

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Glens Falls ^{M.P.H.} ~~Multiple Resource Area~~; Buildings of Henry Forbes Bigelow, Architect.

and/or common

2. Location

3 T / D o E

street & number See Individual Inventory Forms _____ not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theme	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Individual Inventory Forms

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See Cover Form

street & number

city, town _____ state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Cover Form has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The buildings of Henry Forbes Bigelow, Architect, Thematic Resources include four individual properties in Glens Falls designed by this prominent Boston architect between 1904 and 1910. The Hoopes House (153 Warren Street), the Hyde House (161 Warren Street), the Cunningham House (169 Warren Street), and the Finch, Pruyn and Company Office Building (1 Glen Street) are the only buildings in Glens Falls designed by Bigelow, and all are historically associated with Finch, Pruyn and the families which controlled the firm.

The properties included in this thematic nomination were identified and evaluated as part of a comprehensive survey/inventory of historic resources in Glens Falls conducted in 1980-1981 by Richard C. Youngken of the city's Office of Community Development.

The four structures included in the thematic group are nominated individually primarily for their architectural merit: each represents the work of a master architect, and each retains its intrinsic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Hyde and Hoopes Houses are substantial two-story stuccoed structures specifically built as residences. The Cunningham House, originally a smaller-scale stuccoed building constructed as a pottery studio, was subsequently enlarged to accommodate a residence. Although these three buildings are located in close proximity to one another, the estate setting which once linked the three residences was not designed by Henry Bigelow and has been partially altered from its historic appearance. The Finch, Pruyn and Company Office Building, located several blocks away from the residences, is an imposing, two-story stone structure of Georgian Revival design which is not surrounded by a significant historic setting.

The three residences were originally planned and built as individual components of a shared family estate compound. Situated on twelve acres along the south side of Warren Street (a fashionable Glens Falls residential avenue at the turn of the century), the Hoopes (1904), Hyde (1910-1911) and Cunningham (1910-1911) Houses were built for three Pruyn daughters. All exhibit uniform setbacks on deep, landscaped lots. The series of terraced gardens which originally descended behind the houses to the Hudson River has been partially compromised and obliterated by industrial encroachment during the last twenty years. The formal Warren Street approach, however, remains substantially intact and includes a decorative iron fence, semi-circular entrance drives, broad lawns and shrubbery.

The Hyde House, the large central structure of the group, exhibits Italian Renaissance Revival design characteristics, including a restrained stuccoed exterior enclosing a large interior atrium courtyard flanked by numerous galleries and loggias. Designed for Charlotte Pruyn Hyde for display of a private collection of art works, the Hyde House was the most ambitious of Bigelow's Glens Falls commissions. The Hoopes House and the Cunningham House flank the Hyde House to the west and east, respectively. Both are two-story, hipped roof, stuccoed residences

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1904-1910 **Builder/Architect** Henry Forbes Bigelow

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The buildings of Henry Forbes Bigelow are significant for their architectural merit and for their historical association with the locally prominent Pruyn family. Built between 1904 and 1910, the Hoopes, Hyde and Cunningham residences and the Finch, Pruyn and Company Office Building are the only four Glens Falls commissions of noted Boston architect Henry Forbes Bigelow. These Glens Falls structures constitute a rare and significant group of Bigelow's designs outside the Boston area and represent the architect's versatility in residential and commercial design. Unusual structures for their period in the city of Glens Falls, the Bigelow buildings reflect the urbane tastes brought to this generally conservative industrial community by the prestigious Pruyn family. The office building and the three residences are prominent architectural landmarks of downtown Glens Falls and are unique structures within the multiple resource area.

Henry Forbes Bigelow (1867-1929), a leading Boston architect of the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries was brought to Glens Falls by Maurice Hoopes in 1904 to design his residence on a bluff overlooking the celebrated falls of the Hudson River. Hoopes, an engineer and executive of Finch, Pruyn and Company (and husband of Mary Pruyn) also chose the site to overlook the firm's extensive industrial complex near the falls. In 1910-1911 Bigelow returned to Glens Falls to design three additional structures: the Hyde House and the Cunningham House on Warren Street, and the imposing stone Finch, Pruyn office building on Glen Street.

Of the four structures Bigelow designed in Glens Falls, the most significant is the Hyde House. Designed by the architect to incorporate architectural elements previously collected in Europe by Louis Fiske and Charlotte Pruyn Hyde, as well as to provide a suitable gallery space for the developing Hyde art collection, the Italian (Florentine) Renaissance character of the building, with forbidding street front and large well-lighted interior atrium court, lends itself admirably to its purpose. Special features including loggias, interior and exterior galleries, and skylights add to an unusual integration of light, space, and privacy conducive to the display and appreciation of great works art. This structure was undoubtedly inspired by Isabella Stewart Gardner's Fenway Court, Boston. Completed in 1903, Fenway Court was the premier example of a private art gallery/residence at the turn of the century. Both the Hydés and Bigelow were closely associated with the Boston art world during this period; hence, the contemporary Gardner influence appears to have manifested itself in the design for the Hyde House at Glens Falls. Henry Forbes Bigelow was so taken with the idea that he designed his own home in Boston (on Chestnut Street) in a strikingly

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry Forbes Bigelow Theme
Glens Falls, Warren Co. Item number 7

Continuation sheet

For NPS use only

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date entered

Page 2

which exhibit Dutch Colonial Revival stylistic elements such as paneled shutters and doors, decorative wrought iron hardware, tall massive brick chimneys, dormers and casement windows. Bigelow designed the Hoopes House for Maurice and Mary Pruyn Hoopes in 1904. The Cunningham House Bigelow originally designed as a ceramics studio for Nell Pruyn. The studio of 1910 was altered to a residence in 1918 with the addition of a two-story east wing designed by noted architect Charles Adams Platt. The alteration corresponds to the date of Nell Pruyn's marriage to Dr. Thomas Cunningham.

The fourth of Henry Forbes Bigelow's Glens Falls commissions is the Finch, Pruyn and Company Office Building. Located on Glen Street approximately .4 mile from the three residences, the office building is a rectangular, two-story, Georgian Revival style structure built of roughly coursed limestone quarried near the site. The highly embellished structure exhibits flat-arched window openings with marble keystones, a pedimented entrance, denticulated cornice, stepped gables with finial urns, classical corner pilasters and a decorative iron weather vane. The building continues in its original function, its exterior remaining substantially intact.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry Forbes Bigelow Theme

Continuation sheet Glens Falls, Warren Co. Item number

8

Page 2

For NPS use only

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similar manner, it providing, in turn, an appropriate space for the appreciation of works of fine and decorative art Bigelow himself had collected.

Bigelow designed the Cunningham House as a pottery studio for Nell Pruyn. Originally a special purpose structure with a central atrium and fountain, the studio became a residence with the addition of a service wing designed by architect Charles Adams Platt in 1918. With the collaboration of Boston landscape architects Brett and Hall, these three residences of lumber baron Samuel Pruyn's daughters were integrated by Bigelow into a large communal estate of some twelve acres, with common garages and support facilities designed by Bigelow accessible from Oak Street (these dependencies are no longer extant).

The office building, Hoopes House and Cunningham House were designed in Bigelow's neo-Georgian, Colonial Revival style with significant Dutch stylistic details appropriate to the Hudson River setting of the building sites. The residential interiors show the influence of Arts and Crafts design and the "good taste" promoted by such contemporaries as Edith Wharton, Ogden Codman, Jr. and Elsie deWolf, the latter having actually designed interiors for the Cunningham House. The original Hyde House interiors containing treillage, chintze, wall sconces, and painted eighteenth and nineteenth century French furniture are also attributed to deWolf's influence.

Henry Forbes Bigelow (1867-1929) was educated in architecture at MIT in the early years of its architecture school. Returning in 1888 from a year of post-graduate study and travel in Europe, Bigelow joined the Boston architectural firm of Winslow and Wetherill. By 1898, Bigelow was a partner in the firm, which became Bigelow and Wadsworth. Bigelow's notable commissions included numerous Boston commercial and office buildings, as well as large fashionable residences in Boston suburbs. Bigelow's Colonial Revival, neo-Federal, neo-Georgian designs were frequently published between 1890 and 1929 in such popular architectural journals as American Architect and Building News and Architectural Record.

Because his works are concentrated almost exclusively in the Boston area, the four buildings that Bigelow designed in Glens Falls are an important collection of his designs in the setting of the upper Hudson Valley. The Dutch Colonial Revival stylistic elements in the Pruyn buildings may have been a conscious attempt by the architect to fit his designs to the traditions of their local context. In an era when most large Glens Falls buildings were designed by local and regional architects, the buildings of Henry Forbes Bigelow constitute a significant aberration in the local building tradition.