



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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Endicott Hose Company No. 1

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 113 North Page Avenue not for publication

city or town West Endicott vicinity

state New York code NY county Broome code 007 zip code 13760

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Rudolph Purpant DSHPO 7/3/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for
Edson H. Beall

8/27/13

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
Name of Property

Broome County, New York
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>GOVERNMENT/firehouse</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT/firehouse</u>
<u>SOCIAL/meeting hall</u>	<u>SOCIAL/meeting hall</u>
<u>RECREATION/ sports facility</u>	<u>RECREATION/ sports facility</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>No style</u>	foundation <u>concrete</u>
<u> </u>	walls <u>brick</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	roof <u>asphalt</u>
<u> </u>	other <u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
Name of Property

Broome County, New York
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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

social history

Period of Significance

c1926-1963

Significant Dates

1926-27

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

Booth and Detrick, builders

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1 is located in West Endicott, Town of Union, Broome County. The fire station, at 113 North Page Avenue, is situated on the southwest corner of the intersection of Page Avenue and Jennings Street and occupies a rhombus parcel 90 feet wide and 155 feet deep. The nominated parcel is the original property associated with the firehouse, which is the sole building on the site.

The fire station is located in a mixed-use neighborhood consisting of residences, businesses, industrial buildings and a recreational park dating from the early twentieth century. The fire station is forty-nine feet wide and ninety-nine feet long and fills most of the lot. It is surrounded by a parking lot and sidewalk on the front (east) and side (north) elevations. The rear (west) is surrounded by asphalt pavement and a chain link fence. The south side elevation is surrounded by lawn and a chain link fence.

Built c.1926-1927, the West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1 is a three-story, rectangular building constructed with a steel frame, concrete piers and floors, and red brick and cast-stone facing.¹ The building is five bays wide by twelve bays deep. The facade (east elevation) is clad with a darker red brick in a common bond with a raked joint. The first floor features a centrally located metal entrance door flanked by slightly projecting vertical brick spandrels that extend to the parapet roofline.

On either side of the entrance door are large thermal insulated overhead garage doors used for fire truck access. The original equipment doors were recessed wood double doors with an eight-pane sash in the upper half.² These were replaced with contemporary overhead doors in 1987. Flanking these doors are vertical brick spandrels that extend to the parapet roofline.

¹ Some of the descriptive information is based on the original survey-inventory form completed for this building by William Dinga in 1995. On file, NYSHPO, Waterford, NY. According to the January 27, 1926 issue of the *News-Dispatch*, ground was broken for the fire station in January 1926 and completion was expected in the summer of that year. The building appears on the Endicott, NY Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of October 1927.

² Endicott Johnson Corporation, *Endicott-Johnson Workers/Tanners and Shoemakers* (Johnson City, NY: Johnson City Publishing Co., 1936), 46.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

The second and third floors of the façade are marked by full-width open porches. The porches are reinforced poured concrete slabs with solid cast-stone railings. They are supported by four square brick piers with stone bases and caps. Piers are located at each end of the porches and flanking the center bay. The piers are constructed of the darker red brick and also feature a raked joint and feature two brick patterns. The corner bricks are stacked, while the inner bricks are recessed and feature alternating rows of heads and stretchers. The piers were repaired in 1987.

Windows on the second and third stories of the façade are recessed, one-over-one double-hung vinyl replacement sash windows, which were installed in 1986. The original windows were six-over-one wood-frame windows. Each floor also has a set of sliding glass doors, which provide access to the porches. These replace original double wood windows with multi-pane glass.³ Windows retain original cast stone sills and flat lintels of vertical brick. Located above the second floor windows are belt courses of cast-stone blocks and a cast-stone plaque with the name of the fire company and its date of organization. The roofline is a plain parapet gable with cut-stone coping and corbelling below the coping.

The north, south and west elevations feature a lighter red brick cladding in a common bond pattern and flush joints. Raised brick spandrels are located at regular intervals on these elevations. The rooflines on the north and south elevations are flat while the west (rear) elevation features a plain parapet gable. These rooflines are capped with cast-stone coping. Below the roofline is decorated with dark red brick corbelling. An exterior chimney runs from the ground level to several feet above the roofline. In 1987 the chimney was repaired. The roof itself is a built up type using fiberglass and was replaced in 1986.

The majority of the windows on each level of the north, south and west elevations are identical to those of the façade. The locations and types of windows serve the functional needs of the firehouse. On the third floor,

³ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

identical windows also feature a transom. On the second floor, a set of three windows nearest the façade are grouped. Small fixed sash windows are located on the first floor of the north and south elevations and on all floors of the west elevation. On the west elevation these windows are located in the middle section of the first and third section of the first and third floors and also on the first and third floors of the south end. There are three fixed sash windows in the stair tower. These mark the locations of bathrooms. Each window features an original cast-stone sill, flat lintel of darker red vertical brick with a raked joint; surrounding the sides of the windows is horizontal dark red brick with a raked joint. The basement windows have been infilled with concrete. Between each level of windows is a decorative pattern using the darker red brick and cast stone blocks.

The interior of the building is divided into four floors. The basement originally contained four bowling alleys, but they were removed in 1988. This open space now contains a company training center, fitness center and a caged storage room for fire apparatus. The floors and walls are concrete and there are support columns throughout this space. Interior walls are covered with miscellaneous finishes. In most areas, the ceiling is an exposed structural slab of reinforced concrete supported by steel beams. The stair treads and the doors and frames are wood.

The first floor houses fire apparatus and trucks on the east end and a dispatch room, restrooms and office spaces on the west end. Interior walls have various finishes (plaster, paneling, plywood, etc.) Support columns are located where the fire apparatus is maintained. The floor slab is reinforced concrete. The restrooms and dispatch room have tiled floors and the office floors are carpeted. The doors and frames are wood.

The second floor features a dining area for special occasion dinners and similar functions, a kitchen facility utilized for fund-raising events such as pancake breakfasts and chicken barbecues and restrooms. These spaces are located on the west section of this level. The dining area contains concrete support columns. A hallway

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

leads to the east end of the floor, where a recreation room, a barroom for members, a meeting room, and storage room are located. The meeting room and storage space are situated on the north side of the hallway. The recreation and barroom are on the opposite (south) side of the hallway. A small exhibit case featuring memorabilia of the fire company, photographs of the firemen and the original fire station, and a banner are located along the wall just outside of the barroom. The walls and ceilings are plaster; the floor is tongue and groove, and the doors and frame are wood. The kitchen space, recreation room and barroom replace two large offices spaces that were originally housed on this floor. This space was renovated in 1989.

The third floor houses the gymnasium, which is used regularly by residents and groups for exercise and sport functions. The walls on the north and south (perimeter) walls are painted brick and the interior walls are painted plaster. The ceiling is constructed of wood boards supported by steel purlins and trusses. The floor is tongue and groove, recently repaired and refinished after a leak damaged a portion of it. Exits are located at both the north and south ends. Adjacent to the exits are obsolete restrooms. The stair towers feature painted brick and plaster wall and wood doors and frames. The stairways are constructed of steel and have steel or wood stair treads.

The building retains a high degree of integrity. The only change to the exterior is the replacement of original windows with vinyl and the replacement of the doors to the equipment bays. On the interior, some functional spaces have been altered, but the building's two primary functions, fire house and community building, remain unchanged. In addition, the majority of its original finishes remain intact.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The West Endicott Hose Co. No.1 is significant under criterion A in the area of social history for its association with the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company and its program of welfare capitalism. The fire station, completed in 1926-27, was a gift to the residents of West Endicott by George F. Johnson, owner of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company, the region's largest employer. The fire station, one of Johnson's numerous philanthropic efforts on behalf of his workers, represents his generosity and concern for the well-being of his employees and his wide reaching influence over many aspects of their lives. Known as the "Square Deal," Johnson's management policy exemplified the popular early twentieth century theory known as welfare capitalism, which held that employers were responsible for the welfare of their employees. In the Binghamton/Endicott/Johnson City area, Endicott Johnson's intimate involvement in almost every aspect of its workers' daily lives transformed the company's operation and labor relations and had a tremendous impact on the economic and social life in the Susquehanna Valley. As one example of the company's philanthropy, the firehouse went beyond providing essential fire protection for the vast neighborhood of homes that Endicott Johnson constructed for its workers in West Endicott. In addition to space for fire trucks and living and kitchen spaces for firefighters, the building also included recreational facilities for neighborhood residents. These included a bowling alley, dance hall, and gymnasium. The mixed-use building serves as an appropriate example of the "welfare capitalism" idea. Johnson's gift provided local children with a place for sports, while also keeping them off the streets and encouraging physical fitness. The firehouse retains a high level of integrity and continues to serve both of these functions today.

Endicott Johnson

The Endicott Johnson Shoe Company, founded as Lester Brother's Boot and Shoe, originated in the late 1800s. This shoe manufacturer originally housed its operations in Binghamton. However, by 1888, continued growth

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

precipitated a search for larger facilities.¹ It was during this time that G. Harry Lester hired George F. Johnson as a foreman because of his experience in working at various Massachusetts shoe towns as a young man. Johnson had his own concept of how a company should operate and how the employees should work and live. Among other things, he believed that a factory should be located "in the open country, with the homes of the workers around it in a little village. Then the men and their families could have gardens, could get fresh air and the sun, and bring up their children decently, away from the crowded city."²

Johnson approached Lester with his work concept and convinced him to purchase vacant farmland in Johnson City, where the company could easily expand, be adjacent to two railroad lines, and provide workers with land to build their homes close to the factories. Johnson also had other motives for suggesting the relocation, believing the resulting isolation from other enterprises would ensure that the strikes and unionization then occurring in Binghamton would not happen in the new and remote location. Acting on Johnson's advice, between 1888 and 1889 Lester purchased several farms and in 1890 relocated the shoe company to this area, which was known as Lestershire until 1916, when it was renamed Johnson City.³ The first factory, which housed the company's entire operation, was constructed in 1890 and was known as the Pioneer Factory.

During the 1890s, after several real estate speculations by Lester proved unprofitable, he was forced to sell out. The company was reorganized under the auspices of Henry B. Endicott, one of the company's major creditors, and George F. Johnson assumed the role of general superintendent. In 1899 Johnson was offered the opportunity to become a full partner in the business.⁴ Subsequently the firm's name was changed to the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company. Soon after becoming a partner in the company Johnson began formulating a plan that would expand the company beyond Johnson City. The partners began searching for "a site well

¹ Ross McGuire and Nancy Grey Osterhud, *Working Lives: Broome County, New York 1800-1930* (Binghamton: Roberson Center, 1980), 63-64.

² William Inglis, *George F. Johnson and His Industrial Democracy* (New York: Huntington Press, 1935), 25.

³ G. Joseph Socki, Broome County Carousels Thematic Resources, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 3-6.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

adapted to the needs of a big boot and shoe factory and a town or city surrounding the same and of sufficient properties and attractive homes for the several thousand workmen who will be employed in the big shops.”⁵ They purchased 282 acres in the eastern section of the town of Union and named the area Endicott in honor of Henry B. Endicott. In 1901-02 the Fine Welt Factory (later known as the Ideal Factory) was constructed.⁶

In the summer of 1919 George F. Johnson and Henry B. Endicott purchased an additional 1,000 acres of land in Union for industrial development. Development plans called for construction of two new tanneries and two factories as part of Endicott Johnson’s manufacturing expansion, as well as homes for workers, “to be sold on easy terms and at cost prices.”⁷ This development, named West Endicott, was George F. Johnson’s opportunity to realize “his dream of factories surrounded by pleasant homes of workers.”⁸

Surveyors and engineers commenced work in the latter half of 1919, plotting areas for the factories and worker’s homes. Sewer and water mains and utility poles had to be installed because the area had been uninhabited farmland.⁹ In fall 1919 George F. Johnson decided to focus on home building instead of constructing tanneries and factories as initially planned. In a letter to the workers, Johnson explained that “until the workers have comfortable homes that they can afford to live in, and have had a ‘square deal’ with respect to homes, we shall not encourage the building of further factories and tanneries.”¹⁰

Entire neighborhoods were constructed, including two-story homes, one-story and one and one-half story bungalows, and one and one-half story cottages. The company continued the standards of residential

⁴ Ibid.,10.

⁵ *Binghamton Evening Herald*, 15 February 1901.

⁶ Ibid; *The Record*, 19 February 1919.

⁷ *The Record*, 19 July 1919; *E-J Workers’ Review*, 20 July 1919.

⁸ Inglis, 90.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ *E-J Workers’ Review*, July 1919, 4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

development utilized in previous developments. Homes were situated on lots 50' wide and 150' deep, allowing ample space for a garage and a lawn. The neighborhoods included concrete sidewalks, street lights, shrubbery, and trees along the curbs and on lawns. The streets, according to the wish of George F. Johnson, would be named after the oldest employees of the company. Between 1919 and 1927, 643 homes were erected. The company also set aside land and provided funds for the erection of churches, parks and playgrounds, a school and a fire station. The construction of the En-Joie golf course was also included in George F. Johnson's planned community development.¹¹

In June 1922 construction of the new West Endicott factory was announced. The Fair Play Factory and the Fair Play Annex were completed in 1923 and located along the southern boundary of West Endicott. Women's and Misses Fine Welts were manufactured at the annex factory. In 1926 the George F. Improved Factory was erected.¹² During this period the company's operations had expanded to include production of the raw material, all processes of tanning, and production of all the parts necessary to manufacture a shoe. New factories specializing in a particular process of shoemaking or production of a particular material or part of the shoe were built. By 1922 Endicott Johnson was the largest manufacturer of this type in the world.¹³ Between 1901 and the 1930's the company expanded from producing boots for farmers and laborers to manufacturing many different types of footwear, including work shoes, fine stylish shoes for women, dress shoes for men, shoes for sports, and children's shoes. The company also expanded beyond shoes and manufactured such things as golf balls, play balls, and the boxes in which the shoes were packed; these were all produced from the excess materials. Between 1890 and 1945, when the last factory building was built, the company constructed over seventy industrial structures in Johnson City, Endicott, and West Endicott. Today only seven EJ buildings remain in

¹¹ G. Joseph Socki, "The Endicott Johnson Home Building Program: Welfare Capitalism and the Meaning of Domestic Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century Industrial Suburb" (Ph.D dissertation, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1995), 276-77; *The Record*, 4 September 1920; Inglis, 90-99.

¹² *E-J Workers' Review*, April 1923; Zahavi 223-24; Inglis, 120.

¹³ Socki, Broom County Carousels, 11.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Johnson City (Johnson City Historic District, NR listed) and one in West Endicott. No factory buildings remain in Endicott, as they were removed to allow IBM, one of the region's other significant employers, to expand its complex during the late 1970s.¹⁴

West Endicott was shaped by the steady growth of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company. As new factories were constructed, additional workers were hired.¹⁵ At the end of the nineteenth century, most of Endicott Johnson's employees came from rural areas in New York and from Pennsylvania and the New England area. Many left jobs in the mines because of the frequent shutdowns and lack of work or saw the opportunity to exchange the rigorous life on a farm for a shorter work day and better pay. Originally only a small portion of the workers were immigrants, mostly from Ireland and Germany. However, by the early 1900s many immigrants from Eastern European countries settled in Johnson City and Endicott specifically for its employment opportunities; they knew jobs were readily available and the company treated its employees fairly. Many immigrants came from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Russia, Italy, and the Ukraine. Slovak immigrants represented the largest of the ethnic groups to work at Endicott Johnson. Many immigrants wrote home to family and friends encouraging them to come to America to work for Endicott Johnson because of the security of steady work and good wages. By the 1930s these immigrants and the second generations of these ethnic groups made up approximately one-half of the workforce. The other 50 percent of the workers represented the native born individuals who continued to come to the area from the mining regions in Pennsylvania and rural farming towns in New York.¹⁶

Endicott Johnson employed many women in addition to a male workforce. Both native born and immigrant women worked for the company because of the rising need for their skill in the stitching room. They also worked in areas such as the cutting rooms, as packers, inspectors, trimmers, and repairers. Children of the

¹⁴ Gerald Smith, "Endicott-Johnson Corporation: 1890-1968," 12.

¹⁵ Gerald Zahavi, *Workers, Managers, and Welfare Capitalism: The Shoeworkers and Tanners of Endicott-Johnson, 1890-1930* (Chicago: University of Illinois, 1988), 219; McGuire and Osterhud, 64.

¹⁶ McGuire and Osterhud, 64; Zahavi 63-68.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Endicott Johnson employees often went to work for the company too, as it was easy to secure a job, thus resulting in several generations of families working for the company.¹⁷

During the early 1900s Johnson developed an aggressive program of corporate sponsored philanthropy directed at his employees. George F. Johnson's life as a child was not one of wealth. Money was not readily available for extravagant pleasures and, even as a young boy, Johnson had to work to support his family. The circumstances of his life, along with the rise of Progressive Movement ideals, helped shape Johnson's philosophical beliefs about capitalism and corporate management.

Johnson's management program, known as the "Square Deal," was intended to break down the barriers between management and the labor force. Having worked his way up from the bottom to the ranks of the shoe industry, Johnson understood the workers' situation; therefore, he was always considered "one of the boys." Both through his fair employment practices and his philanthropy, he attempted to ensure the personal welfare of each worker and his/her family. He paid decent wages, reduced working hours and improved working conditions. His programs included medical and health benefits, housing, restaurants, and a year-round market. Johnson often provided funds and/or land for construction of educational, recreational, religious and social facilities. He conscientiously located factories, residences and recreational facilities in proximity to each other so that his employees and their families would have convenient access to all the important activities of everyday life. Johnson's paternalism and generosity made him popular with the workers and succeeded in securing their loyalty and increasing productivity. At the same time, his significant role in planning, financing and operating so many of the community's vital institutions gave the company a large amount of control over many aspects of the workers' lives.

In West Endicott, George F. Johnson's philosophies and wide ranging programs were "practiced in every

¹⁷ Zahavi, 70-71; 42.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

avenue of activity.”¹⁸ A resident could be born in an Endicott Johnson medical facility, attend schools, libraries, churches, and recreational facilities supported in part or fully by the Endicott Johnson Company, purchase food at an Endicott Johnson sponsored public market, be employed by the Endicott Johnson Company, and live in a Endicott Johnson built home. These facilities were accessible to everyone and services were offered to all of the residents in the area, not just EJ workers.

The Endicott Johnson Company began its company-sponsored recreational programming as early as 1911. Johnson believed children who were left unsupervised and without an outlet for their energy would be led into an unhealthy or criminal life. Also Johnson, who never had the opportunity to enjoy the recreational pleasures of youth, saw to it that the children of Broome County would never be denied these privileges. In addition to accommodating children, Johnson realized that the reduced workday created more leisure time for their parents, which in turn could lead to drinking, fighting and general troublemaking by the workers. To prevent this, Johnson provided family oriented recreational facilities and entertainment for workers and their children.

Throughout Broome County Johnson built parks with carousel rides, swimming pools, and playgrounds. In addition to building parks, the Endicott Johnson Company also sponsored picnics, clambakes, and built recreational facilities for sport-oriented entertainment, such as basketball, boxing, bowling and golfing. The company provided facilities that featured music, dancing and band concerts and theaters for vaudeville shows and movies. The company even owned a minor league baseball team, known as the Bingos, complete with a field for the team to play on.

The West Endicott Hose Co. No.1 is representative of the numerous recreation and public buildings donated to the people of Broome County by George F. Johnson. With the development of the new community it was important to establish fire protection, and on March 2, 1921 a volunteer fire company was organized. It was

¹⁸ *The Record*, 4 September 1920.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

originally known as the H. Wendell Hose Company, Inc., named for H. Wendell Endicott, son of Henry Endicott, partner in the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company. The fire company was incorporated February 13, 1923. On October 24, 1932 the company's name was changed to its current name.¹⁹

The fire station, located on Clark Street (now Wendell Street), was a gift of George F. Johnson. In the July 9, 1921 issue of the *Binghamton Press* Johnson stated, "I have agreed to give West Endicott residents a fire station which as I recall, in size is about 60 x 120, 2 floors, upper floor for recreation, public meetings, etc., lower floor for apparatus. I have agreed to give combination apparatus such as they select. I have assured them that the company and myself personally, desire to do all we can to make their community prosperous and happy. We shall help them in ways which may suggest themselves as beneficial to the community. We intend, indeed, to stand squarely with them in their efforts to improve that section."²⁰ The building and apparatus was estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The opening of the new fire station was held September 18, 1921 and attended by residents of this new residential community. The open house was marked with entertainment by the Endicott Johnson Workers Band Chorus.²¹

As the West Endicott community grew, Johnson realized that the residents needed a larger fire station. The January 27, 1926 issue of the *News-Dispatch* reported that ground had been broken for a new fire station and community center to be erected at 113 North Page Avenue and that construction was being supervised by George H. Booth. The building, again funded by George F. Johnson, cost \$100,000 to construct. The terms of his gift stated the building be used for community purposes; however, in the event that it ceased to be used for this purpose it would revert to Johnson or his estate.²²

¹⁹ *News-Dispatch*, 22 September 1921; West Endicott Fire Stations Archives; *Salute to Volunteers*, 25 February 1987.

²⁰ *Binghamton Press*, 9 July 1921.

²¹ *News-Dispatch*, 22 September 1921.

²² *Endicott Bulletin*, 11 November 1930.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Plans for the building featured a bowling alley, kitchen, and dining area in the basement. Fire apparatus and meeting spaces would be on the first floor. The second floor housed a pool and billiard room and sleeping quarters for the firemen. A dance hall, also used for social functions, was located on the third floor.²³ An undated letter by George F. Johnson approved plans for a gymnasium on the third floor and its expense. Johnson went on to say that if sufficient numbers of residents used the gymnasium, he recommended confining it to their use; if not, he wanted it open to a “larger circle.” He also congratulated the children of West Endicott “because they are going to have a gymnasium where they can develop their physical well being.”²⁴

Among the community activities held at the firehouse or sponsored by the firefighters were basketball teams, bowling teams and a firemen’s dance. In 1925, the West End Fire Department also sponsored a community spirit dinner with George F. Johnson as the featured speaker. The dinner was actually held at St. Paul’s Methodist Episcopal Church, possibly due to the large number of attendees, who numbered 250. As this event was held before the nominated building was constructed, the earlier firehouse would have been far too small.

The four bowling alleys have been removed and this space now contains a company training center, fitness center for the firefighters and storage. The first floor remains in use for fire apparatus and equipment and contains a dispatch room and office spaces. The second floor features a dining area for special occasion dinners and similar functions, kitchen facilities used for preparation of fund-raising event such as pancake breakfasts and chicken barbecues, a recreation room, a barroom for members, a meeting room and a storage room. A small exhibit case featuring memorabilia of the fire company, photographs of the firemen and the original fire station, and a banner are located along the wall just outside of the barroom. The gymnasium remains and is used regularly by residents and groups for exercise and sport functions.

²³ *New Dispatch*, 27 January 1926.

²⁴ George F. Johnson, undated letter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

While the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company no longer exists, the fire station continues to reflect the impact that George F. Johnson and his company had upon workers' daily lives and the area's economic and social growth. The building retains substantial integrity of design and function and continues to serve the original program for which it was intended. This building is the only one of its type in West Endicott. The villages of Endicott and Johnson City at one time supported separate Endicott Johnson Company fire stations established specifically for the factories in those locations.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the history parcel boundary, which is coincident with the current parcel boundary.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

West Endicott Hose Co. No. 1
West Endicott, Broome County, New York

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 1

Photographer: Yvonne Deligato
1304 Starr Road
Cortland NY 13045

Date: 2013

Tiff Files: CD-R of .tiff files on file at
National Park Service
Washington DC

and

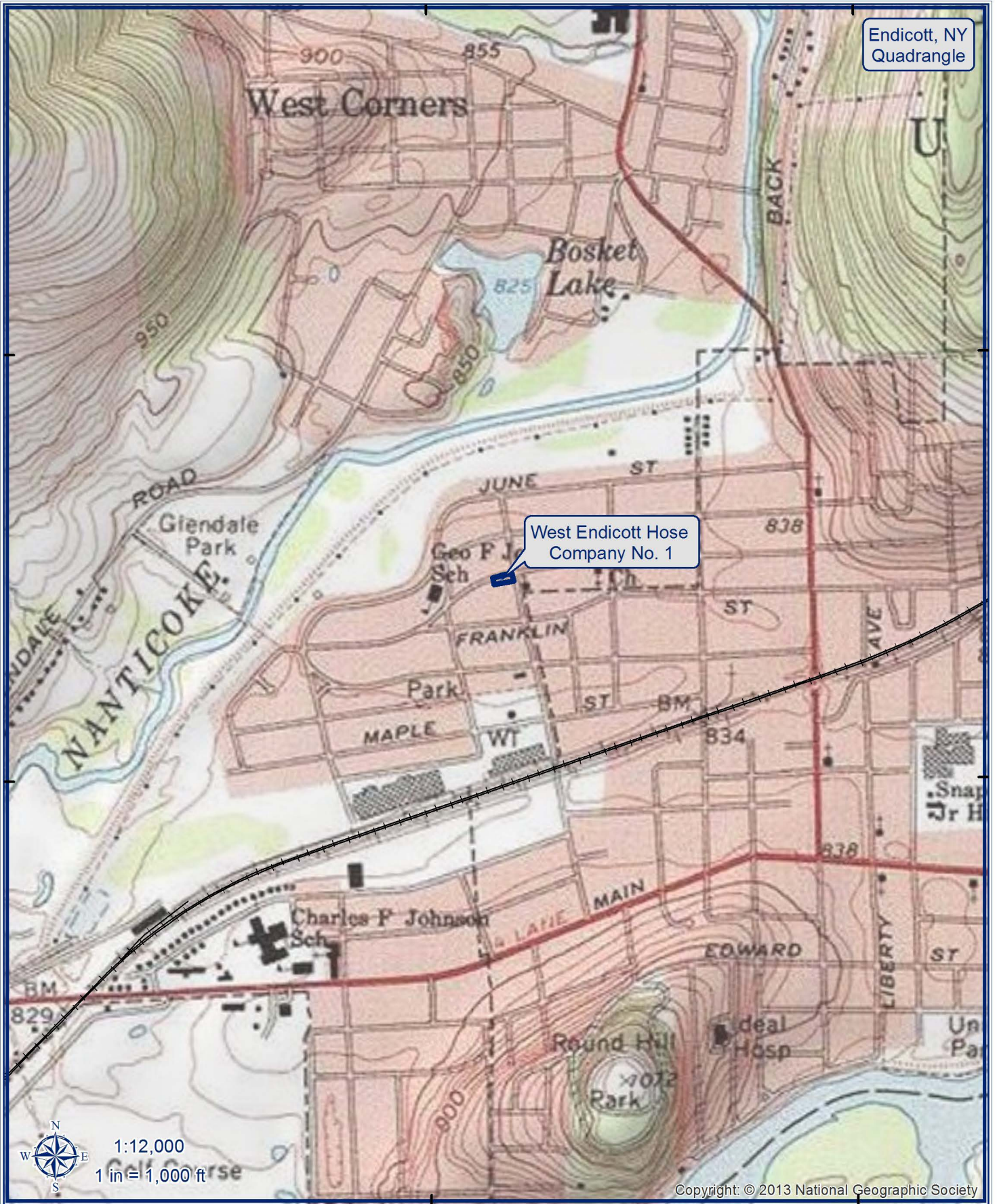
New York SHPO
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Photo list:

1. façade, looking west
2. north (side) and west (rear) elevations
3. interior, first floor, fire equipment space
4. interior, third floor, gymnasium

See continuation sheet

Endicott, NY
Quadrangle



4662072 67

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4661072 67

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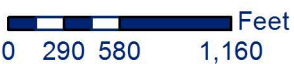
1:12,000
1 in = 1,000 ft

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410988 45

411988 45

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

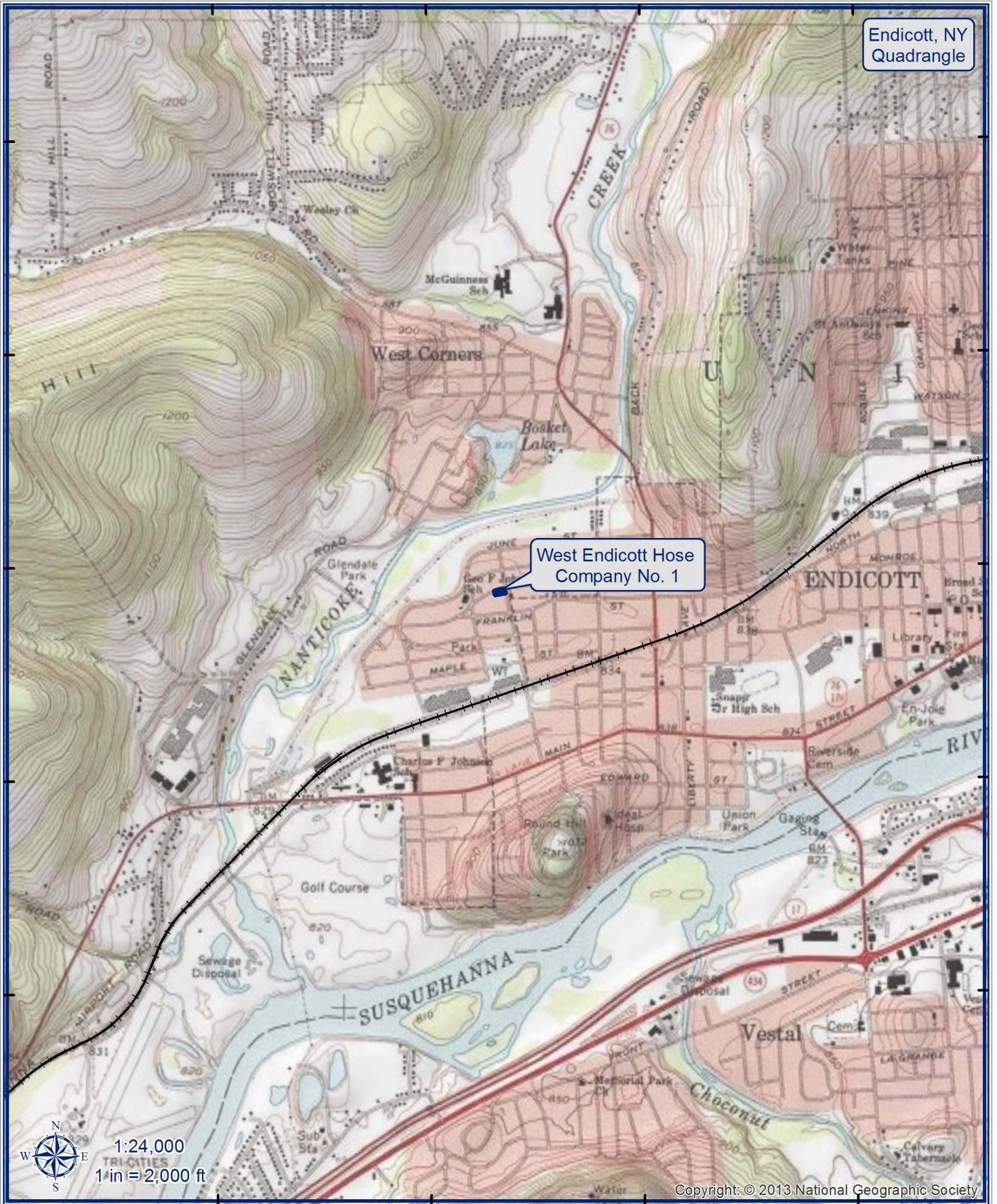


 Hose Company No. 1

Tax Parcel Data:
Broome County RPS
broomegis.co.broome.ny.us



Endicott, NY
Quadrangle



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409830⁸ 410830⁸ 411830⁸ 412830⁸

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



 Hose Company No. 1

Tax Parcel Data:
Broome County RPS
broomegis.co.broome.ny.us







WEST ENDICOTT
Hose Company No. 1

ENGINE 34-1



ENGINE 34-5

NO PARKING
FIREHOUSE
PERSONNEL
ONLY

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



Del Longo
France Co.
725-5235

NO PARKING
EMERGENCY
PERSONNEL ONLY



WEST ENDICOTT

E DEPT

W.E.F.D.
4343

EMERGENCY
DIAL





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Endicott Hose Company No. 1

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Broome

DATE RECEIVED: 7/12/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/12/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/28/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000625

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.27.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

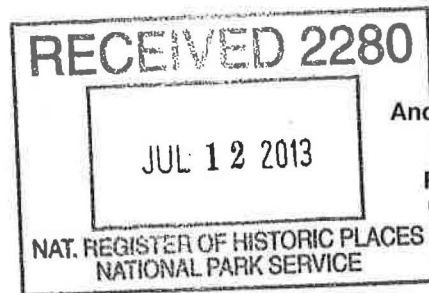
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

5 July 2013

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose three National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register. All nominations are submitted on discs:

Packer Farm and Barkersville Store, Saratoga County
Lake View Grange No. 970, Essex County
West Endicott Hose Company No. 1, Broome County

Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office