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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 VROMAN, COL. PETER, HOUSE

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

name of related multiple property listing N/A

### Location

street & number 112 COVERED BRIDGE ROAD

city or town SCHOHARIE

state NEW YORK code NY county SCHOHARIE code 095 zip code 12157

☐ not for publication

☐ vicinity

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input 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	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
1	4	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: METAL

other: BRICK, GLASS

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**Narrative Description**

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Col. Peter Vroman House and associated property are situated in the Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York, at a location traditionally known as Vroman Corners. The nominated property is located near the intersection of State Route 30 and State Route 443, north of Fox Creek and west of the Fox Creek Covered Bridge, from which the associated road takes its name. The nominated property includes the Col. Peter Vroman House, which is presently addressed as 112 Covered Bridge Road, erected ca. 1792 as per dendrochronological testing; the Mildred Vrooman Easter Egg Museum, built in 1999; and two modestly scaled barns/garages and two gazebos. The modestly landscaped parcel has coniferous and deciduous trees scattered throughout, gardens located to the rear (west) of the house, and a forested area alongside the north bank of Fox Creek. The story-and-a-half Vroman (Vrooman variously) residence has a rectangular plan with a columned portico corresponding with the principal entrance and east-facing façade, which is oriented towards Covered Bridge Road; it was erected with closely spaced timber-frame bents in characteristic New World Dutch manner. The foundation of the house, which contains a fully excavated basement, was laid up in mortared stone. The east and west elevations are asymmetrically composed in terms of the arrangement of fenestration while the north and south elevations are instead generally symmetrical. The present metal roof covers an earlier wood shingle roof surface, and the wood siding is beaded except for areas that underwent changes more recently, the beading suggesting they may in fact be original. Inside, the Vroman house retains ample evidence of its later eighteenth century origins, including finished ceiling beams and other woodwork, in addition to features added subsequently during the course of the nineteenth century. The house and property remain in an excellent state of preservation. This nomination consists of one contributing resource, the Vroman house; the museum, barns/garages and gazebos have been deemed non-contributing resources in the context of this nomination.

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**Narrative Description**

**Location & Setting**

The Col. Peter Vroman House property is situated adjacent to the north bank of Fox Creek (Cobleskill Creek variously) and on the west side of Covered Bridge Road, the access road leading to what is now a non-vehicular covered bridge. This bridge originally served as a vehicular entrance point to the Village of Schoharie but now functions as pedestrian access to Lily Park and the Old Stone Fort Museum complex. Fox Creek is a tributary of the Schoharie Creek, which enters the Mohawk River and thus is part of the Hudson River watershed. The property is located outside of the village bounds, within the Town of Schoharie. It is situated near the intersection of State Route 443 and State Route 30, a locale also known at times as Vrooman Corners. The property consists of

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the Col. Peter Vroman House, the Mildred Vrooman Easter Egg Museum, two barns now used as garages, and two gazebos; it is also the site of an eighteenth-century gristmill. The land has variously been used for mills, agriculture, orchards, an antique business, and for domestic purposes. The number of structures on the property has changed through the years and some previous structures, such as a gristmill and a building which functioned as slave quarters, no longer exist. A house, referred to the Dietz house and located between the Vroman house and the Easter Egg Museum, was demolished in 1997. The nominated parcel, at one time consisting of 7 acres, now includes 3.3 acres of associated land, buildings, gardens, lawn, and a forested area situated alongside the north bank of Fox Creek.

The Colonel Vroman house is set back approximately 110 feet from the road and is addressed as 112 Covered Bridge Road. The house's principal entrance and elevation face eastwards towards the road. A partial white picket fence and gate at the road lead to stone steps and a stone walkway which approaches the portico fronting the house. The house is located below the grade of Covered Bridge Road and the land to the south slopes steeply down to the banks of Fox Creek. There are several large, mature trees along the course of Covered Bridge Road and a line of trees along the north bank of Fox Creek. The property extends, from the earliest identified deeds, to the middle of Fox Creek. The west portion of the property, in the rear of the house, includes a manicured lawn, decorative plantings, mature deciduous and coniferous trees, and a gazebo. As the land slopes downwards towards the creek there are some pathways which traverse a wooded area. An open grassy area is located immediately north of the house. One garage, repurposed from a small frame barn, is situated west of the house. A story-and-a-half barn originally associated with the adjoining but now demolished Dietz house is located north of the Vroman home. Further north on the property is the modern rectangular building which houses the Easter Egg Museum.

The nominated property is also located within a previously identified archaeological site, known as the Vroman I Site (NYSM #10146 and 10148), one of two significant archaeological sites identified during field investigations undertaken in the 1990s, along with the nearby Vroman II site. The Vroman I Site is roughly defined as being located near the intersection of State Route 30 and State Route 443, on the northern bank of the Fox Creek. It occupies a small floodplain which overlooks Fox Creek, and it is defined archaeologically as a multi-component site, consisting as it does of an identified prehistoric component—a Transitional/Early Woodland camp—and a later historic component corresponding with a farmstead occupied ca. 1817-1900 by members of the Snyder, Fisher, Dietz and Cady families. The Vroman I site is not being advanced for NRHP listing at this time, but may be at a future date; additional investigation and contextualization will be required to properly frame the site's significance within NRHP Criterion D.



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Col. Peter Vroman House, ca. 1792 & later (contributing building): Overview & Exterior

The story-and-a-half New World Dutch-framed Vroman house was erected ca. 1792. Dendrochronology tests undertaken recently indicate that several of the oak timbers in the cellar which sustain the first floor and pine beams located in the attic were felled between November 1791 and February 1792 and thus it is presumed that construction was initiated shortly thereafter. The building is an example of a later-eighteenth century vernacular house in the region with a New World Dutch timber frame and first-period and subsequent historic-period features. The gable-roofed house's frame was constructed in part with hand-hewn oak timbers about 11 inches in diameter; it measures 48 feet long and 30 feet wide. The principal roadside elevation is fronted by a flat-roofed Colonial Revival-style portico which spans most, but not all, of that elevation; it is sustained by fluted Ionic-order wood columns. Large rectangular cut stone steps provide an approach to the portico. The present standing-seam metal roof covers an older wood shingle roof and previous owners of the house indicated that there are several layers of roofing underneath. The house has two brick chimneys both of which rise from the ridge. Some portions of the walls are brick-lined with nogging behind the clapboard; a brochure written in 1975 indicates that the inside hall is also brick-lined.<sup>1</sup> Much of the native yellow pine clapboard siding covering the house is beaded and presumably early in date, and likely original. Those boards which are not beaded, particularly on the west elevation and near window openings, provide visual evidence of alterations made through the years.

The house's fenestration is asymmetrical on its longer east and west elevations and more decidedly symmetrical on its north and south gable ends. The east elevation is five-bays wide with an offset entrance flanked to either side by two windows at first-story level; there is additionally a glazed elliptical-shaped window located to one side of the door. Three smaller square-shaped "eyebrow" windows bring natural light into the upper story. First-story windows are fitted with six-over-six sash while the upper-story windows have four and six-light casements. The door is of the divided or Dutch type with upper and lower leafs and fielded panels; the top leaf has three panels and that below has two. It is spanned by a five-pane transom. The north gable elevation is three-bays wide with three windows at first-story level, two of a conventional six-over-six type, and one larger one fitted with 10-over-10 sash. There are additionally two smaller windows at half-story level with six-over-six sash, and another of that type corresponding with the attic. The west or rear elevation is four-bays wide and has a central door and three windows at first-story level, two fitted with six-over-six sash (north of the door), and one eight-over-eight sash south of it; there is additionally a small window with a four-light casement corresponding with the half story. The door is of a five-panel type in large measure identical in its characteristics to that on the opposite elevation, and it too is spanned by a five-pane transom. Both entrances have corresponding exterior storm doors. The south gable elevation is

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<sup>1</sup> "The Cora Vrooman Home," *The 1975 Drive-About*, Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association, 11 October 1975.

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two-bays wide and have two windows at first-story level, one hung with 10-over-10 sash and the other with six-over-six sash. There are two smaller windows with six-over-six sash at half-story level and also at attic level, these being “stacked” in the vertical plane. Windows have simple casings with drip caps. Centered between the two first-story windows is a brick fireback. Small wood-louvered vents are present in the gable ends, below the roof apex on the north and south elevations. The foundation was laid up in mortared limestone with roughly dressed stones laid in regular courses and about 20 inches thick. There are windows in the cellar as well as evidence of additional cellar windows that have been closed off.

Vroman House Interior: Basement

The house was erected above a fully excavated basement which is divided into two rooms by a stone partition wall aligned on an east to west orientation, parallel to the gable ends. The partition wall is 20-inches thick like the principal foundation wall and consists of mortared stone that has been plastered over and some of which has been whitewashed. There has been speculation that the north part of the cellar might have been part of the foundation of a previous house located on the site, given documentation that suggests a dwelling existed there in the period ca. 1760-1780, however no definitive evidence to that effect has been found. The north part of the basement has a dirt floor with a narrow concrete partial walkway. A large chimney base located in this section, rectangular in plan and built of mortared stone, sustained the fireplaces and the chimney mass above. There are interesting markings scratched on some of the walls of this north room, among them “PV” and “PV 1780,” which presumably relates in some fashion to Peter Vroman, along with red chalk tally marks against a lime-washed wall the origin and purpose of which are not presently understood.

The opening between the north and south basement rooms, through the stone wall that separates them, is fitted with a conspicuously early door of a two-panel type hung on surface mounted hinges with “pancake” nailing plates. It is clearly of early origin and compares favorably with mid-eighteenth century examples in the Schoharie area, and was presumably reused from an earlier edifice where it was likely a front door. Faintly discernible on this door, when viewed in the proper light, are a variety of lightly etched markings including crosses, circles, a daisy wheel, straight lines, and a compass rose. The south section of the basement has a brick chimney support positioned against the south wall which corresponds with the fireplace above and the fireback on the south elevation; it is largely blocked from view by a cistern and may have originally served as the base for paired corner fireplaces. The south basement room has at-grade access by means of stairs sheltered by a Bilco-type hatch. Simple wood steps in the south room provide vertical circulation between the basement and first floor hallway; this stair is not original given that several beams were cut to accommodate its present run. There are two doors next to one another on the first floor which provide access to this stair; the second door likely was added in order to minimize the steepness of

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the steps. Louise Vrooman, an owner of the house in the early twentieth century, offered the following anecdotal account: "It is said that once a little slave girl was pushed down these [cellar] stairs by her mistress who was undergoing a fit of temper. This fall caused the little girl's death."<sup>2</sup>

Vroman House Interior: First Story, Half Story & Attic

The first-story plan and the half-story plan above have rooms disposed around a wide center-hall configuration. At first floor level, the center hall is terminated by the original fielded-panel divided doors, those being constructed of heavy plank with wrought iron hinges. These doors are offset in relation to one another. The front door serving the east elevation's entrance is hung on four wrought-iron strap hinges with pancake nailing plates, two straps each per leaf, and has a large surface-mounted lockbox and compass, the latter which serves to keep the two leaves together when closed. The rear or west door is similarly hung though its strap hinges have an extra nailing pad between the pancake nailer and that towards the end. This door lacks a lockbox and rim lock and instead the two leaves are held in place by two lift hinges; there is also a deadbolt with rat tail end and a compass. The wood mouldings employed in the hallway are more ornate than those found in other parts of the house, an indication of the hallway's formal function. The first story hall also has paneled wainscoting and a moulded chair rail and is spanned by finished and expressed ceiling beams. The staircase leading to the half-story is aligned with the front door on the east elevation. It is of an open-stinger type with handrail, rounded balusters and a turned newel post of distinctive Greek Revival characteristics and thus represents a ca. 1840 modification.

All of the flooring in the house consists of wide-plank pine, ranging in dimension from 15 to 18-inches in width. On the first floor the planking is laid east-to-west, at right angles to the floor framing below, while on the upper level the boards are laid north-to-south in order to bear on the beams below. Floor patches visible in several rooms indicate spaces at one time used for different purposes. An area of floor entering the living room and a section in the kitchen show considerable wear. The well-worn area in the kitchen may well indicate the original location of a stairway to the upstairs half-story.

The interior walls and ceilings of the house are finished with a mix of plaster-on-lath with both older and newer lath, in addition to areas with more recent sheetrock finish. Renovations undertaken in 2013 exposed the studding in a few rooms. Some of the studs are very large and retained bark on their outside face. The studding did not represent a single episode but instead portrayed more than one construction episode and period.

The portion of the plan north of the hallway at first floor level, on the east side, consists of a dining room with a fireplace. Five beams span the ceiling of the dining room, all of which are cased and some of which have been cut.

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<sup>2</sup> Louise S. Vrooman, "The Home of Colonel Peter Vrooman," *The Quarterly Bulletin – Schoharie County H.S.* 6, no. 3 (July 1942), 4.

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The northwest elevation includes a fully renovated kitchen with cased beams, a pantry, a small closet, and full bathroom that was stripped back to the studding in 2013. The south side of the first floor plan consists of a living room which runs the full 30-foot depth of the house from east to west. Four hand-planed and beaded wood ceiling beams span this room, from east to west. These beams exhibit lime staining from a plaster ceiling that was added sometime subsequent to the original building campaign but removed later; the smoothly finished nature of the beams indicates that they were originally meant to be exposed. It is evident from evidence visible on the floor that this room was divided into at least two rooms at one time, and possibly served by corner fireplaces as evidence by the hearth support in the basement. The current fireplace is centered against the south wall and has a projecting chimney breast and rebuilt firebox. The wood mantel is somewhat unusual. Its form, five-part frieze and mouldings are suggestive of a conventional Federal-style mantel of the early nineteenth century; however, it features applied decoration in the form of roundels and foliate motifs.

The half-story has a wide center hall with a fully renovated bathroom which now occupies a portion of this space. The north side of the plan has two bedrooms. In each of these rooms the rake of the roof is expressed and there are small eyebrow windows positioned at floor level. These bedroom have had closets added. The northeast bedroom additionally has a half-bath added during the 2013 renovations. The south side of the plan has a library and a bedroom separated by a full staircase which leads upwards to the unfinished attic. Windows corresponding with the north and south gable ends have window sills which are aligned the full depth of the rooms.

The enclosed staircase on the south side of the plan provides access to the attic, where the upper portion of the house's pine rafter pairs, above the collar ties, are visible. The rafters bear carpenter marks indicating that the frame was built using scribe-rule framing methods. Visible in the attic is evidence of three gable-roofed dormers which were added to the principal elevation in association with Colonial Revival modifications that also included the addition of the portico and the elliptical window astride the principal east door; these were removed in the mid-twentieth century. The flooring in the attic is not original.

There are variations in ceiling height throughout the house; only the newly renovated kitchen and bathrooms dating to 2013 are plumb. The height from floor to ceiling on the first floor ranges from just over eight to eight and a half feet high; the half story has low ceilings throughout, these being roughly six and a half feet high, in essence the space afforded between the principal east to west ties beams which sustain the flooring and the collar ties which connect the rafter pairs.

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Vroman House: Known Alterations

The fireplace mantels located at first-story level in the living room and dining room are likely date from the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The living room mantel, as noted, appears to be of traditional Federal-style design but is embellished with applied decorations, presumably added later. The dining room fireplace has a Delft tile surround which was added later at an unknown time. The principal staircase appears to date to ca. 1840 and does not appear to be located in its original position, given the manner in which the basement stair required cutting through existing framing.

Also of note is a mantel located at second-floor level, in the northwest bed chamber, though it lacks a corresponding firebox. Of wood construction it likely dates to ca. 1870 and exhibits the influence of Italianate-style design motives; it has squat chamfered pilasters, an arched opening (with blank wall behind), rounded cornices, saw-tooth embellishment, and a rounded mantel shelf. This feature presumably corresponds with a significant renovation undertaken ca. 1865-75 by then owner Charles B. Stephens, who appended an existing and freestanding 16 by 20-foot slave quarter to the west elevation of the house; this addition was effected using long iron rods. At least one map shows a footprint that might have been the slave house addition, which was removed in the 1950s.<sup>3</sup> Much of the lower clapboard on the west elevation is not beaded and was presumably replaced when the former slave quarter addition was removed.

A concealed shoe found in the walls suggests that other renovations were done during this period. During the 2013 renovation, the shoe was found above the door header between the ceiling of the bathroom in the half-story and the attic floor. Al Saguto, a master shoemaker for Colonial Williamsburg, indicated that it was likely a woman's shoe dating to ca. 1870. The top of the shoe, parts of which are hand sewn, has machine stitching; sewing machines were not introduced until 1861. This "country" shoe is made of kid leather with a diagonal weave cotton twill lining, and the sole retains some field dirt and there is evidence that mice have nibbled on the shoe.<sup>4</sup>

During the Colonial Revival period, in the early twentieth century, then owner Louise Stephens Vroman added the elliptical window to the east façade, next to the door, and also a small rectangular window; the latter feature was later removed. Three dormers, the central one being larger than those flanking it and embellished with a Palladian window, were added to the roofline on the east elevation at this time, as was the flat-roofed Ionic order portico.

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<sup>3</sup> Christine B. Rieth, *Cultural Resources Site Examination Report of The Vroman I Site (NYSM #10146 and 10148) and The Vroman II Site (NYSM #10147) for PIN 9125.05.121 Routes 30/30A Intersection and Vroman Corners Intersection, Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York* (Albany, NY: Division of Research and Collections, New York State Education Department, 2015), 2.

<sup>4</sup> The practice of "concealed shoes" appears to have originated about 1500. People sometimes hid old boots and shoes in chimneys and walls to bring good luck and to ward off evil spirits. The shoes were always worn out and very often only one shoe is found. Most concealed shoes have been found in Britain but occasional cases have been reported in the United States. This discovery has been reported to the international Concealed Shoe Index maintained by the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery in Northampton, England.

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These features appear in HABS photographic documentation dating to ca. 1940, which includes a perspective view of the east and north elevations, along with interior and exterior views of the main door.<sup>5</sup> Early twentieth century photographs fail to depict the portico and these other features, which probably date to ca. 1910-20. Cora W. Vrooman and her daughter, Mildred Vrooman, removed the dormers and the small rectangular window in the 1950s or 1960s as they aimed to return the house to something more in keeping with its original appearance.

The most current renovation in 2013 removed several layers of flooring in the kitchen, bathrooms, and closets to expose the original wide-plank floorboards. The kitchen and upstairs bathroom walls were taken down to the original studs, exposing lath and brick nogging. Sheetrock replaced the plaster-on-lath walls in those rooms. Closets in the two north elevation bedrooms on the half-story were also reconfigured. The closet in the northeast part of the plan was used to create a half-bath and small linen closet. Additional space was used in that bedroom to create new closet space. The infrastructure of the house including heating, plumbing, and electrical connections was also replaced and updated at this time.

There are also several changes that were made during unknown time periods. As noted by one source “An upstairs fireplace is gone as is the one at which the first Vromans cooked and baked in the cellar kitchen.”<sup>6</sup> None of the house’s ca. 1792 windows survive, as these were replaced over time. A photograph dating to the later nineteenth century indicates that the first-story windows were at that time hung with 12-over-12 pane sash; they are now all hung with more recent six-over-six sash.

Mildred Vroman Easter Egg Museum, 1999 (non-contributing building)

The Easter Egg Museum is a 2,400 square foot Morton building built in 1999 to display Miss Mildred Vrooman’s unique collection of more than 5,000 decorated eggs. Mildred Vrooman, a 5<sup>th</sup> Great Granddaughter of Col. Peter Vroman, spent more than 60 years of her life painting this exceptional folk art collection of fancifully decorated eggs. Her naive folk art is unique for its elaborate dioramas of painted eggs in scenes: a circus, fantasyland, a Southern plantation, fairy tales of all kinds, the first Thanksgiving, and even the Presidents of the United States – all made of eggs. Miss Vrooman was 90 years old when she built the museum and it was only open a few years before she no longer could manage its upkeep. The present owners have continued to preserve the collection and maintain the building, and they opened the Museum to the public in 2014 as a fundraiser for the local public library and intend to repeat that event in 2019.

<sup>5</sup> “Colonel Peter Van Vrooman House, Schoharie, Schoharie County,” NY; HABS NY,48-SCHO,8-

<sup>6</sup> Hal Von Linden. “If Ghosts Walk, They Step Softly in Vroman House,” *The Knickerbocker News* (Albany, N.Y.), June 23, 1959, 3B.



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**Wood-frame Gazebos (two non-contributing structures)**

One gazebo is located west of the Col. Vroman house and the other one is situated directly in front of the Easter Egg Museum. Both are contemporary structures.

**Barn/garages (two non-contributing buildings)**

One of these wood-frame garages is located to the northwest of the house; the other is located immediately south of the museum building. Both buildings are of relatively recent age.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**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**

**POLITICS & GOVERNMENT**

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1792- ca. 1915

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

VROMAN, COL. PETER

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The cited period of significance, ca. 1792- ca. 1915, corresponds with all those physical features which are deemed significant in the context of the nomination. This period is initiated with the house's construction for Col. Peter Vroman and ends with the Colonial Revival-style modifications undertaken in the 1910s.

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

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Col. Peter Vroman House is an architecturally and historically significant resource located in the Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York. The house, constructed ca. 1792, was erected for Col. Peter B. Vroman, a figure of considerable prominence in regional affairs during his lifetime. Vroman served as the Secretary of the Schoharie District Committee of Safety, as a Colonel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Albany County Militia, as a representative in several sessions of the New York State Legislature, and as an elected delegate to the New York Constitution Ratification Convention. As built in the early 1790s Vroman's house was an example of New World Dutch domestic architecture, a building tradition inclusive of that region's considerable early Palatine German population, and it received subsequent modifications during the course of the nineteenth century and again in the early twentieth century, at which time Colonial Revival-style features were introduced. Given the destruction of Schoharie in 1780, at which time the vast majority of its housing stock was destroyed in a raid by forces loyal to the British Crown, it remains an important artifact from the early period of rebuilding which occurred in the community subsequently. The house is being nominated to the NRHP for its direct association with Colonel Vroman, its most noted occupant, in association with Criterion B in the area of Politics & Government. It is also being nominated in association with Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an important and highly interpretable example of regional vernacular architecture dating to the post-1780 raid period, with subsequent historic-period changes.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information**

Historical Overview & Ownership Chronology

The history of the Col. Peter Vroman property appropriately begins with the first known inhabitants of the land, the Mohawk Iroquois, who occupied the Schoharie Valley during the Late Woodland Period (ca. 300 to 1000 AD). The house is situated in close proximity to a small American Indian burial site and village located "along a prehistoric footpath (the present Route 443 roadway) that followed the north bank of Fox Creek over the Helderberg Mountains into western Albany County... the footpath was probably also an important transportation route between the Hudson and Schoharie valleys."<sup>7</sup> Palatine German and Dutch families were the earliest non-native settlers of the Schoharie area, the Palatines having migrated into the area from their earlier tenuous settlements alongside the Hudson River. The Palatines were refugees from religious warfare along the border of Germany and France; after fleeing the war-ravaged Palatinate to England, Queen Anne granted them land to settle in America, on Livingston Manor in the Hudson Valley, where they were tasked with producing naval stores for the English navy. After the general failure of this arrangement, there was a diaspora which saw many Palatine families relocate to the

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<sup>7</sup> Rieth, *Cultural Resources Site Examination Report*, 6.

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Mohawk and Schoharie valleys. By 1712, the first Palatines arrived in the wilderness of the Mohawk Valley. The year 1723 witnessed the arrival in the Mohawk Valley of 100 Palatine families from the initial 1710s Hudson River Valley immigration, following the granting of land for settlement just west of Little Falls in the Burnet Patent. The Palatines quickly founded other settlements in the Mohawk-Schoharie region, at places that bear names such as German Flatts and Palatine Bridge, where they established “dorfs” or farm villages. Settlements were also established along the fertile course of the Schoharie Creek, among them Brunnendorf and Foxendorf. These frontier settlements were vulnerable to attack during the French & Indian War and the American Revolution, a condition that all but ensured that the Palatines would again bear first-hand witness to the ravages and suffering of war that had driven them from their homeland in Europe.

It appears the Palatines did not yet have clear title to all of the lands they settled after leaving the Hudson Valley. In 1714, a tract of land they came to settle was sold to seven Dutch investors; that land transfer, known as the Old Schoharie Patent, consisted of 10,000 acres. A small parcel of land within those holdings was later the site where Col. Peter Vroman erected the nominated dwelling. Adam Vrooman, the great-grandfather of Colonel Vroman, also received a patent at that time for 1,000 acres; that land, Vromansland, is located near Middleburgh and is also in Schoharie County.

Johannes/John Eckerson (1701-1776) purchased land and water creek rights in 1752 from the owners of the Old Schoharie Patent. The deed of about 20 acres of land north and south of Foxes Creek includes a citation reserving the land for a mill: “...two Equall Seaventh part of four Acres of- Land Lying a Lidle blow the bridge on foxes Creek, to the north of Said Creek, Which was Reserved by the owners of Schoharie for a mill place, together With the two Seventh part of the Stream-of water in foxes Creek from the bridge to Schohary River.”<sup>8</sup> Eckerson saw to the erection of a gristmill on the property around 1760. His son, Thomas Eckerson (1750-1817), was the miller at his father’s mill when it was attacked during the 1780 raid on Schoharie’s Lower Fort orchestrated by Loyalist Sir John Johnson and Mohawk chief Joseph Brant.

The Schoharie Valley was the site of several military actions during the American Revolution, with the October 1780 raid being by far the most destructive. That region, as New York Governor George Clinton noted after the raid, was “burnt and laid waste.” The valley was a strategic military target given it was a well-established and fertile agricultural area which provided valuable cereal grains for American forces. During the Revolution, the High Dutch Reformed Church, near the old Foxendorf, was transformed into a stockade fort known as the Lower Fort, which

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<sup>8</sup> “John Eckerson 1752 Land Deed Schoharie Stone Fort Property,” digital images, *ancestry.com*. Transcription of handwritten land deed; accessed 28 March 2017.

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served as a refuge and safe haven for nearby inhabitants. During the 1780 raid, a Loyalist and Native American party attacked the Eckerson mill. Historian Jephtha Simms, writing in 1845, offered the following account: “A dwelling and grist mill standing near the fort, (where those of Griggs now are), were set on fire, but extinguished after the enemy left.”<sup>9</sup> Simms attributed this account of those events to Major P. Vrooman, among others. Maj. Peter Vrooman was Col. Peter Vroman’s son-in-law and his nephew. Major Vrooman married Colonel Vroman’s daughter, Angelica, who inherited the house, giving considerable credibility to the Simms account. The mill was partly destroyed but it was soon thereafter repaired and placed back into operation. A mill continued in operation on the nominated property until an 1898 fire completely destroyed it, thereby ending its active service. Remnants of the mill could be identified up until the later 1980s.

It is likely that the nominated property descended from Johannes Eckerson to his son, the miller Thomas Eckerson. An 1899 inventory in the Old Stone Fort lists a 1785 deed from Thomas Eckerson to Adam B. Vroman<sup>10</sup> as well as another 1785 deed indicating that Adam B. Vroman deeded land to his brother, Col. Peter Vroman. Unfortunately, those original documents, donated by Henry Cady—an adopted son of Col. Vroman’s granddaughter—can no longer be located. In 1787, Vroman paid for arrears of quit rent for a section of the Old Schoharie Patent that had been seized by his brother, Adam B. Vroman.<sup>11</sup> Most secondary sources and anecdotal accounts have suggested that the Col. Peter Vroman house was built in 1785, two years after the conclusion of the Revolution. However, dendrochronological testing of timbers has determined that most of the house’s timbers, both oak and pine and some dating back as early as 1476, were felled between November 1791 and February 1792.<sup>12</sup> This information would appear to solidly date the house to ca. 1792.

Col. Peter Vroman was the great grandson of Adam Vroman (1649-1730), the original claimant to Vromansland in the upper Schoharie Valley. Peter Vroman was born in Vromansland in 1735 and cultivated a successful farm there. In 1780, a force of Tories and Native Indians raided Vromansland and destroyed Vroman’s “good brick tenement” and everything on his farm. Col. Vroman’s *Account Memorandum Book* has the following entry: “1791 March 12<sup>th</sup> took possession of the house and lands.”<sup>13</sup> While this citation, written by Vroman, does not specify which house or land, the date of the transaction closely aligns with the presumed date of construction of the Vroman house. Several secondary sources indicate there was a dwelling on Eckerson’s property; as such, it is unknown if that is the house referred to in Vroman’s *Account Memorandum Book*, which seems probable given that the present house was likely

<sup>9</sup>Jephtha Root Simms, *History of Schoharie County and the Border Wars of New York* (Albany, NY: Munsell and Tanner, 1845), 418.

<sup>10</sup>Adam B. Vroman’s mother-in-law was the daughter of Thomas Eckerson.

<sup>11</sup>Peter Vroman, *Quit Rent Payment Certifications, 1787*, Manuscript in the possession of Berna and Joseph Heyman, Schoharie, NY

<sup>12</sup>Edward R. Cook and William J. Callahan, Jr., *A Dendrochronological Analysis of the ‘Peter Vroman House,’ Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York*. (2017), 7.

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erected the following year. Colonel Vroman and his family were likely living in the nominated house by 1792 as evidenced by a letter received by Vroman from John N. Bleecker of Albany, which provided detailed information on the installation of wallpaper with upper and lower borders.<sup>14</sup> However, Colonel Vroman had very little time to enjoy his new home, as he died December 1793 at the age 58. He left a considerable amount of property to his daughter, Angelica, and his descendants.

Col. Vroman's only surviving child, Angelica (Anna) Vroman, married her first cousin, Major Peter A. Vroman, the son of Adam B. Vroman. It might be presumed that Anna and her growing family of nine children lived in the house at least until the late 1820s. Early federal census records indicate that it was a large household of ten or more individuals and included several slaves. The Vroman family were among the early Dutch settlers to bring slavery to New York. Anna and Peter A. Vroman ran the mills on the adjacent creek as evidenced by the 1802 Thomas Machin map of the Old Schoharie Patent.<sup>15</sup>

The mills on the site continued to make it a desirable property. In 1832 it was sold to Jacob Fisher (1805-1889). Described as the "patent ... commonly called the Old Schoharie Patent between the Schoharie Creek and Foxes Creek ... the one half of which was devised to the said Peter Vroman by his father Adam B. Vroman deceased and containing in the whole thirty acres of land ... including the buildings where the said Col. Peter Vroman formerly lived."<sup>16</sup> The transfer appears to combine the lands of Col. Peter Vroman, Anna Vroman's father, and his brother Adam B. Vroman, the father of Maj. Peter A. Vroman, Anna's husband. Fisher replaced the "old mill" first known as the Eckerson Mill about 1835.

Schoharie had experienced considerable expansion and growth after the Revolutionary War because the lands there were abundant and fertile. Census data indicates a steady increase in the population through the first half of the nineteenth century followed by a steady population decline. Much of the land was cleared for agriculture, and this activity provided an alternative source of income through lumbering. The mills at Foxes Creek supported both the lumbering industry and agriculture. By the mid-nineteenth century, the focus of agricultural activities was changing, as wheat farming in the eastern part of the state had been crippled by soil exhaustion and fungal and insect blight; the completion of the Erie Canal shifted the state's wheat belt westward, and into the Midwest. These factors, along with increasing mechanization of farm equipment which allowed for larger farms to be cultivated, contributed

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<sup>13</sup>Peter Vroman. *Account memorandum book: manuscript, 1759-1792*. New York State Library.

<sup>14</sup>Bleecker, John N. *John N. Bleecker Collection*. 1792-1796. New York State Historical Society.

<sup>15</sup>(1802 copied 1888) Machin, Thomas. [Map – "supposed to be part or all of a patent granted to Myndert Schuyler and commonly called the Old Schoharie Patent]. Copied March 1888 by R. Grider.

<sup>16</sup>Deed of Sale from Peter Vroman ... & his wife Anna ... to Jacob Fisher, Mary 4, 1832. Schoharie County New York Land Deeds, Book O, 409.



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to the decline of agriculture and lumbering in Schoharie County in the second half of the century. Gristmills were no longer essential for agriculture and sawmills were no longer essential for lumbering. The area's agriculture focus shifted, as dairying and potato and alfalfa farming assumed a more prominent place in local farming.

It appears that Fisher likely experienced, and suffered from, the decline of the region's agricultural interests, as he sold off parts of the considerable acreage he had purchased from the Vroman family. By 1844, he had sold the property to John P Griggs. The deed reads: "patent ... called the Old Schoharie Patent, being the premises upon which the saw mill and grist mill erected by [Fisher] ... shed ... saw mill ... mill dam... to the bulk head at the bridge above the mill; together with the privilege of the water for the use of the mill on said premises and the right to maintain the dam across said Foxes Creek at its present height. Also the right to a good road to and from said Mill. Also the right to the stone in the bottom of the creek for the use of said premises."

As indicated by information contained in the 1855 New York State census, three families consisting of a total of 14 people lived in the house at that date. Griggs and his son, Benjamin Griggs, were listed as millers in the census, while the head of the third family, John J. Dietz, noted his occupation as mason. Hiram Griggs, a son of John P. Griggs, also assisted his father at the mills and later became a lawyer, a representative to the State Legislature and the first mayor of Altamont, New York. An 1856 map of Schoharie County displays the residence of B. Griggs.<sup>17</sup> The Griggs family apparently experienced some financial problems during this time and they sold the property in 1860 to Simeon Fairlee, who advertised the property for sale just six months later. The *Schoharie New York Patriot* carried the following advertisement: "Mill Property for Sale, or Exchange ...comprise a Grist Mill, Saw Mill with Broom and Turning Lathes, with Boxx Saws and Circular Saw ... in good running order ... and do a good paying business ...with ... seven Acres of Flats Land, upon which are a good house and outbuildings. – The house is large, and suitable for three families ... very desirable."<sup>18</sup>

Simeon Fairlee owned the property for only three years and then sold it in 1863 to Samuel B. Stevens, who transferred it to his son, Charles B. Stevens, in 1877. The father and son operated the grist and saw mills on the property for several decades in the last quarter of the century. The 1866 Beers map of Schoharie County shows the Stevens property on Fox's Creek along with the grist and saw mills. Not unlike the Griggs family, the Stevens's had up to 14 people living in the dwelling, including Samuel's widowed daughter and her family, and a miller and his family. Sometime during the 1860s or 1870s the Stevens executed renovations including moving the former detached slave quarters and attaching it to the house, and, possibly, relocating the staircase to the attic. It appears

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<sup>17</sup>E. Wenig, Wm. Lorey and Robert Pearsall Smith. *Map of Schoharie County, New York*, 1856.

<sup>18</sup>"Mill Property for Sale, or Exchange." *Schoharie New York Patriot*. (October 20, 1860).

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that the Stevens's mill business was quite successful. In 1879, they installed a steam engine and also built a stone dam across Foxes Creek. In 1886, a major fire ravaged the gristmill, and soon thereafter Charles Stevens rebuilt. But the mill sustained another fire in 1898 and, following that event, Charles Stevens decided not to rebuild. By the time the 1900 federal census was recorded, Charles and his wife were living alone in the house, and he listed his occupation as farmer, and not miller. After his wife, Ida, died in 1912, Charles B. Stevens went to live with his daughter in Geddes, Onondaga County. He died in 1915, and the following was noted in his obituary: "Mr. Stevens conducted a prosperous milling business known as the Stevens mills, grist and sawing."<sup>19</sup>

In 1912 Charles B. Stevens deeded the property to his daughter, Louise Stevens Vrooman (1870-1949). The 1892 marriage of Louise Stevens to Daniel Jacob Vrooman took place in the Col. Peter Vroman house. Daniel J. Vrooman was a great-great grandnephew of Col. Peter Vroman; thus the house returned to the Vroman family after almost a century of occupation by other families. Louise S. Vrooman moved into the Colonel Vroman house after her husband died in 1918. She established an antique business in the house and called it a "Mecca for dealers and collectors."<sup>20</sup> She renovated the house in the Colonial Revival taste by adding three dormers, one with Palladian window, a portico with four Ionic columns, and an elliptical window adjacent to the principal entrance. In 1942 Louise Vrooman authored an article on *The Home of Colonel Peter Vrooman* in the "Quarterly Bulletin – Schoharie County Historical Society."<sup>21</sup> The cover of the issue featured a contemporary photograph of the house.

By 1945, Vrooman had conveyed the house and property to her son, Charles S. Vrooman (1901-1972), who divided the house into at least three apartments. He appears to have had financial problems and the house was sold in 1956 to Cora Ward Vrooman and her daughter, Mildred G. Vrooman. Cora Vrooman (1886-1983) was the wife of Hoyt S. Vrooman. Cora and Mildred Vrooman expended considerable effort in restoring the house; they made changes to both the exterior and interior by removing the dormer windows, the small rectangular window, and the slave quarter extension that had been appended to the west elevation in the middle of the nineteenth century. They took great pride in furnishing the house with antiques and creating beautiful outdoor gardens. Mildred Vrooman spent 60 years of her life creating the unique Easter Egg Museum with its vast collection of decorated eggs and dioramas on a multitude of subjects, all made from eggs. When Miss Vrooman died in 2012 at the age of 103, her estate sold the Col. Peter Vroman property to the current owners, Berna and Joseph Heyman.

<sup>19</sup>"Charles B. Stevens," *Cobleskill Index*, 23 December 1915, 1.

<sup>20</sup>Louise S. Vrooman, *The Home of Colonel Peter Vrooman*, 4.

<sup>21</sup>Vrooman, *The Home of Colonel Peter Vrooman*, 4.

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**NRHP Criteria B: Colonel Peter Vroman (Politics & Government)**

Col. Peter Vroman made significant and identifiable contributions to local and state politics and government from the pre-Revolutionary period until his death at the end of the eighteenth century. The nominated dwelling was erected for him and likely occupied by ca. 1792. Although he lived a short time there before dying in December 1793, it remains the only extant and identifiable home associated with his adult life, his previous house at Vromansland having been destroyed during the Revolution, in 1780, along with the Eckerson house which he presumably resided in prior to the completion of the nominated house.

Col. Peter Vroman, the original claimant to Vromansland in the upper Schoharie Valley, was a miller and successful landowner. He was commissioned a lieutenant of the militia in 1759 and fought at the Battle of Niagara in the French & Indian War, and he was promoted to the rank of major in 1770. Vroman was the “penman,” or secretary, for the Committee of Safety in the Schoharie District of Albany County beginning in 1774. On October 20, 1775, the Provincial Congress of New York appointed Vroman as colonel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Albany County Militia. Colonel Vroman commanded three companies which were raised in the Schoharie District. During the Revolution, an attempt was made to take Vroman prisoner and a reward was offered for his capture, an indication of the importance the enemy ascribed to his position. “A meeting of the council of safety was to take place at his home and supposing he would remain home, several of the enemy secreted themselves, intending to secure his person when the rest of the committee retired. But it became necessary for him to leave home with his guests and the intention of the foe was thwarted.”<sup>22</sup>

On August 9, 1780, a force of Tories and Indians raided Vromansland and destroyed Col. Peter Vroman’s house and outbuildings, slaughtered his animals and burned his crops. Fortunately for them, Vroman and his family were in Middle Fort at the time of that incident. On October 17, 1780, Johnson and Brant conducted another raid, this time attacking the Middle Fort. The officer in charge, Major Woolsey, refused to fight and gave up his command to Colonel Vroman. With supplies running low, Vroman carefully distributed the meager gunpowder which remained so the soldiers at the Fort wouldn’t know the extent of the shortage. Roscoe in his history of Schoharie called Col. Peter Vroman “the hero of the Middle Fort.”<sup>23</sup>

Vroman served in the first New York State Legislature as one of 10 representatives from the Albany District from September 9, 1777 to June 30, 1778. He also served in the second New York State Legislature from October 13, 1778 to March 17, 1779. After a break of a number of years, Colonel Vroman returned to the New York State

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<sup>22</sup>*Albany New York Evening Journal*, 14 September 1893, 8.

<sup>23</sup>William E. Roscoe, *History of Schoharie County, New York*. (Syracuse NY: D. Mason & Co., 1882), 201.

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Legislature for the ninth and tenth sessions, 1786 and 1787. On April 18, 1791 Peter Vroman was one of seven candidates nominated for the New York Assembly “in order to prevent the continuance of the animosities and divisions which have lately prevailed in the politics of this county.”<sup>24</sup> In 1790, he was one of seven citizens representing Albany’s Western District as an elector for determining New York’s representatives to the United States House of Representatives.<sup>25</sup> He also served as the Chair of the Freeholders of the town of Schoharie in 1792.

Vroman was one of 61 delegates chosen to represent the “people” at the New York State Ratifying Convention held in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, from June 17 to July 26, 1788. He was part of the seven-person Albany County delegation to the convention and was an Anti-Federalist in political sentiment. The convention was charged with deciding whether New York State would ratify the Federal Constitution. Of the 57 members present for the final vote, 30 voted for ratification and 27 voted against. The seven-member delegation from Albany had four votes against adoption of the proposed Constitution and three members, including Vroman, abstained or did not vote. Vroman evidently was not present for the vote; Linda Grant De Pauw speculated that Vroman might have left the convention early.<sup>26</sup> While Vroman was identified as Anti-Federalist, as was all of Albany County, it is unknown if he refrained from voting after recognizing that the majority of other representatives would be voting in favor of adopting the Federal Constitution.

Colonel Vroman should also be credited for his involvement in the early attempts to establish a collegiate institution in Schenectady. In 1792, he was named as one of the trustees for a proposed college. The proposal was not approved but efforts continued forward nevertheless and a charter for Union College was finally approved in 1795, two years after Vroman’s death. Vroman was interred in the cemetery of the Old Stone Fort, where a modest sandstone headstone marks his grave. In 1913, the Schoharie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a major monument to Colonel Peter Vroman, which stands in front of the fort.

**NRHP Criterion C: Architecture**

New World Dutch architecture encompasses the related building traditions in New York State inclusive of its early Dutch, Palatine German, and other Northern European peoples. While some subtleties might be found in comparing the vernacular domestic architecture of the Dutch with that of the Palatine Germans in the eighteenth century, it is generally acknowledged that these two distinctive ethnic groups nevertheless constructed both wood

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<sup>24</sup> *Albany Gazette*, 18 April 1791, 2.

<sup>25</sup> *Albany Gazette*, 8 April 1790, 1.

<sup>26</sup> Linda Grant De Pauw, *The Eleventh Pillar: New York State and the Federal Constitution*. (Ithaca, NY: Pub. for the American Historical Association by Cornell University Press, 1966), 247.

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frame and stone houses in a similar manner. As such, the traditional houses of Palatine Germans in the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie valleys are contained within the larger overarching New World Dutch building tradition of New York State, one which was markedly different from New England building traditions brought into the region and which became more pronounced following the Revolution. Although Vroman was an early resident of a region settled by large numbers of Germans at any early date, he was not of Palatine descent, and was instead of Dutch lineage.

The Col. Peter Vroman house was built in characteristic New World Dutch fashion for a timber-frame dwelling. The frame consists of a series of closely spaced H “bents”—a term derived from the Dutch term *gebint*—and a common rafter roof frame. Each bent was formed by two vertical posts linked by a horizontal tie beam upon which the floorboards of the upper story rested, and this framing style resulted in the distinctive story-and-a-half form prevalent in the New World Dutch cultural hearth. The posts received the top plates which in turn received the common rafters, the corresponding horizontal collar ties of which defined the ceiling height of the upper story. Prior to the broad adoption of plaster-on-lath ceilings, ceiling beams were expressed on the interior, planed smooth and often beaded. As such, they were both structural and aesthetic in nature. Although the taste for exposed ceiling beams faded in the period after the Revolution, early nineteenth century examples are not unknown. This framing concept was much employed in areas of New York State settled by the Dutch, Palatine Germans, and French Huguenots, and it continued to be employed into the nineteenth century; its influence ultimately came to be felt in adjacent parts of western New England.

The Vroman house’s form and plan does not comport with the two-room house with roughly square-shaped plan and accessible-at-grade basement kitchen characteristic of Palatine German houses in the Schoharie Valley. That house type, common in Schoharie, was of the open-cell type, with direct entry into one of the two principal rooms, typically the less formal kitchen; in earlier examples, one of the two principal rooms was serviced by a large jambless fireplace and the other by means of a five-plate stove which was filled with hot coals through a passage at the fireplace’s rear. By the time the nominated house was built, more conventional English, or “jambled,” fireplaces had been accepted regionally. The Col. Peter Vroman house featured an elongated plan which accommodated a center hallway, an indication of the continued permeation of new building concepts into this once insular cultural area. This formal feature was additionally an indication of Vroman’s relative stature and his exposure to building traditions beyond the Schoharie Valley. Thus Vroman’s house might be termed to be of transitional characteristics, built in New World Dutch timber-frame fashion but with a plan indicating increasing English influence and more sophisticated than established traditional models.

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Jeptha Simms, writing in the 1840s in his *History of Schoharie County*, offered the following analysis of the region's architecture, in which he viewed the region's New World Dutch architecture as less formalized than that of the English population. "The Germans and Dutch do not generally display as much taste in the selection of a site for, and the erection of their dwellings, as do the English," Simms opined. "Frequently a Dutchman's house fronts its owner's barn, instead of fronting a public highway. A small kitchen and an oven are often separately erected—both detached from the dwelling."<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup>Simms, *History of Schoharie County*, 604.



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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 # NY; HABS NY,48-SCHO,8-  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** 3.25 acres

**UTM References**

1	<u>18</u>	<u>557207</u>	<u>4725507</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed mapping, which was drawn at a scale of 1: 24,000, 1: 12,000, and 1: 4,000; all maps are entitled "Col. Peter Vroman House, Schoharie, Schoharie Co., NY."

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

The nomination boundary has been drawn to reflect historic circumstances and the cited period of significance, ca. 1792- ca. 1915. All of the land included within the boundary is historically associated with the property, from Col. Peter Vroman's brief later eighteenth-century occupancy forward, and includes no "buffer" land. By the early 1860s Vroman's original holdings inclusive of the house and mills had been reduced to approximately seven acres, and since that time the house has been further set off on what is now a 3.25-acre parcel.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Berna Heyman, owner; edited by William E. Krattinger, NYS Division for Historic Preservation

organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation

date November 2018

street & number PO Box 189, Peebles Island State Park

telephone (518) 268-2167

city or town Waterford

state NY zip code 12188

e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

**COL. PETER VROMAN HOUSE**

Name of Property

**SCHOHARIE CO., N.Y.**

County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Photographs:**

Photographs by William E. Krattinger and Emilie Gould, NYS Division for Historic Preservation, September 2016 and January 2017. TIFF file format, original digital files at NYS DHP, Waterford NY 12188.

- 001 EXTERIOR, east elevation, view looking west
- 002 EXTERIOR, east elevation, view looking west
- 003 EXTERIOR, north elevation, view looking south
- 004 EXTERIOR, north and west elevations, view looking south
- 005 EXTERIOR, west elevation, view looking east
- 006 EXTERIOR, west and south elevations, view looking to northeast
- 007 EXTERIOR, detail view, brick fire back, south elevation
- 008 INTERIOR, detail of staircase showing newel post and balustered handrail
- 009 INTERIOR, view looking north from south parlor through hallway to northeast room
- 010 INTERIOR, ceiling beams, south parlor
- 011 INTERIOR, fireplace mantel, south parlor
- 012 INTERIOR, divided door, east wall, hallway
- 013 INTERIOR, divided door, west wall, hallway
- 014 INTERIOR, view from hallway into south parlor
- 015 INTERIOR, view from hallway into northeast room
- 016 INTERIOR, mantel, second floor bed chamber
- 017 INTERIOR, basement, view showing early paneled door
- 018 INTERIOR, basement, view showing Peter Vroman initials and date of 1780
- 019 INTERIOR, basement, view showing tally marks on wall

**Property Owner:**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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

**COL. PETER VROMAN HOUSE**

Name of Property

**SCHOHARIE CO., N.Y.**

County and State



ABOVE, aerial view of the nominated property showing general layout. Note Fox Creek to south (bottom right, with covered bridge) and State Route 30 to northwest (upper left corner); Covered Bridge Lane extends northwards from the bridge towards its intersection with State Route 443, which intersects with Route 30 a short distance northwest of that point. The Vroman house is located immediately north of the creek, bottom center in the image; to the immediate northwest is an automobile garage. The Mildred Vrooman Easter Egg Museum is located top center in the image, with a garage immediately south and a gazebo immediately to the east. A second gazebo, located behind and west of the house, is not visible in this image.

**COL. PETER VROMAN HOUSE**

Name of Property

**SCHOHARIE CO., N.Y.**

County and State



ABOVE & BELOW, Vroman house as captured in HABS photographic documentation







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

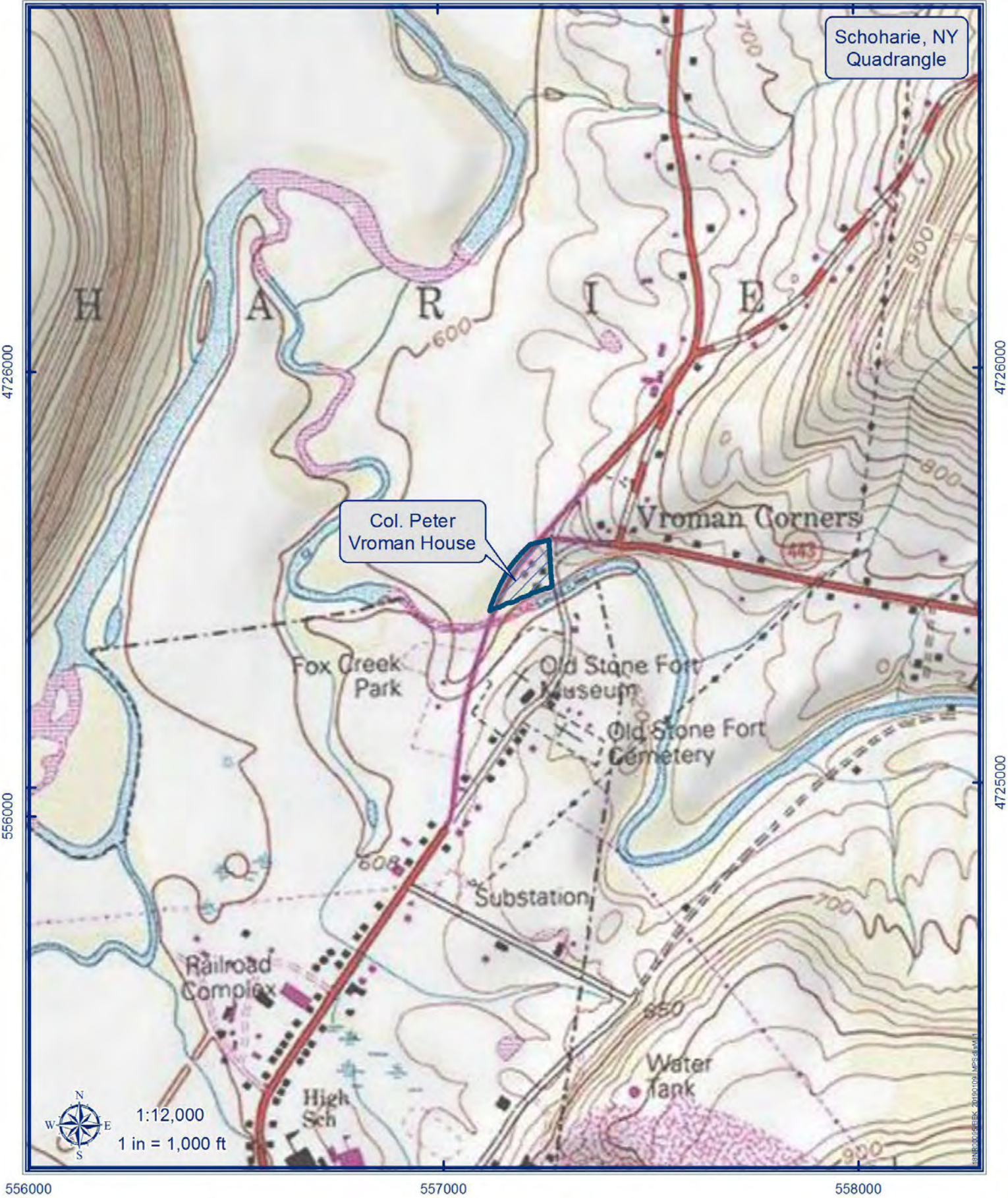
0 625 1,250 2,500 Feet

Col. Peter Vroman House



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation





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

0 312.5 625 1,250 Feet

Col. Peter Vroman House



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation































































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination	
Property Name:	Vroman, Col. Peter, House	
Multiple Name:		
State & County:	NEW YORK, Schoharie	

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
3/8/2019	3/21/2019	4/5/2019	4/22/2019	4/12/2019

Reference number:	SG100003630
Nominator:	SHPO

Reason For Review:

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

☒ Accept    ☐ Return    ☐ Reject    4/12/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:	
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Recommendation/ Criteria	
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Reviewer	<u>Alexis Abernathy</u>	Discipline	<u>Historian</u>
Telephone	<u>(202)354-2236</u>	Date	<u></u>

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

30 January 2019

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:

First of all, welcome back! I am pleased to submit the following seven nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Robinwood Historic District, Westchester County (22 owners, 0 objections)  
Rensselaer Society of Engineers House, Rensselaer County  
Dresden District School No 2, Washington County  
Hazard Willcox Jr. Farm, Chenango County (1 owner, no objection)  
Hotel Saranac, Franklin County  
St. Johnsville Historic District, Montgomery County (776 owners, 0 objections)  
Peter Vrooman House, Schoharie 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