

56-2387

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 Daniel Webster Jenkins House
other names/site number N/A
related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 207 Church Street N/A not for publication
city or town Central Bridge N/A vicinity
state NY code 36 county Schoharie code 095 zip code 12035

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

Roy Daniel Mackay 3-19-2018
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DSHPD
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

[Signature] 5/4/18
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
3	0	Total

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Daniel Webster Jenkins House at 207 Church Street is located in the hamlet of Central Bridge, Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York. The two-story, three-bay, cross-gabled Queen Anne house was built in 1884 and adjoins a small commercial district to the east and an apartment building/laundromat and the tracks of the former Albany & Susquehanna Railroad (later, Delaware & Hudson; now, Norfolk Southern) on the north. The house is situated on a lot of a little less than two acres and includes a small carriage barn (contributing building), bluestone walk, limestone hitching post (contributing object), and limestone mounting block (now relocated to the barn). In the front lawn is an historic oak tree – third largest in Schoharie County – that predates the home. Two rear additions give the house an L-shape; the end of the rear addition was added sometime before 1899. The interior has been broken up into three apartments but retains its original plan with six rooms on each floor and original woodwork. Overall, the Daniel Webster Jenkins House is locally significant and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling.

Narrative Description

SITE

The original early nineteenth century settlement of Central Bridge (“old village”) was located along present-day SR 7, near the confluence of the Cobleskill and Schoharie Creeks, in the Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York. The late nineteenth century hamlet of Central Bridge (“new village”) is located just off SR 30A, about a half mile north of SR 7. The two main streets of the new village – North and South Main Streets – are divided by the historic railroad tracks of the former Albany & Susquehanna Railroad, which reached this part of Schoharie County in 1868. A small commercial district is located on South Main Street on the east side of its intersection with Church Street, at one time (before the construction of the SR 30A bypass) the main route into the hamlet from the south. The Daniel Webster Jenkins House is located on the west side of this same intersection.

In the early twentieth century, the area between North and South Main streets was full of rail-related buildings – a freight depot, passenger depot, coal storage warehouses, and creamery; only a mid-twentieth century depot, heavily altered coal shed (now an apartment building/laundromat), and the ruins of the creamery remain. Industrial buildings, including a foundry, threshing machine company, and buckwheat rolling mill, were located near the intersection of North Main and Hill streets (now, the intersection of North Main Street and SR 30A). The American Standard Manufacturing Company, which produces propane and compressed gas storage units, and Hooper Feeds are the last industrial operations in Central Bridge. American Standard is located in new buildings on the east side of SR 30A, just across the intersection with North Main Street; Hooper Feeds is located in part of the historic buckwheat roller mill along the tracks near the former Hill Street. Several buildings in the old commercial district have been lost to fire or neglect. Three public buildings remain in the center of the community; the D. W. Jenkins Fire Department occupies a mid-twentieth century building on South Main Street.¹ Of the three historic churches in the hamlet, the Central Bridge United Methodist Church (originally, Central Bridge Methodist Episcopal Church) and Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church continue. Late nineteenth and early-to-mid twentieth century homes were built along North Main Street, Church Street, Enders Avenue, and (along the Cobleskill) River Street. Most of these survive, several with their original trim

¹ When built, the D. W. Jenkins firehouse was the first in the county with a sprinkler system.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

intact.

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

EXTERIOR

The Daniel Webster Jenkins House is built in a simplified hybrid of Stick and the emerging Queen Anne style. The predominantly cross-gable roof is asphalt; the foundation is stone.² The frame building consists of a symmetrical main block facing Church Street and two rear additions that give the building a stepped, asymmetric “L-shape.” The side porch woodwork of the middle block differs from that on the façade. The end of the rear block is definitely an addition, built by the turn of the twentieth century. It appears to be missing in an early photo, and a seam is visible in the clapboards and fascia. Intriguingly, there is an 1899 signature in the first-floor spare room by Daniel Webster Jenkins’s older brother, De Witt Jenkins, a contractor and builder in Syracuse from around 1880 until his death in 1908, aged 77.³ It is possible that he extended the rear block but more likely that he built the linen cabinet on top of the signature. There are two chimneys in front and one in the middle block.

The façade (east elevation) is three bays wide (38’6”), with a cross gable in the central bay and full-length windows on the first floor in the side bays. A chimney is located to each side of the cross gable. On the upper floor, there are one-over-one windows in the side bays and a short replacement window (lighting a new bathroom) in the central bay. A one-story, hipped-roof porch spans the entire façade; the north half has been screened in. The porch has a decorative lattice balustrade, square posts, and bracketed supports; it projects slightly, with doubled posts, in front of the entrance in the center cross-gable. The steps, step railings, and skirting date to 2007.⁴ The second-floor windows extend to the roof of the porch. Most of the decoration is associated with the central bay. A broad set of steps leads from a bluestone walk to the first-floor entrance, which has a wood door with central compound window plus sidelights and transoms (and a casement window on the side). Above it, on the second floor, are two short posts that once held a second lattice balustrade (now in storage in the carriage barn). The replacement window was once a narrow French door that gave access to a small balcony. The wall surface has some decoration, including a horizontal molding running under the windows (continued on all the other elevations), two flat diagonals, a paneled frieze at the level of the eaves on the main roof, and slanted siding under the overhang. A sunrise motif embellishes the top of the gable. The bargeboards of the gable and the fascia of the roof and porch are simple, but strongly frame and define the floors and roof of the building.

The north (side) elevation includes one side of the front porch and the three blocks of the “L.” This side of the porch includes a paneled frieze above the screening. The main block has one bay – a bay window on the first floor, long window at the second floor, and short window in the gable end. A rectangular outline to the left of the bay suggests that another window has been filled in or that the bay window was added somewhat later. Horizontal moldings at the floors and bottom level of the windows divide the wall surface into four parts; these moldings (with a gap for the two porches) continue around the house. The attic gable is narrower than the first and second floors below it and emerges through a section of hipped roof; the gable end has slanted boards under the overhang and wide bargeboards that accent its line. The three sides of the bay window are equal in size with

² The two ends of the roof on the main block are partially hipped, as is a section of the middle block. Limestone was mined at Schoharie and Cobleskill (and many other sites in the county) throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

³ *Boyd’s Syracuse Directory for the Centennial Year 1886* (Syracuse: Boyd Directory Printing Office, 1886), 287. There is little record of DeWitt Jenkins in newspapers from Schoharie or Schenectady counties, except for a short obituary in the *Quaker Street Review* at his death in 1908. Given the distance and detailed coverage of the Jenkins’s other house guests and family visits during this period, his brother De Witt is an unlikely candidate as builder of the rear addition in Central Bridge.

⁴ The step railing incorporates the same lattice as the porch but is an addition to the original porch steps.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

decorative panels above and below; the lower panels contain inserts with a cutout design. The trim of the second-floor window is plain. The trim of the gable window includes flat scrolls at the bottom and simple brackets at the top, which hold a decorative truss with a simple motif different from that on the front cross gable. A door, now filled in due to the conversion of the building to apartments, once opened off the backside of the main block onto the porch on the middle block.

The north elevation continues with the three-bay, one and one-half story middle block; the width of this block (16') is 2 ½ feet narrower than the main block (18'6"). A functional chimney is placed in the middle of the roof ridge, just north of the intersection with the rear block; part of the roof is hipped. A Free Classic porch extends the width of the first floor; unlike the front porch, the posts are rounded with brackets below a frieze with lunettes.⁵ (The porch railings, simple spindles, and skirting were added in 2007, when the deck and stairs were replaced.⁶) On the first floor, tall windows flank a door to the porch. On the second floor, a window has been fit into a short cross gable; the angle of this gable reproduces the angle of the end gable of the main block. The west side of the middle block continues the decorative horizontal molding of the rest of the house and includes a window on each story. A metal Bilco door is fit into the corner between the middle and rear blocks.

The final portion of the north elevation is the side of the rear block. Seams in the siding and fascia show where the building was extended before 1899. There are three windows – one on the west on the first floor (possibly moved when the building was extended) and two half windows under the eaves.

The west elevation (rear) of the rear block (16'8") is slightly less than half the width of the main block (38'6") and attached to the middle block as a cross gable. This elevation has been altered to provide access to the upstairs apartment. In the middle of the elevation, there is a short window on the first floor below a longer window on the second floor; to the right of these windows, a door has been lifted into an intermediate position between the floors and is accessed by a wood stair. The gable end is filled with a simple decorated truss, similar in design but reduced in size from that on the south elevation. A basement exit has been infilled with brick.

The south elevation (side) is different from the north elevation and has had additional windows inserted into the middle and rear blocks during the apartment conversion. The three blocks are only slightly stepped from front to rear. On the main block, the bay holding the first-floor window projects slightly beyond the plane of the wall with a rectangular frieze below and a bracketed overhang above, shading the window. The projection continues to the second floor (which holds a single window) and to the gable (which is not enclosed by the partially hipped roof). The lower part of the gable is decorated like the front cross gable and holds a shuttered window; however, the solid gable end itself is different – with two side brackets, dentil work, and a tree-like pattern, created using a narrow upright and slanted trim.

The middle block holds three windows on the first floor (one of which has been shortened to light a bathroom) and a shorter, center window on the second floor, with an added opening for an air conditioner. The rear block contains a short double window on the first floor (replacing two original windows) and three short windows on the second floor. The foundation holds a barred window into a basement cold storage room and shows the seam where the rear block was extended.

⁵ Another building along SR 7 in old Central Bridge has similar but not identical trim with cutout lunettes.

⁶ The new skirting matches that on the façade. Originally, it was different; some of the old skirting is stored in the carriage barn.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

INTERIOR

The interior of the Daniel Webster Jenkins House retains its basic room plan and woodwork. The historic staircase, entry door, and mantelpiece on the right front chimney are focal points in the main block, and historic elements have been preserved as much as possible in the middle and rear blocks. Doors with a characteristic piecrust trim are found throughout the house.

In the late 1960s, much of the building was carpeted, but wood floors remain under the carpeting and have been exposed and refinished in most rooms. A few years later, in 1983, the building was converted into three apartments. Several doors were closed and infilled to separate the units. Several ceilings (including two with tin) were covered with secondary ceilings of sheetrock. Paneling was applied to act as a chair rail and wainscot in some rooms. The insertion of kitchens caused the most change, requiring the removal of mantelpieces from the left front and rear chimneys and the addition of paneling, cabinets, and appliques in three rooms.⁷

The floor plans (Figures 1 and 2) are below. Apartment 1 occupies the first and second floors of the main block; Apartment 2 occupies the first floor of the middle and rear blocks; Apartment 3 occupies the second floor of the middle and rear blocks. Each apartment has five rooms (including baths).

Apartment 1: The entrance foyer (23') is flanked by two historic parlors (both approximately 17' square); the parlor to the south is now the kitchen/dining room. Three sets of pocket doors (extant) make it possible to close off the parlors from the foyer. An open staircase leads to a second-floor hall, off of which are two bedrooms, one on each side. A bath has been inserted into an historic sitting room in the front projecting cross gable. An historic storage closet in the entrance foyer is accessed from a lobby under the stair, with a door on the opposite wall originally, leading into the middle block (now, opening into a modern closet).

This apartment has retained most of its historic elements – front door, casement window, staircase, foyer light, pocket doors, parlor mantelpiece, wardrobes, and window and door trim. The wood entry door has a compound, center-glazed window with beveled glass sidelights and stained glass transom. A casement window in the entry faces sideways onto the porch; it is hinged on the sides and opens inward below a beveled glass transom. The staircase is natural wood with turned spindles and scrollwork; the decorative trim continues in the second-floor hall. The front part of the foyer ceiling has been dropped to hide plumbing to the second-floor bathroom, but a decorative plaster medallion with an historic fixture remain in the back. The wood pocket doors are functional. The parlor fireplace retains its historic marble mantelpiece and inlaid tile in the hearth. Each second-floor bedroom has a large built-in wood wardrobe. The finish on most of the woodwork in Apartment 1 is original, except for the kitchen, where the trim has been painted, walls refinished, and the marble mantelpiece removed and stored in the carriage barn. The wood floors in the entrance foyer, parlor, and second-floor hall have been refinished; the other rooms are carpeted or have vinyl tile (kitchen).

Apartment 2: The second apartment occupies the first floor of the middle and rear blocks. All access has been closed off from the front of the house. A door from the parlor in Apartment 1 remains but has been covered with sheetrock in Apartment 2. Another door from the lobby under the formal staircase in Apartment 1 once opened onto a secondary staircase in the middle block and a room now used as a bedroom; the staircase has been closed (converted into a closet for Apartment 1), and access to the bedroom removed. This area of the building historically held the kitchen and pantries for the Jenkins family; the current kitchen in the apartment is believed to have been the original kitchen for the house. A built-in china closet with glass doors, storage areas, and

⁷ The mantelpiece was stored and other trim in the kitchens preserved as much as possible.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

drawers spans part of the wall of the current living room. The spare room is in the extension to the rear block and originally held a built-in linen closet. When the current owner removed the linen closet in 1990, a dated signature on the subfloor identified the date of construction as August 7, 1899 and the cabinetmaker as De Witt Jenkins, D. W. Jenkins's older brother. (The built-in closet is now stored in the carriage barn.)

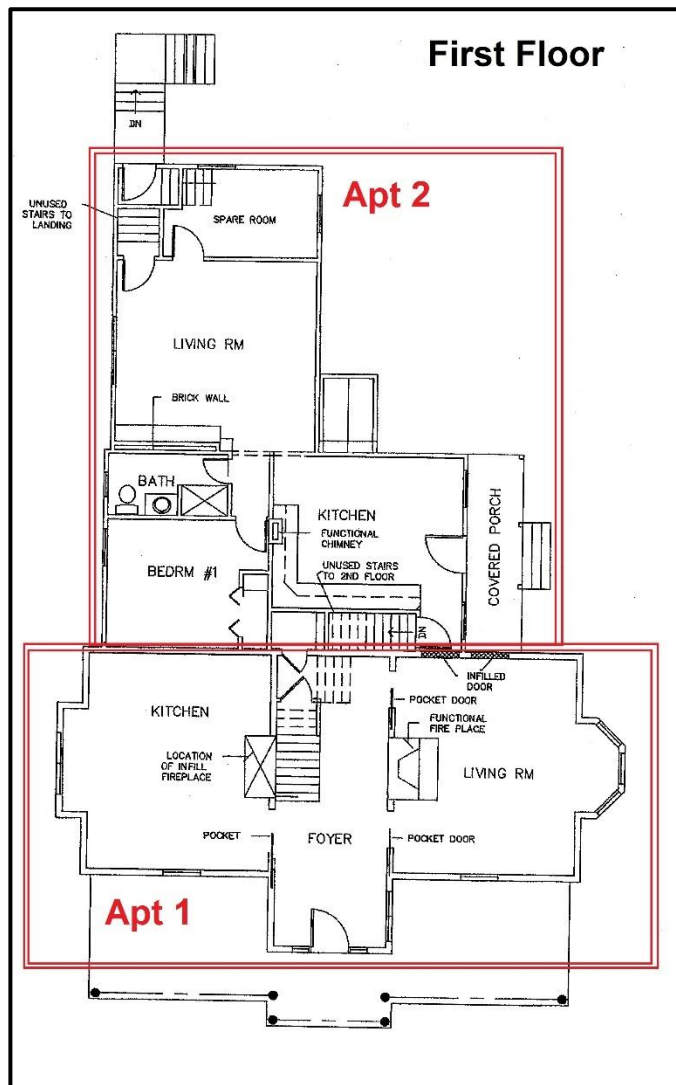


Figure 1: First floor plan (from architectural drawing).

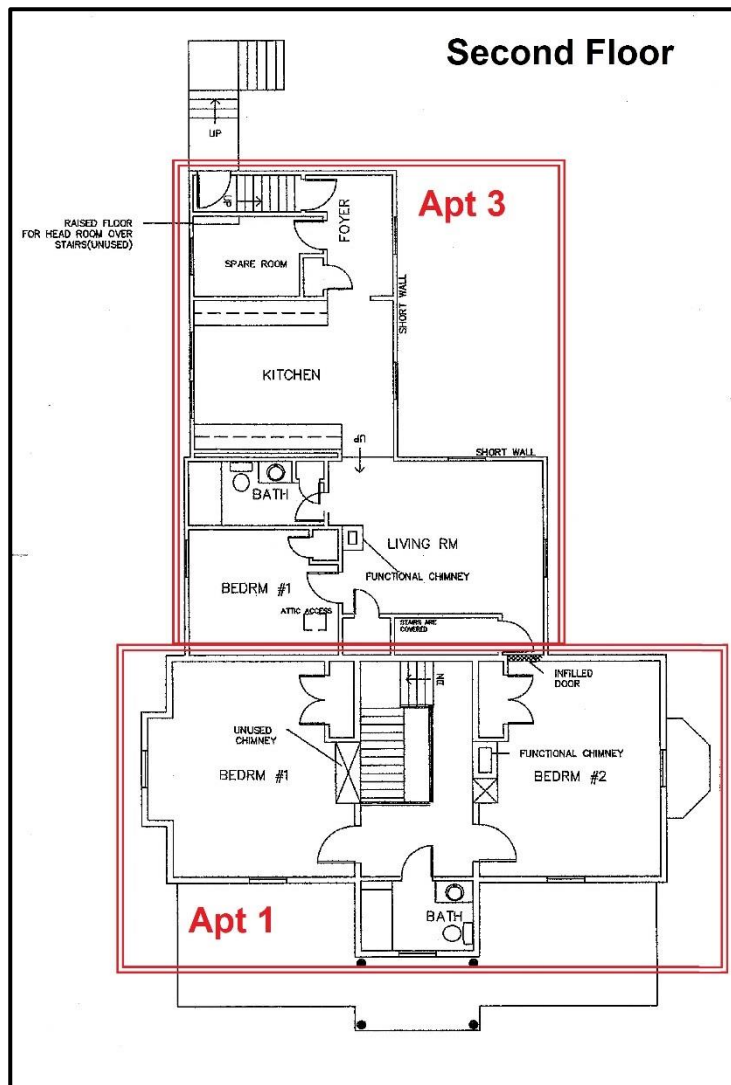


Figure 2: Second floor plan (from architectural drawing).

Apartment 3: The third apartment, the second floor of the middle and rear blocks, has four rooms and historically housed the help – censuses for 1900-1930 include a live-in “servant” and, after 1905, an additional live-in housekeeper/ companion for Mrs. Jenkins. The apartment is entered from a rear staircase. The current kitchen and spare room were probably the servant’s quarters; the living room and bedroom were probably used by the housekeeper. (This would have left one of the two bedrooms in the main block as a spare guest bedroom or the bedroom in the middle block on the first floor). The living room originally connected to the first-floor kitchen through the closed secondary staircase. In addition, it held a door (since removed) that entered one of the front bedrooms. The wainscot ceiling of this room was restored in 2003; the walls remain paneled.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

ATTIC AND BASEMENT

The attic is accessed by a hatch in the middle block in Apartment 3, and lit by the window in the north gable end. Sheathing boards from the cross gables on the main block extend into the attic but never held shingles, suggesting that the main and middle blocks were constructed at the same time. The attic of the rear block is closed off from the main attic space.

The basement is open under the main and middle blocks, but only partially dug out for the first part of the rear block. Under the extension is a full-height storage room with built-in shelves for cold storage and an exit door (now blocked on the exterior.) The two chimney stacks in the main block have clean-out doors in the basement. The rear chimney appears only to have been used for a stove; the stack does not continue into the basement.

BLUESTONE WALK

Early twentieth-century photographs (Figures 8 and 9) of the Daniel Webster Jenkins House show a fence (no longer extant) along Church Street, with openings for a gravel driveway and for a walkway to the porch. The current bluestone walk appears to be the original walkway to the house.

LIMESTONE HITCHING POST (1 Contributing Object) and LIMESTONE MOUNTING BLOCK

A simple tapered limestone block, with a ring at the top, remains in the front lawn on the north side of the house near Church Street. A limestone mounting block has been moved from its original location and now serves as a step into the south side of the carriage barn.

CARRIAGE BARN (1 Contributing Building)

The front part of the carriage barn appears to be original to the house and can be seen at the rear of Figures 8 and 9. It is a cross-gabled building that is broken into three units – car storage on the north, central entrance and staircase in the cross gable, and tack room on the south. The 1904 Sanborn map shows two rear additions that doubled the size of the building. A one-story stable was added behind the tack room on the south, and a rear wing with two stories of extra space was added on the north.

The building is currently roofed in metal and has a large shingled ventilator in the front block. There is a standard overhead garage door in the north section, a four-panel door and one-over-one window below a double hay door in the center section, and a door with slanted beadboard and a two-over-two window in the south section. (The limestone mounting block now serves as the step to the south door.) The other elevations also show a mixture of window styles and a shorter second-floor hatch at the rear. The enlargement and variation in the doors and windows suggests that this building was renovated several times to serve a variety of purposes for D. W. Jenkins and later owners. For instance, the front and rear hay doors and ventilator added atop an existing roof suggest that the building may have been adapted within Jenkins' lifetime for storing large quantities of hay – hay and feed sales were one of Jenkins' commercial activities.

OAK TREE

The white oak tree in front of the Daniel Webster Jenkins House is believed to be at least three hundred years old and was mentioned as a large tree at D. W. Jenkins's funeral:

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

On a perfect summer day, Wednesday, June 19th, 1901, a vast concourse of friends and neighbors met at his home in Central Bridge, and under the spreading oak, to pay the debt of love due his memory.⁸

In 1998-1999, the oak tied for third as one of the largest trees in Schoharie County during the first Big Tree Search by the State University of New York at Cobleskill. At that time, it measured 17'6" in circumference, 70' in height, with limbs that stretched more than 101 feet.⁹ In 2017, the tree had grown slightly – gaining an extra foot in circumference – and placed third in the Landis Arboretum's Great Oak Hunt (which covered Rensselaer, Columbia, Albany, Greene, Schenectady, Montgomery, Schoharie, Otsego, and Delaware counties.)¹⁰ The tree remains in good health in 2018.

⁸ Mrs. George W. Smith, "Daniel Webster Jenkins" [manuscript]. [Schoharie County Historical Society Research Library]

⁹ State University of New York at Cobleskill, "Big Trees of Schoharie County 1998-1999" [undated handout].

¹⁰ Fred Breglia, executive director of the Landis Arboretum, confirmed the tree's age.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

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.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Daniel Webster Jenkins

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

1884-1901

Architect/Builder

N/A

Significant Dates

1884, 1901

Period of Significance (justification): Date of construction (1884) by Daniel Webster Jenkins to his death (1901).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Daniel Webster Jenkins House at 207 (originally, 2) Church Street, Central Bridge, New York is locally significant under **Criterion B: Social History** and **Criterion C: Architecture**. It was constructed in 1884 in a transitional Stick/Queen Anne style for Daniel Webster Jenkins and his wife, Hattie (Harriet) L. Rosekrans Jenkins. D. W. Jenkins was one of the village's most prominent citizens and had a great impact of its commercial, political, and social history. He was the station master for the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad (later, Delaware & Hudson) from the opening of the line in 1868 to his death in 1901. In addition, he became a local businessman, town superintendent, and chair of the Board of Supervisors for Schoharie County. Jenkins took the lead in founding the Central Bridge Water Company in 1895 and founded the local fire department the following year. He was also involved in founding the Schoharie County Historic Society in 1889 and in running the county agricultural society. The Daniel Webster Jenkins House sits on a prominent corner in the "new village" of Central Bridge and retains its original plan and decoration, with a large front porch, bracketed posts, molding between stories, and decorated gables. It is an important local landmark signifying an era when the railroad connected the industrial village of Central Bridge with Albany and Binghamton. and the village had a robust economy and community life. The **period of significance** is 1884 (construction of the house) to **1901** (death of Daniel Webster Jenkins).

(Much of the information in the following discussion is taken from Rosemary Christoff Dolan's article on the "Central Bridge Fire Department," which was established by and named after Daniel Webster Jenkins in 1896.¹¹ Quotes and additional information are separately footnoted.)

SITE

The "old village" of Central Bridge was situated at the meeting place of the Cobleskill and Schoharie Creeks, along what is now State Route 7. Settlement in the area began in the early eighteenth century after the arrival of the Palatines in present-day Schoharie in 1712. The area was subject to raids during the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution; as a result, it remained sparsely settled through the end of the eighteenth century.

Central Bridge derives its name from a covered bridge built over the Schoharie Creek in 1823 that connected Cobleskill to Albany through the Schoharie and Duanesburg Turnpike. In the early 1860s, the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad was built to Schoharie Junction, on the east side of Schoharie Creek. Within a few years, the line was extended to Binghamton, transforming the tiny hamlet of Central Bridge into a center of commerce. In 1863, the Central Bridge Railroad Station was built about a mile inland from the old village on the turnpike; businesses flocked to the "new village" to be near the station, marking the beginning of phenomenal growth and prosperity that continued into the mid-twentieth century. In 1867, the Schoharie Valley Railroad was constructed. It joined the Albany & Susquehanna line at the old terminus, Schoharie Junction, and added impetus to the development of Central Bridge.

¹¹ Rosemary Christoff Dolan, "Central Bridge Fire Department," *Schoharie County Historical Review* 61:2 (Fall-Winter 1997), 14-21.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

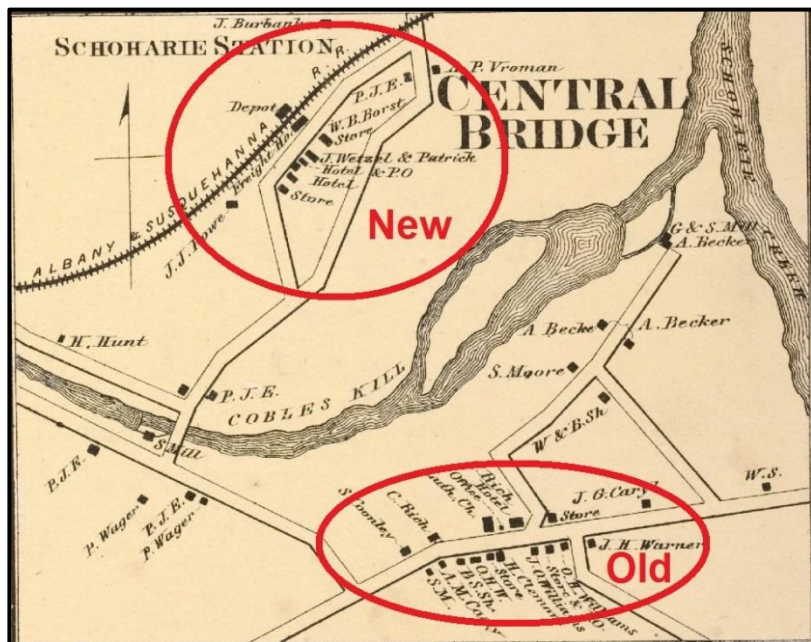


Figure 3: Inset of Central Bridge from S. N. and D. G. Beers' *New Topographical Atlas of Schoharie Co., New York, 1866*. Note the relative locations of the "old village" (south) and "new village" (north).

In 1869, Jay Gould of the Erie Railroad attempted to take over the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad in a famous "war" that ended with the intervention of John Pierpont Morgan. The following year, Morgan leased the line to the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company for 99 years to preserve it from further machinations. It was subsequently referred to as the Delaware & Hudson, even though it did not merge with the railroad company until 1945.¹²

In 1882, in his *History of Schoharie County*, William E. Roscoe said,

*The village at the depot, or "New Central Bridge," through the energy of its inhabitants, bids fair to compare favorably with any of its sister towns as a central mart and manufacturing point.*¹³

The village developed on both sides of the track, so that businesses and houses lined both North Main and South Main streets with the railroad station and freight house in the middle. By the late 1800s, Central Bridge boasted a population of 750; dozens of dwellings; a post office; telephone service; a variety of feed and grist mills; coal sheds; livery stables; harness, foundry, and blacksmith shops; cobblers and undertakers; dry goods, hardware, and drug stores; furniture, farm implement, and general merchandise businesses; and law and medical practices. Two of the area's finest hotels and restaurants – Austin House and Barton House – stood side by side on South Main Street. Old and new Central Bridge also had two schoolhouses and various churches. The United Methodist and Bethany Lutheran Churches eventually relocated from the old village to Church Street, where they remain in service to the community today.

Albany merchants who commuted to Central Bridge to sell their wares would take one of the eight to ten passenger trains that served the area daily. Passengers disembarking in Central Bridge could avail themselves of the services provided by the livery stables, where businessmen wishing to visit surrounding areas could rent horses and wagons.

George Westinghouse, the founder of Westinghouse Electric, was born in the old village in 1846.¹⁴ His father, George Sr., built the first wheat threshing machine and established a manufacturing plant in Central Bridge. This industry (later owned by S. K. Campbell) became a mainstay of the village in the last half of the nineteenth

¹² "Three-day Tunnel Fight Brought out the Troops," *PressConnects.com* (August 20, 2014).
<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/connections/history/2014/08/20/tunnel-battle/14356501/>

¹³ William E. Roscoe, *History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882* (Syracuse: D. Mason, 1882), 372.

¹⁴ The George Westinghouse Jr., Birthplace and Boyhood Home was listed on the National Register in 1986.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

century. By 1904, when the following Sanborn Map was published, the village had a population of 900; a well-defined commercial block along South Main Street; warehouses near the tracks; and a flour mill, foundry, the threshing machine factory, and another hotel at the intersection of North Main and Hill streets.

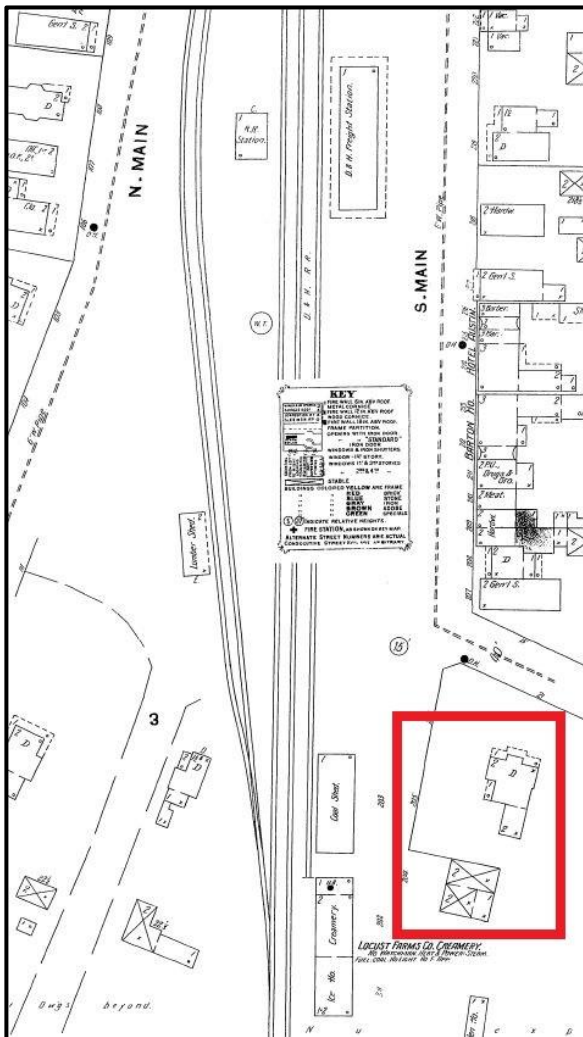


Figure 4: Detail, 1904 Sanborn Map (Central+Bridge+ Apr.+1904,+Sheet+1). Box identifies location of Jenkins House relative to village commercial district and railroad station. The house, built in 1884 at the corner of South Main and Church streets, was close to the railroad depot, coal shed, and creamery, and adjoined the small commercial district. At one point, Jenkins owned all the land to the railroad tracks.

Central Bridge thrived through the mid-twentieth century due to its location. The road through the “old village” was defined as State Route 7 in the 1909 Highway Law. Peter Enders and W. B. Colyer soon founded the Central Bridge Auto Company to market Model T Fords. Thirty-two cars were sold in one ten-day period in 1925.¹⁵

The Delaware & Hudson rail line continued to be a viable transportation artery for passengers into the 1930s, and freight service continued to the end of the twentieth century.

However, as the century wore on, many of the community’s industries closed as their products became obsolete or their owners retired or died. The Campbell threshing machine plant burned down in 1928. In 1935, a fire destroyed a garage and several other buildings in Central Bridge. In 1948, the E. A. Howard flour and feed mill burned; it was rebuilt and most of it burned again five years later. This mill had made Central Bridge a leading producer of buckwheat; after it was gone, the county ceased to produce much of this grain.

In 1950, when the *Albany Knickerbocker News* ran a profile of the community, Central Bridge was still an important place. It retained a population of 750 people, supported sixty businesses, and did \$5.5 million in trade. “To those who insist that life in a village is dull, Central Bridge residents offer a quick contradiction. Social life in Central Bridge moves so briskly, they say, that it’s exhausting.”¹⁶ But the automobile was giving people more options to work and shop. By 1974, when McCarthy Ford (the former Central Bridge Auto Company) moved to Cobleskill, the village became a suburb of that village and, after the construction of Interstate 88, of Schenectady.¹⁷

¹⁵ Rosemary Christoff Dolan, “George Westinghouse: A Pattern of Humanity,” *Schoharie County Historical Review* 68:2 (Fall 2004), 12; “Central Bridge,” *Albany Times Union* (March 24, 1925). [Fulton News]

¹⁶ Dolan, “Central Bridge Fire Department,” 16-17; quote from “Railroad Cuts Main St. and is Hub of Business,” *Knickerbocker News* (January 30, 1950).

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

CRITERION A: Social History and CRITERION B: Daniel Webster Jenkins

DANIEL WEBSTER JENKINS (1846-1901)

Daniel Webster (D. W., Webster, or Webb) Jenkins was born in the town of Glen in Montgomery County in 1846 and grew up in Duanesburg, Schenectady County.¹⁸ His father, Nathaniel, was a Quaker and originally a farmer. Daniel had three older sisters and three older brothers – one (De Witt C.) listed as a carpenter and the other two (William A. and Zerah) listed as farmers in the 1855 New York census. Ten years later, Jenkins was still living in Duanesburg with his parents, sister Margaret, and brother Zerah, having attended the local common school and Jonesville Academy in Jonesville, Saratoga County.¹⁹ He had been working for the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad since September 15, 1863, assisting his father, then the station agent at Quaker Street (Delanson).²⁰

Soon after, Daniel Webster Jenkins replaced his father as station agent and, in 1868, aged 22, was appointed general ticket and express agent for the railroad at Central Bridge. Jenkins held this job until his death in 1901 and was considered one of the railroad's longest-serving employees. On September 9, 1869, he married Hattie (Harriet) L. Rosekrans of Jonesville (where he had attended school), bringing her to Central Bridge.²¹



Figure 5: D & H Railroad Station (no longer extant), Central Bridge, NY.

Jenkins appears in the *Schoharie County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1872-1873* as a “general ticket and express agent, and telegraph operator.”²²

More information about Jenkins starts to show up in the columns of local newspapers in the 1880s. One of the earliest articles noted that he had gained weight and begun “to take on his winter’s increased averdupois [sic].”²³ Around 1884, he and his wife Hattie built a spacious new residence on Church Street. One hundred and fifty guests attended the opening of their home, for the couple’s fifteenth wedding anniversary.

¹⁸ “Daniel W. Jenkins,” *Biographical Review XXXIII: Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Green Schoharie and Schenectady Counties, New York* (Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1899), 235-237, passim.

¹⁹ New York State Census, 1855 and 1865. www.ancestry.com

²⁰ Nathaniel Jenkins’s Octagon House in Duanesburg was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

²¹ “Mrs. Jenkins Dies After Long Illness,” *Schoharie Republican* (April 26, 1934), 3. Mrs. Jenkins’s obituary suggests that Jenkins continued to live at Duanesburg until the couple moved to Central Bridge together.

²² Hamilton Child, *Schoharie County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1872-1873* (Syracuse, NY: Printed at the Journal Office, 1872), 195, 219.

²³ “Central Bridge,” *Canajoharie Courier* (December 11, 1883). [Fulton News]

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

By this time, Jenkins had become a local entrepreneur and was running a large coal, lumber, hay, and feed business alongside his railroad position. He eventually sold his hay business to W. B. Colyer and focused on coal.²⁴ A news story from 1887 mentions Jenkins's prominent position in the community in reference to a series of coal thefts:

*A chap at Central Bridge was arrested last week for stealing coal. Our genial friend Jenkins, who controls the market there on the coal question, has been inclined to deal leniently with the fellows that made it a practice of stealing a little coal occasionally for their own use, but in this particular case, the fellow had so much of a supply on hand that he set up an opposition coal depot of his own and went to selling by the barrel in opposition to the man he had stolen it from. This was to [sic] much of a good thing and the regular dealer had to draw the line some-where and he got out a warrant for his arrest...*²⁵

The following year, Jenkins purchased a bank building (with contents) for \$3000, apparently as a real estate speculation.²⁶ At some point, he also leased some of the property behind his house to an adjoining creamery. (See Figure 4.) Ten years later, the *Biographical Review* for Greene, Schoharie, and Schenectady counties described him as a "hustler. Whatever he finds to do he does with all his might, and, as a rule, successfully."²⁷

In 1889, Daniel W. Jenkins was listed as one of thirty-seven councilors of the new Schoharie County Historical Society, which was founded the previous year to preserve the Old Stone Fort and develop a research library in Schoharie, New York.²⁸ (His early involvement with the organization may explain his and Hattie's burials in the Old Stone Fort Cemetery.)



Figure 6: Daniel Webster Jenkins, circa 1890. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)

The same year, Jenkins began his twelve-year tenure as supervisor of the Town of Schoharie.²⁹ When elected, one paper described him as "a man comparatively without experience, yet a democrat." Over the next ten years, Jenkins got plenty of experience, serving on various committees including those for legislation and assessment rolls in 1894 and legislation, county treasurer's accounts, and sheriff's, judge's, and clerk's accounts in 1898.³⁰ Three times he ran without opposition. In 1893, 1896, 1897, 1899, and 1900, he was elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors and was serving in that position at his death. While chair, he successfully dealt with a series of lawsuits brought against the county by its towns dealing with railroad fees. He attended the 1900 Highway Improvement by State Aid Convention in Albany.³¹ (His brother, William A. Jenkins, was supervising road

²⁴ "Mrs. Jenkins Dies After Long Illness."

²⁵ "A Coal Deal at Central Bridge," *Gilboa Monitor* (February 24, 1887). [Fulton News]

²⁶ "Central Bridge," *Canajoharie Courier* (January 9, 1888). [Fulton News] What happened to this building is not known.

²⁷ "Daniel W. Jenkins," *Biographical Review XXXIII*.

²⁸ Schoharie County Historical Society, *Schoharie County Historical Society, Schoharie, N. Y. with the Articles of Incorporation...* (Schoharie, NY: Republican Office, 1889), 17.

²⁹ "Schoharie," *Gilboa Monitor* (February 28, 1889). [Fulton News]

³⁰ "Supervisors Organize," *Jefferson Courier* (November 22, 1894); "Supervisors Meet," *Jefferson Courier* (November 24, 1898). [Fulton News] Jenkins narrowly missed election at the beginning of 1898 in a vote that extended to twenty-five ballots.

³¹ "Highway Improvement by State Aid Convention," *Lewis County Democrat* (December 19, 1900). [Fulton News]

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

improvements in Delanson at this same time.)³²

During the mid-1890s, Daniel Webster Jenkins sponsored two personal initiatives that greatly improved the community of Central Bridge. Jenkins was one of seven directors who set up the Central Bridge Water Company in 1895 “to supply with water the town of Schoharie and its inhabitants in the vicinity of the village of Central Bridge.”³³ Six months later, as a “taxable inhabitant,” he submitted a petition to the Board of Supervisors to set up a local fire district. This petition included the names of a number of leading citizens, as well as a representative of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company (now operating the railroad), and was accepted by the Board.³⁴ The public water system, coupled with fire hydrants, provided the community with a good basis for fire protection. In 1898, Jenkins donated a hose cart to the fire department named for him two years earlier.³⁵ (This fire company – and the cart – continue to serve Central Bridge.)

In 1891, Jenkins was reported to have “sown his field with oats.”³⁶ The full extent of his land holdings is not known, but he served as president of the Schoharie County Agricultural Society and Stock Growers’ Association in that decade and was elected to the executive of the New York State Association of County Agriculturalists in 1901.³⁷ Presumably in his capacity as president of the local society, he cooperated with groups in Otsego, Washington, and Saratoga counties in 1897 to set up a “trotting circuit“ at six county and town fairs. At his death, he held a \$4000 mortgage on the fairground and buildings of the Schoharie County society in the village of Schoharie. The group held an annual fair at the site until 1915. The following year, when the property was no longer in use, Mrs. Jenkins called the mortgage and forced the sale of the land.³⁸

In 1896, Jenkins was part of a posse chasing burglars who tried to crack an office safe at Becker & Co. flour mill, but within five years his health was failing.³⁹ Daniel Webster Jenkins died on June 15, 1901, aged 54, of a heart condition, after several operations in hospitals in New York and Albany. Various obituaries lauded his public service and called him:

- “greatly missed”
- “the leading citizen of Central Bridge and one of the best known residents of Schoharie county”
- “a man prominent in both social and political circles and ... a 32nd degree Mason”
- “one of the best known men in Schoharie county, and one of the most progressive business men of his town”⁴⁰

³² William A. Jenkins’s house, the Jenkins House in Delanson, is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1984).

³³ “Vicinity News,” *Jefferson Courier* (May 30, 1895), 1.

³⁴ “The Board of Supervisors,” *Jefferson Courier* (December 19, 1895), 1. Jenkins’s personal worth was given as 2 ½ acres of property, \$3000 real property, and \$3000 personal property. The current lot of 1.75 acres reflects the sale of the coal business and a lot leased to the creamery, both adjoining the Jenkins House along the railroad tracks.

³⁵ “All the News,” *Jefferson Courier* (February 27, 1898). [Fulton News]

³⁶ “Along the Susquehanna,” *Albany Morning Express* (March 11, 1891), 5. The context suggests that this was not a euphemism.

³⁷ “State Agricultural Society,” *Canajoharie Radian* (January 24, 1895); “County Agriculturalists,” *Herkimer Democrat* (January 23, 1901), 1; “State News: Governor Odell Greets Farmers,” *Port Jefferson Echo* (January 26, 1901), 1. The two 1901 newspapers disagree on whether Jenkins was elected president or first vice president of the group.

³⁸ “Fair Ground to be Sold,” *Canajoharie Courier* (November 1, 1916), 1.

³⁹ “Burglars in a Mill,” *Windham Journal* (January 16, 1896); “Supervisor Jenkins is Dead,” *Jefferson Courier* (June 20, 1901). [Fulton News]

⁴⁰ “Sloansville,” *Canajoharie Courier* (June 18, 1901); “News in Brief,” *Cooperstown Freeman’s Journal* (June 20, 1902), 2; “Supervisor Jenkins is Dead”; “Daniel W. Jenkins,” *Windham Journal* (June 27, 1901). [Fulton News] At his death, Jenkins was also a member of the Odd Fellows.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

After the funeral, a contemporary wrote of Jenkins:

During the thirty odd years of his residence at Central Bridge he has done much, if not more, than any other individual to build up and encourage business of all kinds in that locality, and it was largely through his efforts that the village is now receiving the benefits of an excellent water system. His extensive dealings in coal, lumber, hay and straw, was the means of attracting a great many people to Central Bridge, and did much to advance the material prosperity of the village....

On a perfect summer day, Wednesday, June 19th, 1901, a vast concourse of friends and neighbors met at his home in Central Bridge, and under the spreading oak, to pay the debt of love due his memory. The impressive service for the dead was eloquently spoken by the Reverend E. L. Wade of Johnstown, assisted by the Reverend Mr. Tucker of Central Bridge, and we followed him to his earthly resting place in the tranquil Old Stone Fort Cemetery.⁴¹

HATTIE L. ROSEKRANS JENKINS (1846-1934)

Hattie (Harriet) L. Rosekrans was born in 1846 in Saratoga County. Her father Charles was originally a tailor in Jonesville, and she was named after her mother Harriet. By 1866, her father was running the Jonesville Hotel.⁴² Jonesville had a small academy a few buildings south of the hotel that offered an “Academic, Commercial, Classical and Ornamental Education” to 181 students in 1852.⁴³ This is apparently where “Hattie” met “Webb” in the mid-1860s.



Figure 7: Photograph of Hattie L. Jenkins, circa 1920. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)



Figure 8: Postcard of Daniel Webster Jenkins House, circa 1900. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)

⁴¹ Smith. Mrs. George W. Smith is thought to have been a member of the Central Bridge Eccentric Club who may have written about D. W. Jenkins as a club project. A farmer named Smith lived near Cobleskill; his wife, Mary G. Smith may be the writer.

⁴² “Jonesville Business Directory,” *New Topographic Atlas of Saratoga County* (Philadelphia, Stone & Stewart, 1866), 29.

⁴³ Clifton Park Bicentennial Commission, “Academy, 1836-1876” [sign]. <https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=70265>

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

In September 1869, the couple were married and began living in Central Bridge, where Hattie spent the rest of her life. They had no children. Their house at 2 (now 207) Church Street was not built until 1884, but they must have lived in a substantial home before that time because, in 1882, the *Canajoharie Courier* reported that, “An elegant piano finds a place with Mrs. D. W. Jenkins.”⁴⁴ Once the Daniel Webster Jenkins House was built, the couple hosted a reported 150 people at their fifteenth wedding anniversary.⁴⁵

Over the next seventeen years, Daniel Webster and Hattie appear in the local press as visitors or hosts of family and friends. Their closeness and openness were noted at the time of Jenkins’s death:

*Mr. Jenkins was very happy in his home life and his social nature led him and his estimable wife to dispense a generous hospitality at their spacious residence at Central Bridge.*⁴⁶

Once, in 1890, Hattie and “Webb” are listed as recent arrivals at the Maple Grove House at Hulett’s Landing (Lake George) and, about nine years later, the couple is described as “camping out” with friends from Schoharie for almost two weeks.⁴⁷ Six weeks before Daniel Webster’s death, they visited friends in Cleveland, Ohio, and returned “after a very pleasant time.”⁴⁸ Overall, however, the couple stayed close to home and lived a comfortable life, employing a 37-year-old woman named Sarah Murphy as a housekeeper in 1900.⁴⁹

After Daniel Webster’s death, Hattie became more prominent in the newspapers. For a few years, she apparently ran her husband’s coal and lumber business before selling it Frank Bateholts. With a comfortable estate, she continued to entertain friends in the community and family from Delanson, Albany, and Saratoga. She also continued to live with Sarah Murphy, who was identified as a housekeeper in the 1905 New York census and as a servant in the 1910 US census. In 1905, the household also included a 92-year-old “boarder” with her own 28-year-old servant.

In 1906, when Bethany Lutheran Church relocated to the “new village,” Hattie was described as “superintending” the building of the new church.⁵⁰ The following year, the congregation installed a series of commemorative windows by the Chapman Studio in Albany. The largest, “Christ the Good Sheperd [sic],” was a memorial Hattie funded to honor her husband.⁵¹ Hattie was a dedicated member of this church until the end of her life, serving on the Women’s Auxiliary and attending all services “until failing health prevented.”

In 1919, she fell in her garden and fractured her hip.⁵² Thereafter, the censuses record a widowed practical nurse, Stella Zahn, living in the household along with a new housekeeper, Anna Baxter.

⁴⁴ “Central Bridge,” *Canajoharie Courier* (March 21, 1882). [Fulton News]

⁴⁵ Smith.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ “Out of Town News,” *Sandy Hill Observer* (August 15, 1890); “Central Bridge,” *Quaker Street Review* (1888 or 1889) [Fulton News]

⁴⁸ “Central Bridge,” *Albany Times Union* (March 28, 1901), 7.

⁴⁹ US Census, 1900; “Local Intelligence,” *Jefferson Courier* (1901). [Fulton News] In the census, Sarah Murphy is identified as a servant. However, various news stories suggest more social equality. “Miss Sarah Murphy” and “Mrs. D. W. Jenkins” are described as visiting together, and Murphy received a house in Central Bridge in D. W. Jenkins’ will. Murphy continued to live with Hattie Jenkins until at least 1910.

⁵⁰ “Mrs. Jenkins Dies After Long Illness.”

⁵¹ “Gifts to the Lutheran Church at Central Bridge,” *Canajoharie Courier* (June 11, 1907). [Fulton News]

⁵² “Personals,” *Schoharie Republican and County Democrat* (October [unclear date]), 2. [Fulton News] This event may have forced her foreclosure on the Schoharie County Agricultural Society fairground in 1916.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

During Hattie Jenkins's 1919 convalescence, she received a "Sunshine Box" from the Central Bridge Eccentric Club as one of its first and oldest members.⁵³ This organization was formed in 1905, when it affiliated with the New York State General Federation of Women's Clubs, and celebrated its centennial in 2005. It gave community women an outlet for personal improvement, public service, and social activities and met in its members' homes. In 1926, the theme for the year was "State, County, and Home Life." Speakers, music, research papers, and discussions of current events were scheduled for each meeting, several of which were held at the Daniel Webster Jenkins House.⁵⁴

On April 20, 1934, Hattie Jenkins, aged 87, died of a stroke. A few days later, she was buried next to her husband in the Old Stone Fort Cemetery in Schoharie. Her house passed to her nurse, Stella Zahn, and the following year, Hattie's remaining household goods were sold at auction. In 1936, Bethany Lutheran Church received a final bequest from her husband's estate.

Hattie Jenkins's obituary remembered her as an active member of the Central Bridge community:

*Mrs. Jenkins' charities were many, and generous. She seemed to have the happy faculty of finding those who needed assistance, and was more than pleased to render it.*⁵⁵

THE DANIEL WEBSTER JENKINS HOUSE AFTER 1934

The Daniel Webster Jenkins House was willed to Stella Zahn, Mrs. Jenkins's executor (one of two) and practical nurse. In 1936, Stella Zahn married Charles Love from Los Angeles; a newspaper account of the wedding says that she planned to stay in Central Bridge and winter in California, but in June 1937 she sold the house and left the area.⁵⁶ The new owner was apparently Dr. H. R. Bentley, Central Bridge's only physician, who died two months later.⁵⁷ He and his family may never have moved into the building; his wife reported in the 1940 US Census that she lived in the same house she had inhabited in 1935.

The house remained a single-family home for another fifty years, with only two owners between 1945 and 1983, when it was divided into three apartments – one in the front on two floors, and two in the back, each on a floor. This conversion was achieved without major alteration to the floor plan by closing existing openings. It remains a multiple dwelling in 2018.

CRITERION C: Architecture

The Daniel Webster Jenkins House is an excellent example a transitional Queen Anne design, built in 1884. It includes many of the features associated with both the Stick and Queen Anne styles, including cross gables with decorated gable ends, a full-width front porch with bracketed posts and a lattice spindlework balustrade,

⁵³ "Club Remembers Mrs. Jenkins," *Schoharie Republican and County Democrat* (November [unclear date]), 2 [Fulton News]

⁵⁴ "Eccentric Club of Central Bridge Has Planned Year's Work," *Schenectady Gazette* (August 23, 1926), 9. The write-up of Daniel Webster Jenkins by Mrs. George W. Smith is thought to have been an Eccentric Club project. In "A Century of Service in Central Bridge," *Schoharie Times-Journal* (September 21, 2005), 32-33, a photograph of Eccentric Club members from 1905 is said to show the Daniel Webster Jenkins House; Hattie Jenkins is sitting in the center of the last row but the woodwork of the porch differs from other photos of the house.

⁵⁵ "Mrs. Jenkins Dies After Long Illness."

⁵⁶ "Marriages," *Schoharie Republican* (June 4, 1936), 2. Love was originally from Jamestown, and the couple eventually relocated there.

⁵⁷ "Albany Death Roll," *Albany Times Union* (August 21, 1937). [Fulton News]

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

second-floor balustrade (now in storage) on the front gable, applied moldings to avoid a flat wall surface, bay windows with simple cutout details, and a half-width porch on a side elevation. There is no tower, but the front gable visually functions as one. The interior woodwork includes an entry with sidelights and a narrow transom with stained glass, a casement window with beveled glass, a staircase with turned spindles and Eastlake cut-outs, wood floors, a plaster ceiling medallion, ornate door hardware, and built-in wardrobes and cupboards. The three blocks of the house appear to have been built at the same time. However, the rear block was shorter than it is now; an extension was built before 1899. Although the building has been subdivided for apartments, its original plan remains visible and the building continues to read as a late Victorian residence.



Figure 9: Photo Postcard, circa 1910. (Collection of Owner) This image of the house has been passed from owner to owner.

The 1880s were a period of transition, and defining this architectural style in its own time was difficult. Stick style homes had been constructed since the Civil War, and their decoration incorporated antebellum ideas of the “picturesque” popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing. However, Stick style’s large scale was very different from that of Downing’s romantic cottages and reflected new building technologies. Queen Anne style first emerged in the United Kingdom and initially referred to masonry buildings with half-timbering and Elizabethan elements. The first North American example, built in Newport, Rhode Island in 1874, was architect-designed and similar, but popularization of the new style in American pattern books led to many variants.⁵⁸ Montgomery Schuyler, writing in 1883, said:

“Queen Anne” is a comprehensive name which has been made to cover a multitude of incongruities, including, indeed, the bulk of recent work which otherwise defies classification, and there is a convenient vagueness about the term which fits it for that use. But it is rather noteworthy that the effect of what is most specifically known as Queen Anne is to restrain the exuberances of design.⁵⁹

A query to the trade magazine *Carpentry and Building* in 1886, two years after the Daniel Webster Jenkins House was constructed in Central Bridge, further illustrates the prevailing ambiguity:

⁵⁸ James L. Garvin, “Mail-Order House Plans and American Victorian Architecture,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 16:4 (Winter 1981), 309-334 *passim*.

⁵⁹ Alan Gowans, *The Comfortable House* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986), 195.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

“Would a house with two gables be in the Queen Anne style, or to entitle it to this name must it have twenty gables or more? What is necessary to entitle a building to the name of Queen Anne?” – the editors replied, “We give up.”⁶⁰

Compared to examples of Stick and Queen Anne style found in larger communities, the Daniel Webster Jenkins house is relatively modest, but it was still an important landmark in Central Bridge. Perhaps what is more important to recognize about the style of the house is that it clearly reflects the social position and “modern” tastes of its “hustler” businessman owner. Many of the design features found in Queen Anne houses were facilitated by the widespread adoption of balloon framing after the Civil War. This building technique made projections and the insertion of bay windows easy and gave builders greater freedom to modify and customize structural plans for individual owners. In addition, in the same period, lumber mills had adopted new machinery that enabled them to mass produce turned spindles, decorative cut-outs, and shaped shingles. Such applied exterior decoration had no structural basis (unlike the medieval elements found in the English Queen Anne style) but enabled local builders to create decorative buildings from basic plans without the services of a local architect. Similar improvements in glass production permitted companies to manufacture the one-over-one windows found in the house. Central Bridge lacked its own millwork or glass factory, but the railroad made importation of the necessary building components easy – especially when the client was the railroad freight agent.

The builder of the Daniel Webster Jenkins House is unknown. There is no mention of a builder, despite the 1899 signature found in the rear extension, it is unlikely that Jenkins’s brother De Witt built that portion of the building.⁶¹ Nonetheless, whoever the builder was, he would have been influenced by the many pattern books available in the late nineteenth century by architect-builders like Henry Hudson Holly (1878), George and Charles Palliser (1878), and others.⁶² Holly, in particular, championed Queen Anne style as facilitating American democracy; the emerging middle class should be housed in model homes that uplifted the community.⁶³

Although it retained some older design elements like the central staircase and the symmetrical layout of the front block, the Daniel Webster Jenkins House was an up-to-date house for its time, employing new building technologies in a new way to meet the needs of its owner – a “progressive” businessman and community leader.

SUMMARY

Daniel Webster Jenkins (1846-1901) was an important figure in the development of Central Bridge, Schoharie County, New York. When the Albany & Susquehanna Railroad extended its line to Binghamton in 1868, D. W. Jenkins became the first station master in Central Bridge and remained in that position for the rest of his life. The advent of the railroad led to the development of the “new village” of Central Bridge along both sides of the tracks, and Jenkins took advantage of this growth to become an independent businessman selling coal, lumber, hay, and feed. In 1884, he built a stylish Queen Anne house at the corner of South Main and Church streets. In the 1890s, he became supervisor of the Town of Schoharie and, for five terms, chair of the Schoharie County

⁶⁰ Gowans, 194.

⁶¹ De Witt lived in Syracuse from at least 1880 to his death in 1908, and his signature was found under a built-in linen cupboard – which he probably did build.

⁶² Garvin, *passim*.

⁶³ Clifford Edward Clark, Jr., *The American Family Home, 1800-1960* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1986), 73-74.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Board of Supervisors. After Jenkins's death, his wife Hattie (Harriet) L. Rosekrans Jenkins (1846-1934), continued to live in the house for another thirty-three years. She became known in her own right as a strong supporter of Bethany Lutheran Church and local organizations like the Eccentric Club. The Daniel Webster Jenkins House itself is an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture, somewhat simplified for its village context but fully expressing the position and modern values of its businessman owner.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

“Albany Death Roll.” *Albany Times Union* (August 21, 1937). [Fulton News]

“All the News.” *Jefferson Courier* (February 27, 1898). [Fulton News]

“Along the Susquehanna.” *Albany Morning Express* (March 11, 1891), 5.

Beers, S. N., and D. G. Beers. *New Topographical Atlas of Schoharie Co., New York*. Philadelphia: Stone & Stewart, 1866.

“The Board of Supervisors.” *Jefferson Courier* (December 19, 1895), 1.

Boyd’s Syracuse Directory for the Centennial Year 1886. Syracuse: Boyd Directory Printing Office, 1886.

“Burglars in a Mill.” *Windham Journal* (January 16, 1896). [Fulton News]

“Central Bridge.” *Albany Times Union* (March 28, 1901), 7.

“Central Bridge.” *Albany Times Union* (March 24, 1925). [Fulton News]

“Central Bridge.” *Canajoharie Courier* (March 21, 1882). [Fulton News]

“Central Bridge.” *Canajoharie Courier* (December 11, 1883). [Fulton News]

“Central Bridge.” *Canajoharie Courier* (January 9, 1888). [Fulton News]

“Central Bridge.” *Quaker Street Review* (1888 or 1889). [Fulton News]

“A Century of Service in Central Bridge.” *Schoharie Times-Journal* (September 21, 2005), 32-33.

Child, Hamilton. *Schoharie County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1872-1873*. Syracuse, NY: Printed at the Journal Office, 1872.

Christoff Dolan, Rosemary. “Central Bridge Fire Department.” *Schoharie County Historical Review* 61:2 (Fall-Winter 1997), 14-21.

Christoff Dolan, Rosemary. “George Westinghouse: A Pattern of Humanity.” *Schoharie County Historical Review* 68:2 (Fall 2004), 10-21.

Clark, Jr., Clifford Edward. *The American Family Home, 1800-1960*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Clifton Park Bicentennial Commission. “Academy, 1836-1876” [sign].
<https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=70265>

Daniel Webster Jenkins House

Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY

County and State

“Club Remembers Mrs. Jenkins.” *Schoharie Republican and County Democrat* (November [unclear date]), 2 [Fulton News]

“A Coal Deal at Central Bridge.” *Gilboa Monitor* (February 24, 1887). [Fulton News]

“County Agriculturalists.” *Herkimer Democrat* (January 23, 1901), 1.

“Daniel W. Jenkins.” *Biographical Review XXXIII: Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Green Schoharie and Schenectady Counties, New York* (235-237). Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1899.

“Daniel W. Jenkins.” *Windham Journal* (June 27, 1901). [Fulton News]

“Eccentric Club of Central Bridge Has Planned Year’s Work.” *Schenectady Gazette* (August 23, 1926), 9.

“Fair Ground to be Sold.” *Canajoharie Courier* (November 1, 1916), 1.

Garvin, James L. “Mail-Order House Plans and American Victorian Architecture.” *Winterthur Portfolio* 16:4 (Winter 1981), 309-334.

“Gifts to the Lutheran Church at Central Bridge.” *Canajoharie Courier* (June 11, 1907). [Fulton News]

Gowans, Alan. *The Comfortable House*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.

“Highway Improvement by State Aid Convention.” *Lewis County Democrat* (December 19, 1900). [Fulton News]

“Jonesville Business Directory.” *New Topographic Atlas of Saratoga County*. Philadelphia, Stone & Stewart, 1866.

“Local Intelligence.” *Jefferson Courier* (1901). [Fulton News]

“Marriages.” *Schoharie Republican* (June 4, 1936), 2.

“Mrs. Jenkins Dies After Long Illness.” *Schoharie Republican* (April 26, 1934), 3.

New York State Census, 1855-1925.

“News in Brief.” *Cooperstown Freeman’s Journal* (June 20, 1902), 2.

“Out of Town News.” *Sandy Hill Observer* (August 15, 1890). [Fulton News]

“Personals.” *Schoharie Republican and County Democrat* (October [unclear date]), 2. [Fulton News]

“Railroad Cuts Main St. and is Hub of Business,” *Knickerbocker News* (January 30, 1950)

Roscoe, William E. *History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882*. Syracuse: D. Mason, 1882.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property
Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1901 and 1909.

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

“Schoharie.” *Gilboa Monitor* (February 28, 1889). [Fulton News]

Schoharie County Historical Society. *Schoharie County Historical Society, Schoharie, N. Y. with the Articles of Incorporation...* Schoharie, NY: Republican Office, 1889.

“Sloansville.” *Canajoharie Courier* (June 18, 1901). [Fulton News]

Smith, Mrs. George W. “Daniel Webster Jenkins” [manuscript]. [Schoharie County Historical Society Research Library]

“State Agricultural Society.” *Canajoharie Radian* (January 24, 1895). [Fulton News]

“State News: Governor Odell Greets Farmers.” *Port Jefferson Echo* (January 26, 1901), 1.

State University of New York at Cobleskill. “*Big Trees of Schoharie County 1998-1999*” [undated handout].

“Supervisor Jenkins is Dead.” *Jefferson Courier* (June 20, 1901). [Fulton News]

“Supervisors Meet.” *Jefferson Courier* (November 24, 1898). [Fulton News]

“Supervisors Organize.” *Jefferson Courier* (November 22, 1894). [Fulton News]

“Three-day Tunnel Fight Brought out the Troops.” *PressConnects.com* (August 20, 2014).
<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/connections/history/2014/08/20/tunnel-battle/14356501/>

“Vicinity News.” *Jefferson Courier* (May 30, 1895), 1.

US Census, 1860 - 1940.

Archives

Schoharie County Historical Society

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: Schoharie County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property 1.75

UTM References

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>554124E</u> Easting	<u>4728830N</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

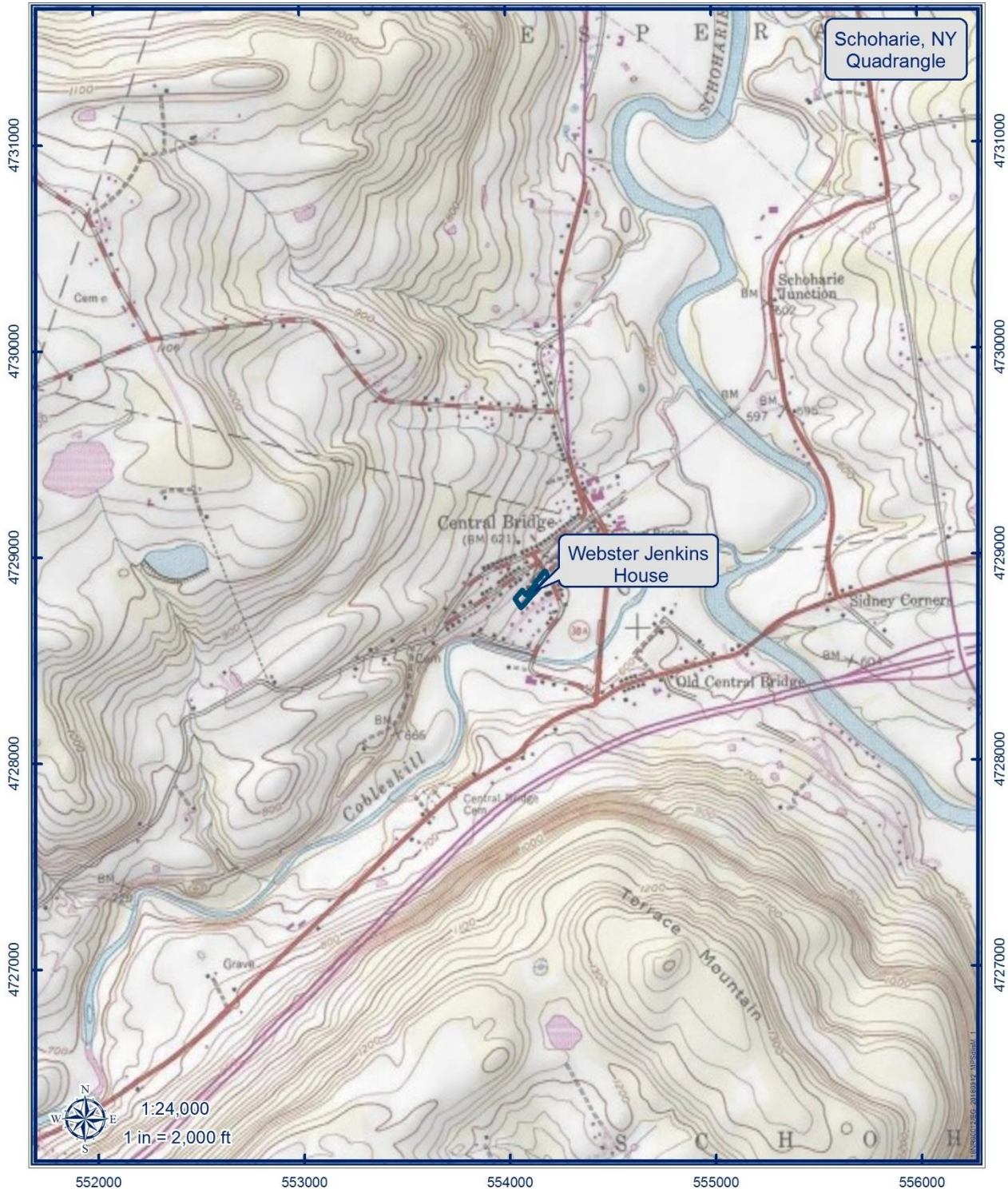
The boundary encompasses the lot historically and currently associated with the nominated building.

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Central Bridge, Schoharie Co., NY

207 Church Street
Central Bridge, NY 120357



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



 Daniel Webster Jenkins House

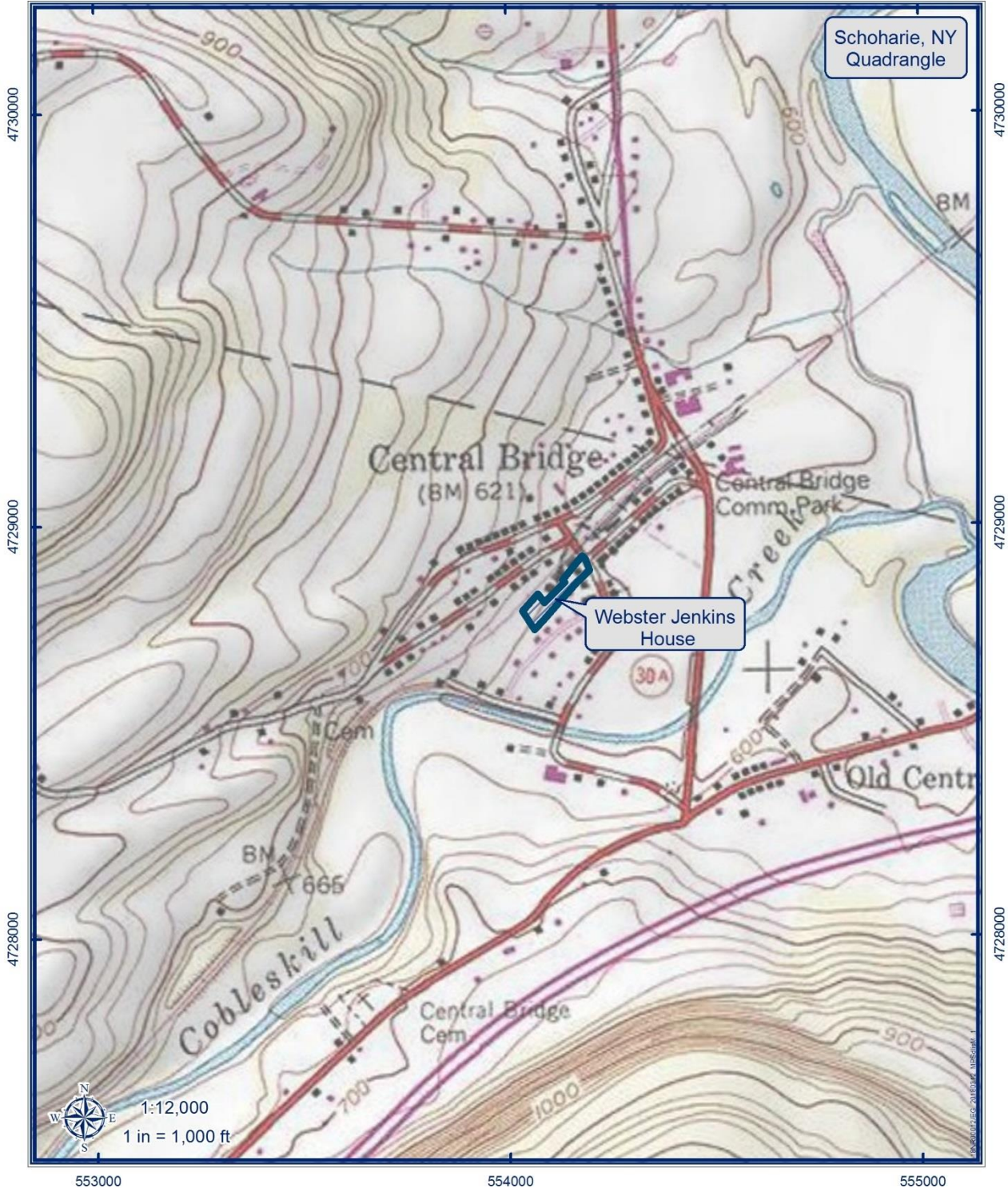
 NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Central Bridge, Schoharie Co., NY

207 Church Street
Central Bridge, NY 120357



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



 Daniel Webster Jenkins House

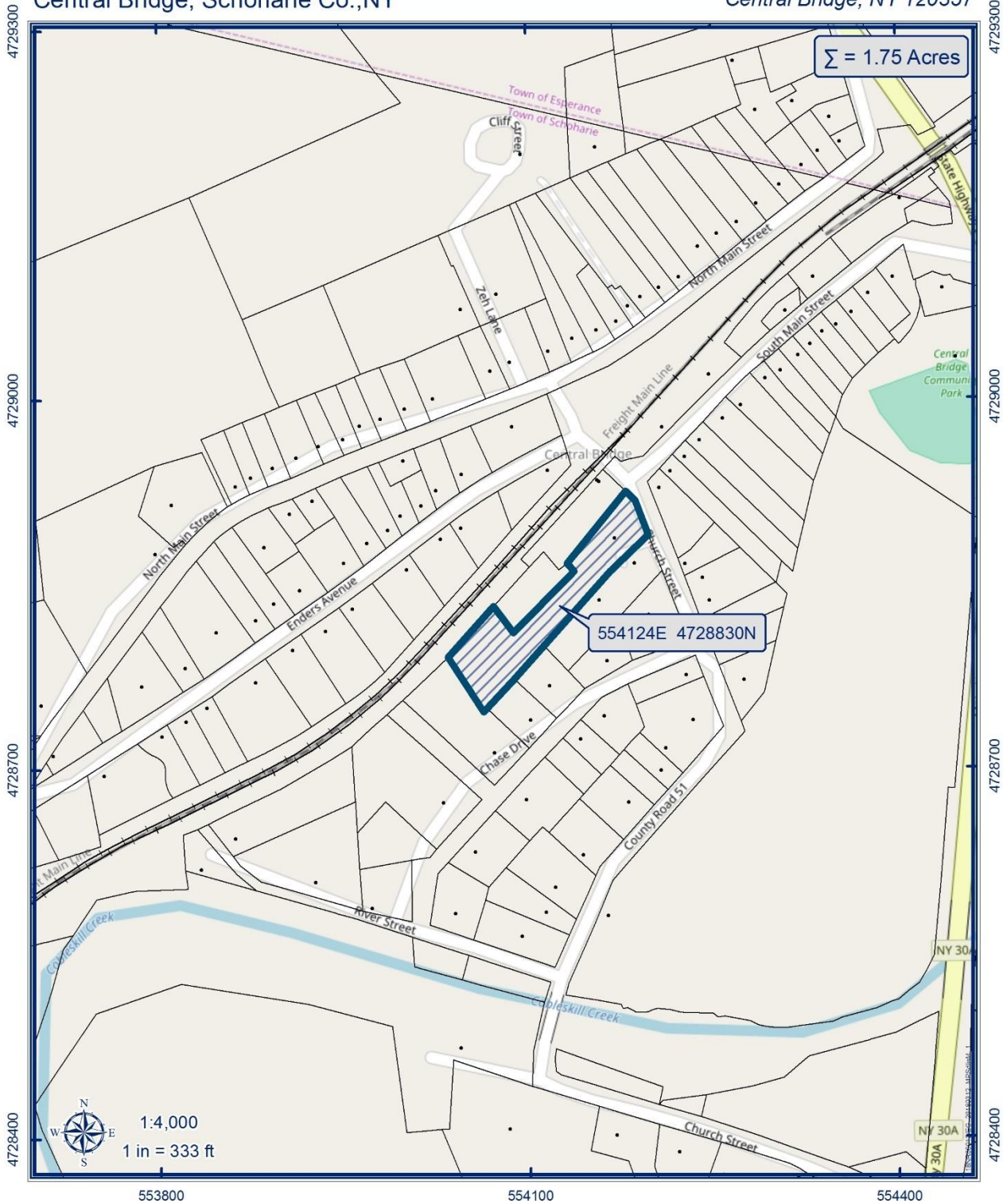
 NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Central Bridge, Schoharie Co., NY

207 Church Street
Central Bridge, NY 120357



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



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rosemary Christoff Dolan with edits by Emilie W. Gould (NY SHPO, NY Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation)

organization (Owner) date _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state NY zip code _____

e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Table of Figures

Figure 10: First floor plan (from architectural drawing).

Figure 11: Second floor plan (from architectural drawing).

Figure 12: Inset of Central Bridge from S. N. and D. G. Beers' New Topographical Atlas of Schoharie Co., New York, 1866.

Figure 13: Detail, 1904 Sanborn Map (Central+Bridge+ Apr.+1904,+Sheet+1).

Figure 14: D & H Railroad Station (no longer extant), Central Bridge, NY.

Figure 15: Daniel Webster Jenkins, circa 1890. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)

Figure 16: Photograph of Hattie L. Jenkins, circa 1920. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)

Figure 17: Postcard of Daniel Webster Jenkins House, circa 1900. (Courtesy of Robert Holt)

Figure 18: Photo Postcard, circa 1910. (Collection of Owner)

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
County and State

Photographs:

Name of Property: Daniel Webster Jenkins House

City or Vicinity: Central Bridge

County: Schoharie

State: NY

Photographer: Rosemary Christoff Dolan (RCD) and Emilie Gould (EG)

Date Photographed: 2017 and 2018

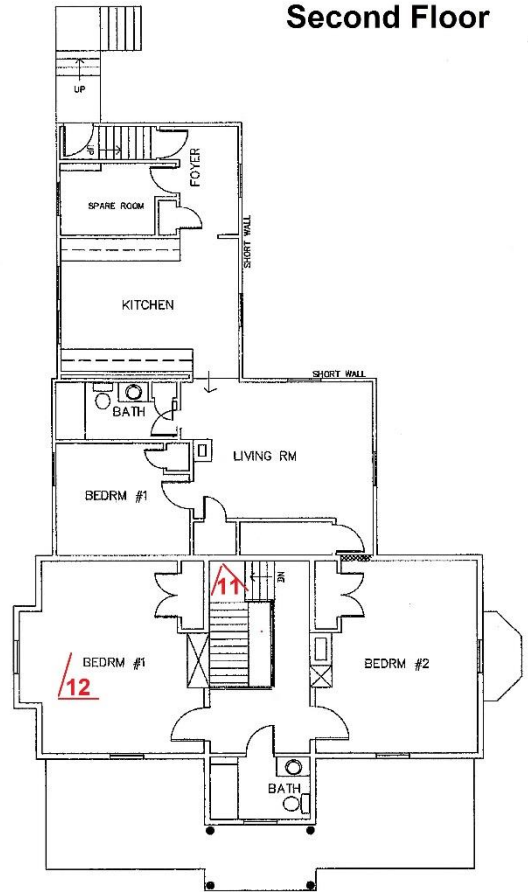
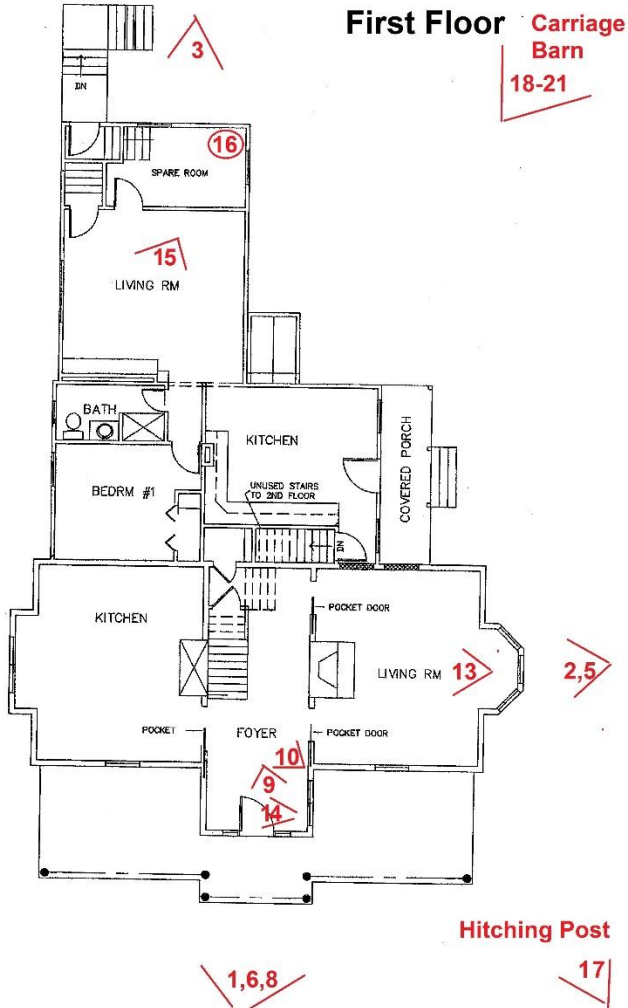
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 21. Façade (east), facing Church Street. (RCD)
- 2 of 21. North (side) elevation. (RCD)
- 3 of 21. West (rear) elevation. (EG)
- 4 of 21. South (side) elevation. (EG)
- 5 of 21. Detail of bay window decoration. (RCD)
- 6 of 21. Detail of front cross gable decoration. (EG)
- 7 of 21. Detail of south gable decoration. (EG)
- 8 of 21. Porch entry. (RCD)
- 9 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, entry door and side casement window. (RCD)
- 10 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, staircase. (EG)
- 11 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, second-floor stair hall. (EG)
- 12 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, second-floor bedroom, built-in closet. (EG)
- 13 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, parlor, looking through to entrance foyer. (RCD)
- 14 of 21. Interior, Apartment 1, detail of door hardware. (RCD)
- 15 of 21. Interior, Apartment 2, living room with cabinetry. (RCD)
- 16 of 21. Interior, Apartment 2, signature of De Witt Jenkins found under spare room cabinetry (now in storage) (RCD)
- 17 of 21. Limestone hitching post. (RCD)
- 18 of 21. Limestone mounting block. (RCD)
- 19 of 21. Carriage barn façade. (RCD)
- 20 of 21. Carriage barn, west and south elevations. (EG)
- 21 of 21. Detail, carriage barn ventilator. (RCD)

Daniel Webster Jenkins House
 Name of Property

Schoharie County, NY
 County and State

Photo Keys



Property Owner: _____

name N/A

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state NY 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.



207







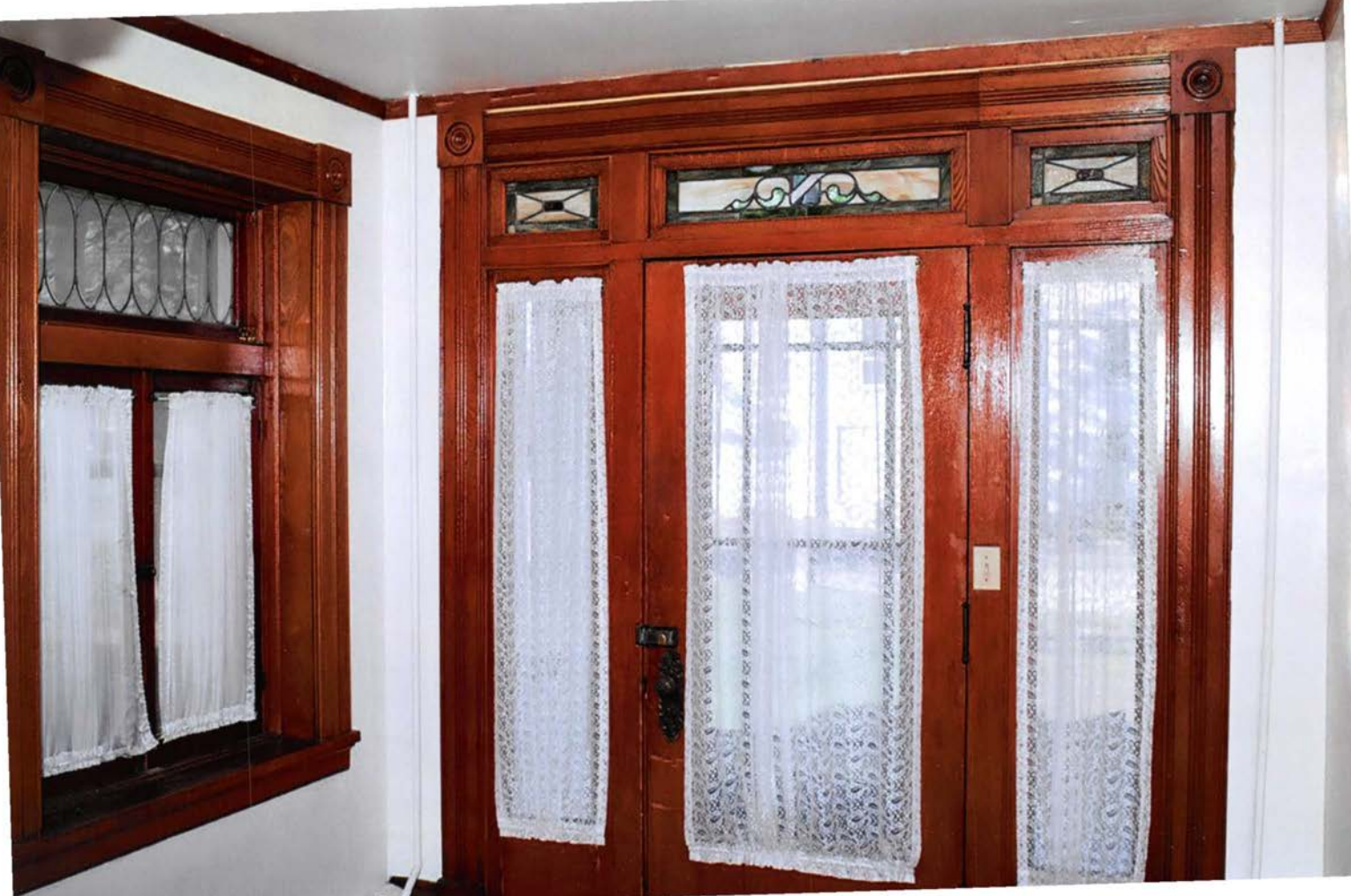








207















Did C. DeWitt

1897-1899

from my collection











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: 3/23/2018 Date of Pending List: 4/12/2018 Date of 16th Day: 4/27/2018 Date of 45th Day: 5/7/2018 Date of Weekly List: 5/4/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 5/4/2018 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



20 March 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:

The Wilbraham, New York County
Pilgrim Furniture Company, Ulster County
Wading River Radio Station, Suffolk County
Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Brentwood, Suffolk County
Hempstead Town Hall, Nassau County
Mitchel Air Base and Flight Line, Nassau County
Daniel Webster Jenkins House, Schoharie County
Gooley Club, Essex and Hamilton Counties

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