

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 Austerlitz Historic District NOT AN MPDF  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number NYS Rt.22, Harvey Mtn. Rd., East Hill Rd., West Hill Rd., Old Rd.  not for publication  
city or town Austerlitz  vicinity  
state New York code NY county Columbia code 021 zip code 12017

### 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

Signature of certifying official/Title [Signature] Date 4/9/18  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government [Signature]

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): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 5/25/18

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## 5. Classification

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### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
31	36	buildings
6	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
37	37	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

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

0

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, single dwelling, secondary structure,

hotel

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COMMERCE/TRADE, specialty store

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EDUCATION, school

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RELIGION, religious facility

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FUNERARY, cemetery

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### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, single dwelling, secondary structure

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RELIGION, religious facility

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FUNERARY, cemetery

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC, Federal

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MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, Greek Revival, Gothic

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Revival

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### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

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walls: WOOD, Weatherboard, Shingle

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roof: ASPHALT

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other: BRICK

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### **Summary Paragraph**

The Austerlitz Historic District is located in a hamlet and a town of the same name along the eastern boundary of Columbia County, which is also the border between New York State and Massachusetts. It is situated between the Taconic and Berkshire mountain ranges on the west and east, respectively, and contains the Green River, which is part of the Housatonic River watershed. The Green River has its head waters in No Bottom Pond, north of the hamlet, and it flows through the district before crossing the state line and emptying into the Housatonic in Massachusetts. More a stream than a river, it nevertheless offered some industrial potential historically, and a few early mill sites have been identified along its course in the immediate area. But it was the valley's fertile soil that largely led to the hamlet's early settlement. The valley is also a principal transportation corridor in the town and region, as the highway that bisects the district has been an important north/south arterial along the New York-New England border since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It reputedly originated as a Native American trail. The road from Hartford, Connecticut, to Albany, New York, was improved by the Hillsdale and Chatham Turnpike in 1805, which brought regional traffic through the historic district. In 1909 the highway was designated Rt.1 by the state legislature and was renamed Rt.22 in 1929. When the Harlem and New York Railroad, running north out of Manhattan was extended into Columbia County in 1852, it bypassed Austerlitz to intersect with other railroads in nearby Chatham to the west and thereby diminished its economic potential.

The historic district contains 37 properties, of which 23 can be documented to an 1888 map of the hamlet and are pivotal to its significance. There are 37 contributing resources (31 contributing buildings; 6 contributing sites) and 37 non-contributing resources (36 non-contributing buildings; 1 non-contributing structure). Of the 36 non-contributing buildings, 18 are of an ancillary nature and 6 are moved historic buildings contained within the campus of Old Austerlitz, an outdoor museum facility. The majority of historic properties are domestic in function, although the district also includes a church, hotel, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop and two cemeteries. Construction dates of the cited contributing buildings range from the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century to 1870 and generally reflect the architecture of southwestern New England from whence Austerlitz families came. The earliest dwellings are associated with the town's settlers and were designed in the traditional New England manner with center-chimneys, hall-parlor plans with kitchens behind the chimney or in wings. Nearly all are story-and-a-half, gable roofed forms consistent with the town's modest, rural economy. These were conservatively designed, preserving an iconographic architecture remembered from hometowns, both by owners and builders. These traditional archaic forms were in time replaced by the bolder modern house designs spreading through the region during the early years of the Republic. A few buildings have been lost since 1888, including a church (fire) and outmoded stores, shops and agricultural buildings; some houses have been moved to thwart their demise. New construction has occurred in limited, undeveloped parts of the district; most are single family homes but a large firehouse complex has also been added. Non-contributing properties number nine and there are five vacant parcels.

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### **Narrative Description**

The boundary of the Austerlitz Historic District was drawn to contain the hamlet area, which is concentrated between the intersection of routes 22 and 203 on the north and a modest industrial center on the south which was powered by a small tributary of the Green River, known locally as Mountain Brook, which flows alongside Harvey Mountain Road. This also represents the extent of the hamlet as depicted on 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps. The northern node provided commercial services for

travelers, including a hotel, tavern, blacksmith shop and store, while the southern node was an industrial enclave with a saw mill and blacksmith, wagon and paint shops, as well as associated housing. The area between these two nodes, where the Green River crosses from the east to the west side of the highway, was devoted to farming. However, it was there that the community's school, two churches and a cemetery were located. The architecture of the hamlet reflects the evolving design of domestic buildings in the border region covering eastern New York and western New England, particularly Berkshire County in Massachusetts. This architectural history begins with traditional center-chimney houses conceptually transported from New England, where their owners and builders originated. Most of these are story-and-a-half hall-parlor dwellings in which small farmers, laborers and tradesmen resided, but there is one house with a fully-developed center-chimney plan with a kitchen behind the chimney. However, both types have upper half-stories that reflect the progress from the low, one-story dwellings common earlier in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in New England. Austerlitz was slow to develop due to boundary and ownership disputes that were not resolved until after the Revolution. By that time significant changes had occurred in the design and planning of domestic architecture, and it proliferated with the growing population. Roman Neoclassicism was a favored taste in rural New York and Western Massachusetts and it is reflected in new house forms and decorative features built in the historic district. A generation later, the Greek Revival style swept through the region as thousands of New Englanders migrated west out of over-populated towns in the east. The final stage of architectural development began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when new progressive and asymmetrical house designs grew in popularity with local builders.

The district area in large measure represents the development of houses and other characteristic building types in linear fashion along an established transportation corridor, present-day Route 22. The district does not present as a densely built-up corridor but is instead characterized by more scattered development within which are visible a number of building "clusters" such as that which is present on the south side of the district, south of Harvey Mountain Road, and on the north side of the district between East/West Hill Road and Route 203. The character of the district between these two more densely built-up areas is largely that of open space bisected by the course of the Green River with only scattered properties, including the historic church and schoolhouse on the west side of the road and, to the south and on the opposite side of the road, Old Austerlitz, upon which are located a number of historic buildings which were relocated there to serve interpretive and educational needs (the moved resources associated with the campus have been deemed non-contributing). The vast majority of the buildings within the district, dwellings and otherwise, were oriented in relationship to the road; thus those properties situated along Route 22 were built to face either east or west. The setting is a decidedly rural one, with the hamlet located within a low-lying area bordering the Green River which contrasts open fields and woodlots and which is framed to the east by the Taconic Mountains. These open areas towards the center of the district do not represent the loss of building stock but instead generally indicate former farmland. Although the district area is not characterized by a consistent density of built resources there is nevertheless a clear sense of visual and physical separation as one leaves the hamlet area traveling north or south on Route 22 or west on Route 203.

#### TRADITIONAL CENTER-CHIMNEY HOUSES

Take away the gable wall dormer added to the front façade in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the Bristol – Kinne house at 11526 Rt.22 is a distinctive example of the traditional center-chimney house type (PHOTO 1). The story-and-a-half, wood frame dwelling has rooms flanking a lobby entry and a kitchen behind the chimney in the rear of the house. The large plan is tucked under a gable roof with a deep span; the upper-story kneewall, a late innovation, raises the eaves well-above the windows, providing more interior living space and a more substantial front façade. Its center entrance with multi-paned

transom is wide enough to have contained twin paneled doors common to 18<sup>th</sup>-century houses in the Connecticut River Valley, where many settlers came from. However, it was built for Lewis Bristol (b.1783), who came from New Marlborough in Berkshire County, and his, wife Sarah Kingman, a native of Sheffield, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> They arrived in Austerlitz in time to have been enumerated there in the 1810 U.S. Census. The second Austerlitz town meeting was held in this house in 1819.

The Bristol house anchors the southern end of the historic district, where an enclave of dwellings assembled around Charles Kinne's wagon manufactory in the 1850s. Another center-chimney house was built at the north end of the district at a stopping point on the turnpike, although it was moved to its present location at 39 Harvey Mountain Road to prevent its demolition in 1983 (PHOTO 2); it exhibits a "kicked roof," somewhat unusual for this region. Blacksmith Clark Beebe Jr. (1784-1872) lived here with his family for most of his adult life, but the house likely was built by Israel A. Baldwin between 1800 and 1810; Baldwin was conveyed a mortgage by Clark and Clarissa Beebe in 1811.<sup>2</sup> Smaller than the Bristol house but still with an upper-story kneewall on the front, this example has a hall and parlor divided by a center chimney with a kitchen in a shed-roof extension on the rear. It has a plainer façade with a center entrance flanked by single windows (assuming that the house was restored accurately when it was moved).

#### HALL-PARLOR HOUSES

A more economical and lower-status 18<sup>th</sup>-century New England house form, the hall-parlor house contained two rooms divided by a center chimney with a central lobby entrance and a stair enclosed in the back of the house. As with the center-chimney houses built in this period, its height has been pushed up to one-and-a-half stories. One of the rooms functioned as a kitchen, although it also could occupy a wing, often added later. One of the more evident examples of this house type is located at 9 Harvey Mountain Road, although its original history is not fully known and it has been renovated and encumbered with later additions (PHOTO 15). It is speculated that it had been built in the early 1800s as a tenant house on Chauncey G. Varney's farm, which covered both sides of the highway. Varney was the successor of William S. Walling, one of the hamlet's first settlers, whose ca. 1782 story-and-a-half hall-parlor house on the west side of the road is reputedly contained within the elegant Greek Revival-style house at 11549 Rt.22 (PHOTO 9). Under this scenario, the Walling house originated with a south-facing front façade, which Varney shifted to the street side in his renovations. There are other houses in the district with hall-parlor plans with dual entries that may reflect alterations made to pre-existing houses or show the persistence of the plan well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A south-facing story-and-a-half hall-parlor house at 11523 Rt.22, perhaps the one occupied by Thomas Tillinghast in 1851, was bought by carpenter David K. Lane in 1859 and made into a cross-wing plan with additions (PHOTO 16).

#### NEOCLASSICAL HOUSES

The historic district experienced its initial period of development following the routing of the Hartford and Albany road in 1785 through the Austerlitz hamlet, which became a stagecoach stop with a hotel, livery, blacksmith and other services. By 1805 a section of this road between Hillsdale and Chatham was improved as a turnpike, which further spurred development at the stage stop. New commercial buildings and residences were erected where the turnpike diverted to the northwest, creating an intersection. It was here that Clark Beebe Jr. had his blacksmith shop for many years (not extant, his house was moved to 39 Harvey Hill Road in 1983) and a hotel was functioning in a large two-story edifice at 11640

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<sup>1</sup> Theresa Hall Bristol, "Bristol Notes," *The New York Genealogical & Biographical Record*, Vo. 45 (1914), 226.

<sup>2</sup> Columbia County Mortgages, D:195, June 25, 1811. Hereafter cited as Mortgages.

Rt.22 (PHOTO 3). Lewis Bristol had acquired interests in a number of properties at the intersection and conveyed a one-acre lot “containing a tavern stand” to Aaron Blinn in 1829.<sup>3</sup> The \$1500 sale price suggests this substantial building was extant at the time. Although its façade is distinguished by corner pilasters, a tall frieze along the eaves and a trabeated entrance, it is possible these Greek Revival-style features are additions to a simpler, house-like two-story gable block, which was the form of turnpike hotels in use early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (Later, antebellum hotels in the region were more overtly decorated in the “modern” style, often emphasized by two-story galleries with colonnades tucked under the front roof.) Twelve-over-six window sash on the five-bay front façade, if in fact the original configuration, are representative of a type popular at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; tall windows are an indication of its public use. There probably had been a piazza across the front to further represent it as a tavern stand. The property continued in hotel/tavern use into the 1940s; it is currently a single dwelling.

South of the hotel at 11622 Rt.22 is a more stylish two-story house incorporating Neoclassical design elements (PHOTO 4). Deed records document that a house was present on this corner property as early as 1795, but the decoration on the front façade of the current building, notably a distinctive frieze carved with elliptical fans, appears to date around twenty years later, when the property was owned by Judah Swift (1773-1818), who had inherited his father Nathaniel Swift’s farm, or his successor, Aaron Brown (1758-1838). The two-story house would have stood out as the largest and most distinguished edifice in the otherwise small-scale hamlet. Aaron Brown and later his son, Anson Brown (1798-1891), were merchants and one reason for the unusual scale of this house was that it may have contained a store before the Browns built a separate store building to the north (not extant). A center entrance with two-thirds sidelights and surviving 12-over-12 window sash are features associated with the 1790s, and some kind of entrance porch or piazza would be expected as an additional façade ornament. A two-story wing is centered on the rear wall with porches on both sides and a dormer added to the roof. The large scale and plain but conscious decoration is consistent with the new houses being erected throughout western Massachusetts after the Revolutionary War as the region rapidly developed with the influx of land-hungry New Englanders. Settlement in Austerlitz and other New York towns in the contested boundary lands had been slow for many years, and they contained available land in the direct path of the great New England migration.

A still more distinctive architectural object designed in the Neoclassical mode is located at 11631 Rt.22, across the highway from the hotel and the Swift-Brown House (PHOTO 5). Extant by 1818 when Amos Seymour sold it to Lewis Bristol and Charles Bull, the two-story house with a pedimented gable and one-story cross-gable wings on both sides is a Neoclassical form of which other more elaborate examples have been identified in the region.<sup>4</sup> It preserves the traditional hall-parlor with rear kitchen plan within an innovative envelope. The center chimney was removed and replaced with a center passage linking the three principal rooms. Seymour referred to the property as a “tavern stand” and afterwards it served as the home and office of Charles Bull, a physician. James N. Barnes owned the property from 1843 to 1869 and maps depict his shoe shop at the south end of the property’s frontage. When Chauncey Gamwell Varney purchased the house in 1869, he operated a store, probably in the old shoe shop. Later this shop was moved and connected to the southwest corner of the house amid other annexes there.

Neoclassicism was established as the prevailing taste along the New England border in the 1820s. It was a particularly expressive moment in rural history as the agrarian economy was ascendant and country and city were engaged in struggle

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<sup>3</sup> Columbia County Deeds, P:106. Hereafter cited as Deeds.

<sup>4</sup> Deeds, E1:172.

for supremacy in state governments. Neoclassicism was associated with its ardent promoter, Thomas Jefferson, who was an icon of rural republicans. The gable ends of houses were turned to the street to evince the temple facades of Roman antiquity. Some gables were treated as full pediments, such as in the foregoing description, but most made a more oblique reference with short returns at the base. New England housebuilders would perpetuate this detailing for the entire 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In Austerlitz, architectural expression was generally muted in domestic applications, such as in the case of the house built at 11639 Rt.22 for Noah Rossiter in 1826-1827 (PHOTO 6). A native of Richmond, Massachusetts, Rossiter was recorded as engaged in manufacturing in the 1820 U.S. Census, although what that was has yet to be discovered. By this time, many small houses such as this example contained two full stories. The side-passage plan, with the entrance off-center on a three-bay front façade, has its two principal rooms arranged front-to-back rather than side-by-side; the kitchen was incorporated in to the rear, either within the envelope of the two-story mass or in a smaller wing. Designed without the traditional center chimney, the house has brick stacks at front and rear ends; the wide spacing between windows on the front façade indicates the location of fireplaces within. (Later, when stove heating became common, a single chimney was positioned in the partition between the rooms.) The façade of the Rossiter house is framed by thin corner pilasters providing a sense of structural support for the short returns at the base of the gable pediment. The flat projecting cornice with a molded edge is carried by a pronounced frieze, which amounts to the standard Neoclassical reference on dwellings of modest value. A porch at the entrance provided another opportunity for decoration, and while the one on this house makes reference to a Neoclassical porch with its pedimented roof, arched ceiling and turned posts, it is a replica added at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nine-over-six windows help to accentuate the attenuated verticality of the Neoclassical form.

Next door to the Rossiter house is a dwelling constructed at the same time for Albert Cole at 11643 Rt.22 (PHOTO 7). It is essentially the same two-story house type as Rossiter's except for the orientation of the roof. The side-passage plan is only one room deep, but it connects to a long ell on the rear. Original design features, such as an entrance porch or front piazza and cornice decoration have been lost to alterations except for nine-over-six window sash. The 1820 U.S. Census identified Amos Cole as engaged in commerce, and he probably ran his business from the house. By 1850 the house was owned by brothers-in-law John Shaw and Edward Hoyt, who made separate domiciles for their families in the house and based their shared masonry business there. The rear ell likely was enlarged during their occupancy. A barn is connected to the south side of the wing.

A small, story-and-a-half building with a front-gable facade at 39 Harvey Mountain Road, estimated to have been built around 1820, carries the Neoclassical details along its roof edge as described above (PHOTO 8). Moved to this location from a parcel on Rt.22 in 1990 and joined to the Beebe House moved from the north end of the historic district in 1983, it is reputed to have been the home of Abijah Heath (1793-1869), who farmed land on the east side of the highway apparently owned by his brother-in-law and neighbor, Henry S. Walling. Although styled with Neoclassical motifs, it may have also originated, like Walling's, as a hall-parlor house.

## GREEK REVIVAL HOUSES

The tell-tale evidence of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century westward migration is the proliferation of buildings designed in the Greek Revival style. The most distinctive of those erected in Austerlitz is the Chauncey G. Varney House at 11549 Rt.22, said to be a renovation of William S. Walling's earlier house with the addition of architectural features in the Greek Revival taste

(PHOTO 9). In the same manner as houses of Neoclassical design, the Varney house presents a gabled façade to the street, this time containing a full pediment modeled after archeological finds from ancient Greece rather than Rome. Roof-line entablatures are composed of more substantial cornices and friezes than those of their predecessors. Missing on the Varney house are the wide corner pilasters identified with the Greek Revival; the narrow corner boards are a remnant of the older house either physically or conceptually. Another signature element of the style is the trabeated entrance, a reference to the post and lintel architraves of Greek stone doorways. A tall lintel without the standard pilasters was added to the front entrance on the Varney House. The only fully developed trabeated doorway in the historic district is found on the hotel building (PHOTO 3). Six-over-six sash were in fashion during this period.

The pedimented front gable of the house at 11602 Rt.22 built for James S. Lee in 1843 contains a window with elaborate trim incorporating corner and center blocks and extending down to frame a panel beneath the window (PHOTO 10). This is a gable element identifiable on houses of the same period throughout southern Berkshire County in Massachusetts. Like the nearby Noah Rossiter House at 11639 Rt.22, the windows on the three-bay front façade are widely spaced to accommodate fireplaces and a chimney on the front wall. The façade is also distinguished by wide corner pilasters and a full pediment in the Greek Revival style. The side-passage plan is two-rooms deep on the opposing side with a kitchen in the rear. The house was enlarged and elaborated with a wrap-around porch, shingling and fanciful trim when it was renovated as a country retreat and model farm for a New Yorker at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It also was extended by an addition on the rear at that time or later when it functioned as a summer boarding house.

An iconic Greek Revival-style building is the schoolhouse on Rt.22 in the center of the historic district (PHOTO 11). Built in 1853, it was relocated to its site next to the Christian Church in 1898 from its original location at the corner of the highway and West Hill Road when that area was redeveloped as a horse race track by George W. Peterson, who was transforming James S. Lee's farm into a country retreat. The one-story, one-room schoolhouse has a pedimented gable surmounting a flat-roof vestibule on its front façade. There are three large windows on each side, in the conventional manner, and a blank rear wall where the chalkboard was located. The front vestibule contained gender-separated cloakrooms and, perhaps, a privy. If original, the large ventilator in the roof shows the concern progressive educators of the day placed on the circulation of fresh air in classrooms.

Completed in 1852, the Christian Church on the west side of Rt.22 is primarily Greek Revival in style, yet with some uncharacteristic design features, such as Gothic pinnacles at the top of the bell tower and an entrance framed by wide, hollowed trim with corner blocks (PHOTO 12). Country churches of this period and even earlier often combined Greek and Gothic elements, pairing rectilinear Greek Revival trim with pointed Gothic windows and tower components, such as pinnacles. In this instance the windows on either side are square-headed with multi-paned sash. The central bell tower springs from a pedimented pavilion containing a wide entrance flanked by windows. A low balustrade with pinnacles in the corners distinguishes the apex of the tower. The absence of a trabeated entrance architrave reflects the late construction date of the building and the changing character of architectural millwork. The same can be said about the trim on the front of the schoolhouse, which also lacks the characteristic Greek entry.

Story-and-a-half dwellings at 11623 Rt.22 (front gable) and 6 Harvey Mountain Road (side gable) both have the construction date of 1836. Both also have modest Neoclassical trim indicating the persistence of the style in local millwork and carpentry. The front-gable house has wide corner pilasters framing its front façade and a restrained trabeated



doorway. It is a small house with principal rooms to one side of a side passage and a kitchen in a wing in the rear (PHOTO 13). In 1836 it was occupied by Major Meade Tyler (1792-1883), who is listed as engaged in commerce in the 1840 U.S. Census, indicating there was a commercial use on the property. Ten years later, his household included his son, Archibald Tyler, who was identified as a merchant. In that same year, Major M. Tyler was the local post master.

The Harvey Mountain Road address actually fronts on RT.22. It has a four-bay front façade, which evidently is a smaller, lower-cost alternative to a longer five-bay house (PHOTO 14). The interior plan of this particular house is not known, but in some cases the doorway opens on a narrow hall and stair and in others there is no hall at all, with the doorway opening into one of the two front rooms. A long ell is attached to the back of the house and connects to a small barn that faces Harvey Mountain Road. Consistent with the practice of connected farm buildings the long wing would have contained a kitchen at the house end and wood house, wagon bay, and sometimes a privy at the barn end. The first owner appears to have been Edwin J. Ford, a carpenter, who sold it to stone mason Melancton Shaw in 1845. These occupations suggest additional trade-related functions for space in the long ell.

### MID 19<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY HOUSES

The Austerlitz hamlet continued to grow in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in the neighborhood of the Kinne wagon manufactory. The story-and-a-half hall-parlor house at 3 Harvey Mountain Road, may have been built for a farm tenant around 1800, but when wagonmaker Charles Kinne acquired it in 1835, it functioned just as well as an industrial worker dwelling (PHOTO 15). It was one of a few properties where Kinne created housing for his employees.<sup>5</sup> This property was conveyed in 1851 it to William A. Dibble, who was a laborer almost certainly employed in the wagon manufactory.

An existing story-and-a-half hall-parlor house on the opposite side of the highway at 11523 Rt.22 was bought by carpenter David K. Lane in 1859 (PHOTO 16). He enlarged and updated the building stylistically with the addition of a cross-gable wing on rear of the south side. The model for the altered house was a progressive cottage dwelling appropriate for the working class promoted in pattern-books of the day. One of the driving issues in mid-century architectural innovation was breaking up the rigid Classical symmetry of established house forms and plans. These houses often had front façades that contained only windows, with the entrance on the south side or in the wing. The plan and orientation of the original hall-parlor house lent itself nicely to this organizational change. French windows extant on the first story, extending down to the floor, suggest that the original porch wrapped around on the front.

The renovations Lane made to his house were surely influenced by two identical cottages built at the same time by Charles Kinne across the highway at 11520 and 11522 Rt.22 (PHOTOS 17 & 18). These upright-and-wing houses were clearly built from published plans. Unlike the Lane house, the entrances are in the front gable rather than on the side. The Kinne tenant houses were designed in the Gothic Revival style, emphasized by steep gable roofs, pointed hoods over the doors and windows on the gable ends, and scroll-sawn eave and gable verge decoration. The two dwellings are distinctive for their advanced design—the Gothic Revival enjoyed very limited acceptance in New England—and their association with idealized factory housing, even on this very small scale. While these houses were being built, Kinne updated his old center-chimney house with a Gothic wall dormer and scroll-sawn fascia on the front (PHOTO 1).

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<sup>5</sup> Deeds, U:497.

Another upright-and-wing house was built in 1861 for John Shaw at 11515 Rt.22 (PHOTO 19). Identified as a farmer in the 1860 U.S. Census, Shaw was listed as employed as a carpenter in the 1865 NYS Census, meaning he was probably working across the highway at the Kinne wagon shop. The gabled section on the north side of the house with a three-bay front façade and off-center entrance is part of the original house; the wing has been consumed by a large addition on the south side. At the northern limits of the hamlet, blacksmith Lorenzo Kellogg may have built an upright-and-wing house at 11668 Rt.22 when he purchased the property in 1849 (PHOTO 20).

Two more hall-parlor houses built in the 1860s show the endurance of the traditional story-and-a-half hall-parlor plan in rural areas where both owners and builders were conservative in their building practices and design taste. One of these dwellings is located on Harvey Mountain Road and was built in 1867 for Lester E. Harvey, who was “tending” the saw mill there in 1870 (PHOTO 21). This house has a four-bay front façade with an entrance that appears to enter directly into one of the rooms. The exterior brick chimney pictured is a more recent addition; windows in the upper half-story improved conditions in attic bed chambers. At this time, Lester E. Harvey’s first cousin, Russell G. Harvey, was the proprietor of the hotel at the north end of the hamlet where a hall-parlor house was added, perhaps moved, to the property, now separate and addressed 11644 Rt.22 around 1865 (PHOTO 22). A story-and-a-half with a four-bay front façade and windows in the upper half-story, this house is remarkably similar to Lester’s. The 1888 map associates the house with “A. Harvey,” who may have been Lester’s father, Alfred Harvey (1821-1898).

#### OTHER BUILDINGS

Only three commercial buildings have survived in the historic district; however, none is presently in commercial use or has been in commercial use recently. Although the Austerlitz Hotel building is extant, it has been categorized as a house form in this documentation. A barn associated with the Shaw-Ford House at 11515 Rt.22 had functioned as the shop of blacksmith David A. Grant, who moved to the property in 1888. James N. Barnes’s shoe shop located at 11631 Rt.22 had been pictured as a separate building on the property on the 1858 map of Austerlitz; it has since been moved and attached to the rear wing of the house there. No historic agricultural buildings are extant, and while a few domestic barns continue to be associated with dwellings, most have been replaced by detached garages.

#### CEMETERIES

Two cemeteries are contained in the historic district and contain grave sites of most of the hamlet’s former inhabitants. A small burial ground, partially overgrown, is located on the south side of East Hill Road east of the Green River and the site of the Congregational Church (PHOTO 23). Known as the East Hill Cemetery, it contains 146 burials dated between 1793 and 1981, with the majority of interments occurring before the Austerlitz Cemetery was opened in 1856.<sup>6</sup> The designs of gravestones range from marble slabs with scrolled tops reflecting 18<sup>th</sup>-century traditions to rectangular marble markers and obelisks in the Neoclassical fashion of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Austerlitz Cemetery is located on the west side of the highway at the extreme southern end of the historic district (PHOTO 24). An inventory of this graveyard recorded 247 burials dating after 1856.<sup>7</sup> Burial plots are distinguished by a variety of manufactured monuments representing tastes and practices characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. No gravestone makers have been identified in the town,

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/columbia/cems/east\\_hill\\_cem.htm](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/columbia/cems/east_hill_cem.htm).

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/columbia/cems/austerlitz\\_cem.htm](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ny/county/columbia/cems/austerlitz_cem.htm).

although there is one individual in Austerlitz working as a stone mason in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Stones likely were supplied by makers in larger towns in Berkshire County, such as Stockbridge or Great Barrington.

## TWENTIETH-CENTURY DEVELOPMENT

Although most all of the historic properties within the district have witnessed some measure of expansion or alteration at one time or the other since their construction, all of them nevertheless retain distinguishing architectural characteristics associating them with the period in which they were built. Such alterations are generally contributing features, given their occurrence within the period of significance and their association with the history of the hamlet, which experienced the loss of commercial and industrial enterprises at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as pronounced population and economic decline. In many cases, this condition helped preserve the buildings, at least the houses, because not a single commercial or industrial building appears to have survived. Austerlitz experienced stages of revitalization in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as New Yorkers bought distressed properties and rehabilitated them for vacation and retirement homes. The local tourist economy has its roots earlier, with farm families boarding families for the summer to augment incomes, but the absence of a direct rail connection to the city marginalized the town in this respect. It was not until the advent of the automobile that the state highway made Austerlitz something of a destination. The old hotel had a resurgence of business, benefiting from the expanding recreational interest in the country.

The Lee-Peterson House at 11602 Rt.22 first transitioned to into the country estate of businessman George W. Peterson, who grew up in the house, and then into a boarding house/bed-and-breakfast that functioned into the 1990s. Its wrap-around veranda and gingerbread decoration are tell-tale signs of this use (PHOTO 10). Peterson's farm extended across the highway opposite the house, which is where he built a horse race track (not extant). The road frontage of this property now contains recent buildings associated with the Austerlitz Volunteer Fire Company (PHOTO 25). Smaller houses were purchased for weekend retreats by city apartment dwellers, which then turned into retirement homes through a variety of additions and interior improvements. In the midst of this, there were also new generations of local families looking for homes to remain in the area. However, these people generally are more responsible for new construction in the district rather than the historic preservation of existing building stock. A new 21<sup>st</sup>-century generation of affluent urban professionals desiring second homes in the country has spurred the latest wave of interest in historic preservation.

Local historian and antiquarian Robert Herron, whose family is related to the Varneys, who came to own a large portion of the farm on the east side of the road, has played a major role in the redevelopment of the property managed by the Austerlitz Historical Society into a living history museum, known as Old Austerlitz Historical Village. Herron and Richard Mugler, another founder of the Austerlitz Historical Society, initiated the process by moving the Beebe (Sauer) house in 1983 from its original site near the Austerlitz Hotel (11640 Rt.22) to its current location at 39 Harvey Mountain Road to prevent its demolition. In 1990 Herron moved another house he owned fronting on the highway to the 39 Harvey Mountain Road address and attached it to the other. The Beebe (Sauer) house and the dwelling formerly located on Route 22 but which is now also located at 39 Harvey Mountain Road have been deemed contributing structures, given they are original and early historic buildings from the hamlet itself that have been moved to other locations within the hamlet and that they represent important themes in the hamlet's history and architecture. Herron and Mugler also had roles in the rehabilitation and resale of other historic houses in the hamlet, most of them having fallen on hard times.

However, the next stage in the historical society's development does not contribute to the district's significance. The donation of the 1794 Morey-Devereux House, moved from Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York to three acres Herron donated to the historical society in 2002 led to the creation of Old Austerlitz Historical Village at 11550 Rt.22 (PHOTO 26). The English barn associated with the house was re-erected on the property ten years later, and a replica of a wagon shed also associated with the house was constructed based on the original that had been relocated to the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, New York (PHOTO 27). A second house, built ca. 1780, was moved from northwestern Connecticut in 2001 and another barn was brought in and repurposed as a blacksmith shop. A granary moved from Stillwater, New York, was acquired in 1999. All of the moved buildings within the historical society campus have been deemed non-contributing resources in the context of this documentation because they are from other locations and have been moved into an artificial setting. The Old Austerlitz complex may be eligible for NRHP listing at a later date and in other contexts but is not relevant to the themes presented in the district narrative.

END OF NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION & SETTLEMENT

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### Period of Significance

ca. 1793 – ca. 1968

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### Significant Dates

1793

1805

1819

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### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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### Architect/Builder

unknown

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### Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, ca. 1793- ca. 1898, directly corresponds with the historic development of the Austerlitz hamlet; the beginning date reflects the first recorded burial within the East Hill Cemetery, while the terminal date of 1968, set at the standard 50-year cutoff, reflects the continued use of Austerlitz Cemetery (first interment 1856) as a place of interment for residents of the hamlet and surrounding area.

### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

### **Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Austerlitz Historic District meets National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C at a local level of significance as a distinctive example of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century turnpike hamlet with origins in the late 1700s, its heyday in the mid-1800s, a decline in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and revitalization in the mid-1900s. Areas of significance include Exploration & Settlement and Architecture. Laid out in a linear pattern along a Colonial highway following a narrow valley running from Manhattan to Vermont along New York's border with New England, Austerlitz became a definitive place when the Hillsdale and Chatham Turnpike, an improved leg on the road connecting Hartford, Connecticut, with Albany, New York, was routed through the hamlet in 1805. A commercial node providing services for travelers developed at an intersection on the north end of the hamlet, while a small industrial enclave organized around a wagon manufactory at the southern end. In between, where the Green River crossed the highway, were farms taking advantage of the fertile valley floor. Most of the extant historic properties were built before 1850 and are representative examples of late Colonial and early Republic domestic architecture characteristic of southwestern New England from whence the local population came. Early house types include traditional center-chimney and hall-parlor plans, all with story-and-a-half "kneewall" frames consistent with construction methods in practice at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the hall-parlor houses have their front facades oriented to the south with gable ends facing the highway. These evolved into front-gable houses, either by alteration or new design, in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century distinguished by Neoclassical or Greek Revival-style decoration, again following New England models and reflecting the limited extent of the Dutch cultural influence on the Hudson Valley's eastern border. Still later, the designs of some of these small, modest dwellings were adapted into asymmetrical, cross-wing modes. Few houses were constructed with an entire second story. Of them, one functioned as a hotel and another probably contained a store. The location and history of the hamlet of Austerlitz, as well as those of the larger town of that name as a whole, represent a landmark in the settlement of eastern New York and the province's boundary disputes with New England. The New England presence is documented by the origin of the settlers and the architectural tastes and practices they maintained through numerous generations and, evidently, in the ongoing social relationships and interactions that they maintained with neighboring towns in adjoining Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Austerlitz's linear development is characteristic of 19<sup>th</sup>-century turnpike towns and is a significant survivor in that regard with evidence of transportation-related commercial activities concentrated conventionally at a crossroads. The wagon manufactory was centered on a small tributary of the Green River that was impounded to power a saw mill, a forge, paint shop, and the wagon shop itself. These features no longer exist, but a collection of tenant dwellings for workers survives to represent this activity. While it did not rely directly on the turnpike for its existence, its products were part of the overland transportation supply system. With the industrial and commercial zones separated by an agricultural zone, early maps (1851 & 1858) do not depict the industrial enclave as part of the Austerlitz hamlet; however, by 1873 the two are combined as one in an inset map in the Columbia County atlas. Nearly all the houses depicted on an 1888 plan of Austerlitz survive essentially intact. Following a long period of economic decline and stasis spanning decades at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and enabled by general automobile ownership, improved roads (the turnpike was designated a state highway in 1901), and depressed property values, Austerlitz experienced waves of revitalization brought on by tourism and second home ownership, which has continued into the present day.

## Developmental history/additional historic context information

The Austerlitz Historic District is located in a hamlet and a town of the same name along the eastern boundary of Columbia County, which is also the border between New York State and Massachusetts. The Town of Austerlitz was created in 1818 from the northern half of the town of Hillsdale and the annexation of portions of the towns of Canaan and Chatham. This area had comprised one of the six-mile-square townships west of Sheffield and Stockbridge created by the Massachusetts General Court in 1756, later to be known as Spencertown after the family that had provided the greatest number of settlers.

## EXPLORATION & SETTLEMENT

The origins of Spencertown are not well documented. Concerted searches in archives in both Massachusetts and New York have yielded little information regarding Colonial patents or agreements, land transactions, or settlement history. A deed by which leaders of the Stockbridge tribe conveyed a six-mile-square tract to representatives for 74 proprietors dated September 27, 1756 was recorded in the Hampshire County Registry in Massachusetts; however, no other deed record exists.<sup>8</sup> As early as 1726, the Massachusetts General Court began creating new towns in the western frontier of the colony to raise funds to relieve growing tax burdens in Boston.<sup>9</sup> It was not until the 1750s that these grants, all of them following the six-mile-square formula, multiplied throughout the frontier and spilled over into contested territory in eastern New York. Massachusetts leaders claimed that based on the wording of early New York patents, the eastern limits of that province extended only twelve miles from the Hudson River. New Yorkers believed the line to be substantially farther east, although earlier boundary agreements, by which the original Dutch laid claim to all lands west of the Connecticut River, left the boundary's exact position unsurveyed and ambiguous.

The first known use of the name Spencertown appears in a 1760 deed.<sup>10</sup> Earlier than that it appears to have been referred to simply as one of the six-mile-square townships west of Sheffield and Stockbridge. The name of this Connecticut family was prominent among the 74 proprietors of the town, and they were among a very few proprietors who actually settled there. Evidently for many proprietors it was a speculative venture, and most of the early pioneers were not from Massachusetts but rather Connecticut, which was over-populated. Other townships were Nobletown, comprising what is now the Town of Hillsdale, located south of Austerlitz, and New Britain, New Canaan, New Concord and New Lebanon, which occupied parts of a six-mile-square town to the north (Fig.1). These towns had been only roughly defined, as if superimposed on existing maps, and they overlapped established New York towns and patents. In a General Court measure appointing a committee to sell townships in the western part of the colony, numerous townships are named and located by general bearings in relation to each other. A standard pattern of settlement was also issued.

And those Persons who shall or may purchase the same, complying with and performing the following Conditions, the same to be granted and confirmed to them, Viz: That there be reserved for the first settled minister one sixty third Part of each said Townships for the Use of the Ministry; and the like Quantity for the use of and Support of a school in each of said Townships forever.

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<sup>8</sup> Deeds 1:747.

<sup>9</sup> George F. Willison, *The History of Pittsfield, Massachusetts* (Pittsfield: City of Pittsfield, 1957), 15.

<sup>10</sup>Berkshire County Deeds, Z:747, 2 August 1760. John Spencer to Noadiah Moore, conveying three acres, 39 rods with a dwelling house in "a plantation called Spencertown."

That with in the Space of five Years from the Time of Sale, there be sixty Settlers residing in each Township, who shall have a Dwelling House of the following Dimensions, viz, twenty four Feet long, eighteen Feet wide and seven Feet Studd [sic], and have seven acres of Land well Cleared and Fenced and brought to English Grass or Plowed; and also to settle a Learned Protestant Minister of the Gospel in each of said Townships within the Term aforesaid.<sup>11</sup>

A number of acts and resolutions made by the General Court in Boston relating to the disposition of “province lands west of Sheffield” provides insight into what was occurring in Spencertown between 1753 and 1755. One was the acceptance of a report submitted by Jacob Wendell, a powerful Boston merchant and government official born of Dutch heritage in Albany, New York, stating that “considerable improvements have been made upon the Province Lands lying West of Sheffield and Stockbridge without any Grant or Liberty from this Government.” He recommended that the General Court appoint a committee “to repair to said Lands with full Power to dispose of the same to Person or Persons who have made or caused such improvements.” The court approved the measure and directed the committee not to dispose of any lands lying nearer than twelve miles of the Hudson River and to give certificates to purchasers so that grants could be made.<sup>12</sup>

No records of these grants have been found, and later reports indicate that efforts to validate land claims in this disputed territory continued for another two decades, Compounding the boundary issue was the claim by John Van Rensselaer, proprietor of his family’s so-called Lower Manor, or Claverack Patent, in New York, that his eastern boundary encompassed the townships of Spencertown (in part) and Nobletown. The Town of Kinderhook, located north of the Lower Manor, made a similar challenge on portions of Spencertown and townships farther north (Fig.2). Thus, settler’s claims to land in this contested area were subject to a series of rejections in New York and Massachusetts, and the matter was not fully resolved until after the Revolutionary War, when these claims were finally validated by an act of the New York State Assembly in 1793.

In 1772 the proprietors of Spencertown petitioned New York governor William Tryon in an effort to get titles to their land. It was stated that “soon after the Peace of Aix La Chappelle [1748] some of your petitioners removed from the settled parts of Massachusetts Province and the Colony of Connecticut and built Houses and made Improvements upon this then new and uncultivated Country.”<sup>13</sup> Tryon disappointed the petitioners by confirming the Van Rensselaers’ claim to the land. The Spencertown proprietors sent a delegation to London in 1774 with a petition to present to the king asking for the appointment of a royal commission to settle the Van Rensselaer dispute to their benefit. Representatives were permitted to make a presentation to the Board of Trade, but with the outbreak of the American Revolution their appeals fell on deaf ears.<sup>14</sup>

The more than forty Revolutionary War veterans buried in town of Austerlitz cemeteries attest to the presence of settlers in that period, many of them members of the Ninth Regiment of the Albany County Militia (Spencertown was part of Albany County at that time). Even earlier, a militia had been organized under the command of proprietor James Spencer (1746-

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<sup>11</sup>*Acts and Resolutions Public and Private of the Province of Massachusetts Bay*, 1761-1762, XVII, 149.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, 1753-1755, XV, 28-32.

<sup>13</sup>Albany NY, State Archives, Application for Land Grants, Series A0272, Vol. 32, 114. Cited in Peter H. Stott, *Looking for Work, Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York* (Kinderhook NY: Columbia County Historical Society, 2007), 34, fn 5.

<sup>14</sup>Franklin Ellis, *History of Columbia County* (1878), 380.



1805). Its ranks were said to number more than 200, including 17 proprietors and their sons, 20 Spencers, for example, and numerous others who are documented as residents of Spencertown in a 1779 tax list and the 1790 U.S. Census.<sup>15</sup>

The 1793 state action did not resolve the conflict with the Van Rensselaers, which carried on well after the war. John Van Rensselaer (1740-1783) and after his death, his heirs, alternated between offering terms of settlement and taking legal actions, as the settlers continued to claim their rightful ownership. Further appeals were made to the New York legislature. A petition submitted in 1784 condemned the “rapacious” actions of Governor Tyrone on behalf of John Van Rensselaer, which caused “manifest injury of some hundred families of loyal subjects.”<sup>16</sup> Simeon Rowley, one of the petition’s presenters, was threatened by the authorities with being ejected from his land but, unintimidated, he sponsored a second petition five years later, indicating the extent of the protracted stalemate. During this time, the Van Rensselaers were attempting to collect rents, which met with increased opposition, even violence. Finally, in 1803, legislation was passed that provided a framework for the arbitration of land claims against the Van Rensselaers. It was determined that in cases where the family had clear title, they were obligated to sell the property to the claimant at a price fixed by the arbitrators and grant a mortgage to permit payment over a six-year term. Sixty-five landholders were parties to this agreement, and about forty more joined after the legislation was passed. There are 101 transactions dated in 1804 filed in the Columbia County Clerk’s Office. Most are for farms in the Town of Hillsdale, but those in Austerlitz are located on Angell Hill, Crow Hill, Prat Hill, Punsit, Rigor Hill, Schoolhouse and Stever Hill roads.<sup>17</sup>

Local histories term the early settlers of Spencertown squatters, but that identity comports with the establishment (Van Rensselaer) perspective of what otherwise were legitimate land claimants from the Massachusetts point of view. In 1790 the first federal census recorded 757 heads of households in the Town of Hillsdale, which contained both the present-day towns of Hillsdale and Austerlitz, leaving the section now comprising Austerlitz with approximately 300-350 families. Most of them lived on farms on the rolling hills characterizing the town. Two centers formed early, both on waterways and roads, one leading diagonally through the town from southeast to northwest and another running up the Green River valley laid out by the Spencertown proprietors in 1757, the same year they divided the town into two divisions, east and west, in which each proprietor was to receive 100 acres. Creating two divisions probably had something to do with creating the two centers. One located on the east side of the town where the two roads intersected was named Green River, for the stream running through it, and later was known as Austerlitz, after the town of the same name was created in 1819. The second center, located in the center of the town on the Punsit Creek, maintained the original name for the six-mile-square town: Spencertown.

### The Hamlet of Austerlitz

The Green River is sourced in No Bottom Pond at the northern limit of the town and is said to have been named for the color of its water. It flows south through a narrow valley between the Taconic and Berkshire mountain ranges before crossing state lines to empty in the Housatonic River in Massachusetts. More a stream than a river, it had little industrial potential. Rather, it was the valley’s fertile soil that led to the hamlet’s early settlement. The valley also is a principal transportation corridor in the region. The highway bisecting the historic district has been an important north/south route

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid., 31-32; James A. Roberts, *New York in the Revolution* (1898).

<sup>16</sup>John L. Brooke, *Columbia Rising, Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010), 193-194.

along the New York-New England border since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, roads linking Hartford, Connecticut and Albany, New York, were routed through Austerlitz creating a crossroads prime for commercial development. This link to Hartford, Connecticut, facilitated the migration of numerous settlers from that part of New England.

Franklin Ellis, author of a history of Columbia County in 1878 stated that Turner Calkins arrived in Austerlitz from Lyme, Connecticut, in 1772.<sup>18</sup> His farm was south of the historic district, and his descendants spread throughout that area. Jacob Ford was identified as another early settler. Ford was born in Hebron, Connecticut, in 1744 and relocated to Austerlitz soon after he married Abigail Curtice in 1765. He fought at the Battle of Saratoga during the Revolutionary War and rose to the rank of major in the New York Militia. In 1785 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, the first of a number of judicial positions he held in the town and county. His farm located on the north side of the turnpike intersection no longer exists; it was assessed at \$3750 for taxes in 1799.

Another early historian declared Asa Harvey (1766-1854) to have been the first settler in the valley, actually on the mountain on the east side bearing his name.<sup>19</sup> He came to Austerlitz from Rhode Island in 1788 with his father, Amos Harvey, and he married Sarah Phelps (1775-1811) in 1792. She was the daughter of Noah Phelps (1754-1795), who came to Austerlitz from Granby, Connecticut. Numerous Harvey and Phelps progeny populated the valley. By 1850 Asa Harvey was an old man living with his second wife, Lucretia Hoge, in a dwelling in the valley opposite the road leading up the mountain (not extant). The census that year enumerated Asa and Lucretia (born in Connecticut) with a teenage African American servant girl named Elizabeth Jones. Asa's son Albert was next on the list with his wife and four children; both men were recorded as farmers. Another son, Alfred, was farming on West Hill Road; his son Lester Edwin Harvey operated the saw mill on the Harvey Mountain Creek in the 1870s.

In 1896 John M. Varney wrote a historical piece in the local paper citing Beriah Phelps (1759-1835), a distant relative of Noah Phelps, among the first settlers.<sup>20</sup> Born in Hebron, Connecticut, he came to Austerlitz in 1783 a veteran of the Revolutionary War. His military pension application relates that he was a member of the Connecticut Militia and present at the battles of New York, Monmouth and Saratoga.<sup>21</sup> Phelps is listed in the 1790 U.S. census as head of a nine-person household. Varney identified him as the first storekeeper in Austerlitz. He went on to write, "this section settled rapidly from 1770 to 1800. There were the Swifts, the Browns, the Kelloggs, the Andrews, the Chamberlains and the Gotts."<sup>22</sup>

Nathaniel Swift (1747-1833) had moved to Austerlitz from Amenia in Dutchess County, New York, in 1795 after purchasing one acre with a house and barn from William Powers for 200 pounds.<sup>23</sup> He was born in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, and had moved to Amenia with his parents, Judah Swift (1716-1807) and Elizabeth Morton, soon after his marriage 1771. His father amassed 1800 acres of land in Amenia and was considered the largest landholder

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<sup>17</sup>From an inventory of deeds made by Austerlitz Town Historian, Thomas H. Moreland.

<sup>18</sup>*History of Columbia County*, 380.

<sup>19</sup>M.E. Shufelt, "Asa Harvey First Settler of Austerlitz Area In 1788," *Chatham Courier*, 7 March 1935.

<sup>20</sup>"Antiquities of Austerlitz," *Chatham Courier*, 29 Jan. 1896

<sup>21</sup>Washington D.C. National Archives. U.S. Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900. Accessed through Ancestry.com.

<sup>22</sup>Varney, "Antiquities of Austerlitz."

<sup>23</sup>Deeds, A:272, Sept. 16, 1795.

in Dutchess County at the time.<sup>24</sup> Nathaniel was taxed for a house and farm in Austerlitz in 1799; it was valued at \$3505, which was a substantial amount for the area at the time. His sons Judah and Daniel owned a house and lot valued at \$500 at that time, probably the extant house at 11622 Rt.22, which has been associated with Judah Swift ever since (PHOTO 4). Both brothers had African Americans in their households in 1800 and 1810: the one in Judah's was termed a slave and the one in Daniel's was a free person. Judah Swift (1773-1818) died relatively young and by that time, his brother had moved, probably west to Delaware County, New York. Probate records describe the late Judah Swift's lands as being west of the Hillsdale and Chatham Turnpike and bordering on Lewis Bristol's garden, Eliada Cole's land, Joseph Dewey Jr.'s land, the Green River Meeting House, and James Walling's land, containing 47 acres; also a wood-lot of 6 acres, one-third of dwelling house, barn and other buildings.<sup>25</sup> It seems that Judah and Daniel were sharing the house with a third sibling.

Anson Brown (1798-1891) purchased the house and 47½ acres on the east side of the turnpike from the Swifts' heirs in 1829.<sup>26</sup> According to the deed, he was a resident of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, at the time, but he was the son of Aaron Brown (1758-1838), a native of Windsor, Connecticut, and veteran of the Revolutionary War. He had moved to Austerlitz with his newly-wedded wife, Elizabeth Gillette, by 1785. He was enumerated in the 1790 U.S. Census as a head of household containing his wife and five children. In 1799 he was taxed on real estate valued at \$1100. Aaron Brown was cited as a neighbor of Judah Swift, as well as an executor of his estate. His house (not extant), possibly with a store, would have been located north of the Swift house and may have functioned as the store depicted there in later years. In addition to being the hamlet's storekeeper and postmaster, Anson Brown represented the district in the state assembly in 1843. The 1850 census identifies him as a farmer owning 280 acres and 300 sheep, obviously beyond the bounds of the hamlet. Anson's brother, Gilbert Brown (1814-1880), who lived on a farm farther north in the town, bought the 45 acres with the house and store in 1868.<sup>27</sup> Ten years later title was transferred to Gilbert's son, George Dudley Brown, who was the storekeeper until 1944, after which the store was torn down.

Judah Swift is credited in local histories for donating the plot of land on which the Congregational Church was built in 1792 (this building was destroyed by fire in 1901).<sup>28</sup> The Congregational Church of Green River had been organized with the support of St. Peter's Church in Spencertown, which had been the only church in the town since 1760. The first pastor, the Rev. John Morse, served the congregation until 1814, and after being without a minister for two years, the Rev. Timothy Woodridge answered the call to serve temporarily "the quiet and obscure congregation of Green River," which had "sunk into the dust."<sup>29</sup> Grandson of famed New England preacher Jonathan Edwards, Woodridge was a recent graduate of Williams College, where he had lost his sight. His position was made permanent, and he held it until 1842, when he relocated to the Spencertown church. He revitalized the congregation, which experienced religious revivals in 1823 and 1827, and in 1828 spearheaded the construction of a new church to be built that he considered to be "the ornament of the valley" with a spire visible from distant hills.<sup>30</sup> (A historic photograph shows its resemblance to St. Peter's in Spencertown, which had been renovated two years earlier.) Around the same time, Woodridge was instrumental in the construction of the Green River Academy on East Hill Road, behind the church. Termed "an elegant edifice" by the blind pastor, this

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<sup>24</sup>James H. Smith, *History of Dutchess County, New York* (1882), 342.

<sup>25</sup>*Tree Talks*, Vols. 22-23, Central New York Genealogical Society, 1982

<sup>26</sup>Deeds, Q:240, May 1, 1829.

<sup>27</sup>Deeds, 62:514, March 17, 1868.

<sup>28</sup>Ellis, *History of Columbia County*, 385.

<sup>29</sup>Timothy Woodridge, *The Autobiography of a Blind Minister* (1856), 213-214.

<sup>30</sup>*ibid.*, 178.

building burned in 1845. A grander academy building would be erected in Spencertown in 1847 under Woodridge's direction.

During this period, evangelical preachers engaged in the "Second Great Awakening" held revival meetings, much to Woodridge's consternation, who considered the interlopers damaging to the work of local ministers and their congregations.<sup>31</sup> Yet for all his success in Green River, the small congregation always had trouble paying his salary. The pastor claimed this to be the reason he answered the call from the Spencertown church and acknowledged his departure was a heavy blow to the smaller hamlet and caused a decline in real estate values.<sup>32</sup> He disapproved of subsequent preachers to fill the pulpit for their "seductive and dangerous heresies" but welcomed the arrival in 1847 of the Rev. Samuel Utley, who he considered "an excellent orthodox and independent minister."<sup>33</sup> Utley came from New Marlborough, Massachusetts, and purchased the house Noah Rossiter built at 11639 Rt.22 and 31 acres (PHOTO 6). However, the Rev. Utley proved to be a divisive and unpopular figure, and he split with the congregation after ten years. The Congregational church faltered and the building became the meeting place of a small Methodist society from 1859 to 1861, after which it stood vacant for nearly a decade. It later reopened and continued to function as a Methodist church until it burned in 1901.

In 1851, during the Rev. Samuel Utley's troubled pastorate, a few disaffected members of his congregation organized the First Christian Church in the Green River Valley under the guidance of the Eastern New York Christian Conference. The first church building was erected in 1852 in the hamlet now known as Green River located south of Austerlitz. The following year, a "chapel" was built in Austerlitz, a simple but distinctive edifice located on the west side of the highway on land donated by Chauncey G. Varney (PHOTO 12). Attendance at the Christian Church, as well as the Austerlitz Congregational Church, dwindled as the area's population fell after the Civil War. The Christian Church was closed about 1913, and by 1933 the building had become "badly neglected and...very unsightly."<sup>34</sup> But in that year it found new life when a Lutheran minister began holding services in the building. It was formally incorporated as the Austerlitz Lutheran Church in 1946. Religious services ceased again in 1966, and it was not until 2010 that the trustees of the church conveyed the building to the Austerlitz Historical Society, which has restored it once more.<sup>35</sup>

The Varney article also mentioned two other prominent early settlers: Capt. Ellody (Eliada) Cole and Lewis Bristol. Cole's background has proven elusive, but the military title indicates he was another war veteran; he was also the hamlet's first blacksmith, recorded there in the 1800 census and taxed on \$1000 of real estate in that year. He died in 1831. The location of his shop is unclear, but it was likely either that later operated by Clarke Beebe at the turnpike crossroads at the northern end of the hamlet or the one associated with Charles Kinne's wagon shop, formerly Lewis Bristol's farm, at the southern end. Lewis Bristol (1783-1849) was of the post-war generation. Unlike the earlier settlers mentioned, Bristol came from New Marlborough across the state line in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, although he was actually born in Danbury, Connecticut, to Daniel Bristol and Chloe Washburn. His wife, Sarah Kingman (1783-1845), was a native of Sheffield, Massachusetts.<sup>36</sup> They arrived in Austerlitz in time to have been enumerated there in the 1810 U.S. Census. They settled on a farm at the southern end of the hamlet and may have developed a saw mill there on a small creek

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<sup>31</sup>Ibid., 187-189, 299-300.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid., 213-214.

<sup>33</sup>Ibid., 215-216.

<sup>34</sup>"Church Closed 20 Years Open," *Chatham Courier*, Feb. 9, 1933.

<sup>35</sup>Deeds, 700:687, Dec. 30, 2010.

<sup>36</sup>Theresa Hall Bristol, "Bristol Notes," *The New York Genealogical & Biographical Record*, Vol. 45 (1914), 226.

coming down Harvey Mountain. The center-chimney house at [11526 Rt.22](#) appears to have been built for them (PHOTO 1). Lewis Bristol prospered and invested in real estate at the northern end of the hamlet, which was becoming a crossroads commercial center capitalizing on turnpike traffic. He became actively engaged in local government and hosted the second annual meeting of the newly-formed Town of Austerlitz at his home in 1819. (The first town meeting was held in 1818 at Elisha Murdock's house in Spencertown, and holding the second in Austerlitz started the custom of holding annual elections in each of the town's two hamlets on alternating years.)

Another farmstead north of Lewis Bristol's was settled by James Walling (1750-1829) in the late 1700s. Both he and his wife, Diana Lucy Culver (1757-1850), were natives of Litchfield County, Connecticut, where they were married in 1774. They were living in Austerlitz by the time their son, Judah S. Walling, was born in 1799, possibly as early as 1782. The farm was bisected by the Green River and contained some of the most fertile land in the valley. According to Robert Herron, a local historian who once owned the house, the current two-story house at [11549 Rt.22](#) contains the frame of a story-and-a-half, center-chimney hall-parlor house with its front façade facing south and turned away from the road, which, based on numerous surviving examples in the historic district, was the common choice for house design in the hamlet during the settlement period and beyond. Judah S. Walling inherited the farm following his parents' deaths. He had married Persis Moore of Tyringham, Massachusetts, in 1826 and they had one son, Henry L. Walling, born in 1835. In that year Judah S. and Persis Walling sold the farm, comprising three parcels totaling 172 acres and the house, to Chauncey G. Varney.<sup>37</sup>

Chauncey Goodrich Varney (1802-1882) was born in Austerlitz. His parents, Hosea Varney (1772-1850) and Lovisa Gallup, had come from Amenia in Dutchess County; his grandfather, John Varney (1732-1804), was a native of Dover, New Hampshire, but was buried in the East Hill Cemetery. (Hosea Varney's farm was located east of the hamlet currently named Green River near the Town of Hillsdale line.) It would have been under the direction of Chauncey and his wife, Abigail Van Gamwell (1814-1877) that the Wallings' house was raised to two stories, reconfigured in plan and orientation, and decorated with features in the "modern" or Greek Revival style, such as a pedimented gable on the street façade, a tall frieze board distinguishing the eave line, and six-over-six sash windows (PHOTO 9).

In 1850 Chauncey's and Abigail's household consisted of son Chauncey Gamwell (b.1836), daughters Serepta (b.1838) and Harriet (b.1848), and thirteen-year-old Mary Carey from Ireland, probably a servant. In that year the farm was valued at \$3000. When the census taker came five years later, they had lost Harriet and a son, William Arthur, had just been born. Chauncey Gamwell Varney married and left the household in 1869, moving up the highway to Amos Seymour's house at [11631 Rt. 22](#). Serepta and her younger brother, William, remained in their parents' household with teenage servant Elizabeth Babcock. After his wife's death in 1877, Chauncey G. Varney continued to live with his two unmarried children. In 1881 William Arthur Varney married Pauline A. Vosburgh from nearby Copake. They and Serepta appear to have continued to reside in the house after father Chauncey died in 1883. Pauline bought William C. Morey's house and three-quarters of an acre at [9 Harvey Mountain Road](#) across the street in 1886, and the ownership of the Varney house and farm went into foreclosure in 1890.

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<sup>37</sup>Deeds, U:496. There also was a mortgage of \$3350 (Columbia County Mortgages, Q:306).

### *Crossroads Development*

In 1824 David C. Osborn acquired title to 40 acres on the west and south sides of the turnpike, that is, on the corner where it turned to head to Spencertown, from the heirs of Judah Swift.<sup>38</sup> Members of the Osborn family of East Hampton, New York, brought their families to Austerlitz after the Revolutionary War. (Unusual as that may seem, it should be remembered that eastern Long Island was in the cultural sphere of Connecticut across the Sound.) Thomas Osborn (1759-1827) settled along the Green River south of the hamlet. He and his son, David C. Osborn (1793-1853), were enumerated sequentially in the 1820 U.S. census. A second son, Elisha Osborn (1808-1884), was still living in his father's household. Four members of Thomas's household were engaged in agriculture, while four in David's household, including one teenaged free female of color, were engaged in manufacture, although what kind is not known.

David C. Osborn sold three acres fronting on the highway to Noah Rossiter in 1826; the latter had the two-story, front-gable house at 11639 Rt.22 built there shortly after (PHOTO 6).<sup>39</sup> The 1820 census identified two persons in his household engaged in manufactures; of exactly what is not known, but his presence is an indication of the small commercial center developing at the crossroads. Rossiter was an active participant in town government, serving as town clerk from 1828 to 1830. The Rev. Samuel Utey purchased the house and lot, as well as an additional 28 acres behind it from David Osborn for \$1500 in 1847, when he accepted the call to be the pastor of the Congregational church. When he left amid controversy ten years later, the property was bought for the same amount by Norman D. Powers who farmed it.<sup>40</sup> The annotation on the 1888 map suggests that ownership of the property again returned to the Osborn family but this time to David Osborn's son, David L. Osborn.

On the same day in 1824 as his transaction with Noah Rossiter, David C. Osborn sold the adjoining three-acre lot on the north at 11643 Rt.22 to Albert Cole, a merchant evidently intent on engaging in commerce on the turnpike (PHOTO 7).<sup>41</sup> The two-story side-passage house was built for Cole, who, like his neighbor, served as town clerk in 1825 and 1832; he had also been appointed an inspector of common schools at the Town of Austerlitz's first meeting in 1818. Physician William C. Bell purchased the house in 1836 after Cole moved across the border to West Stockbridge in Massachusetts, selling it a decade later to blacksmith Bushnell Murray.<sup>42</sup> By 1850 the house was owned by brothers-in-law John Shaw and Edward Hoyt, who made separate domiciles for their families in the house and based their shared masonry business there. Farmer John W. Wiley moved in during 1869, evidently in his retirement.<sup>43</sup>

Another physician, surgeon Charles Bull, bought Amos Seymour's "tavern stand" at 11631 Rt.22 with the help of Lewis Bristol in 1818 (PHOTO 5).<sup>44</sup> James M. Varney stated that Dr. Bull was a "very good surgeon for the age in which he practiced."<sup>45</sup> Store owner Anson Brown purchased the property in 1834 and sold it to shoemaker James N. Barnes in 1843; Barnes lived and worked there for the next 26 years.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>Deeds, I:513, June 29, 1824.

<sup>39</sup>Deeds, K:23, 1 May 1826.

<sup>40</sup>Deeds, NN:621, Dec. 10, 1847 and 8:368, Nov. 16, 1857.

<sup>41</sup>Deeds, K:25, May 1, 1826.

<sup>42</sup>Deeds, X:368, Feb. 24, 1836 & OO:324, Jan. 27, 1848.

<sup>43</sup>Deeds, 36:161, March 30, 1869

<sup>44</sup>Deeds, E1:172, May 8, 1818.

<sup>45</sup>"Austerlitz Reminiscences," *Chatham Courier*, Feb. 5, 1896.

<sup>46</sup>Deeds, V:433, Dec. 29, 1834 & GG:436, Oct. 6, 1843.

In 1832 David C. Osborn sold Sylvanus Osborn 68 acres on the north side of West Hill Road.<sup>47</sup> Probably David's cousin, Sylvanus Osborn (1781-1870), was the son of Joseph Osborn of East Hampton and was found enumerated in Austerlitz for the 1820 U.S. Census. On the 1858 map of the hamlet, the property is linked to his son, Alanson Osborn. The 1850 census recorded Alanson Osborn with 50 acres of improved farmland and 15 unimproved acres valued at \$2000. The only livestock reported were six milk cows, but this likely was the case because Alanson Osborn made his living as a carpenter and not a farmer. He relocated to Onondaga County by 1870. Buildings no longer exist at this address; they were gone from maps by 1888.

In 1836 Sylvanus Osborn sold a lot of 54 rods of land, equal to one-third of an acre, for \$135 to Major M. Tyler from a large tract of 68 acres that Sylvanus had purchased from David Osborn in 1832.<sup>48</sup> Major Mead Tyler (1792-1883) was identified as engaged in commerce in the 1840 U.S. Census in the house at 11623 Rt.22 (PHOTO 13). His household included his son Archibald Tyler, who ten years later was identified as a merchant; Sylvanus Osborn was living in the Tyler household at this time. In that same year, Major M. Tyler was the local postmaster; he lived here for 23 years before selling the house to George Tyler for \$500 in 1855.

All the while this development was taking place on the west side of the turnpike, a hotel was thriving across the road at 11640 Rt.22, reputedly since 1795 (PHOTO 3). The earliest recorded transfer was filed in 1829, when Lewis Bristol sold to Aaron Blinn this one-acre lot "containing a tavern stand" for \$1500.<sup>49</sup> Later proprietors of the tavern stand were William Barnes in 1834 and Lyman C. Gleason in 1843. By the 1850s the hotel was owned by Michael M. Cook, with whom it is identified on the 1858 map. It became known as the Harvey Hotel when the property was purchased by Russell Harvey in 1870.<sup>50</sup> The hotel was sold to Alfred A. Harvey in 1896; he carried on the business for some period prior to his death in 1910. The place got a new life when Paul Eggert purchased it in 1921, renaming it the Columbia Inn, which served as a major community gathering spot through the early 1940s.<sup>51</sup>

## AGRICULTURE

Farming was the principal activity in Austerlitz from the time of its settlement into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Farms were situated on the better land in the center of the hamlet along the Green River. Some local histories claim that the settlers grew wheat in the valley, but without direct evidence it is more likely that they engaged in mixed-husbandry farming as practiced in the places they were from in New England. Early on their production was for little more than subsistence. Agricultural schedules in the U.S. Census beginning in 1850 bear this out. Farms raised small numbers of milk cows, beef cattle, and swine, and large flocks of sheep. Crop production was limited to Indian corn, rye, buckwheat, oats and Irish potatoes grown for household and livestock consumption. Animal products included butter, beef, pork and wool. Butter and beef were a major part of the regional food supply system. Swine were fattened on the wastes from butter-making and slaughtered and cured for home consumption. Sheep-raising was suited to the hilly terrain and was fostered by the

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<sup>47</sup>Deeds, W2:366, Feb. 16, 1832.

<sup>48</sup>Deeds, X1:181, April 3, 1836.

<sup>49</sup>Deeds, P:106, Nov. 7, 1829.

<sup>50</sup>Deeds, 39:607, April 1, 1870.

<sup>51</sup>Deeds, 175:10, May 28, 1921.

industrialization taking place in New England that expanded rapidly and widely in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, developing every suitable water course in the region, including Columbia County.

In 1850 Chauncy G. Varney's farm comprised 100 improved acres and 60 unimproved acres on which he raised a flock of 200 sheep, three "milch cows," four "other cattle" and six swine. In addition, he had two horses, probably for transportation, since he also owned two oxen for field work. His fields produced 30 bushels of rye, 100 bushels of Indian corn and 100 bushels of oats, some of which was ground for household use but most of it went to animal feed. Crops were grown in fields on the valley floor with hay harvested from marshes. The sheep, cows and cattle grazed in pastures cleared on the hillsides; sheep were pastured in the fields after harvest to feed on the stalks and deposit manure for fertilizer. The Varney farm was valued at \$3000 in 1850.

Varney's neighbor William Calkins had 142 improved acres and 80 unimproved acres also valued at \$3000 with only four milk cows and two beef cattle; no sheep were reported. Another neighbor, Zopher Phelps, owned only 70 acres, all improved and valued at \$2500—unusually high by comparison—on which he raised five milk cows and ten sheep. Most other farmers in the hamlet or its vicinity worked approximately 100 acres of land valued in the \$2000 to \$3000 range. Few raised sheep, but all produced butter and beef from herds ranging from fewer than five to more than ten. They all harvested the same crops in varying amounts, which were critical to the subsistence of the farm. The most significant landholder in 1850 was Anson Brown, who owned 230 improved acres and 50 unimproved acres both inside and outside the hamlet which were valued at \$5600, one of the highest assessments in the entire town. He husbanded 300 sheep and three milk cows but no beef cattle while raising the same variety of crops as Varney and the others.

Farmsteads were comprised of houses with kitchens engaged in the harvest and processing of produce and dairying and barns in which animals and their feed were housed. Barns were of the English type that had been a fixture on New England farms for two centuries. None exist in the historic district except for a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century barn moved to Old Austerlitz Historical Village from Rensselaer County in 2012 (PHOTO 27). It does not appear that barn design evolved in the hamlet before farming went into economic decline at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although there is no evidence left to consider. Farmsteads likely contained granaries and corn cribs since they needed to store grains for feed, as well as wagon sheds and stables, but they did not need to be very diversified building-wise. There is a suggestion in a couple of instances that farm buildings were connected to houses, but this was not a common practice in this part of New England.

By 1870 the value of Chauncy G. Varney's farm had doubled to \$6000. He had four horses, five milch cows, eight other cattle, 100 sheep and three swine. The farm had increased in size to 190 improved acres and produced 50 bushels of rye, 100 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of buckwheat, 500 bushels of Irish potatoes and 60 tons of hay. He supplied 300 pounds of wool, 600 pounds of butter and \$40 of orchard products to markets. The census schedule indicates that while values and production increased on local farms, the manner of farming had not changed. It was soon after that small mixed-husbandry farming became less profitable, particularly as butter gave way to raw milk as the market product and farmers were forced to invest in new equipment and adopt new practices to remain competitive. In Austerlitz, farms have gradually lost their agricultural buildings and fields have reforested.



## TRANSPORTATION

Two roads were surveyed in the town in 1757 following a directive of the Spencertown proprietors. One ran north south through the east division of the town and the other ran diagonally from southeast to northwest. The first route reputedly followed an existing Indian trail and evolved into a colonial highway leading out of Manhattan to Vermont.<sup>52</sup> This road was intersected by numerous east-west routes coming onto New York from New England, including the Great New England Path connecting Boston and Albany, which entered New York just south of the district. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the road was designated a state highway and has been known as NYS Route 22, from White Plains in Westchester County to the Canadian border, since 1929. The old diagonal road diverted from this highway south of the Austerlitz hamlet, probably following Dugway Road from present-day Green River to Spencertown. According to James M. Varney, a stage route running between Hartford, Connecticut, and Albany, New York, began operation in 1785 and was routed through Austerlitz, which became a regular stop for passenger and freight lines as well as drovers.

This gave a boom to the place, as the hotel then kept there became a stage house where horses were exchanged. The divisions were so arranged that a new recruit of horses was put on every 15 miles. These coaches started simultaneously at night. The passengers on one that started in Albany took breakfast at Austerlitz and those on the one that started in Hartford at the same hour took dinner at Austerlitz. So the hotel at that time was quite an important institution. It was something more than a dispenser of whiskey... Soon after the establishment of the line of stages, a post office was established here.<sup>53</sup>

Evidently, the original diagonal route leading to Spencertown was redirected on a new road directly from Austerlitz with the completion of the Hillsdale and Chatham Turnpike, opened in 1805. This turnpike is documented by an extant survey map. Nevertheless, following its humble, rural beginnings, Austerlitz evolved into a transportation-oriented hamlet in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and, to a lesser extent, continues in that role today.<sup>54</sup> Railroads bypassed both town centers, much to the chagrin of local capitalists. The Harlem and New York Railroad, running north out of Manhattan, followed the valley into Columbia County but veered west south of Austerlitz in Hillsdale to junction with other railroads in nearby Chatham, which then eclipsed Spencertown as a central place. The shops, stores, lodging places and liveryes that characterized the 19<sup>th</sup>-century roadside in Austerlitz are gone, but the highway and the linear plan of the hamlet remain to represent this part of its history.

## COMMERCE

One of the first acknowledgments of the hamlet is found in Horatio Gates Spafford's 1813 *Gazetteer of the State Of New York*. Within the description of the Town of Hillsdale, of which Austerlitz was still a part, there is a reference to a small village "in Green-river-hollow" of 12 houses and a church.<sup>55</sup> The earliest known plan of the Austerlitz hamlet is pictured on an 1851 wall map of Columbia County (FIG.3). It depicts about 20 houses and a church, along with a store (A. Brown); a store, P.O. and tavern; and a blacksmith shop (C. Beebe). It also shows but does not associate with businesses, J. Shaw & F. White (masons); J.M. Barnes (shoe shop); and C. Kinne (wagonmaker). The 1858 map of the county shows the

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<sup>52</sup>Roberta Hershenson, "Old Indian Trail Called Route 22," *The New York Times*, August 21, 1983, p. WC1.

<sup>53</sup>Varney, "Antiquities of Austerlitz."

<sup>54</sup>The entire route through the hamlet was designated part of Rt. 1 by the state legislature in 1909 (the section leading northwest to Spencertown and Chatham terminated at the Albany Post Road—U.S. Rt.9—in Valatie), and it was renamed Rt.22 in 1929; the following year, the section of highway leading northwest from Austerlitz was named Rt.203 with the Rt.22 designation continued north to Mooers in Clinton County near the Canadian border.

<sup>55</sup>208.

upper part of the hamlet on an inset map with 11 houses, two churches, a school, a cemetery, C. Beebe's blacksmith shop, C. Gleason's tailor shop, J.N. Barnes shoe shop (not labeled), M. Cook's hotel, and A. Brown's store & P.O. (FIG.4) The lower section is delineated on the larger map with the school, church and cemetery also shown on the inset, as well as seven houses, a wagon shop, a saw mill and a second cemetery (FIG.5).

J.H. French's 1860 gazetteer does not dignify Austerlitz with any more than two churches and 150 inhabitants.<sup>56</sup> However, a Columbia County Directory published in 1862 lists the following enterprises.

- Beebe, Clark, b.s.
- Bell, Aaron, groceries & dry goods
- Eastland, Monroe, b.s.
- Gleason, C.L., store and P.O.
- Kinne, Charles, wagonmaker
- Lasher, Ezra, prop. Hotel
- Osborne, Newton, harnessmaker
- Sweet, George P., carriage painter

Maps of the hamlet contained in county atlases published in 1873 and 1888 show essentially the same patterns of properties; once bypassed by the railroad, Austerlitz's economic development ceased (FIGS.6 & 7). The turnpike hotel, still extant at 11640 Rt.22 (PHOTO 3), was in business until the 1940s, as was Brown's store (not extant). Charles Kinne's wagon shop at the south end of the hamlet was an expanding enterprise. It probably was after the death of his wife in 1845 that Lewis Bristol moved to Saratoga County, New York, and sold his center-chimney house and six acres to Kinne, who began manufacturing wagons there a short time later. (The 1851 map does not indicate the business, but the 1858 map does.) A distant descendant of Stephen Kinne, one of Spencertown's many proprietors, Charles Kinne was born in Groton, Connecticut, in 1808 to Nathan Kinne and Mary Stevens, who later moved to Alford, Massachusetts, just across the border. Charles owned the house at 3 Harvey Mountain by 1835 and may have been living there since his marriage around 1830 to Austerlitz native Lucretia W. Gott (PHOTO 15).<sup>57</sup> Kinne and his family moved to the larger Bristol House, 11526 Rt.22, in 1845, which he proceeded to update with the addition of a Gothic wall dormer centered on the front façade and a scroll-sawn fascia along the eave (PHOTO 1).

The range and quality of products coming out of Charles Kinne's wagon shop are not known, but he developed quite an industrial enclave, including his wagon shop and blacksmith and paint shops, none of which survived their eventual obsolescence. The business section of the 1862 county directory listed Guy P. Sweet as a carriage painter in Austerlitz; Newton Osborne was recorded as a harnessmaker based across the highway from the Kinne enterprises. These shops were water-powered by a stream that ran off Harvey Mountain and was collected in a small impoundment east of the shops where a saw and shingle mill operated. Neither the pond nor the saw mill is extant, but a modest hall-parlor dwelling built in 1867 for Lester E. Harvey, who "tended" the saw mill, survives on Harvey Mountain Road (PHOTO21).

However, the most remarkable aspect of this rural enterprise is the collection of dwellings concentrated in the vicinity that were associated with it. Kinne acquired some existing houses, for example 11515 Rt.22, but in ca. 1855 he built two

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<sup>56</sup>*Gazetteer of the State of New York*, 243.

<sup>57</sup>Judah and Persis Walling sold Chauncey Varney a 60-acre tract on the east side of the turnpike—Varney also owned a large farm on the west side—in 1835, excluding a small piece of land on the corner of Harvey Mountain Road in "the possession of Charles Kinne and Abijah Heath." (Deeds. U:497, Jan. 21, 1835).

identical cross-wing cottage dwellings of Gothic-Revival design that look to have been derived from builders' catalogs of the period. These houses at [11520 and 11522 Rt.22](#), sited south of his renovated house, were a highly unusual addition to the modest hamlet, suggesting a certain optimism on the part of the rural wagon maker (PHOTOS 17 & 18). The wagon shop was advertised in the 1875 county directory, but by 1880 Charles Kinne was widowed and retired.

By 1850 Charles and Lucretia Kinne had four children, only one of whom, Harvey G. Kinne (1836-1919), survived to adulthood and who inherited the property, although he is not known to have ever been a wagon maker or to have had a clear occupation. Harvey and his wife, Mary, married late in life and had but one child, Charles E. Kinne (1873-1935), who apparently inherited the homestead and with his wife, Lena, raised four children there. In 1925, the state census identified Charles E. Kinne as the assistant manager of a hotel, probably the one in Austerlitz.

## ARCHITECTURE

The historic district contains distinctive examples of domestic architecture from the Early Republic and Mid-19<sup>th</sup>-Century periods; yet, the underlying house type of the hamlet is a simple hall-parlor dwelling characteristic of working-class families. In all instances, the architecture has clear New England origins and is indistinguishable from similar communities in western Massachusetts. Conversely, building traditions related to Dutch settlements in the Hudson Valley found little or no expression in this contested boundary area that was attractive only to young New Englanders abandoning over-crowded conditions and less-productive farmland. The so-called squatters who established homesteads before the Revolutionary War have left no imprint on the town, and the dwellings of those who came after were professionally built. Located between two highly-developed areas, the borderland was not a frontier.

Only two houses with center-chimney plans are contained in the historic district, and by the time they were built around 1800, the form had evolved from one story to one-and-a-half stories with updated framing techniques and decoration. The Bristol-Kinne House at [11526 Rt.22](#) has a fully-developed plan with a hall and parlor in the front and a kitchen behind the chimney under the same roof (PHOTO 1). The Beebe House at [39 Harvey Mountain Road](#) (formerly located on Rt.22 near the turnpike crossroads) has a smaller plan with its kitchen in a shed extension on the rear (PHOTO 2).

The hall-parlor type is best represented in the Kinne-Dibble House at 9 Harvey Mountain Road (PHOTO 15). At its most basic, one of the two rooms functioned as a kitchen, although these houses were quite often increased to three rooms with the addition of a kitchen wing. If they survived, they also were enlarged and renovated in later periods to meet increasing fortunes and changing tastes. Some faced south, away from the road, to benefit from solar orientation, such as with the David K. Lane House at [11523 Rt.22](#) where an older hall-parlor house was adapted by a kitchen addition into a cross-wing plan (PHOTO 16). More modern and stylish houses like the Chauncey G. Varney House added a side passage to the conventional hall-parlor plan and moved the principal entrance to the gable end. The Major M. Tyler House at [11623 Rt.22](#) is an example of this amended plan in a story-and-a-half house, while the Noah Rossiter House at [11639 Rt.22](#) and the Lee-Peterson House at 11602 Rt.22 are fully-realized side-passage plans with two stories and the unusual placement of chimneys on the end walls (PHOTOS 13, 6 & 10). Yet, the hall-parlor house persisted in less affluent situations in cases such as the Lester Harvey House on [Harvey Mountain Road](#) and an annex to the Austerlitz Hotel at 11644 Rt.22 (PHOTO21 & 22).

Built as early as 1785 by historian James M. Walling's estimate, the Austerlitz Hotel at 1640 Rt.22 was a landmark building in its day with a two-story, five-bay front façade distinguishing it from the smaller, more modest dwellings in the hamlet (PHOTO 3). It is less traditional in design than the others reflecting the cultural shifts occurring in the post-revolutionary period. Two-story houses were no longer solely in the realm of the elite; prosperous and ambitious farmers and local merchants adopted the symmetrical, Classical form to express their place in the new order. A more stylish example is located next door to the hotel at 11622 Rt.22 (PHOTO 4). Erected, it appears, for the sons of Nathaniel Swift, the two-story house has the flattened surfaces and attenuated lines that characterized rural architecture in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century with the embellishment of a frieze carved with fans. Still more stylish is the Amos Seymour House, built in 1817 at 11631 Rt.22, with its two-story pedimented front façade flanked by one-story wings in the Neoclassical fashion (PHOTO 5). It shows the extent to which local carpenters and their clients were attracted to unconventional designs in the period, as well as the common availability of appropriate millwork. Smaller two-story dwellings, such as the Noah Rossiter House at 11639 Rt.22 and the Albert Cole House at 11643 Rt.22, built in the 1820s, retain evidence of the new architectural trends as well (PHOTOS 6 & 7).

The population of Austerlitz and the surrounding borderland region increased substantially at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and a significant number of houses in the Neoclassical style now characterize the landscape. Yet, no sooner had these elegant and revolutionary designs been established in the region that the Greek Revival style was introduced representing a new wave of settlers moving west out of New England. Greek Revival-style dwellings are surviving landmarks of the numerical and geographical extent of this historic migration. The Austerlitz Hotel was updated in this period with a trabeated entrance, a key feature of the new or "modern" style. The Chauncey G. Varney House at 11549 Rt.22 was restyled in the Greek Revival mode in 1835 with the addition of a Classical pediment on the gable end facing the street and a prominent frieze along the eave lines (PHOTO 9). However, New Englanders were reserved in their acceptance of stolid Greek features, often eschewing wide corner pilasters, porticos and trabeated doorways in favor of subtler Neoclassical elements. The Lee-Peterson House at 11602 Rt.22 is similar in period and design (PHOTO 10). Although altered by later additions, the house retains a pediment atop its façade that contains an ornately-framed window with corner blocks and a central panel along the top and side moldings that extend down to the base of the pediment and flank a panel below the window. This is a period feature seen throughout Berkshire County in adjoining Massachusetts. Churches and schoolhouses typically incorporated Greek Revival features in their design to convey their civic and spiritual status, and the Christian Church and District #3 Schoolhouse are no exceptions (PHOTOS 11 & 12). Both were built in the 1850s but still display the local preference for Neoclassical proportions and decoration.

Because of declining fortunes and population, the hamlet ceased to expand by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Bypassed by the railroad, the entire town missed out on the economic benefits that were enjoyed elsewhere and became isolated from the mainstream. Population steadily declined; those remaining were focused on agriculture, which was also in the midst of a sustained depression. One bright spot, evidently, was Charles Kinne's wagon shop, which continued to thrive, as indicated by his acquisition of residential real estate in the vicinity, dwellings that he rented to his employees and others. Around 1855 Kinne added two identical tenant dwellings between his house and factory at 11520 and 11522 Rt.22 (PHOTOS 17 & 18). They are examples of progressive worker cottages based on pattern-book designs with asymmetrical, cross-wing plans and decoration in the Gothic Revival style. The appearance of this pair in a remote hamlet like Austerlitz is a significant occurrence and indicates a certain level of sophistication in Kinne's approach to his business and property.

Typical of evolving ownership and generational shifts in established communities in the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century, pre-existing dwellings were amended in plan and decoration consistent with changing architectural styles. Unlike the Hudson Valley, where lifestyles were transformed by the Romantic Movement, western New England and its New York borderland remained generally more traditional and Classical in its architecture (Charles Kinne excluded). Whether or not this was a factor of its isolation from the progress experienced along the river is something to consider, but, in fact, all of New England seems to have resisted the trend of picturesque styles to a great degree. In Austerlitz, houses were enlarged, components like windows were updated but, with the exception of Charles Kinne's own house, the addition of Gothic and Italianate decoration was not common.

## END OF HISTORY & CONTEXTS

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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### Acreeage of Property 158.46 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>626154</u> Easting	<u>4685747</u> Northing	7	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625673</u> Easting	<u>4684483</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>626216</u> Easting	<u>4685197</u> Northing	8	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625375</u> Easting	<u>4685024</u> Northing
3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>626306</u> Easting	<u>4684900</u> Northing	9	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625292</u> Easting	<u>4685451</u> Northing
4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>626309</u> Easting	<u>4684801</u> Northing	10	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625258</u> Easting	<u>4685509</u> Northing
5	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>626055</u> Easting	<u>4684536</u> Northing	11	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625867</u> Easting	<u>4685795</u> Northing
6	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>625946</u> Easting	<u>4684499</u> Northing		<u>        </u> Zone	<u>        </u> Easting	<u>        </u> Northing

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

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed mapping (8 maps total), which was drawn at a scale of 1: 24,000, 1: 12,000, 1: 10,000 and 1: 6,100; all maps are entitled Austerlitz Historic District, Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, NY."

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

The boundary for this NRHP historic district was assessed on multiple field visits and with direct input from Division for Historic Preservation staff, and following examination of historic-period maps which were consulted in order to understand how the hamlet's boundary was defined historically. The chosen boundary includes all of the historic hamlet area which largely corresponds with the course of Route 22 in addition to immediately adjacent portions of Harvey Mountain Road and Hill Street. The boundary as drawn for this nomination in large measure corresponds with the historic hamlet area as it came to be defined during the nineteenth century; it includes no "buffer" or peripheral land.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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organization Larson Fisher Associates, Inc.

date January 17, 2018

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## Additional Documentation

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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.)

---

Photographs:

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Photographers: Gail Cashen, John Ham, Neil Larson

Date Photographed: 2012-2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

PHOTO 001: Bristol – Kinne House, 11526 Rt.22, ca. 1810.

PHOTO 002: Baldwin – Beebe House, ca. 1800, moved to 39 Harvey Mountain Rd. 1983 (left) and Heath-Kellogg House, ca. 1820, moved to 39 Harvey Mountain Rd. 1990 (right).

PHOTO 003: Austerlitz Hotel, 11640 Rt.22, ca. 1810.

PHOTO 004: Swift – Brown House, 11622 Rt.22, ca. 1815.

PHOTO 005: Seymour-Barnes House, 11631 Rt.22, ca. 1815.

PHOTO 006: Noah Rossiter House, 11639 Rt.22, ca. 1826.

PHOTO 007: Cole – Shaw/Hoyt House, 11643 Rt.22, ca. 1820.

PHOTO 008: Heath-Kellogg House, 39 Harvey Mountain Rd., ca. 1820.

PHOTO 009: Chauncey G. Varney House, 11549 Rt.22, ca. 1835.

PHOTO 010: Lee-Peterson House, 11602 Rt.22, 1843.

PHOTO 011: View south on Rt. 22 from East Hill Rd. showing Christian Church, 1852 & Dist. No.3 School, ca. 1853.

PHOTO 012: Christian Church, Rt.22, 1852.

PHOTO 013: Major M. Tyler House, 11623 Rt.22, ca. 1836.

PHOTO 014: Ford – Shaw House, 6 Harvey Mountain Rd., ca. 1836.

PHOTO 015: Kinne – Dibble House, 3 Harvey Mountain Rd., ca. 1800.

PHOTO 016: David K. Lane House, 11523 Rt.22, ca. 1859.

PHOTO 017: View of “Kinneville” looking south from Harvey Mountain Rd. Creek crossing in foreground, wagon factory site outside view on left, Kinne houses on left and David K. Lane House and Shaw-Ford House on right.

PHOTO 018: Kinne Tenant Houses I & II, 11520 & 11522 Rt.22 and Bristol – Kinne House, 11526 Rt.22, right to left.

PHOTO 019: View north on Rt.22 from south. Austerlitz cemetery outside view on left, Shaw-Ford House & David A. Grant Blacksmith Shop, 11515 Rt.22, in foreground, and David K. Lane House, 11523 Rt.22, in background.

PHOTO 020: Kellogg-Pixley House, 11668 Rt.22, ca. 1849.

PHOTO 021: Lester E. Harvey House, Harvey Mountain Rd., 1867.

PHOTO 022: Harvey Hotel Tenant House, 11644 Rt.22, ca. 1865.

PHOTO 023: East Hill Cemetery.

PHOTO 024: Austerlitz Cemetery.

PHOTO 025: Austerlitz Volunteer Fire Company House, 2016.

PHOTO 026: Morey-Devereux House, 1794, moved from Nassau, New York to Old Austerlitz Historical Village (11550 Rt.22) in 2002.

PHOTO 027: Morey-Devereux Barn, re-erected in Austerlitz, 2012.

---

Property Owner:

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

---

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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.



AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
	88.-2-14.1	6	East Hill Rd	U.S. Post Office	1 story wood frame building, on-slab with wood shingle shed roof, board-and-batten siding	1980	none		non-contributing building
	88.-2-13	42	East Hill Rd		1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling with attached garage, log construction, asphalt shingle gable roof	2009	Contemporary Log	log garage, 2009	non-contributing building  non-contributing outbuilding
	88.-2-11		East Hill Rd	East Hill Cemetery	Wooded plot containing 146 burials, most dating from the first half of the 19th century. Mostly marble markers ranging from early scroll-topped designs to later flat-topped stones and obelisks.	1793-	N/A		contributing site
14	88.-2-25	6	Harvey Mtn Rd	Ford-Shaw House	1 1/2 story wood frame single, wood shingle roof family dwelling, stone foundation, standing metal seam cross-gable roof with interior (former exterior) brick chimney, original dwelling was 3-bay wide with center hall, side entry now enclosed in early 20th century portico, frieze was covered by shingle siding, 1-bay side wing added on, eave returns	ca. 1836	Greek Revival	early 20th c. wood frame barn/shop	contributing building  contributing outbuilding
16	88.-2-17	3	Harvey Mtn Rd	Kinne-Dibble House	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with interior brick chimney, wood shingle siding, , original dwelling has 5-bay wide facade with center hall entry, porch entry and 6/6 windows, later 1 story additions with 12/8 windows, bay window, and interior brick chimney, 1 story summer porch addition	ca. 1800	Federal	late 19 c. wood frame domestic barn	contributing building  contributing outbuilding

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
17, 25	88.-2-16.1	9	Harvey Mtn Rd	Robert Herron House	Two historic dwellings moved from other locations in the hamlet and joined <b>J. Kellogg House</b> - 2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roof with central interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding, 3-bay wide facade with 6/6 windows on upper story and 9/6 windows on lower story, side hall entry; moved from 11550 Rt.22 in 1990 <b>Baldwin-Beebe House</b> - 1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with central interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding, 3-bay wide facade with 12/8 windows, center hall entry with simple surround, frieze, eave returns and corner boards; moved from 11668 Rt.22 in 1983	ca. 1820 moved 1990  ca. 1800 moved 1983	Federal	mid 19th c. wood frame agricultural barn, moved from 11549 Rt. 22 1990	contributing building  contributing outbuilding
	88.-2-26	32	Harvey Mtn Rd		1 story wood frame single family dwelling, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle cross-gable roof with interior brick chimney and pipe chimney, wood clapboard siding	1976	Ranch		non-contributing building
15	88.-2-36	50	Harvey Mtn Rd	Lester E. Harvey House	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof, wood shingle siding, 4-bay facade, offset shed roof entry, eyebrow windows, 6/6 windows, exterior brick chimney, side porch entry	ca. 1867	Gothic Revival	mid 20th c. two-car garage	contributing building  non-contributing outbuilding
	88.-2-20 88.-2-21		Route 22	Austerlitz Cemetery	Open plot containing 247 burials from the late-19th and 20th centuries with markers ranging in design from machine-carved marble slabs to later manufactured monuments in marble and granite	1856-	N/A		contributing site
8	88.-2-22	11515	Route 22	Shaw-Ford House & David A. Grant Blacksmith Shop	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle cross-gable roof w/ gable dormer, vinyl clapboard siding, 5-bay facade with central pedimented porch entry, partial side shed roof porch, exterior concrete block and interior brick chimneys, eave returns, replacement windows	ca. 1861	Gothic Revival	late 19th c. wood frame blacksmith shop	contributing building  contributing outbuilding

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
10	88.-2-31	11520	Route 22	Kinney Tenant House I	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, wood shingle cross-gable roof, metal clapboard siding, 2-bay wide facade, gable roof porch entry, 1st story 6/1 windows, 2nd story 2/2 windows, storm windows, central interior brick chimney, rear 1 story shed roof addition	ca. 1855	Gothic Revival		contributing building
11	88.-2-30	11522	Route 22	Kinney Tenant House II	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, wood shingle cross-gable roof with decorative vergeboards and eave trim, wood clapboard siding, 2-bay wide facade, gable roof porch entry with decorative vergeboards, 1st sty 6/6 windows and 2nd sty 2/2 windowscentral interior brick chimney	ca. 1855	Gothic Revival	mid 19th c. wood frame shed in Gothic Revival trim matching house	contributing building contributing outbuilding
9	88.-2-24	11523	Route 22	David K. Lane House	1 1/2 story wood frame multi-family dwelling, stone foundation, original gable roof with central interior brick chimney and eyebrow windows, later 1 1/2 story gable addition with interior brick chimney addition and Gothic Revival windows in gable end, later enclosed porch entry, asphalt shingle roofing	ca. 1859	Gothic Revival	mid 20th c. cottage; mid 20th c. outbuilding	contributing building non-contributing outbuilding (2)
	88.-2-27	11524A	Route 22		1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof, vinyl clapboard siding, one story addition on front with entry	mid-20th c.	Summer Bungalow	mid 20th c. two-car garage	non-contributing building non-contributing outbuilding
	88.-2-28	11524B	Route 22		1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle front-gable roof with central interior stone chimney and side wall shed dormer, vertical wood siding, side and rear porches, 1/2 story front porch overhang	1972	Summer Bungalow		non-contributing building

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
12	88.-2-29	11526	Route 22	Bristol-Kinne House	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with high pitched centered gable dormer, decorative gable dormer vergeboards, decorative eave trim, wood shingle siding, 5-bay wide facade with central entry, 9/6 dormer window, 12/6 windows, door transom, central interior brick chimney, later side addition with concrete block foundation, gable roof, and 6/6 windows	ca. 1810	Federal		contributing building
	88.-2-19.100		Route 22		agricultural land historically associated with 11549 Rt.22				contributing site
18	88.-2-19.200	11549	Route 22	Chauncey G. Varney House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, standing seam metal gable roof with central interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding, 3-bay facade with central entry, gable end pediments, cornice, 6/6 windows, storm windows, broken transom light, 1 story summer porch addition	ca. 1835	Greek Revival	mid 19th c. domestic barn	contributing building  contributing outbuilding

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number	Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
	88.-2-16.2	11550 Route 22	Austerlitz Historical Society	<p><b>Morey Devereaux House</b> - 2 1/2 story wood frame dwelling, stone footing, wood shingle gable roof with two interior brick chimneys, wood clapboard siding, 5-bay wide facade with 3/3 windows on upper story and 6/6 windows on lower story, center hall entry with transom and simple entablature with pilasters, two side entries</p> <p><b>Morey Devereaux Barn</b> - 1 story wood frame barn, stone footing, standing metal seam gable roof, vertical flushboard siding, double center hinge doors with transom</p> <p><b>Morey Devereaux Carriage Shed</b> - 1 story wood frame shed, standing seam metal roof, vertical flushboard siding, 5-bay wide facade with four machine bays and side bay entry.</p> <p><b>Harvey House</b> - 1 1/2 story wood frame building, stone footing, asphalt shingle gable roof, wood clapboard siding, 5-bay wide facade with 12/8 windows and center hall entry</p> <p><b>Robert Engel Blacksmith Shop</b> - 1 story wood frame shop, stone footing, asphalt shingle gable roof with exposed rafter ends and interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding</p> <p><b>Stillwater Granary</b> - 1 1/2 story wood frame granary, stone footing, slate shingle gable roof, tongue and groove siding, two double door hinged entries</p>	1794 moved 2002  1794 moved 2012  ca. 2012  ca. 1780 moved 2001  ca. 2001  19th century moved 1999	Federal	none	non-contributing building  non-contributing building  non-contributing building  non-contributing building  non-contributing building
19, 20	87.-2-56	Route 22	Christ Church District Schoolhouse #3 (moved)	<p><b>Christ Church</b> - 1 1/2 story wood frame church, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roof, two stage central square bell tower with four pliuicles, wood clapboard siding, projecting portico with central entry flanked by 9/9 windows</p> <p><b>District Schoolhouse #3</b> - 1 1/2 story wood frame schoolhouse, front gable roof with cupola, wood clapboard siding</p>	1852  1853 moved 1898	Greek Revival		contributing building (2)
	87.-2-55.100 87.-2-55.200	Route 22	Austerlitz Volunteer Fire Company	1 1/2 story wood frame municipal firehouse, asphalt shingle complex gable roof, vinyl clapboard siding, metal roof cupola	2016	Contemporary Traditional	picnic pavilion, ca. 2016	non-contributing building (2)
	87.-2-57.120	Route 22	Austerlitz Historical Society	vacant land associated with church	N/A	N/A		contributing site

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
	88.-2-15	11602	Route 22	Lee-Peterson House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roof with interior brick and exterior concrete chimneys, wood clapboard and shingle siding, 3-bay wide facade with side hall entry, 6/6 windows with storm windows, corner pilasters, full pediment with gable light, wrap around porch	1843	Greek Revival	mid 20th c. Quonset agricultural barn mid-20th c. poultry house late 20th c. garage	contributing building contributing outbldg (2) non-contributing outbuilding
	88.-2-14	11608	Route 22	Congregational Church Site	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle low-pitched front-gable roof, vinyl clapboard siding, projecting 1 story entry with gable roof	1980	no style		non-contributing building
	87.-2-23	11615	Route 22	Sylvanus Osborn House Site	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, foundation, asphalt shingle front-gable roof with 1 story side wing and interior concrete chimney, vinyl clapboard siding	1944		late 20th c. garage	non-contributing building non-contributing outbuilding
22	88.-1-31.2	11622	Route 22	Swift-Brown House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with interior brick chimney at end, wood clapboard siding, frieze, eave returns, 5-bay facade with central entry, door 6/6 side lights, 12/2 upper story windows, 2/2 lower story windows, 2 story rear addition	ca. 1815	Federal	two 20th c. garages solar array	contributing building non-contributing outbldg (2) non-contributing structure
27	87.-2-22	11623	Route 22	Major M. Tyler House	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, front gable roof with interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding, 3-bay facade with 6/6 windows on upper story and 2/2 windows on lower story, side hall entry with simple entablature and pilasters, corner pilasters and eave returns, frieze	ca. 1836	Federal	late 20th c. one-car agraage	contributing building non-contributing outbuilding

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
28	87.-2-24	11631	Route 22	Seymour-Barnes House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roof, wood clapboard siding, 2-bay wide facade with two 1 story side wings with interior brick chimneys and 9/6 windows, full pediment with flush board siding, center hall entry with simple entablature and side lights, frieze and corner boards; one-story wood frame shoe shop moved from front yard and attached to rear of house	ca. 1817	Federal	mid-19th c. one-story wood frame shoe shop attached to rear of house  late 20th c. two car garage	contributing building contributing outbuilding  non-contributing outbuilding
29	87.-2-27	11639	Route 22	Noah Rossiter House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roof with two interior brick chimneys, wood clapboard siding, corner boards, frieze, eave returns, 3-bay wide facade with 9/6 windows and gable entry porch, enclosed side porch entry with shed roof	ca. 1826	Federal	mid 20th c. open-sided shed	contributing building  non-contributing outbuilding
23	88.-1-27	11640	Route 22	Austerlitz Hotel	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof, vinyl clapboard siding, 5-bay facade with central hall entry, 9/6 windows and storm windows, entry entablature and pilasters, frieze, eave returns, corner boards	ca. 1810	Federal	late 20th c. two-car garage w/workshop wing	contributing building  non-contributing outbuilding
	88.-1-26		Route 22		vacant land	N/A	N/A		
30	87.-2-21	11643	Route 22	Albert Cole House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling with rear 1 1/2 story wing, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with interior brick chimney, wood shingle siding, 3-bay wide facade with 6/6 and storm widows and side hall entry with simple entablature, corner boards, later rear 2 story addition	ca. 1826	Federal	garage (connected)	contributing building
24	88.-1-25	11644	Route 22	Russell G. Harvey House	1 1/2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof with central interior brick chimney, wood clapboard siding, 4-bay facade with offset entry, partial proch with hip roof on front facade, eyebrow windows, lower story 6/6 windows, frieze	ca. 1865	Gothic Revival	mid 19th c. agricultural barn  mid 19th c. wagon house, Gothic Revival style	contributing building  contributing outbldng (2)

AUSTERLITZ HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Town of Austerlitz, Columbia County, New York

PROPERTY LIST

Survey Number	Parcel Number		Street Name	Property Name	Description	Est. Year Built	Style	Outbuildings	Status
	88.-1-24	11652	Route 22		2 story wood frame single family dwelling, concrete foundation, asphalt shingle gable roof, vinyl clapboard siding, , 5-bay wide facade with central entry with side light, 6/6 windows	2003	Colonial	mid 20th c. one-story wood frame dwelling, mid 20th c. 2-car garage late 20th c. shed	non-contributing building  non-contributing outbldng (3)
	88.-1-23.200		Route 22		vacant land	N/A	N/A		
26	88.-1-23.110	11668	Route 22	Kellogg-Pixley House	2 story wood frame single family dwelling, stone foundation, asphalt shingle front gable roofs with decorative gable trusses, and interior brick chimneys, main block house with two later additions, one 2 story and other 1 story, complex wrap around porch, 6/6 windows, side hall entry with simple entablature and side lights	ca. 1870	Gothic Revival	mid 20th c. poultry house  late 20th c. 2-car garage  late 20th c. cottage	contributing building  contributing out building  non-contributing outbldng (2)
	87.-2-57.112		West Hill Rd		agricultural land historically associated with 11602 Rt.22, contains Green River				contributing site
	87.-2-57.200		West Hill Rd		agricultural land historically associated with 11602 Rt.22, includes Green River				contributing site



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Austerlitz Historic District

Columbia County, New York

Section number: FIGURES page: 1

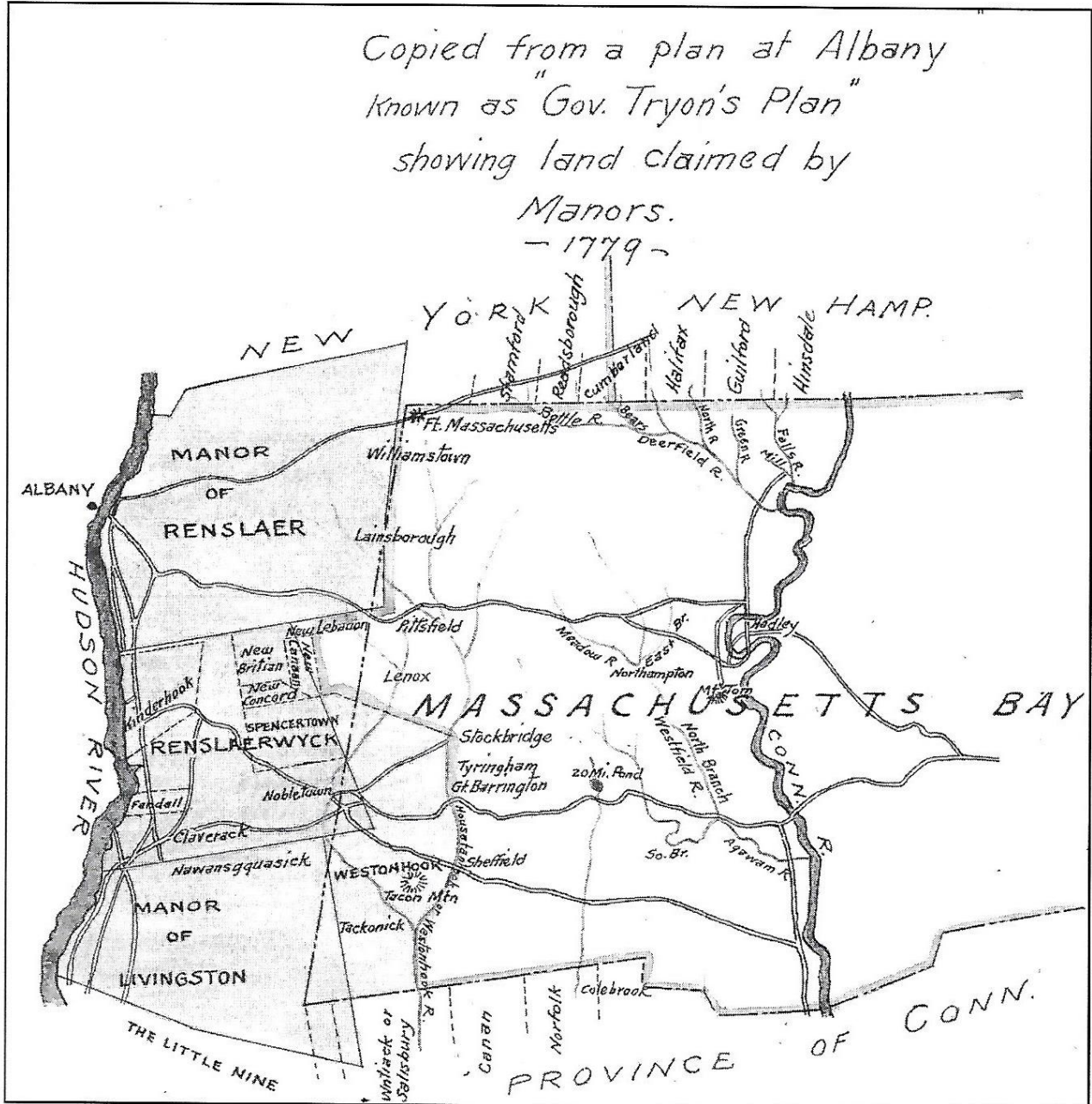


FIG.1: Nathaniel Dwight, Map of Gov. Tryon's Plan of manors along the boundary with the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1783). Spencertown is depicted in the center of the map west of the boundary line. Note names and locations of other Massachusetts towns north and south of Spencertown. Source: Pittsfield MA, Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Colonial Patents, Third Series, Map #869.

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National Park Service

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Austerlitz Historic District

Columbia County, New York

Section number: FIGURES page: 2

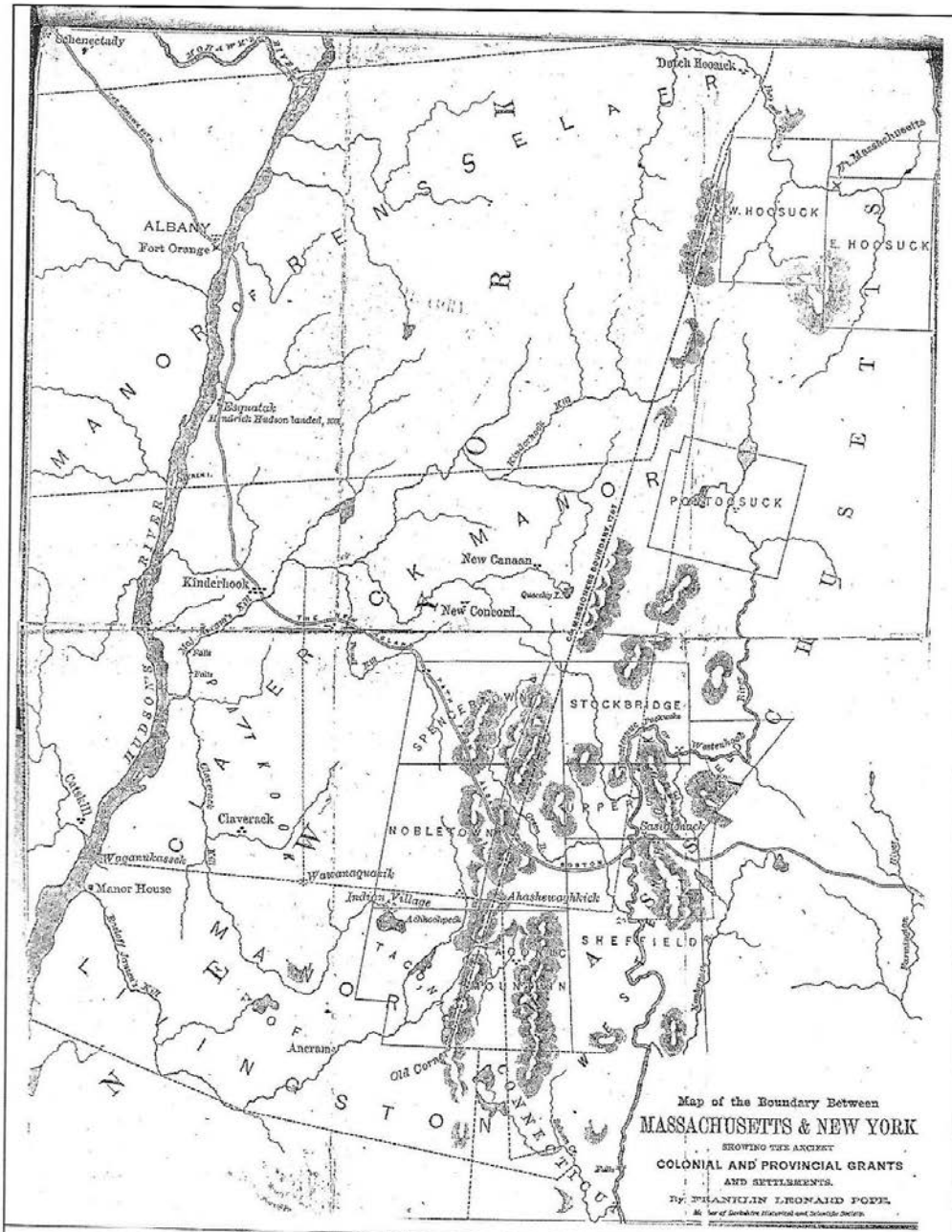


FIG.2: Franklin Leonard Pope's 1886 map of the boundary between Massachusetts and New York as determined in 1787. Spencertown is delineated in the center west of Stockbridge. Source: Pittsfield MA: Berkshire Middle District Registry of Deeds, Colonial Patents.

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National Park Service

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Austerlitz Historic District

Columbia County, New York

Section number: FIGURES page: 3

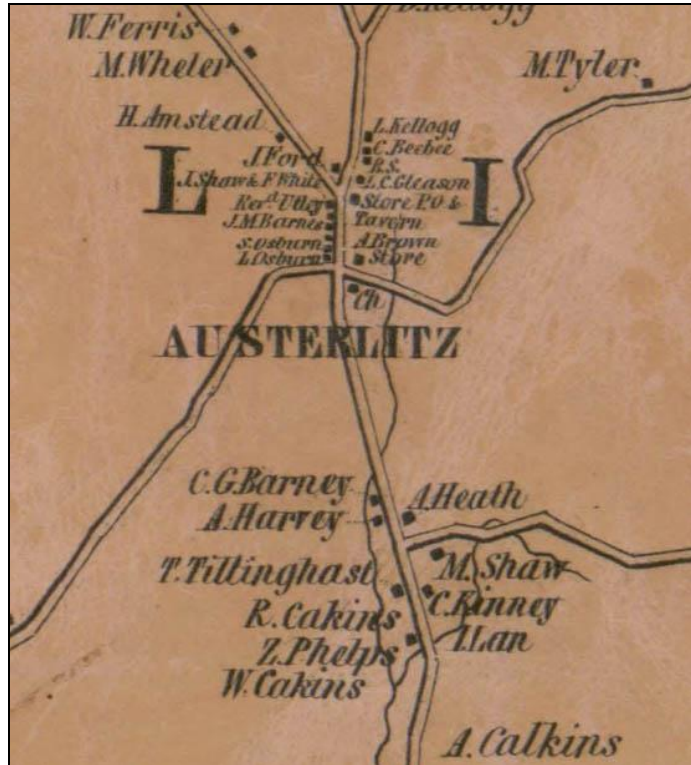


FIG.3: Detail of 1851 Map of Columbia County.



FIG.4: Detail of 1858 Map of Columbia County (see below)

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National Park Service

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Austerlitz Historic District

Columbia County, New York

Section number: FIGURES page: 4

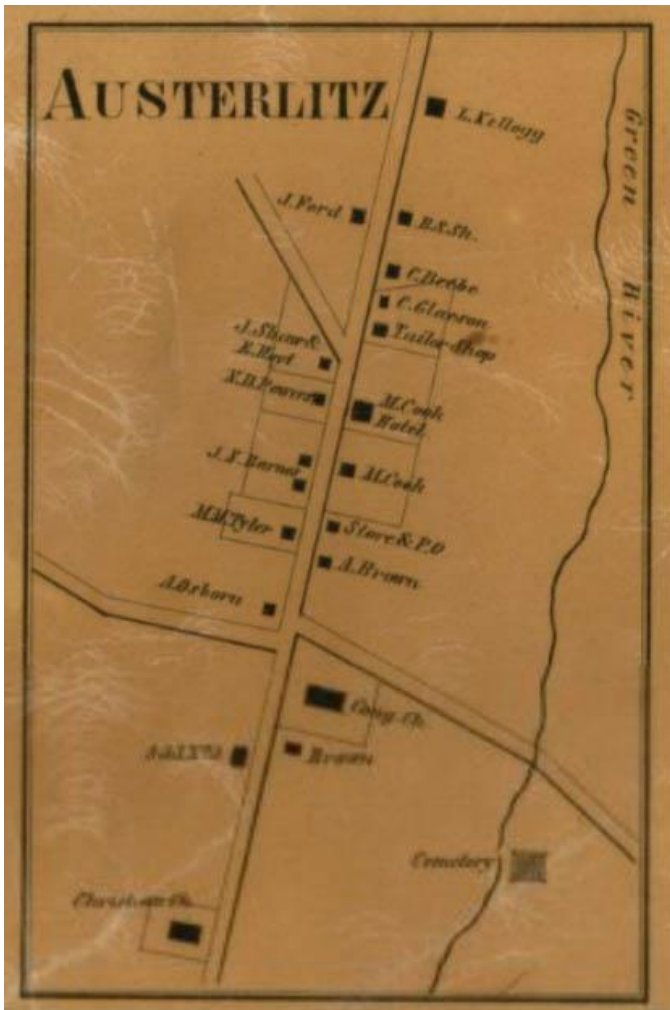


FIG.5: Inset map from 1858 Map of Columbia County.

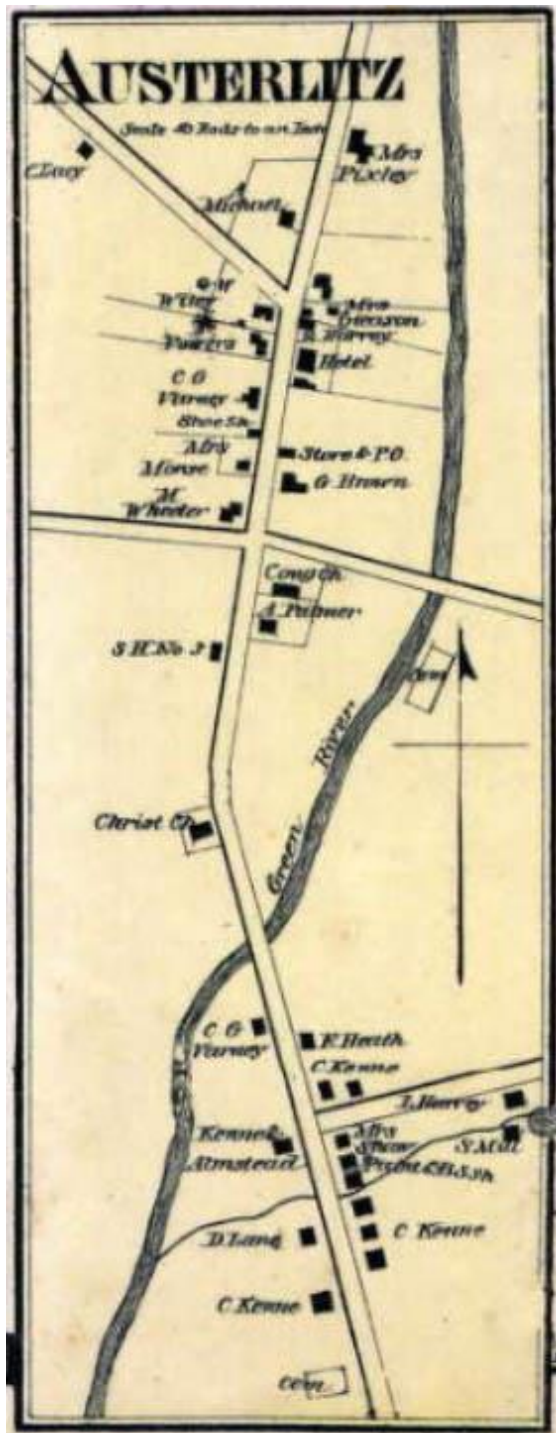


FIG.6: Map from 1873 Atlas of Columbia County.

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Austerlitz Historic District

Columbia County, New York

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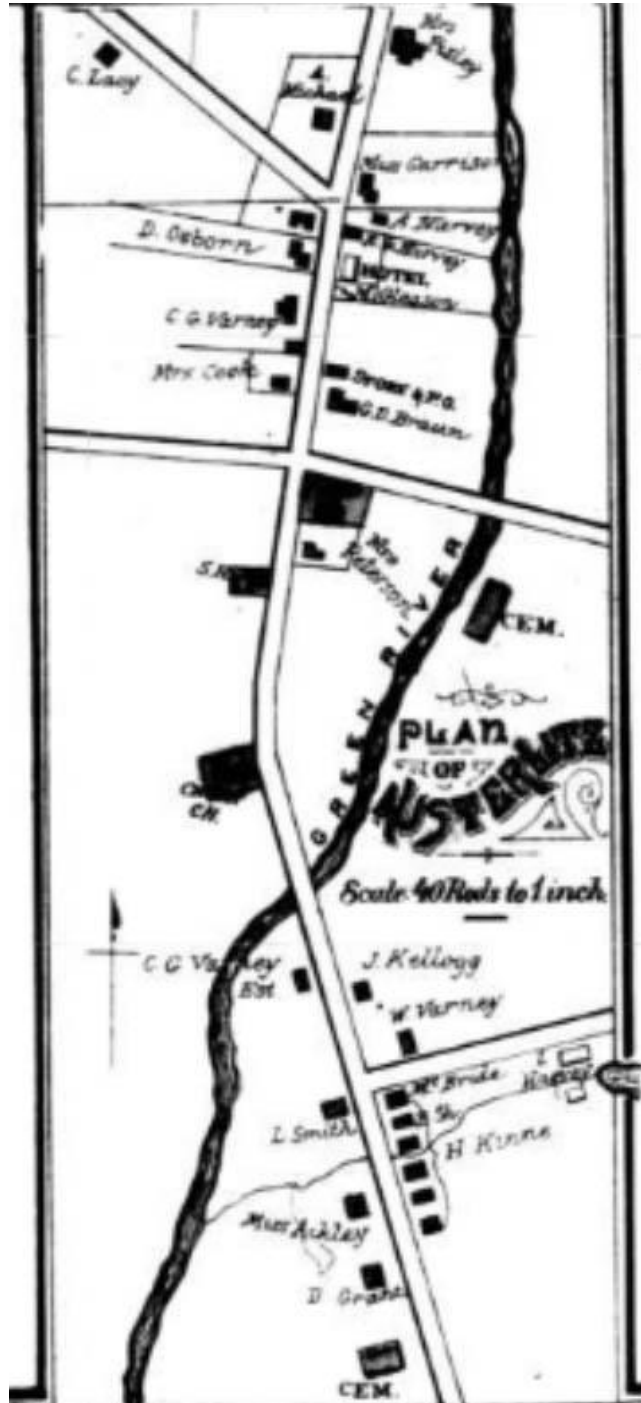


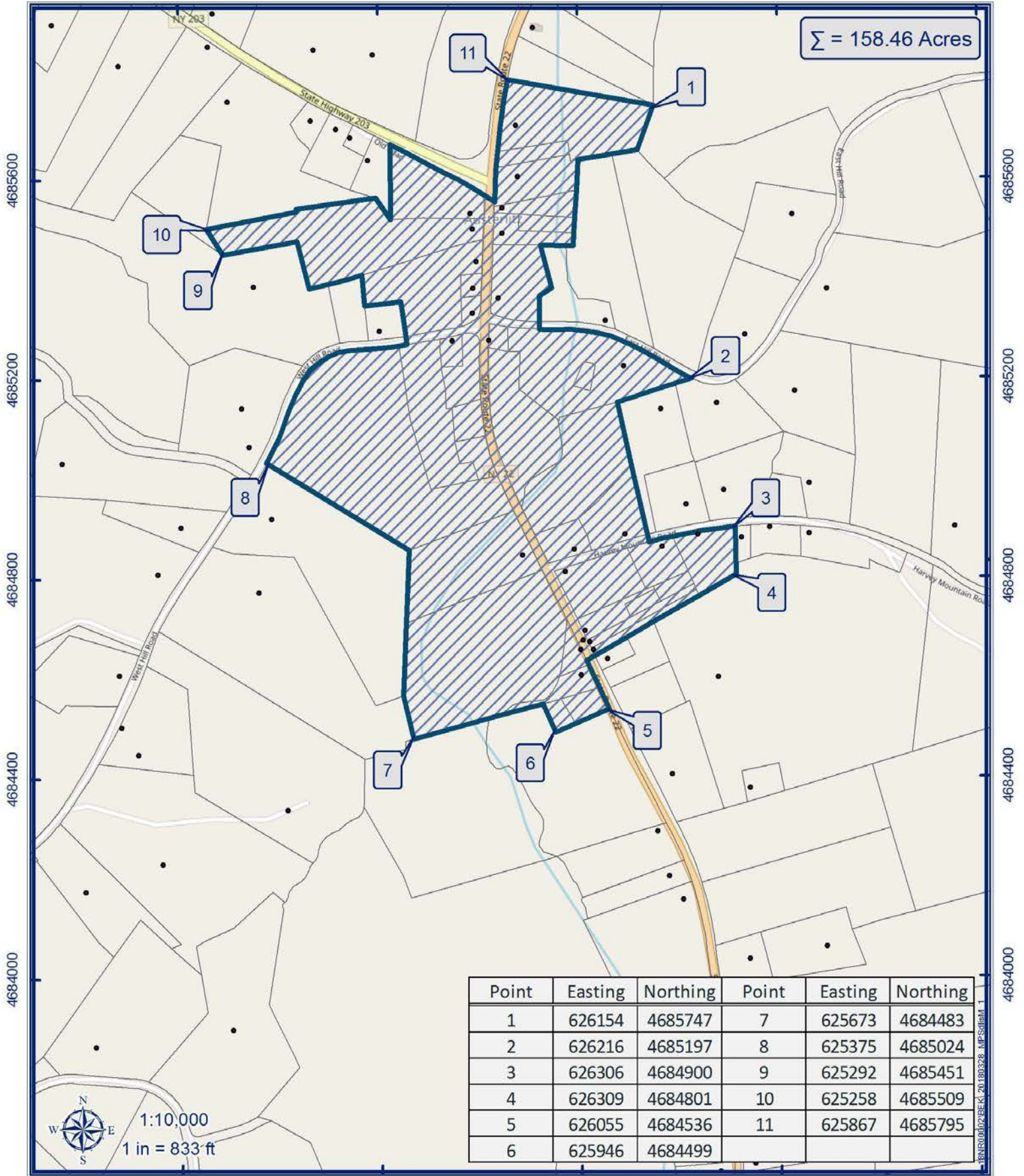
FIG.7: Map of Austerlitz from 1888 Atlas of Columbia County



# Austerlitz Historic District

Town of Austerlitz  
Columbia County, New York

Σ = 158.46 Acres



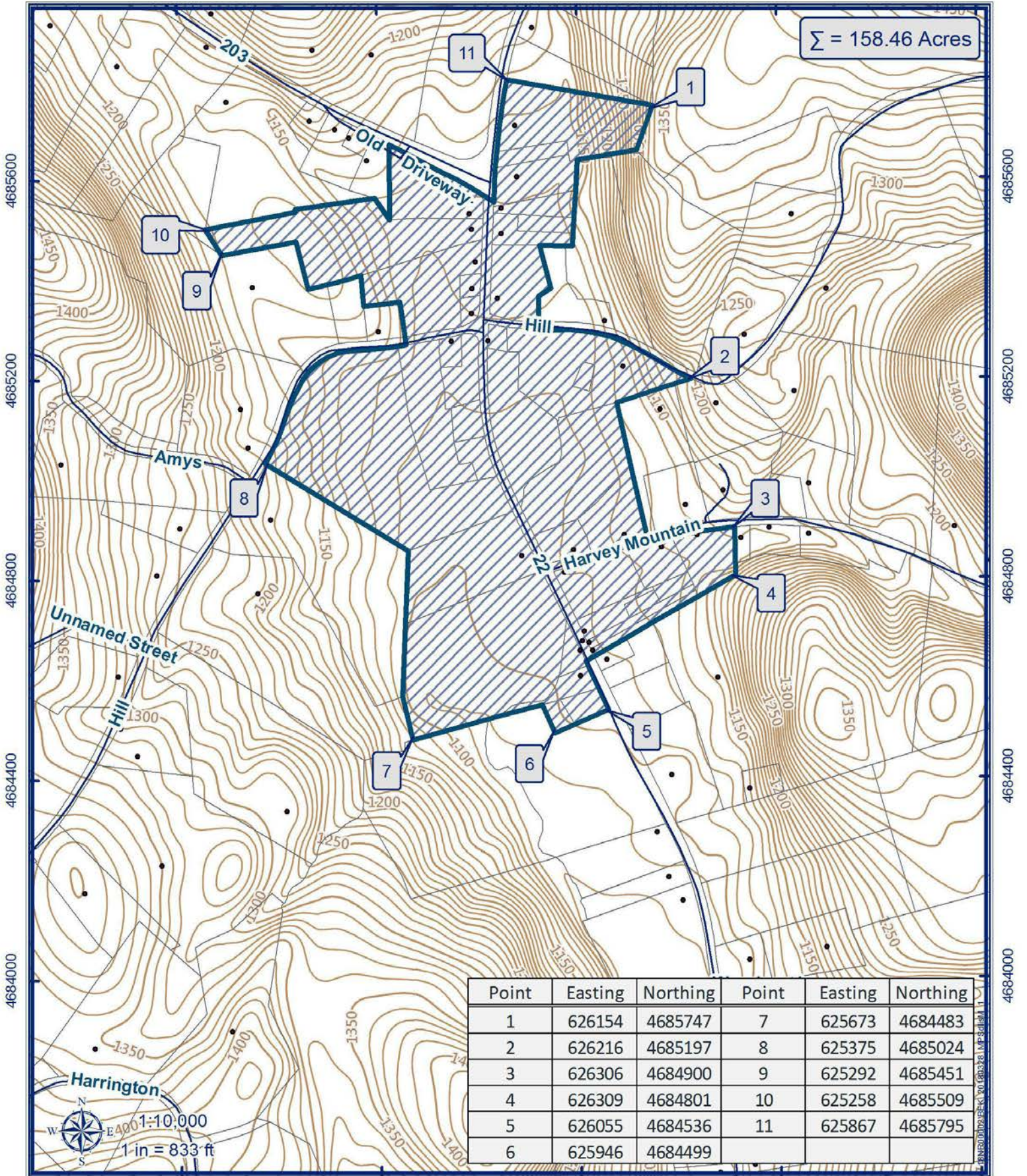
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Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

# Austerlitz Historic District

Town of Austerlitz  
Columbia County, New York



Point	Easting	Northing	Point	Easting	Northing
1	626154	4685747	7	625673	4684483
2	626216	4685197	8	625375	4685024
3	626306	4684900	9	625292	4685451
4	626309	4684801	10	625258	4685509
5	626055	4684536	11	625867	4685795
6	625946	4684499			

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
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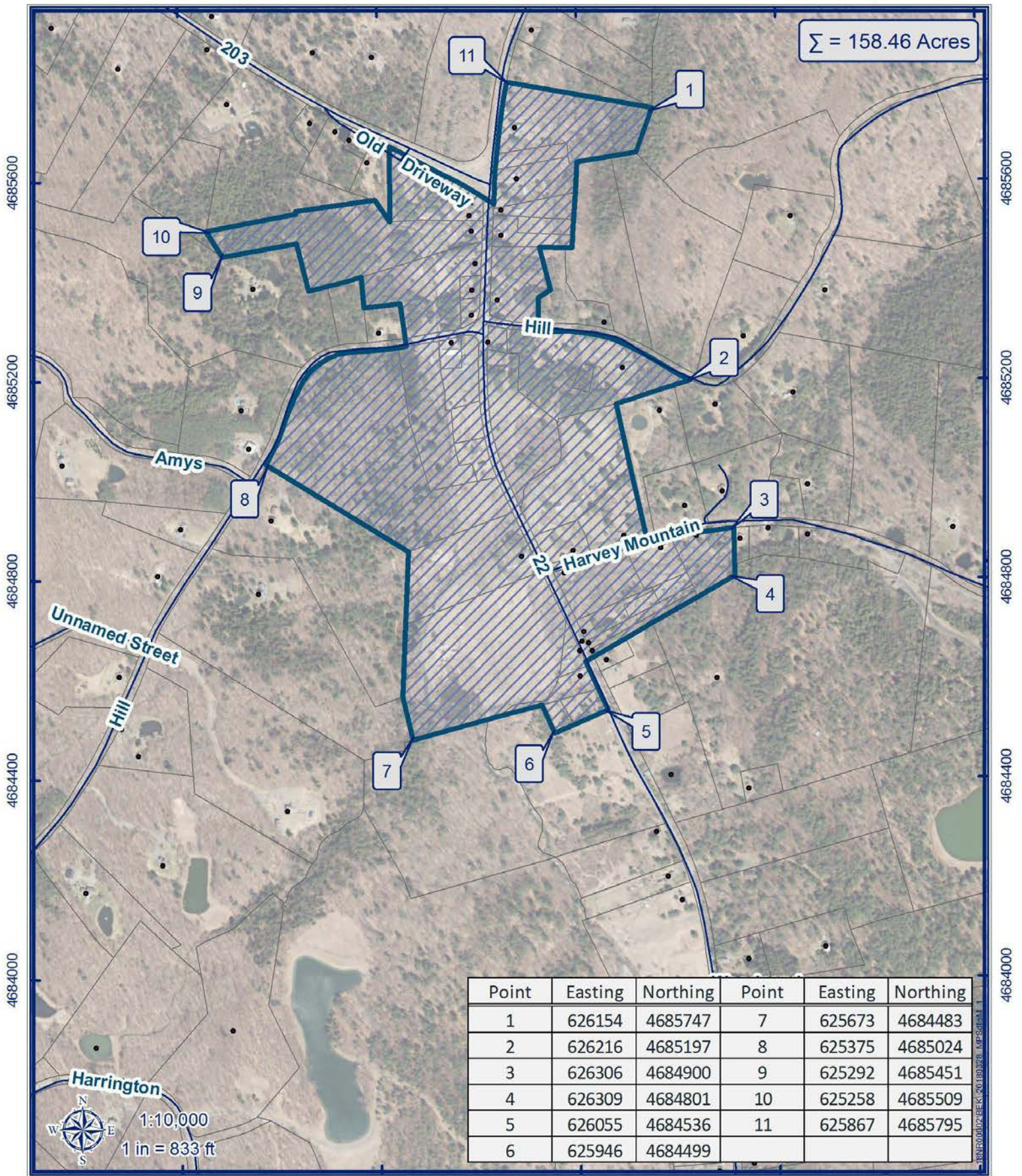
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation



# Austerlitz Historic District

Town of Austerlitz  
Columbia County, New York

$\Sigma = 158.46$  Acres



Point	Easting	Northing	Point	Easting	Northing
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Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation


# Austerlitz Historic District

Town of Austerlitz  
Columbia County, New York

$\Sigma = 158.46$  Acres



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

-  Austerlitz Historic District
-  Non-Contributing
-  Vacant
-  Contributing



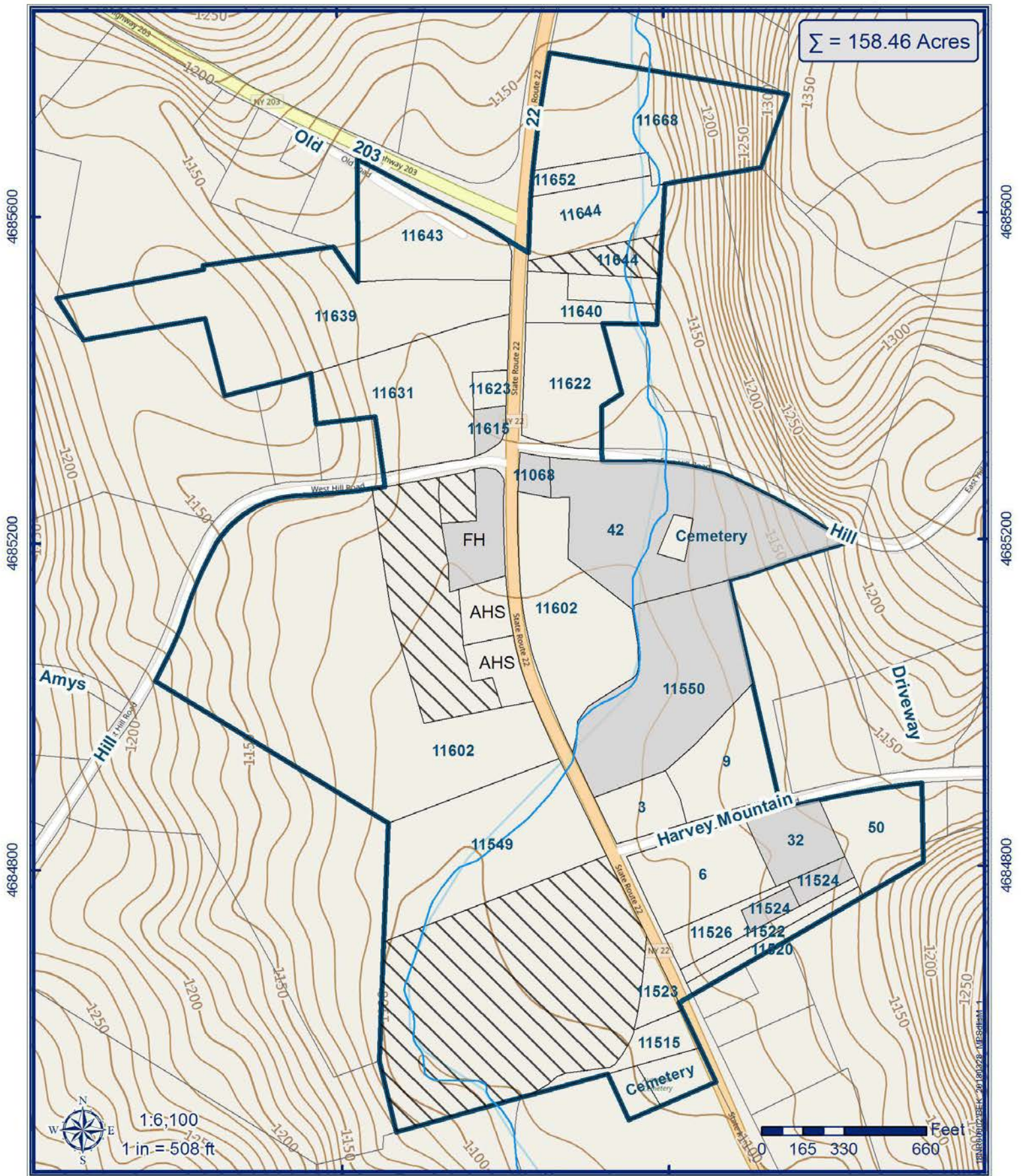
**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

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# Austerlitz Historic District

Town of Austerlitz  
Columbia County, New York

Σ = 158.46 Acres



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

-  Austerlitz Historic District
-  Contributing
-  Non-Contributing
-  Vacant



























































AUSTERLITZ VOL. FIRE CO.





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: 4/19/2018      Date of Pending List: 5/4/2018      Date of 16th Day: 5/21/2018      Date of 45th Day: 6/4/2018      Date of Weekly List: 5/25/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      5/25/2018 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.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner



15 April 2018

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

Edith B. Ford Memorial Library, Seneca County  
Austerlitz Historic District, Columbia County  
Spencertown Historic District, Columbia County  
Ingleside Home, Erie County  
Westminster House Club House, Erie County  
Copeland Carriage House, Saratoga County  
Tibbetts-Rumsey House, Tompkins County  
Buffalo General Electric Complex, Erie County

In addition, I have also enclosed a request for a change to contributing status for 348 Ashland Avenue in the Elmwood Historic District (West), Erie 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