\_0044  
Barn, second floor, looking east.

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Property Owner:

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

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name Ulster County Economic Development Alliance  
street & number P.O. Box 1800, 244 Fair Street telephone 845-340-3556  
city or town Kingston state NY zip code 12402

**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.

Kingston City Almshouse  
Name of Property

Ulster County, NY  
County and State



Kingston City Almshouse, ca. 1965

















































ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CAROL SMITH, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

**BASEMENT**  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
DIRECTOR

**FIRST FLOOR**  
REGISTRATION PATIENT SERVICES →  
MERCEDEZ TIA, RN, MS  
NURSE  
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY →  
HEALTH EDUCATION VINCENT MARTELLO  
DIRECTOR

**SECOND FLOOR**  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION & YOUTH BUREAU  
EVELYN J. CLARKE, DIRECTOR

COMMUNICABLE & PREPAREDNESS

**THIRD FLOOR**  
PURCHASING  
ROBIN PERUSO  
AGENT

ULSTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
CAROL SMITH, MD, MPH  
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

























CLE  
ORK!

FIRE

RESTROOM







EXIT

Fire Extinguisher

No Smoking

Poster











































#2 FUEL OIL  
275 GALS.

1993













1976

POWER OF PRIDE





#2 FUEL OIL  
275 GALS.



































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/19/2017      Date of Pending List: 1/29/2018      Date of 16th Day: 2/13/2018      Date of 45th Day: 2/2/2018      Date of Weekly List: 2/2/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      2/2/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Steven T. Noble  
Mayor



November 6, 2017

The Honorable Rose Harvey  
Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Agency Building 1  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Harvey:

I write in response to your letter requesting that I either agree or disagree with the New York State Board for Historic Preservation's consideration of listing the Almshouse, 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

I wish to express my strong support for this nomination, as it would provide additional protections and opportunities for this property. It's essential that we do everything in our power to preserve prominent structures, such as the Almshouse to continue celebrating Kingston's rich culture and history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven T. Noble".

Steven T. Noble  
Mayor

STN:lbt



# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JOHN R. PARETE  
Chair 845-340-3699

DAVID B. DONALDSON  
Vice Chair 845-340-3699

DONALD J. GREGORIUS  
Majority Leader 845-340-3900

KENNETH J. RONK, JR.  
Minority Leader 845-340-3900



P.O. Box 1800  
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402  
Telephone: 845 340-3900  
FAX: 845 340-3651

VICTORIA A. FABELLA  
Clerk 845-340-3666

CAPPY WEINER  
Counsel 845-340-3900

CHRISTOPHER RAGUCCI  
Counsel 845-340-3900

ERICA GUERIN  
Minority Counsel 845-340-3900

September 21, 2015

Jennifer Betsworth, Historic Preservation Specialist  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation  
Pebbles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188



Dear Specialist Betsworth,

Enclosed please find a copy of Ulster County Resolution No. 295, which was adopted at our regular Legislative Session on September 15, 2015.

**Resolution 295** Supporting The Consideration And Inclusion Of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York In The State And National Registers Of Historic Places

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Krista J. Barringer, LMSW  
Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislature

Enclosure



**Supporting The Consideration And Inclusion Of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York In The State And National Registers Of Historic Places**

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Allen, Archer, Bartels, Litts, Maio, and Maloney)

Legislator David B. Donaldson and Legislator Provenzano offer the following:

WHEREAS, 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York (section/block/lot no.: 48.074-3-14.100), build circa 1872, is also known as the Kingston City Alms House; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston City Alms House was the first building erected by the city government of Kingston; and

WHEREAS, this institution was established to care for the city's poor; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County acquired the property in 1954, and continued the tradition of caring for the community by using the building as a chronic infirmary; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County utilized the property until recently serving residents by operating the Ulster County Health Department from this location; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes that the Kingston City Alms House symbolizes the dedication of local government to the compassion and care for those members of our community in need; and

WHEREAS, the architectural structure of the Kingston City Alms House has remained intact, maintaining the beauty and value of the building as a county treasure; and

WHEREAS, the Kingston City Alms House deserves to be recognized in an official capacity as having significance in the history and culture of the City of Kingston and of Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, preservation of historic buildings can attract tourism and enhance economic development; and

WHEREAS, 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York is currently owned by the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Inc.; now, therefore be it



**Resolution No. 295      September 15, 2015**

**Supporting The Consideration And Inclusion Of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York In The State And National Registers Of Historic Places**

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature supports the consideration and inclusion of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York in the State and National Registers of Historic Places; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature hereby requests the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Inc. complete and file with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature within 30 days the "Statement of Owner Support" as attached in Exhibit A; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to the members of the City of Kingston Common Council and to Jennifer Betsworth, Historic Preservation Specialist, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation,

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                  NOES: 0  
(Legislator Briggs left at 7:46 PM)

Defeated in Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit on August 12, 2015

Petition to Discharge successfully executed on August 18, 2015

FINANCIAL IMPACT:  
NONE



Resolution No. 295      September 15, 2015

**Supporting The Consideration And Inclusion Of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, New York In The State And National Registers Of Historic Places**

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 15<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of September in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.



Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature





**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

DEC 19 2017

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

14 December 2017

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

John and Sarah Trumbull House, Dutchess County  
New Guinea Community Site, Dutchess County  
George W. Bellows House, Ulster County  
Wampsville Presbyterian Church, Madison County [not owned by religious]  
Lipe -Rollaway Corporation Building, Onondaga County  
Ridgewood Reservoir, Kings and Queens Counties  
Greenacre Park, New York County  
*Lanai*, New York County  
Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge, Suffolk County  
Old Town of Flushing Burial Ground, Queens County  
Saxe Embroidery Company Building, Bronx County  
Kingston City Almshouse, Ulster County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office