

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 GUMAER CEMETERY
other names/site number PIONEER KNOLL CEMETERY
name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number Neversink Preserve/Guymard Turnpike vicinity not for publication
city or town Godeffroy vicinity
state New York code NY county ORANGE code 071 zip code 12729

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Michael Polynah Deputy S/HPO 7/26/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Alysi Abernathy 9/18/17
Signature of the Keeper 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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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.)

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials N/A
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: _____

walls: _____

roof: _____

other: _____

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Gumaer Cemetery, which consists of two distinct burial areas—the main burial ground and an adjacent slave cemetery, these being situated approximately 100' from one another—is located near the hamlet of Godeffroy in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, New York. This nomination includes these two distinctive and historically related sites, which collectively form the Gumaer Cemetery. One of the earliest identified places of interment used by European settlers and their slaves within the bounds of present-day Orange County, the nominated resource is situated in a relatively remote location on lands contained within the Neversink Preserve, which is operated for the public's recreational benefit by the Nature Conservancy. The nominated cemetery is noteworthy for its early date of establishment, ca. 1700, and for the early gravesites which it contains, some of which are marked by grave stones of rudimentary conception with simply if not crudely rendered inscriptions. Interred there are members and descendants of the pioneer families which, at the dawn of the eighteenth century, settled the Peenpack Patent, one of the early settlement areas from which the Town of Deerpark was later formed, among them members of the Guimard, Caudebec, and Van Inwegen families. Also interred there, in an area set off for specifically for the purpose, are the slaves whose labors helped advance the interests of the Peenpack patentees from the time of settlement into the early nineteenth century; six graves there are marked with headstones. Set on a raised peninsula of land and partly shielded by mature oak trees, the cemetery maintains a sense of isolation and seclusion, its various head stones being arranged in seemingly haphazard fashion, the largest concentration being in the southeastern portion of the main burial area. There is also a more formal component to the otherwise informal nature of the site, that being the Godeffroy family plot, which extends from the southwest perimeter of the main burial area and which is demarcated by a cast-iron perimeter fence.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The Gumaer Cemetery occupies a remote location near the hamlet of Godeffroy, between the U.S. Route 209 transportation corridor to the west and the course of the Neversink River to the east. This historic burial ground is located on a somewhat secluded site within the Neversink Preserve, which is operated by the Nature Conservancy and which provides outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Access to the cemetery is by way of the abandoned Orange & Western Railroad right-of-way, the tracks of which have been removed, and which now accommodates seasonal vehicular access to the preserve property from the north. U.S. Route 209, the major transportation artery in this region of New York State near its boundary with Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is located approximately a half mile to the west of the nominated site, beyond the former railroad grade and marshland, while the Neversink River is located a short distance to the east. Moving in a northeasterly direction, the access road eventually intersects with Guymard Turnpike, slightly west of the hamlet of Myers Grove and east of U.S. Route 209. This nomination includes two distinctive sites located a short distance from one another, the main Gumaer Cemetery (Pioneer Knoll Burial Ground variously), which corresponds with a .68 acre parcel of land, roughly square in shape excepting a small bump-out that contains the Godeffroy family plot, and a smaller area set off for slave burials, which is located approximately 100 feet to the northeast of the main burial ground and which is five-sided and irregular in outline.

These two historically related burial sites, which collectively constitute the nominated Gumaer Cemetery, are situated on the flat shoulder of a rise of land approximately 485 feet above sea level; the grade drops off steeply to the immediate east, south and west, thereby defining a raised peninsula of land, the burial areas being located on this landscape feature and near its southern extreme. The immediate setting is characterized by a sense of seclusion and isolation resulting from the site's remote location and the nature of the topography; the grave stones which remain are generally scattered within the main burial site, which is punctuated by oak trees through which filtered light passes when leafed out. There are also three stones in

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the slave area which serve to portray the identity of the particular individuals interred there, the remainder of the interments being anonymous. The two burial areas appear in large measure as a single entity, as neither have their boundaries clearly marked on the land, excepting two lines of stones which mark the northwest and southeast sides of the main burial area. However, there is a small family plot, roughly rectangular in shape, which extends from the southwest side of the main burial area that is defined by cast-iron perimeter fencing and which is associated with the locally prominent Godeffroy family, from which the nearby hamlet takes its name.

A Survey of Extant Grave Markers

The remaining grave markers and documentary accounts dating to the nineteenth century indicate that the nominated cemetery has probably been in active use as a burial yard since the time of the settlement of the Peenpack Patent, and contains more graves than presently known or previously recorded. It is also possible that there are graves situated between the two main areas; further work, in the form of ground penetrating radar, will be required to address this possibility. The bounds of the two burial areas, and their relationship to one another, is depicted on a survey map included with this documentation.

The stone which bears the inscription “H D 1713” and which carries the date of 1719 and “D X D” on the opposite facet is believed to mark the final resting place of Hendrick Decker and, presumably, his spouse. It is notable for the simple and unrefined nature of the stone itself as well as the carving of the initials and date. It also represents the earliest dated stone within the cemetery. Of similar conception and contemporary in age is the stone marking the grave of Benjamin Provost, or Provoost, which appears to have been roughly worked into its present form with a rounded head. This stone reads “ANO 1720 DE 16 YULEY IS BE GRAVE BENYAMYN PROVOOST,” the inscription being rendered in a seemingly amateurish hand and in the French language. Below the inscription is a simple carved curvilinear motif, which forms a lower border for the name and date, a small decorative flourish for what is otherwise a simply rendered marker. Both of these stones, in addition to some which date into the early nineteenth century, suggest a relative informality among the local population in regards to grave stone design, given the simple form of the stones, the nature of the inscriptions, and the overall lack of characteristic eighteenth and early nineteenth century funerary motifs and symbols. It is unclear what, specifically, accounted for this condition, whether local custom or a lack of skilled stonecutters locally, or some combination of the two. Among the more charming stones of this type is that marking the grave of Isaiah Van Inwegen; it reads “JANRY 25 D 1801 ISIAIAH VAN INWEGEN HE DYED.”

Two of the more finished stones, those marking the graves of the Peenpack pioneer, Peter Guimard, and his son and namesake, represent updated stones installed at the original graves in the mid-nineteenth century by their direct descendant, Peter E. Gumaer. Both represent a characteristic mid-nineteenth century type, being of the square-headed tablet type and having chaste and restrained detailing. The stone of the younger Peter Guimard, which was fractured in two places, has since been repaired and is braced by metal framework. Both stones were similarly handled and presumably crafted by a single unidentified stonecutter; the names on each are rendered in raised lettering in a rectangular field with incurved corners, and there is a larger border with moulded edge in which the name and other information is contained. The initials “P.E.G.” and “Deerpark AD 1856” appear at the bottom and recall that they were installed as a commemorative gesture by Peter E. Gumaer to honor his forbears in the mid-nineteenth century.

The most conspicuous of the stones is that within the Godeffroy family plot, which extends from the southern portion of the main burial area and which is contained within a cast-iron perimeter fence. The principal feature of this plot is the large family marker, which would appear to have been crafted from granite. It consists of a large square-shaped tablet set above a two-part base, the upper stone being rough-hewn with a smoothly chiseled border. The name “GODEFFROY” is rendered in low relief against a smooth background

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which contrasts sharply with the remaining rough-hewn surfaces. Extending downward from the top of the stone, and across the chiseled border, are simplified foliate motifs. Burials within this plot are marked by small rectangular markers which set at ground level.

The slave burial area of the Gumaer Cemetery includes the interments of six individuals whose graves have corresponding headstones, those being the interments of Adam Gumaer, Nan Gumaer, Floor Gumaer, Mary Santikie, Mary Santicee, and Adam Santicy. Adam Gumaer's stone, which appears to have been roughly fashioned so as to have a lobed head, reads "Adam Gumaer Died The 15 ___ of May Age 22 1813." The inscription is simply rendered, mostly in lower case lettering, and has an undulating quality as it was not executed in strictly linear fashion. Roughly contemporary and similar in execution is the two-sided stone which marks the graves of Floor and Nan Gumaer, both of whom died within a day of one another in December 1812, under circumstances not presently known. The stone is highly irregular in shape and tapers inward from top to bottom, the head being irregular in profile. The inscriptions were simply rendered in lower case letters, as was that of Adam Gumaer, but in that instance in more linear fashion. Adam Santicy's stone is conspicuous when contrasted with the others in the slave section, given that it is a narrow rectangular tablet set on end. Carved into it, in capital letters, are Santicy's name and his date of death, March 27, 1829. The stone marking the grave of Mary Santikie represents the most recent discovery, having been found in April 2017; irregular in shape, it carries the inscription "MARY SANTIKIE" along with her date of death, March 22, 1825.

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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.)

SETTLEMENT

ETHNIC HISTORY: black

Period of Significance

ca. 1713- 1862 (last known interment)

Significant Dates

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.

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, ca. 1713-1862, is initiated with the earliest decipherable dated stone, located within the principal burial area, and terminates with the last recorded interment, which occurred in 1862.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

This cemetery satisfies Criterion Consideration D for its great age and ability to provide historical documentation of early settlement as well as the use of slavery in the Hudson Valley from the time of settlement into the early nineteenth century.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Gumaer Cemetery is a resource of considerable importance to the early history of the Town of Deerpark, Orange County, and to the larger environs of the Hudson Valley. It is situated within the boundary of the historic 1,200-acre Peenpack Patent, the settlement of which represented an early milestone in the history of present-day Deerpark, which was formed as a township towards the end of the eighteenth century. This patent dates to October 1697, at which time seven patentees were granted land from the English Crown in the Magheckemeck, or Neversink River, Valley. Peter Guimard, Jacob Caudebec, Thomas Swartwout, Antoni Swartwout, Bernardus Swartwout, Jan Tyse and David Jamison were the original patentees. The Guimard, Caudebec and Swartwout families figured prominently in local affairs from an early date forward and are inextricably linked to the Colonial history of this region. The Peenpack area is considered among the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement areas in Orange County and is among those areas of the Hudson Valley first settled by non-indigenous peoples prior to 1700. The cemetery is perhaps the oldest burial ground used by European settlers within the bounds of present-day Orange County and it is the sole surviving resource that documents the very earliest settlement of the Peenpack Patent. Among its remaining decipherable grave markers are those which bear the dates of 1713/1719 and 1720, the latter marking the final resting place of Benjamin Provost, its simple inscription rendered in the French language. However, given that the first settlers had arrived in the Peenpack Patent as early as the later 1690s, it is assumed that earlier unmarked burials are also located there, along with the interments of many of the earliest patentees, among them the pioneer, Peter Guimard. Although it had been in active use since the turn of the eighteenth century as a burial yard, it was not until 1838 that a meeting of subscribers was organized by Peter E. Gumaer which resulted in the formal creation of the Gumaer Cemetery. Gumaer, along with his wife, Esther Cuddeback Gumaer, deeded the acreage of the cemetery to the Reformed Dutch Church of Deerpark in 1840. The nominated resource also includes the adjacent slave burial area, which contains six marked graves in addition to those which are unmarked—as is the case with the main burial area the precise number of interments is not presently known—and it documents the association between enslaved labor and the successful economy established in the Hudson Valley's Dutch settlement areas from the seventeenth century until slavery was outlawed in New York in the early nineteenth century. The Gumaer Cemetery consists of approximately two and one-half acres of associated land inclusive of the slave cemetery and the Godeffroy family plot. Marked graves include those identified with early and relatively crudely crafted stones in addition to those of later date which have more fully developed and finished markers. The Gumaer Cemetery is being nominated in association with NRHP Criterion A, in the area of Exploration/Settlement, as a compelling touchstone to the earliest history and settlement of the Peenpack Patent; it is additionally being nominated in the area of Ethnic History, given the presence of the slave burials, which recall the lives of the enslaved individuals who worked alongside the early settlers from the early eighteenth century into the first decades of the nineteenth century. It remains a historic resource that speaks evocatively to the earliest European settlement of the Minisink country and the Town of Deerpark.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Overview

Deerpark is a rural town located in southwestern Orange County, New York, near the state's boundary with both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, a geographic position which has played a significant role in its historic development. The town takes its name from an early settler by the name of McDaniel, who, as conveyed in traditional accounts, enclosed a small tract of land with brush fencing in order to trap deer on his property; neighbors apparently called this McDaniel's "deer park" and in time the larger area came to be known by that name. First settled by Europeans in 1690, the town was formally organized in 1798. Seven hamlets are included within the bounds of the town, those being Cahoonzie, Cuddebackville, Godeffroy, Huguenot, Rio, Sparrowbush and Westbrookville; the origins of these names reflect various components of the town's considerable and lengthy history. The Lenni Lenape were the area's first inhabitants, and Chief Penhorn and his tribe inhabited an expanse of meadow lands situated on the east side of the Neversink River, which

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traverses the town and is one of its principal geographic features. In 1690 William Tietsoort, the first European inhabitant in the Neversink Valley, was invited by the Lenni Lenape to reside there and erect a blacksmith shop where tools could be fashioned. Tietsoort was to be followed soon thereafter by other settlers who established the first pioneer homesteads at the turn of the eighteenth century.

In 1697 the Peenpack Patent was granted to the original patentees, members of the Guimard (Gimar/Gumaer variously), Caudebec (Codebeck/Koddebeck/Cuddeback variously), Swartwout, Tyse (Tys variously), and Jamison families. These first European settlers of present-day Deerpark, generally of Dutch and French Huguenot ancestry, labored to improve their newly established farmsteads and lived peacefully for a time alongside the Lenni Lenape. The onset of the French & Indian War significantly altered this dynamic as it required the formation of a local militia group in preparation for the possibility of warfare, thereby creating conflict between the settlers and the Lenni Lenape tribe, which subsequently moved out of this region and westward into the Ohio Territory. Deerpark was located in what was a disputed border area between New York and New Jersey, as both states desired to lay claim to the valuable farm lands that straddle the border, this extended dispute pivoting on the boundary line as it related to the Delaware River. This situation gave rise to a border war; "As the line remained unsettled, no action at law could be maintained by either party, and consequently many hard personal struggles took place to maintain or get possession of the lands in question."¹ This unsettled condition fostered strife in the region and remained an ongoing issue until September 1773, at which time the present state boundary line between New York and New Jersey was formally adopted by the English, putting the matter to rest once and for all. During the American Revolution military forces loyal to the British Crown and under the command of Joseph Brant, or Thayendanegea, a member of the Mohawk tribe, invested the unprotected New York State frontier with considerable fear, and this region in particular directly felt the wrath of Brant's hostile incursions. Loyalist forces under Colonel Brant's command attacked Fort DeWitt in Cuddebackville in October 1778, and the following year he led his forces in the Battle at Minisink Ford, July 1779, an action in which many local militiamen lost their lives at the hands of Brant's marauding party of Loyalists and Native Americans. The conclusion of the American Revolution finally brought the peace and stability that local families had yearned for since the mid-eighteenth century, and thus unfolded a period of relative stability and prosperity.

The completion of the Delaware & Hudson Canal in 1828 was a transformative event for this entire region, which stretched from the Hudson River at present-day Kingston all along the western side of the Shawangunk Mountains. The completion of the canal helped to transform Deerpark from its provincial roots into a town checkered with small commercial centers which benefitted economically from the canal's presence. Constructed to provide direct communication between the anthracite coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania and the burgeoning New York City market via the Hudson River, the canal also allowed for the shipment of regional products such as bluestone, cement, lumber and agricultural products to distant markets. The route of the canal through Deerpark was determined by the relative ease of construction through a fertile valley. New industries were created and old ones were rapidly expanded to meet the new commercial demands offered by the canal's presence and to capitalize on a new era of economic opportunity. Quarries, tanneries, lumber mills, boat yards, supply stores, blacksmith shops, and carpenter shops were all buoyed by the presence of the canal. The Delaware & Hudson Canal ceased operation in 1898; however, by that time, the influence of the railroad was already considerable and had been undercutting the economic viability of the canal. After the Civil War, in 1868, railroad service was initiated in this part of Orange County with the arrival of the Monticello & Port Jervis Railroad Company, which came in time to support a thriving regional tourist industry. The presence of the railroad also proved instrumental in driving Orange County's development into a preeminent dairying

¹ E.M. Ruttenber and L.H. Clark, eds., *History of Orange County, New York* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881), 698.

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center for New York City and helped to sustain commercial dairying in the Neversink Valley into the twentieth century and prior to the widespread failure of regional agriculture.

Early Settlement of the Minisink Country & The Peenpack Patent

Horatio Spafford, writing about Deerpark in his New York State gazetteer of 1824, offered the following brief passage about the area of the town known as Peenpack: "Its early settlers were a company of Hollanders, among whom were the ancestors of the DeWitts."² Edward Ruttenber, in his history of Orange County published in the post-Civil War period, indicated that William Tietsoort (Tietsoort variously), a resident of Schenectady who, by his own account, barely escaped the 1689 massacre there at the hands of the French and their Native American allies, was the first person of European ancestry to permanently settle in this area:

... That having friends in the Esopus country he removed thither, where, being known by the friendly Indians, he was invited by them to take up his residence in the Minisink country, the Indians voluntarily granting him a tract of land situate and being at *Maghagkemek*, named and known by the name of Schaikaeckamick, in an elbow; that he obtained license to purchase, Oct. 15, 1698, that he so purchased, and that his possessions were subsequently assumed to be included by and patent to Matthew Ling, against which he asked protection. There is very little room to doubt that he was the first settler on the western border.³

Tietsoort's deed from the Lenni Lenape, for 400 acres of land, was recorded in 1700. By that time other new settlers, many from the earlier Dutch-settled areas on the Hudson River near present-day Kingston, began following the fertile flood plains on the west side of the Shawangunk Mountains south into this region where the boundaries of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania meet, known at one time as the "Minisink Valley" or the "Minisink country." The name Minisink is derived from the Munsee dialect spoken by the Native American groups which inhabited this region prior to European settlement and is thought to translate to "at the island." This loosely defined geographic area corresponded with the valley of the Neversink River and the valley of the Delaware River as far as the Delaware Water Gap, and it was composed of both good arable farmland and less fertile acreage. At that time the nearest European settlement was located roughly 25 miles to the north at Mamakating Hollow, or approximately halfway to Kingston, often referred to at that date as Esopus. In 1697 a land patent was granted to Arent Schuyler for "A certain tract of land in the Minisink country," the same year that the Peenpack Patent was granted to Guimard and his associates; both of these smaller patents were contained within the bounds of the larger and slightly later Minisink Patent, granted in 1704, their associated lands being excluded from that larger land holding. As noted in the 1881 history of Orange County edited by Ruttenber and L.H. Clark, the boundaries of these two smaller patents, located in the valley of the Peenpack, were at best imprecise; "It will be perceived that they [were] described in such a loose and imperfect manner as to make it impossible to fix any particular location for either of them, and the patentees seem to have considered them as 'floating' patents, under which they were authorized to take possession of any unappropriated lands in any part of the valley."⁴ While an effective working policy at an early point in the region's settlement, this situation came to cause considerable confusion in later years, as the following was said of the Peenpack Patent: "It contains no particular boundaries, but appears rather to be a description of a certain tract of country in which the 1,200 acres were to be taken up at the election of the parties... [and] consists of five distinct small tracts." These were situated along the Neversink River and the

² Horatio Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New-York* (Albany: B.D. Packard: 1824), 141.

³ Edward Ruttenber, *History of the County of Orange, With a History of the Town and City of Newburgh* (Newburgh: E.M. Ruttenber & Son, 1875), 25-26.

⁴ Ruttenber and Clark, *Orange County*, 701.

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Basha's Kill "from near the Delaware River to within the bounds of the county of Sullivan, about the distance of eleven miles." The associated acreage of this patent was considered extremely fertile and well suited for agricultural endeavors, thus making it highly desirable to early settlers.⁵

Although the first Peenpack settlers were identified by Spafford in his gazetteer as "Hollanders," two of the three principal early settling families, the Guimards and Caudebecs, were instead of French ancestry and Huguenots by faith. Their relocation to the New World was a journey of religious freedom and but one episode in a larger diaspora which drove an estimated half-million French Protestants from their homeland and caused many Huguenots to immigrate to America and the Province of New York. This came as a result of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, during the reign of Louis XIV, which stripped the Protestant Huguenots of the religious freedom they had enjoyed there since 1598. Both Peter Guimard and Jacob Caudebec traveled in 1685 from their homelands to either England or Holland and from there to the British Colonies in North America, both arriving in Maryland. With their monies exhausted they stayed there for a term as laborers before proceeding northwards to New York. Both married into the Swartwout family, thus accounting for their association with three of the other original grantees of the Peenpack Patent. The Swartwouts were of Dutch lineage and described in the 1881 Orange County history, albeit in somewhat romanticized terms, as "large men, of great bodily strength and courage, and well calculated to be pioneers in the settlement of a new country densely covered with woods and infested by the natives and ferocious wild animals."⁶ This family and its various American branches can be traced to Tomys Swartwout (1607-1660), an early importer of North American tobacco to Europe and among the early settlers of New Amsterdam, having arrived there in 1652.⁷ Swartwout was also among those 19 individuals who in 1653 protested against the governance of the New Netherland colony by signing a document entitled "Humble Remonstrance and Petition of the Colonies and Villages of this New Netherland Province." This document committed to paper collective discontents relative to the current administration of the colony and the rights of taxed colonists to have a voice in government, and it is thought to have inspired Jacob Leisler's subsequent efforts to promote fuller representative democracy there. In 1655 Swartwout was appointed a magistrate of the court at Midwout, or Flatbush.⁸

It appears that Jan Tyse and David Jamison either never settled at Peenpack or otherwise died or left the Minisink country at an early juncture, given that there is no further mention of them in the historical record beyond their being named as original patentees.⁹ Within a few years of its being granted the patent came into the possession of Peter Guimard, Jacob Caudebec, one of the three original Swartwouts, and a new individual, Hermanus Van Inwegen. They were joined thereafter in this area by others, among them Peter Cuykendall, John Decker, William Cole, and Solomon Davis, surnames which all appear on the tax assessment roll of this area recorded in 1775, on the eve of the American Revolution.¹⁰ These first settlers focused on land clearing in order to create tillable acreage which could be planted with rye and wheat, and in the earliest years traveled overland to Esopus to market their surplus grain. Wheat was the "great crop," as noted in the 1881 history, and the first attempt at processing it locally was made by Jacob Caudebec, who constructed a small grist mill, the erection of which represented an important milestone in Peenpack's development:

⁵ Ibid., 701.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Arthur James Weise, *The Swartwout Chronicles, 1338-1899, and the Ketelhuyn Chronicles, 1451-1899* (New York: Trow Directory Printing and Bookbinding Company, 1899), preface.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Rutenber and Clark, *Orange County*, 701.

¹⁰Ibid., 703-04; "In 1728 the freeholders located in this vicinity were Harmon Barentsen Van Inwegen, Jacob Cuddeback, Peter Gumaer, John Van Vliet Jr., Samuel Swartwout, Bernadus Swartwout Jr. and Jacob Cuddeback."

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One of the stone with which the experiment was made—about two feet in diameter and three inches thick—is still [1881] to be seen in the cellar of Peter E. Gumaer, of this town, near where the ancient mill stood. It was erected on a spring brook near his house, but how it answered the purpose is not now known. Though uninformed of the date of this erection, it must have been the first of the kind in this county. There were two other grist-mills erected in this vicinity, on what was called “Old Dam Brook,” one at and the other below the outlet of a swamp and bog meadow—so long since that no one of the last generation saw their remains, except the ground and stones which composed a part of the dam of one of them. One of them was at the northwest side of the road, three-fourths of a mile northeast of Port Jervis; the other lower down the brook. Jacob R. DeWitt built a small mill about the year 1770 on the Neversink River, near Cuddebackville, which continued to grind till sold to the Canal Company.¹¹

Other grist mills were established at an early date, among them those of Solomon Davis and Simon Westfall, and saw mills were probably in operation before 1770. The establishment of these various mill enterprises offered evidence of early progress and laid the foundation for more sustained development in ensuing years.

In addition to the Gumaers, Caudebecs and Van Inwegens, the DeWitt family also figured prominently in the community’s early history. The family’s New World patriarch, Tjerck Claessen DeWitt, was born in Holland and settled in present-day Kingston in 1672; among his descendants was Simon DeWitt, who for many years served as the surveyor-general of New York. Jacob Rutzen DeWitt, a direct descendant of the patriarch, settled at Peenpack at an early date. His oldest son, Moses Dewitt, was described as being highly esteemed by the local Native Americans who, when he died, “deeply lamented his death.” Moses Dewitt was also a surveyor and Peter E. Gumaer, in 1787, studied surveying with him.¹²

Although the cemetery was set aside at an early point to satisfy this important civic purpose, given the early date of a number of burials made there, it was not until 1839 that a formal survey of the land was undertaken by Peter E. Gumaer. In February of that year Gumaer noted that he “Began a Survey of the burying ground at a stake we set in the ground against a side hill about two or three rods southerly of a stone at a grave on which is the name Abraham Gumaer...”¹³ In July 1840 Gumaer and his wife, Esther Cuddeback Gumaer, deeded the surveyed property to “the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Dutch Church of Deerpark” in consideration of the sum of one dollar. The deed described the property as including “the old burial ground on the farm of said Peter E. Gumaer... the same is now closed by a fence lately made round the same,” and indicated that this deed was for “the use and purpose of a public burying place (and no other use or purpose).”¹⁴ As for the fence, it had been erected in 1839, following the surveying of the parcel, its cost borne by a subscription raised among those families who lived near the cemetery, among them many members of the Gumaer, Cuddeback (Caudebec), Swartwout, and Van Inwegen families.¹⁵

A short distance northeast of the main portion of the cemetery is an area set aside for slave burials, in the custom of the day, whereby slaves and others of non-European ancestry were interred in burial yards separate from those used for peoples of European ancestry. In 1800 Harmanus Van Inwegen, Ezekiel Gumaer, and Benjamin Depuy were among those in the Town of Deerpark who documented the birth of slaves in their

¹¹Ibid., 702.

¹²Ibid., 704-05.

¹³Peter E. Gumaer, “Survey of the Burying Ground,” 21 February 1839; courtesy of the Minisink Valley Historical Society (MVHS).

¹⁴Indenture between Peter E. Gumaer and the Minister, Elders and Deacons of the Reformed Dutch Church of Deerpark, 14 July 1840; courtesy of the MVHS.

¹⁵Subscription for clearing and erection of a fence, 24 January 1839; courtesy of MVHS.

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households; Flora, the daughter of Elizabeth, a slave of Van Inwegen, was born in July, as was Simon, a son of Suffi, who was born in the Depuy household; Harry, the son of Jin, a servant of Gumaer, was born in November.¹⁶ Also captured in the records was the manumission of Susanna, formerly a slave in the Capt. William Rose household, an action certified in 1803 by Jacobus Swartwout and David Corwin, overseers of the poor. The last recorded slave birth was probably that noted in July 1817, the birth of Sam, son of Mary, a slave in the household of Josiah Van Inwegen. At the time of the 1790 census the rural Dutch towns of New York—Kinderhook, Claverack and those along the Esopus Creek near present-day Kingston—had the greatest number of slaves of any rural place in the state and the lowest number of free blacks. Although relatively higher numbers of people of African extraction—slave and free—were to be found in urban areas like New York City and Albany, the high frequency of black slavery in these rural places is distinctive and relates historically to the fact that these towns were the earliest agricultural settlements in the Hudson Valley, and their settlement and use of slave labor dated to the seventeenth century. Although ownership of slaves in these places was somewhat modest in the seventeenth century, it expanded considerably in the eighteenth century, regardless of the Dutch’s mixed views of the practice. Slavery had been advocated for by the British Board of Trades, which was anxious to develop its colonial land holdings. There seems little doubt that this British policy did much to foster slave ownership in places such as Kinderhook, Claverack, Hurley, Marbletown, Rochester, and New Paltz.¹⁷ Slavery in the region of Orange County inclusive of present-day Deerpark formed an extension of the prevailing culture from which most all of the early families came. The names of at least six individuals interred there—Adam Gumaer, Nan Gumaer, Floor Gumaer, Mary Santikie, Mary Santicee, and Adam Santicy—helps to place a human face on the practice of slavery in this region and serves as a reminder that enslaved peoples labored alongside the early Peenpack settlers in advancing the settlement from its early frontier conditions to a more ordered and cultivated state, and with little or no material benefit to themselves.

Known Interments in the Gumaer Cemetery

Ruttenbur and Clark, in their 1881 county history, made note of the nominated cemetery—“The graves in the old Gumaer burial-place are very old, one bearing date 1713”—as part of a larger inquiry relative to the earliest European settlement in the Minisink country.¹⁸ This source additionally offered the following overview and description of the burial ground, which suggests that it had fallen into relative disuse by that part of the nineteenth century:

THE OLD GUMAER GRAVEYARD is the first one to note in order of time. Indeed, there can be none in [Orange County] where burials took place earlier, unless it be in the vicinity of Plum Point, on the Hudson... If the descendants of those pioneers will carefully examine the old burial-place, remove the gathered mass of leaves, and trace the dim inscriptions upon the old field-stone, some of them doubtless covered up entirely, it is very possible that still earlier dates can be obtained than those given below, which were secured by only an hour’s examination.¹⁹

Among those graves noted in this account was one which was marked by a stone which bore the dates 1713 on one side and 1717 on the opposite face; the stone of Huldah Decker, wife of Jacob D. Gumaer, who died in 1819; the stone of Benjamin Provost, dated 1720; and the later memorial stone installed to mark the grave of Peter Gumaer—spelled “Peter Guimar”—with the inscription “Progenitor of the Gumaers who originated in the present town of Deerpark died A D 1739 aged 73.” It additionally reads:

¹⁶Ruttenber and Clark, *Orange County*, 709.

¹⁷Ruth Piwonka, “Persons of Color Cemetery, Kinderhook, New York.”

¹⁸Ruttenber and Clark, *Orange County*, 703.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, 728-29.

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Far from his native land he fled
And here was made his early bed
The sweets of life our natures crave
From France he fled his life to save

When persecution stained the land
Under Louis XIV command
He and companion Caudebeck
Escaped that horrid cruel wreck

Deerpark A D 1856

This stone was erected in honor of the family patriarch by Peter E. Gumaer, who at that time also saw to the erection of a marker for the progenitor's son, Peter Gumaer, who died in 1779 at the age of 71:

Fortunate for him and neighbors
Were the results of his labors
In erecting his residence
Which became a house of defense;
And with two fortifications
Served for two generations
To protect from Indian warfare
Those who to the same did repair;
Two wars French and revolution
Did each cause Indian intrusion.

Deerpark A D 1856²⁰

A 1936 survey of the cemetery recorded information from 20 stones, the majority of these being associated with the Gumaer, Van Inwegen and Cuddeback families:

The stones in the Gumaer burying ground at Godeffroy or Port Clinton, as it used to be called and which was the pioneer cemetery of the settlers at Peenpack after they came down from Kingston, N.Y., in 1696, or thereabouts... Here we have the graves of the first three or four generations of the Gumaers, the third and fourth generation of [the] Van Inwegen's and probably the first and second unmarked, also the third generation of the Depuy's at Peenpack, also a third generation of the Cuddeback's. Something ought to be done now to preserve these old graves and stones, although we must admit the scrub oaks shelter them from the storms better than if in the open.²¹

Gumaer, Morgan d. 5 July 1855; age 40 years
Gumaer, Naomi d. 2 May 1862; age 32 years

²⁰Ibid.

²¹June 19, 1936, original source unknown; courtesy of the Minisink Historical Society.

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Gumaer, Naomi	d.17 January 1827; age 84 years
Gumaer, Ezekiel	d. 17 May 1823; age 81 years
Gumaer, Abraham M.	d. 28 August 1788; age 4 years
Gumaer, Peter	d. 1779; age 71 years
Gumaer, Peter [1697 patentee]	d. 1739; age 73 years
Depuy, Benjamin	d. 30 April 1856; age about 81 years
Van Inwegen, Harmanus	d. 16 July 1814
[unknown]	d. 19 March 1814; age 71 years
Sn. Vn.	d. 12 November 1799
Van Inwegen, Isaiah	d. 25 January 1801
Van Inwegen, Cornelius	27 March 1827; age 55 years
Decker, Huldah	d. 19 June 1819
B.W.B.	_____.
Cuddeback, Jemima	d. 10 October 1826; age 21 years
Cuddeback, Abraham	d. 28 August 1817
[wife of Abraham Cuddeback]	d. 18 September 1800
[H.D.]	d. 1713/1719
Provost, Benjamin	d. 1720 (“ANO 1720 DE 16 YULEY”) ²²

Individual Profiles: A Brief Survey

Jacques Caudebec (Jacob Cuddebeck) was born ca. 1666/1670 at Caudebec-en-Caux, Normandy, France, and died in 1764/66 in Peenpack; if this date range is correct, it indicates that Caudebec lived to be approximately 100 years of age. He married Margaret Provost of Kingston, Ulster County, in 1695. Caudebec was a Huguenot and fled France following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and it was with Peter Guimard that he traveled to the New World; the two were instrumental figures in the early settlement of the Peenpack Patent. The name Cuddeback, from which the nearby hamlet of Cuddebackville takes its name, is a corruption of this French surname.

Margaret Provost Caudebec was born in 1673—her birthplace is given in sources variously as Kingston, New York and Hartford, Connecticut—and died in 1767 at present-day Cuddebackville. She was the spouse of Jacques Caudebec. The couple’s children included Maritje Caudebec, born 1696; Benjamin, born 1698/99; Elejen, born 1701; William, born 1703/04; Jacob, born 1706; James, born 1706; Magdalena, born 1712; Eleanor, born 1711/12; Dinah, born 1713/14; Abraham, born 1716; and Naomi, born 1725/26.

Abraham C. Cuddeback was born at Peenpack in 1738 and died in Orange County in 1817. He was the son of William Caudebec and Jacomyntje (Elting) Caudebec, the husband of Esther (Gumaer) Cuddeback, and the father of William, Peter, Jacob, Esther, Jacobus, Jerima and Cornelius Cuddeback. Cuddeback served in the Ulster County militia during the American Revolution.

Ezekiel Gumaer was born at Peenpack in December 1742 and died in Port Clinton, Town of Deerpark, in May 1823. He was the son of Peter Gumaer and Tyatjen (DeWitt) Gumaer, the husband of Naomi (Louw) Gumaer, and the father of Peter E. (b. 1771) and Abraham Gumaer. He served in the Ulster County militia during the American Revolution.

Naomi Louw Gumaer was born in 1747 and died in 1827. She was the daughter of Abraham Louw and Dinah

²²Ibid.

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Caudebec Louw, the wife of Ezekiel Gumaer (1742-1823), and the mother of Peter E. and Abraham Gumaer. Her son, Peter E. Gumaer, was responsible for placing the new headstones for Peter Guimar and his son and namesake at the nominated cemetery in 1856.

Harmanus Van Inwegen was born in May 1732 in Orange County and died in the Town of Deerpark in July 1814. He was a soldier in the American Revolution and, along with the Jacques Caudebec and Peter Guimard, one of the principal early figures of the Peenpack settlement.

Conclusion

The Gumaer Cemetery remains a resource of considerable significance to the history of the Peenpack Patent and is a historic site which enjoys salient links to the early settlement and development of the Town of Deerpark and Orange County. Interred there are many individuals who contributed to the development of this area from the time of settlement into the nineteenth century. Most of those whose remains lie in rest there were born, lived and died in Deerpark, some as free men, and some as slaves who toiled there for little, if any, material gain of their own. Located near the center of this historic 1,200 acre land grant, the cemetery remains a compelling touchstone to the early history of this region and the settlement of the Hudson Valley.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Ruttenber, E.M. and L.H. Clark, eds. *History of Orange County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881.

Ruttenber, E.M. *History of the County of Orange, With a History of the Town and City of Newburgh*. Newburgh: E.M. Ruttenber & Son, 1875.

Spafford, Horatio. *A Gazetteer of the State of New-York*. Albany: B.D. Packard: 1824.

Weise, Arthur J. *The Swartwout Chronicles, 1338-1899, and the Ketelbuyn Chronicles, 1451-1899* (New York: Trow Directory Printing and Bookbinding Company, 1899

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 .83 acres total (.23 and .60 acres)
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>532222</u>	<u>4587304</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>532258</u>	<u>4587368</u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the enclosed mapping, which was drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1: 12,000, 1: 6,000 and 1: 4,000. All maps are entitled "Gumaer Cemetery, Guymard, Orange Co., NY."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the cemetery has been drawn as two distinctive though related sites: the first, the principal burial area, consists of .60 acres, and the second, the area set aside for slave burials, consists of .23 acres. Both have been drawn using survey mapping compiled previously. No additional or "buffer" land has been included, only that land which was set aside earlier, and specifically, for the purpose of the interment of human remains.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date May 2017
street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 268-2167
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

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:

Photographs by William E. Krattinger, July 2017

TIFF file format; original digital files maintained at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Waterford, NY 12188.

- 001 General view looking to northeast along southeast boundary of main burial area
- 002 General view looking northwards from main burial area towards slave burial area
- 003 Earliest decipherable gravestone with notation "H.D. 1713"
- 004 Gravestone of Benjamin Provoost, died July 1720
- 005 Gravestone of Harmanus Van Inwegen, died July 1814
- 006 Gravestone of Gane Van Inwegen, died October 1802
- 007 Gravestone of Adam Gumaer, died May 1813
- 008 Gravestone of Floor Gumaer, died December 1818
- 009 Gravestone of Peter Guimar, installed by descendant in 1858
- 010 Gravestone of Peter Gumaer, installed by descendant in 1858
- 011 Godeffroy family plot

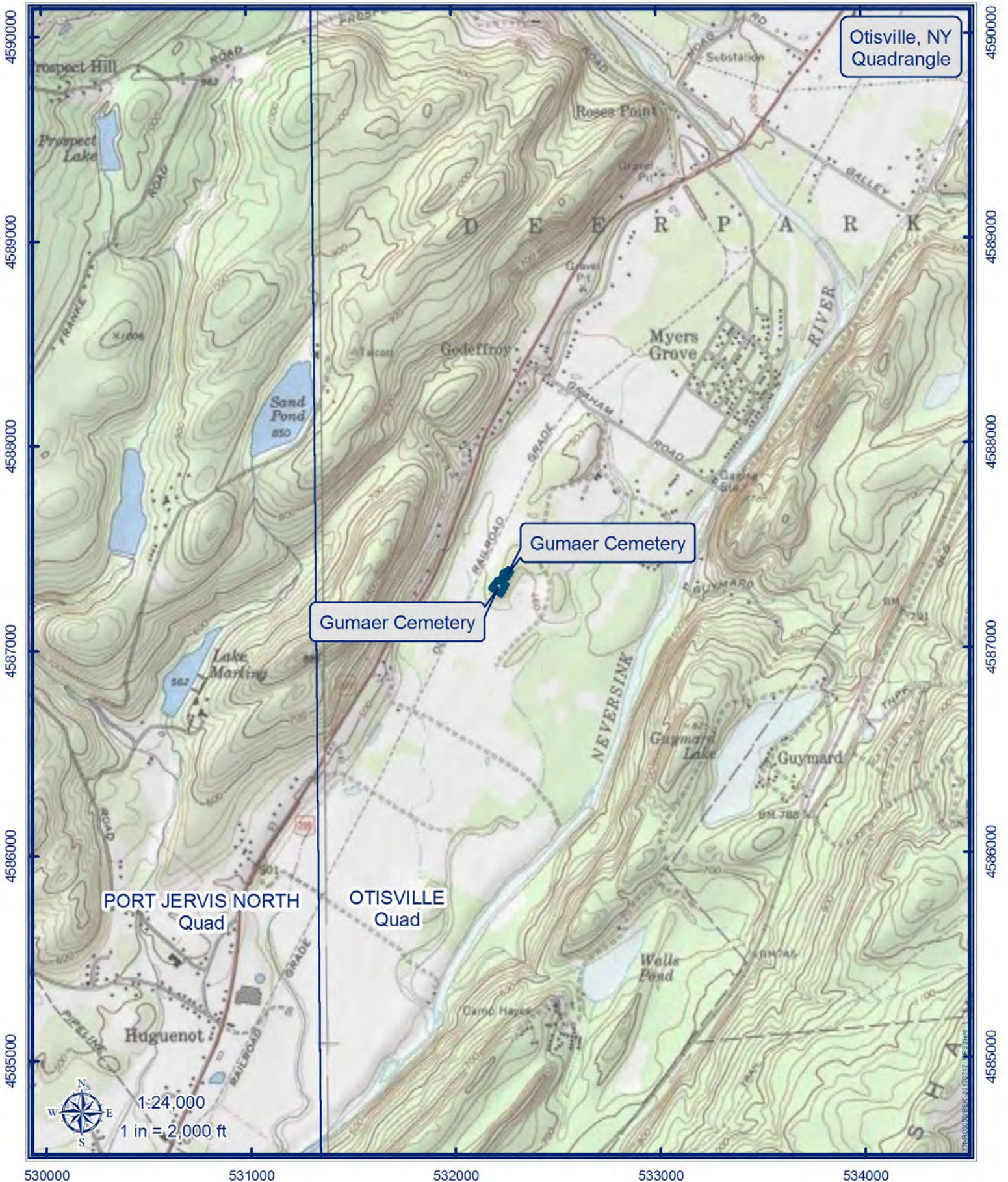
Property Owner:

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

name Deerpark Dutch Reformed Church
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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



Otisville, NY
Quadrangle

Gumaer Cemetery

Gumaer Cemetery

PORT JERVIS NORTH
Quad

OTISVILLE
Quad

1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft

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

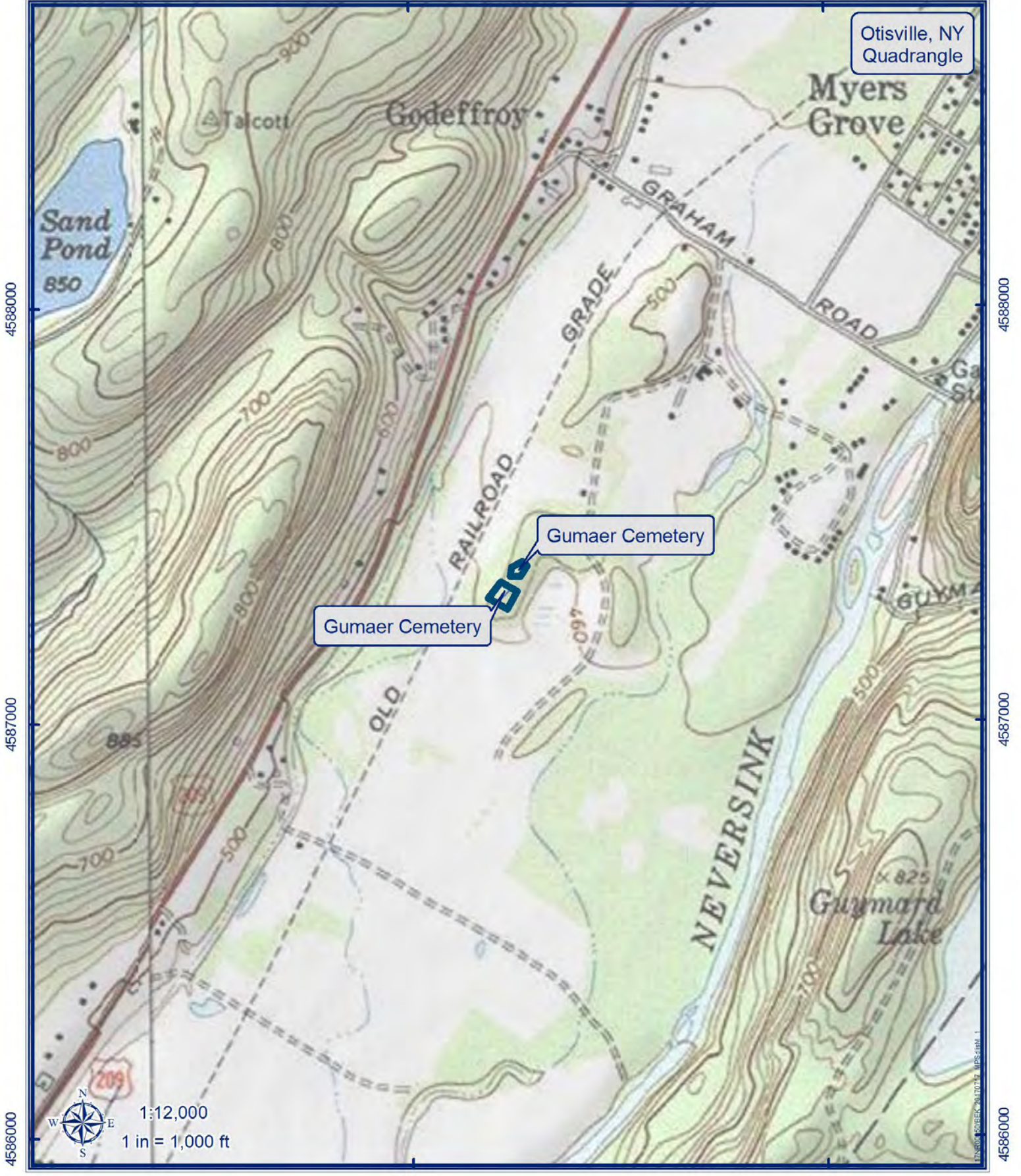


Gumaer Cemetery



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Otisville, NY
Quadrangle



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



Gumaer Cemetery



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



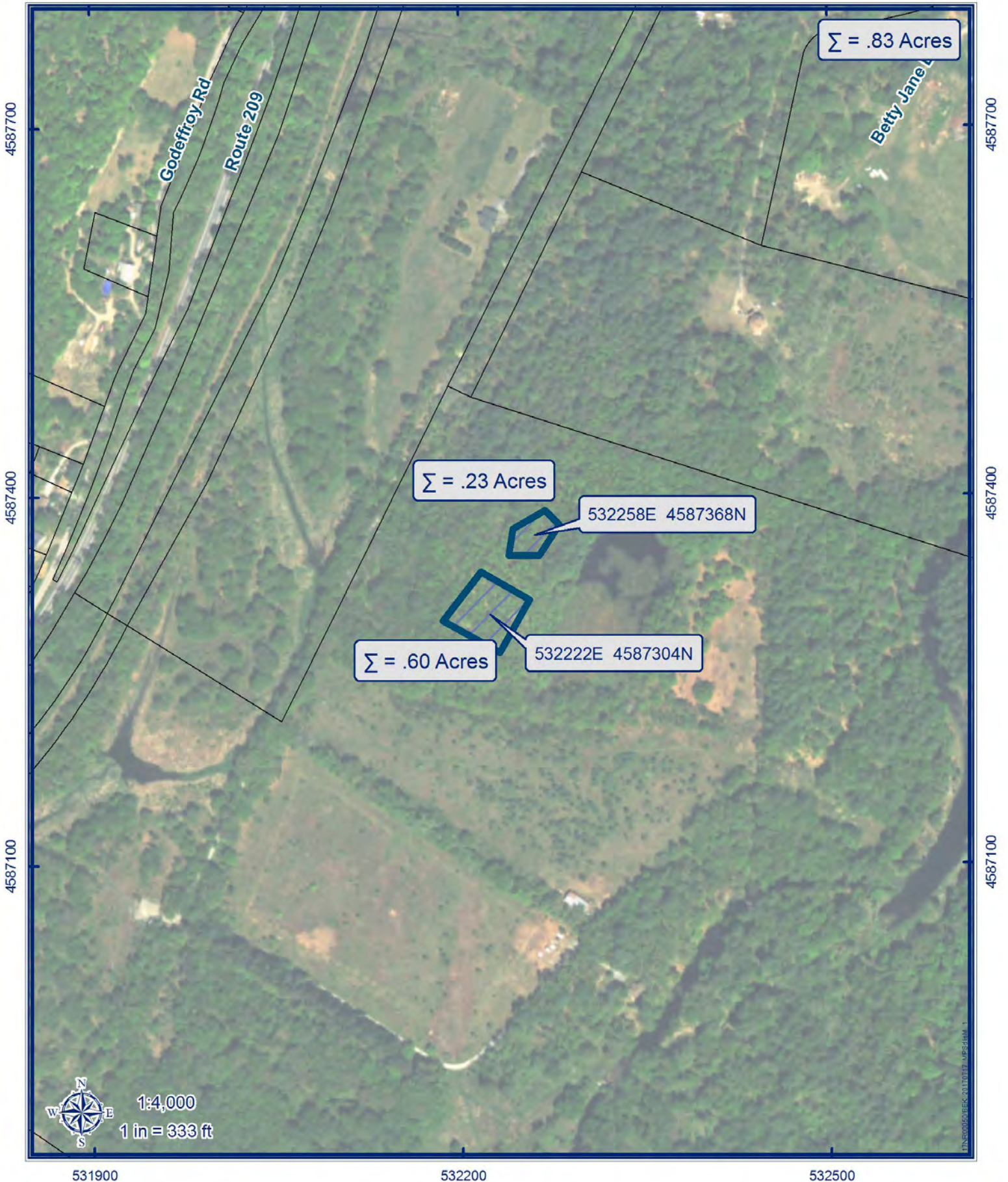
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Gumaer Cemetery



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation









ANNO 1720
DE 16 YULEN
IS BEGRAVE ST
BENJAMIN PROVOO





GALE
WANNIEGE
D.V.E.D.O.C.T.O.R.
30 - 1 802





PETER GUIMAR

Progenitor of the Guimars
Who originated in the
Present town of Dearpark

Died A.D. 1739.

aged 73 years.

From France he came to the fled
American who made his settlement
The year was 1739 or thereabouts
From France he fled to the new
When he came to the land
Under the command
He was a companion Coulebee.
Escaped the horrid cruel wreck.

Dearpark A.D. 1858

P. E. G.

PETER GUNNAER

1858

1921

1921



GODEFREY

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: 8/3/2017 Date of Pending List: 9/1/2017 Date of 16th Day: 9/18/2017 Date of 45th Day: 9/18/2017 Date of Weekly List: 9/21/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 9/18/2017 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.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



28 July 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 five nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Gumaer Cemetery, Orange County
Stillwater Mountain Fire Observation Station (Fire Observation Stations of the New York State Forest Preserve), Herkimer County
Sagamore Apartment House, Onondaga County
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Chemung County
Crandell Theatre, Columbia County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office