

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 *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 from 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 ORATOR F. WOODWARD COTTAGE

other names/site number "The Jell-O House"

2. Location

street & number 3931 Thompson Avenue [] not for publication

city or town Silver Lake [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Wyoming code 121 zip code 14549

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 as 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 [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth A. Perpoint DSHD 6/29/16

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 the 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

Edson H. Beall

date of action

8-22-16

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Wyoming County, New York

Name of Property

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)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

foundation concrete
walls wood
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property 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 that 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 boxes that apply.)

- 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 Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: _____

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance:

ca. 1894 - 1966

Significant Dates:

1894, 1915, 1966

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.156 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 744112 4731656
Zone Easting Northing

3 17
Zone Easting Northing

2 17

4 17

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erin Anheier [Edited by Jennifer Walkowski, NYSHPO]

organization _____ date April 26, 2016

street & number 4690 Bennetts Corners Rd. telephone 810-965-7248

city or town Holley state NY zip code 14470

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name Douglas & Nancy Wilson

street & number 3931 Thompson Ave. telephone 585-493-7066

city or town Castile state NY zip code 14549

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

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Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

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Narrative Description of Property

Constructed in 1894, the Orator F. Woodward Cottage is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, wood-frame Queen Anne style summer cottage with a two-story open wrap-around porch, prominent front gable, and a tall pyramidal tower at the southwest corner. Originally built for an entrepreneur, later widely known for his successful marketing of the gelatin product Jell-O, the nominated property is a late nineteenth century seasonal dwelling situated in a summer community which was organized and run by Methodists as a spiritual and educational retreat. The cottage is a good example of a late nineteenth century Queen Anne style summer cottage reflecting the adaptation of the style to a more rustic, rural environment through its simplified ornament, its large, spacious exterior porches to allow ample access to the outdoors, as well as the widespread use of wood tongue-and-groove paneling throughout the interior. While the house was converted for year-round occupancy and includes a one-story addition at the rear, it retains a high level of integrity, conveying its historic character.

The Silver Lake Institute Historic District was listed on the National Register in 1982. While this building was noted in the historical discussion as being within the Institute, it is outside the boundary of the listed district. Expansion of this district was initially considered in the 1980s; however, because of a loss of architectural integrity between this cottage and the district, that did not appear to be a viable option. After a current review with an eye to a potential expansion to the district, integrity remained a concern. So, while this building shares some context and history with the larger Silver Lake Institute Historic District, its individual history, architectural distinction, and significance merit individual nomination.

Setting

The Orator F. Woodward Cottage is located at 3931 Thompson Avenue on lots 220 and 221 of the Silver Lake Institute in Silver Lake, New York. Silver Lake Institute is located in eastern Wyoming County in the Town of Castile and began life as a Methodist summer camp in 1873. It contains over one hundred small cottages built in the late nineteenth century, generally sited on single lots. The cottage is located on what is the eastern extreme of the institute; there are undeveloped wooded lots across the street and behind the cottage. There are historic cottages to the north and south.

The Woodward Cottage is sited on the eastern side of Thompson Avenue, opposite the terminus of Hamline Avenue, on a double lot, which is uncommon at the Silver Lake Institute, with its primary elevation facing west. The cottage is set 27-feet back from the street and approximately 1,050 feet from the eastern shore of Silver Lake. The lot slopes gently down towards the west. Landscaping details include a sidewalk centered on the stairway with an additional sidewalk extending perpendicular to the north and wrapping around the side of the cottage. Well-trimmed yews obscure most of the front foundation. Broad leaf deciduous vines, similar to Dutchman's Pipe, grow up the columns and trellises of the porch and along the front and south elevations.

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Orator F. Woodward Cottage

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Exterior

The house is a two and one-half story wood frame Queen Anne cottage with a west-facing front gable. While not as elaborate as a traditional Queen Anne style building, it is rendered in a more rustic manner, in keeping with the design trends common in Silver Lake Institute. The cottage has an overall square form but is given an asymmetrical massing by the presence of a pyramidal tower roof located at the southwest corner of the house above the corner of the porch. A non-historic one-story addition, not visible from the street, extends from the rear of the cottage. There are two-story open porches wrapping around the west and south elevations, with the pyramidal tower on the southwest corner above the porches. The building is supported on piers with lattice between the piers. Windows generally consist of one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. There are two bay windows, a triangular one on the front (west) façade and a near semi-circular one on the south side. The first two floors are clad in clapboard, which has a rather elaborate profile, with a curved top and a triple bead midway on the flat surface. It is painted yellow with white trim. The house has a contemporary asphalt shingle roof.

The primary elevation of the Woodward cottage has a complex massing and form. The main body of the house is three-bays, with a central entrance flanked by a triangular bay window at the north and a single one-over-one double-hung wood window with a top sash of multi-colored panes to its south. The main entrance is centered beneath the gable on the first-story porch and accessed by a flight of six wooden steps. It features a screen door with “gingerbread” trim and a historic wooden door with a textured glass pane in the top portion. The second story contains a smaller, central door to access the upper level of the porch, which is flanked by paired one-over-one double-hung windows. The prominent two-story wrap-around porch visually appears shifted to the south of the building, creating a cantilevered corner to the prominent overhanging front gable, which is supported by a large latticework one-story bracket, ornamented with a pendant. This two-story asymmetrical open porch has grouped columns set on shingled piers with decorative circular appliques on the bracketed panel above each column. There are simple railings with square balusters between the column piers. The footprint of the first story porch is chamfered on the north and south corners. This chamfering creates space for ornamental ball-shaped wooden pendants to hang beneath the floor of the second floor porch. The broad, shallow gable has exposed rafter tails of a decorative profile. To the south of the main gable there is a pyramidal roof which exceeds the height of the main gable. The wall beneath the main gable has a small triangular, slat-covered vent and two small round topped windows. This shingled surface curves gently outward to the edge, which forms a line even with the bottom of the gable.

The cottage’s south elevation is dominated by the two-story porch, which wraps around to approximately half of the south side of the original cottage. Lattice work is visible beneath the first floor of the porch. This side of the porch has trellises. There is a four-sided bay window on the first floor porch. The second floor porch has a door and a wide window topped with a section of clear diagonal glass panes. To the east, beyond the porches,

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there are two single windows on each floor. A one-room addition built in 1996 extends from the back of the historic cottage. There is one small window on the south side of the addition. There is a small gable extending from the roof east of the tower with a semicircular window.

The north side of the building sits close to an adjacent cottage. There are double windows on the east end of the first and second floors and a single window on the second floor to the west. A one-story shed roof addition has two horizontal windows.

The back of the cottage (east side) has a non-historic 1996 addition which features extensive windows looking out into the woods. The historic shed-roofed one-story addition with a door can be seen extending to the north side. Above the contemporary addition, a three-part window has been centered beneath the main gable. A small square window is placed close to the roofline of the addition's northern roofline. A single historic window is above the shed-like roofline. There is a small vent in the peak of the gable matching the one on the façade.

Interior

The Woodward cottage has a center hall plan, and the first floor has a living room in the northwest corner and a dining room in the southwest corner. To the east, a library is located behind the living room and a kitchen behind the dining room. At the rear (east end) of the cottage is the one-story sitting room (in the addition), which can be accessed through the library and the kitchen. The second floor has a bathroom in the southeast corner and bedrooms in the other three corners. The third floor has an office in the east end and storage space in the west end.

The interior of the historic cottage retains most of its original features, including the floor plan, original bead-board walls, four-panel wooden doors, and tongue-and-groove wood floors. A distinctive feature is the use of bead board on the walls and many ceilings, an uncommon feature in a traditional Queen Anne style residence, but one that speaks to the more rustic, summer-use of the cottage.¹ They are covered in vertical bead board to a height of 7 feet with diagonal bead board installed above a picture rail molding. Originally, all of the interior walls featured the bead board finish; however, when the cottage was converted for year-round occupancy in 1996, the bead board on the inside perimeter walls was removed and insulation added. The salvaged bead board was used to create wainscoting on these walls (which now have sheet rock on their upper sections). All other interior walls retain their full bead board covering. The interior retains much of its original rustic visual character. Window casings and most doorways and windows are trimmed with simple casings with decorative

¹ Originally, the woodwork may have been left in a natural, wood-tone stained finish when originally installed, which would have augmented a natural, rustic aesthetic. However, the current owners noted that the bead-board walls and ceilings were all painted when they purchased the property in 1994. It's possible that they were painted in the twentieth century when tastes preferred light colored woodwork over darker Victorian tones.

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corner blocks featuring a turned circle design. Historic ceilings are also covered in bead board, with the exception of the kitchen and bathrooms, which have been dry walled.

Interior - First Floor

One of the central features of the first floor is the main stairway, located at the center of the cottage and centered on the front entry door. The walls of the foyer curve to form the side walls of the stair, making the bottom two stair treads wider than the rest of the run. The stair has a cylindrical brass handrail with globular finials.

Through a wide open doorway to the right of the foyer (south) is the dining room, measuring 11 feet 2 inches by 4 feet 10 inches. The floor is carpeted over wood. The primary feature of the dining room is the large bay window facing south. This consists of four windows grouped at angles to create a near semi-circular bay beneath a lowered bead board ceiling. Beneath the bay is a wide raised ledge, which gracefully curves following the profile of the bay. The vertical portion of this ledge is bead board with a smooth wooden top. The window on the west wall is the one seen from the front porch with colored panes of glass at the top. The north wall has the large opening to the foyer as well as a bi-fold paneled door which leads to a closet set beneath the stairwell. The east wall has the doorway to the kitchen.

The kitchen measures 11 feet 6 inches by 14 feet with wallpaper covered walls (no bead board) and a vinyl floor. There are wooden cupboards on the north, east and west walls. The kitchen was updated as part of the 1996 winterization of the cottage. There are two windows on the south wall. The east wall has an open doorway into the addition at the rear of the house; the addition is outfitted as a sitting room with a view to the wooded land behind the cottage.

The library measures 12 feet 5 inches by 13 feet 4 inches with a painted wooden floor. Walls and ceilings are bead board. There is a double window on the north wall. The south wall has a doorway to a closet and also one to a small bathroom tucked beneath the stairs. A doorway to the living room is on the west wall and the doorway to the modern addition is on the east wall.

The living room measures 11 feet by 17 feet 7 inches and has a carpeted floor over wood. The west wall features the triangular bay window at the front of the house. The southeast corner has a brick fireplace set on the diagonal. The south wall has a wide opening into the foyer matching that into the dining room. The modern sitting room at the rear of the house was added in 1996. It measures 15 feet 8 inches by 22 feet 8 inches and features a cathedral ceiling with an exposed wooden truss and a full wall of windows to the east. There are also smaller windows at the east end of the north and south walls. The southwest corner of the addition has a small room outfitted as a furnace room. The north wall of the addition has a door into the shed-

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roofed addition. The northern end of the west wall has a doorway leading back into the original footprint of the cottage, entering a room currently used as a library.

Interior - Second Floor

The second floor continues the center hall format with a stairway to the third floor attic stacked above the main stair from the first floor. The stair to the third floor was added as part of the 1996 modifications, replacing a pull-down stair. Bead board walls and ceilings match the first floor. The trim around the door frames of the interior walls on the second floor lack the corner blocks found on the exterior walls and on the first floor. The center hall is flanked by two bedrooms on the north and a master bedroom and bathroom on the south. The hall has a painted wooden floor.

The northwest bedroom measures 10 by 12 feet 6 inches. It has a double window on the north wall and a single window on the west wall. The east wall has a doorway into a closet which connects to the room behind it. The south wall, in addition to the door to the hallway, has a door into a closet which includes a door to the front porch. The northeast bedroom is 10 feet by 11 feet 2 inches. There is a double window on the north wall and a single window on the east wall. The floor is carpeted.

The master bedroom occupies the southwest corner. This room measures 11 feet 6 inches by 19 feet 7 inches. The west wall has a double window looking out to the front porch. The south wall has a door onto the porch. This door has a large glass pane on the top and three wooden horizontal panels below. To the east of this door is a wide window which is decorated with diagonal panes at the top and looks out onto the side porch. Further to the east is a single window. The east wall has a wide closet with bi-fold doors and a door into a small closet which also has an entrance into the bathroom. The bathroom occupies the southeast corner and has a vinyl floor. Interior walls have a bead board wainscot with drywall above and the exterior walls are dry walled.

Interior – Third Floor Attic

As part of the 1996 modifications, the attic was converted into an office on the eastern end and the western end was retained as attic storage space. The office floor is carpeted and the walls and ceiling are dry walled. A triple window on the eastern wall looks out into the wooded area. Wooden railings flank the stairwell. A wall with a door separates the two sections of the attic. The western end is unfinished and is insulated with exposed fiberglass batting. It has a wooden floor. There are two round topped windows on the western wall.

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Statement of Significance:

The Orator F. Woodward Cottage is significant as a good representative example of a late nineteenth century summer residence designed in a rustic variation of the Queen Anne style. It is noteworthy as one of the largest and most ornate examples of a Queen Anne style cottage, among dozens of smaller, more simplistic examples, in the Silver Lake Institute area, a summer community begun by Methodists in 1873. The cottage was built in 1894 as a summer residence for successful entrepreneur Orator F. Woodward and his family. Woodward chose to place his summer residence in the Silver Lake Institute due to his association with the Methodist Church. Locally, the cottage is known as "The Jell-O House," as that food product was the most well-known of Woodward's endeavors. Subsequent owners were instrumental in the development and growth of the Silver Lake Institute, a successful embodiment of the Chautauqua Movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Orator F. Woodward Cottage is eligible under criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a locally significant example of a Queen Anne style summer cottage, rendered in a sort of rustic manner that emphasized wood paneling and an exterior connection to nature through its large two-story porch. For its associations with the Silver Lake Institute, a prominent local Methodist summer retreat, the cottage is also being nominated under criterion A in the area of Social History. The cottage was built in this location for the express purpose of the Woodward family participating in the summer educational and cultural activities of the retreat. While it is most associated with its original occupant, the cottage was subsequently the summer residence of a leader of the Institute, the Reverend Owen C. Baker, who also used it to host visiting speakers who presented programs at the Institute. The third and fourth owners were also been members of the Methodist clergy who participated in the Institute's religious and social activities. The period of significance begins with the building's original construction in 1894 and closes in 1966, the year that Rev. Baker sold the cottage. The only significant modification to the cottage occurred in 1996, when it was winterized to become a year round residence. At that time concrete foundation piers were installed and a sitting room addition, not visible from the main street, was added to the back.

Silver Lake Institute

Silver Lake Institute was founded as a Methodist retreat camp with the first camp meeting held August 12-22 1873 under the name Camp Wesley. Subsequent names were Silver Lake Assembly (1895) and Silver Lake Institute (1919), the current name. The arrival of the Silver Lake Railroad around 1871 made the rural area accessible to city residents of Rochester and Buffalo. The idyllic grounds on the east shore of Silver Lake made a perfect retreat from the rigors of daily life and allowed reflection, education and religious immersion.

Avenues and lots were staked out, with lots (33 x 33 feet) offered for sale at \$30. Admission to the grounds was 10 cents on weekdays, 15 cents on Sunday or 25 cents for the season. A boarding tent could be rented for \$1/

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day or \$5/week with meals provided in the eating tent for 50 cents each. The following year, 1872, the price for lots was raised to \$50. In 1874, an additional 14 acres were purchased to allow expansion of the grounds.²

At first this was a tent community, but cottages began being built rapidly. The cottages were small, rustic buildings meant for summer residential use only. This coincided with a period in which middle class and wealthy Americans desired to experience the “purity” of nature as an escape from the cities, which were increasingly “dirty” due to industrialization. They were able to do so more easily due to advances in transportation, such as the expanding railroads. Hotels and boarding houses developed to serve this trade.³ Such competition made staying in tents seem less desirable and cottages were built to attract and accommodate those who could afford them.

Early cottages are primarily one and one-half or two-story, two-to-three bay frame buildings with rectangular plans and gable ends facing the street. Many are characterized by features of the Gothic Revival style, including exaggerated verticality and picturesque decorative details. The most prominent feature of these cottages tends to be a one- or two-story front porch, generally recessed under the projecting gable, and sometimes extending around one side to form a wrap-around veranda. Decorative features typically appear in the gable ends and rails and friezes of the porches. These often include scroll brackets, curvilinear braces, turned posts and spindle friezes, chamfered posts, saw-tooth trim, latticed woodwork, jig-sawn woodwork and diagonal or vertical flush siding in the gable ends. The common forms of siding are flush vertical board or board-and-batten. A second building boom took place during the late 1880s through the 1890s, when additional land was acquired. While cottages built in this period resemble earlier cottages in most respects, they are differentiated by their display of Queen Anne and Eastlake style variations.⁴

In 1885, concurrent with the building of the Woodward Cottage, the institute grounds were enhanced with improved drainage, plank walks, new structures, and increased sanitary features. The last two decades of the nineteenth century were a time of growth for the community and inspired architecture of more complicated design, including the Woodward Cottage, Hoag Memorial Art Museum (1895) and Epworth Hall (1892).⁵

Silver Lake’s programs grew and developed following the tenets of the popular Chautauqua Movement, which presented programs of education, entertainment and culture with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Named for a Methodist camp in Chautauqua, NY, where it began in 1874, the movement quickly spread throughout the country, remaining popular well into the twentieth century. It combined educational and cultural programming with a seasonal rustic lifestyle in rural areas, frequently located on the shore of a lake accessible by train. This facilitated the resolution of the Methodist work ethic and

² Rev. Owen C. Baker, *100th Anniversary History of Silver Lake Institute*, 1957, n.p.

³ Gladys Montgomery, *Storybook Cottages: America’s Carpenter Gothic Style*. New York: Rizzoli, 2011, p.

⁴ Silver Lake Institute Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1982.

⁵ Hoag Memorial Library is a contributing property in the Silver Lake Institute Historic District. Epworth Hall was individually nominated to the National Register in 2009.

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the newly popular concept of vacation by giving purpose and value to leisure time. In 1886, Silver Lake added Chautauqua features to its programs, including a Children's Hour, Normal Class, Elocution, a School of Music, School of Typewriting and Shorthand, School of Languages, English Literature, lectures, concerts and entertainment. This in turn inspired the building of several structures specifically for these purposes.

In 1888 a large open air auditorium was built at Silver Lake.⁶ A band was maintained, giving concerts on the large dock. Excursion boats sailed on the lake. Unfortunately, although the programs offered were well received and expanding, they did not cover their cost. By 1902, this programming was discontinued. Subsequent programming focused on training leaders and teachers for carrying on the religious teaching of Methodism.

Along with inspirational preachers and religious training for Methodist adults throughout the western New York area and beyond, there also was a great emphasis on youth spiritual growth. This spiritual development for youth was propagated via the Epworth League, a national spiritual Methodist youth movement, which was led in this region by the Rev. O. C. Baker at the Silver Lake Institute. As many as 2,500 youth from surrounding Methodist Churches would attend these weeks on inspiration and training. Because of the strength of that program, a significant portion of the Silver Lake Institute on the south portion of the grounds was set aside for youth ministry and became known as Camp Asbury. Camp Asbury, now known as Asbury Camp and Retreat Center, continues to exist and serve many Methodists and other groups through their hotel-like housing accommodations and programs.

Recently, the Silver Lake Institute and its founding institution, now the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church, have decided to formally change the nature of their relationship. Thus, as of February 2, 2016, the ties of the two institutions are now historic and they are no longer officially and legally connected. Yet, in anticipation of this change, residents of the Silver Lake Institute and the staff of Asbury Camp and Retreat Center created and developed a renewed Chautauqua-like summer event called The Silver Lake Experience. Thus, during August 2015, many workshops on a great variety of topics and a play and musical performances were enjoyed by many, not only by institute residents, but throughout the wider area. Because of the success of that event, plans are currently underway for another Silver Lake Experience event for the summer of 2017.

In the meantime and for many years now, during the summer there are religious services provided on Sunday mornings at Epworth Hall with guest preachers hosted by Chaplain Rev. Greg Franklin and the Institute Program Committee. The committee also coordinates Thursday evening concerts throughout the summer, as well as book reviews by area authors and other informative and musical programs. Social events such as Wednesday evening dessert on the large institute dock and Saturday morning brunch in Stody Hall are also enjoyed by many.

⁶ The auditorium was lost to arson in 1918.

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Orator Woodward

Orator F. Woodward (1855-1906) had the cottage built by an unknown builder in 1894.⁷ Woodward was an entrepreneur born in Byron, New York, and raised in Bergen, New York. His father, Abner, died as a soldier in the Civil War in 1865 and the family moved to LeRoy. Orator left school at the age of 12 to make his own living, beginning as stable boy and footman for a lawyer in LeRoy. He briefly went to Chicago but returned to LeRoy and began his career as an entrepreneur. By 1868 he was selling patented Plaster of Paris target balls and medicated nest eggs. Building on that success, in 1881 he bought King Balsam and Cough Medicine. He married Cora Talmadge in 1882 and began a family, which would grow to include five children. In 1891 he bought Raccoon Corn Plasters and Lane's Tea. Thus, he was already a successful business man when he had the cottage built. In 1896, Woodward bought Grain-O, a roasted cereal substitute for coffee and tea. In 1899 he paid Pearle B. Wait \$450 for the Jell-O formula, and a year later the product first appeared under Woodward's Genesee Pure Food Company label. Two years later sales of Jell-O amounted to \$250,000.⁸

Orator F. Woodward attended the Methodist-Episcopal Church in LeRoy and was one of its most liberal supporters.⁹ Woodward became a very wealthy man through his many business ventures. He and his wife, Cora, were noted for their philanthropy. The family's year round residence was a palatial home named "Hill Barr" in LeRoy.¹⁰ Woodward also owned his factory in Le Roy.¹¹ His interest in Wyoming County included the 1899 purchase, at a foreclosure sale, of 254 acres, not contiguous to Silver Lake Institute.

After suffering a slight stroke, Woodward's condition deteriorated, and he died in January 1906 at the age of 49. Upon his death, his widow took over as president of Genesee Pure Foods Company, working with her son Ernest (who later succeeded her as president.) At the time of her death in 1923, Cora's estate exceeded 3.5 million dollars and was the largest ever handled in the Genesee County Surrogate's Office.¹² While primarily remembered for his success in making "Jell-O" a household word, his business success prior to that venture is evidenced by his ability to build a large and impressive cottage on the grounds of the Methodist retreat.

History of the Woodward Cottage

Being a devoted Methodist, Woodward perceived the Silver Lake Institute as an attractive location to build a summer residence. He had vacationed at Silver Lake Assembly at least one summer prior.¹³ Building while the

⁷ "Wyoming," *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (Rochester, NY), November 18, 1894.

⁸ "The Woodward Family," Woodward Memorial Library, accessed April 26, 2016, <http://www.woodwardmemoriallibrary.org/family.php>.

⁹ "Orator F. Woodward Died at Hot Springs," *Batavia Daily* (Batavia, NY), January 22, 1906.

¹⁰ Hill Bar was razed by his son after his father's death.

¹¹ Now home to the Jell-O Museum.

¹² "Largest Tax in County's History," *The Times* (Batavia, NY), December 6, 1923.

¹³ "LeRoy," *Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), July 29, 1893.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Section 8 Page 5

camp was in a growth mode, he chose to have his cottage executed in the then-popular Queen Anne style. While the Silver Lake Institute does not appear to have had any set design guidelines governing style and material options, Woodward's choice of a rustic Queen Anne style cottage was attuned to the other construction being done in the camp. Perhaps to illustrate his social standing, his cottage is larger and more elaborate than the others.

Queen Anne architecture was popular for residential building from about 1880 to 1900, particularly in the northeastern United States. In addition to its asymmetrical massing, the cottage exhibits the classic Queen Anne emphasis on textured and varied wall surfaces as the primary decorative element. The cottage employs such elements as a prominent tower, a large overhanging eave on the front, projecting bay windows, a two-story wrap-around porch, a curved wall surface beneath the front gable and the use of clapboard and shingles to produce differing wall textures. Windows follow the style by being simply detailed, generally with single pane per sash, but also by the presence of some windows highlighted by a horizontal band of decorative glass at the top. While exhibiting the essential elements of the style, the cottage is suitably adapted to its rural environment by being executed in a less formal, more rustic manner.

While many of the cottages in the Silver Lake Institute are described as being "executed in an eclectic interpretation of the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles," they are small, simplified versions, generally with a single front facing gable.¹⁴ The Woodward cottage demonstrates the owner's wealth through its size and sophistication, especially the extensive use of architectural detail. Its location high on the hillside rising from the lake may also indicate the owner's sense of success by being physically above most of the resort and far from the dirt and noise of the train tracks. Woodward continued to use the cottage as a summer residence at least until 1905.¹⁵ His family continued using it after his death until at least 1909.¹⁶

In a 1934 newspaper article, "an old timer" recalled Orator F. Woodward coming to the Silver Lake Institute (then Silver Lake Assembly) regularly each summer. It was stated that Woodward found real enjoyment basking in the shade of a large elm tree in the yard of his cottage, one of the largest cottages on the lake. After his death, his sons cared little for the serenity of the place and were rarely seen there. By the time of the article, the Rev. Owen C. Baker had acquired the roomy cottage primarily to accommodate speakers who came to the lake retreat. It was said that many mementos of the Woodward family's time were still in the cottage.¹⁷

The Reverend Owen C. Baker purchased the double lot that contains the cottage and another lot from the Woodward estate in 1915. The Rev. Baker was an important figure who had much to do with the continuing success and relevancy of the Silver Lake Institute in the early-twentieth century. He was the founder of the Epworth League, a Christian Methodist youth movement across western New York. He opened the first

¹⁴ Silver Lake Institute Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1982.

¹⁵ "Silver Lake Assembly," *Wyoming County Times* (Warsaw, NY), June 21, 1905.

¹⁶ "Familiar Names in Print," *Wyoming County Times* (Warsaw, NY), May 12, 1909.

¹⁷ "Noted Men Were in Summer Colony," *Perry Herald* (Perry, NY), July 4, 1934.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

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Section 8 Page 6

institute for the Epworth League on the grounds of the Silver Lake Assembly in 1908. Two-thousand, five hundred youth attended each summer. He was also a trustee of Silver Lake Institute for twenty years, superintendent of instruction, and superintendent of Hoag Memorial Art Building and Epworth Inn, both on institute grounds, for nearly twenty-five years. Many young people felt his influence and committed their lives for full-time religious service. He also served about a dozen area churches. He and Daisia Durkee were married in 1901 and owned the cottage until 1966.

Under the Rev. Owen's direction, the cottage was placed into the service of the institute as housing for traveling speakers. In an essay concerning the Epworth League, he wrote:

For years I rented a cottage for the faculty and my wife looked after the entertainment. In this work she has made a very large contribution to the success of our Institute and did more hard work than anyone else. For it was hard to clean up the cottage, provide the meals, entertain the group and keep everyone happy. It was not very satisfactory to use a different cottage for every season, so I bought the Bissell Cottage for this purpose. Then the Woodward Cottage was up for sale cheap and was better suited to our needs. Kelley was Mrs. Woodward's pastor at LeRoy and tried to persuade her to give it to our Institute but was unable. So I made them a still lower offer, which the Trust Company, in settling the estate finally accepted. I was then Superintendent of Instruction for the Assembly and had to arrange the whole summer program and take care of the teachers and speakers. The cottage was a great help and we used it until opportunity came to buy the Epworth Inn.¹⁸

Subsequent History

In 1966 the Reverend Carlyle "Ted" Smith and his wife, Marjorie, purchased the cottage as their summer home and a special gathering place for their family. They served many United Methodist Churches throughout the Western New York conference. The Rev. Smith enjoyed the work of keeping the cottage looking its best, including re-roofing it when he was over 80 years old.

In 1993 the Smiths sold the cottage to the Reverend Dr. Doug Wilson and his wife, Nancy. After serving in Niagara Falls and Portville United Methodist Churches, they served the Perry United Methodist Church, just miles from the cottage, from 1985 until 2005 and the Geneseo United Methodist Church from 2005-2008. Now retirees, they share the story of how they came to love the cottage when they were college students visiting the institute. They dreamed that one day they would have a home as beautiful. When the opportunity came to buy it, it was a dream come true. They had the cottage winterized in 1996 by Dick and Brad Hennig, local builders of excellent reputation. It now serves as their year-round home and a place that generations of their family come to enjoy the cottage and the beautiful surroundings.

¹⁸ Lynda Durkee Owen, *The Art of Historical Thinking*, p. 307

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Summary

The Orator F. Woodward Cottage is a good example of a relatively elaborate Queen Anne style cottage, rendered in an uncommon rustic aesthetic meant to convey its use as a summer cottage. It is being nominated under criteria A – Social History, for its linkage to Silver Lake Institute and the Methodist retreat movement of the late nineteenth century. It is also being nominated under criteria C – Architecture, as a rare surviving, primarily original, example of a rural adaptation of the Queen Anne style to a summer residence. The cottage maintains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Bibliography:

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Belluscio, Lynne J. *Images of America: LeRoy*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia publishing, 2010.

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Montgomery, Gladys. *Storybook Cottages: America's Carpenter Gothic Style*. New York: Rizzoli, 2011.

Owen, Lynda Durkee. *The Art of Historical Thinking*. Valparaiso, Indiana: The Yesterday Road Co., 2007.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

Refer to the attached maps with scale; the boundary is indicated in a heavy line.

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundary represents the double lot parcel that was purchased by the Woodward family for the construction of the cottage. It encompasses all land historically and currently associated with the cottage.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

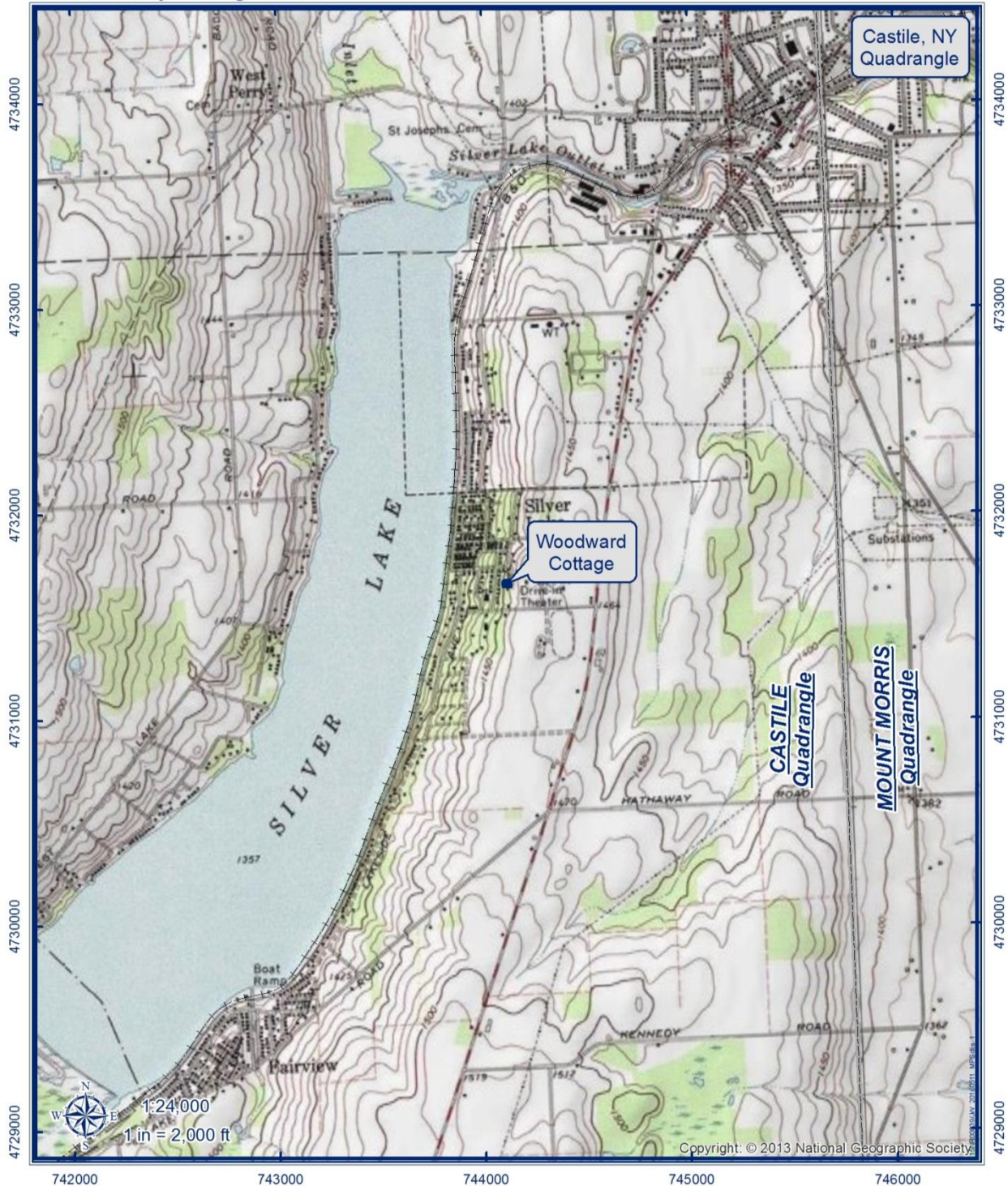
Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Castile, Wyoming Co., NY

3931 Thompson Avenue
Silver Lake, NY 14530



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Woodward Cottage



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 3

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

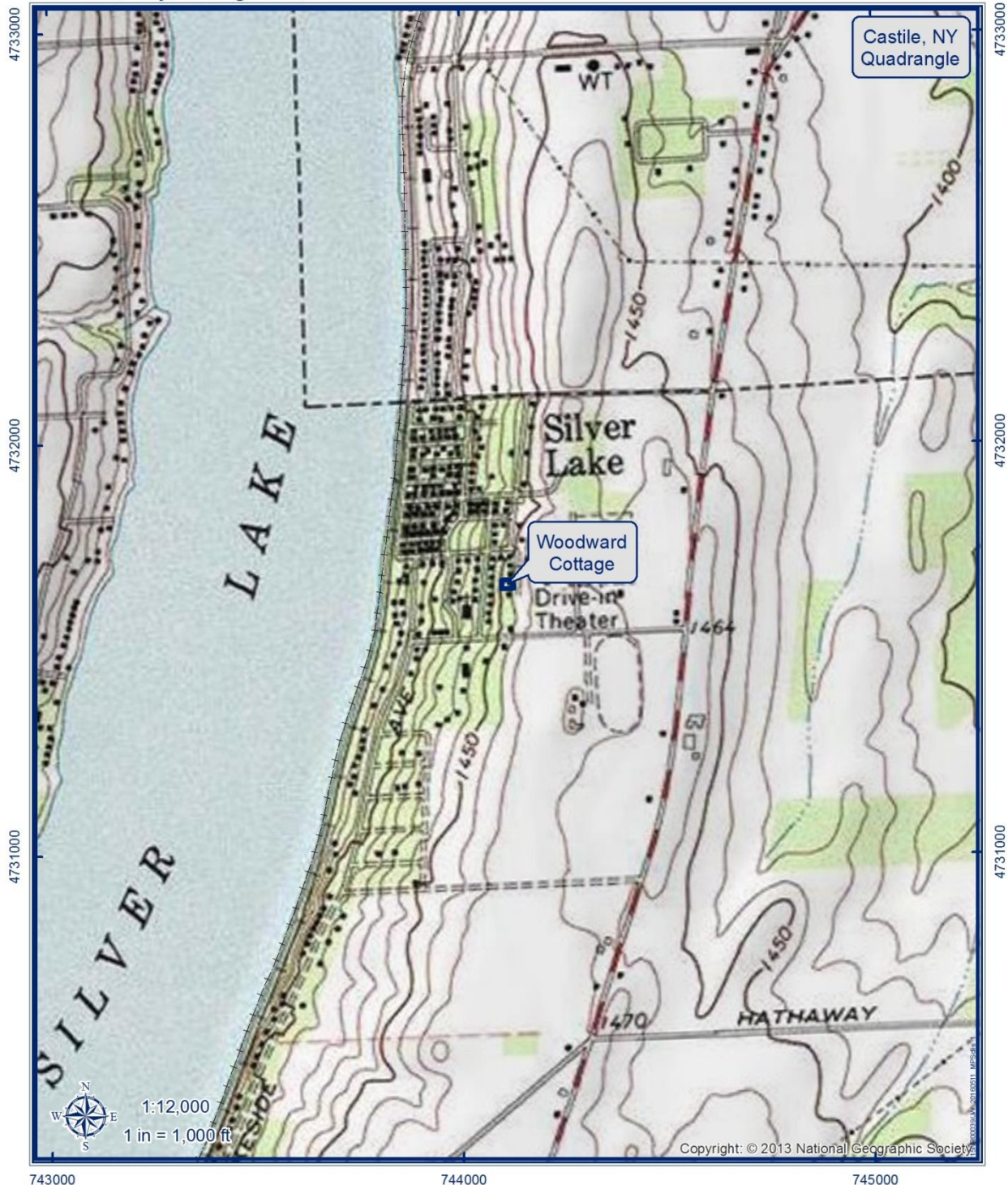
Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Castile, Wyoming Co., NY

3931 Thompson Avenue
Silver Lake, NY 14530



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

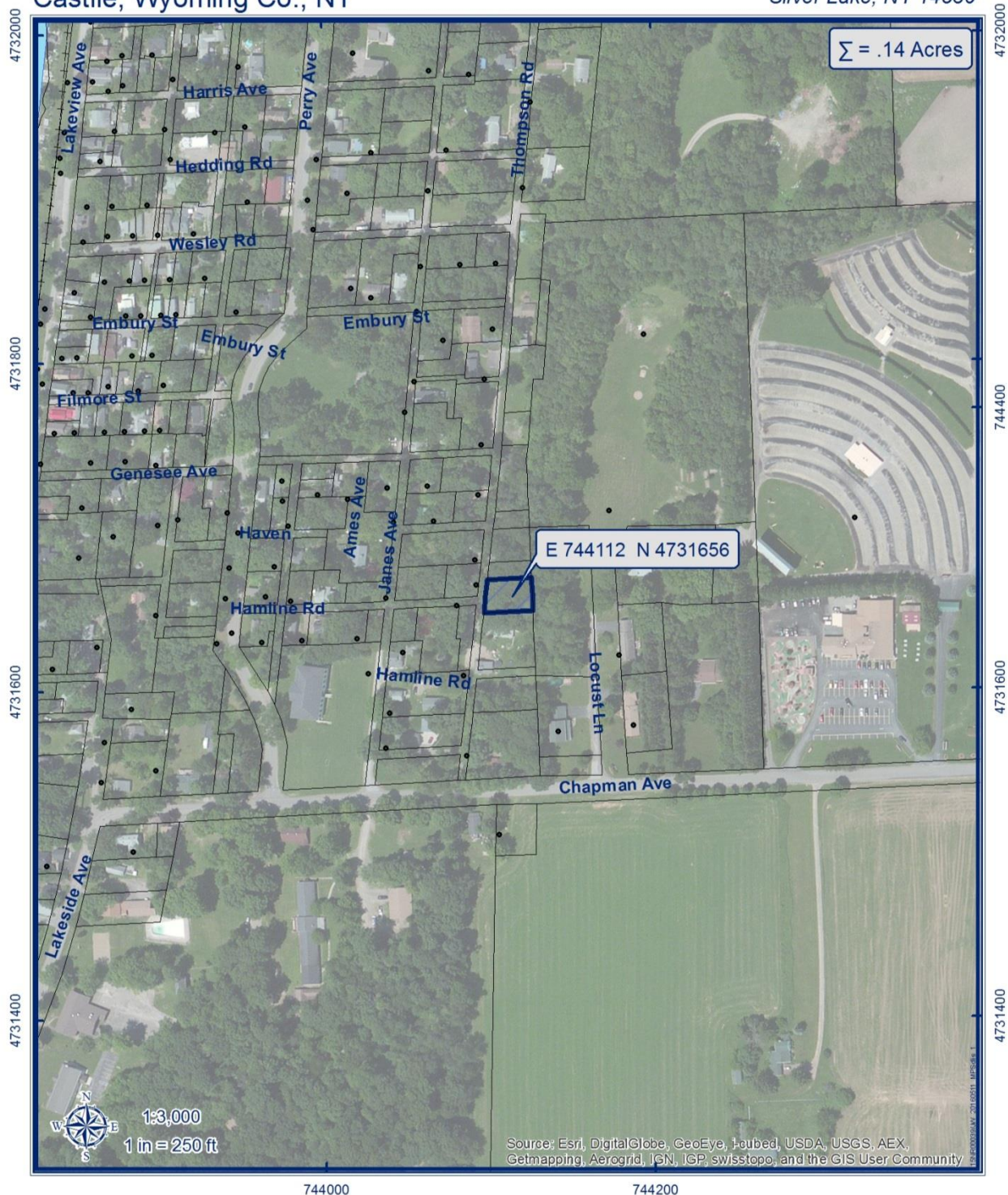
Wyoming, New York

County and State

Section 10 Page 4

Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Castile, Wyoming Co., NY

3931 Thompson Avenue
Silver Lake, NY 14530



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Woodward Cottage



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 1

Additional Information

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Orator F. Woodward Cottage
City or Vicinity: Castile
County: Wyoming County
State: NY
Name of Photographer: Erin Anheier
Date of Photographs: April, 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: In possession of the photographer

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0001
Primary west façade, looking east

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0002
Primary west elevation and south elevation, looking northeast

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0003
Primary west façade, detail of cantilevered gable

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0004
Detail of unusual beaded clapboard siding

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0005
Interior, first floor, looking east at primary stair showing curved cheek walls

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0006
Interior, first floor, parlor, looking southeast at fireplace

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0007
Interior, first floor, living room and hall from dining room (note tongue-and-groove board wall and ceiling cladding)

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0008
Interior, second floor, hall looking west

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0009
Interior, second floor, master bedroom looking southeast

NY_Wyoming County_Orator F. Woodward Cottage_0010
Interior, second floor, northwest bedroom, looking northeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

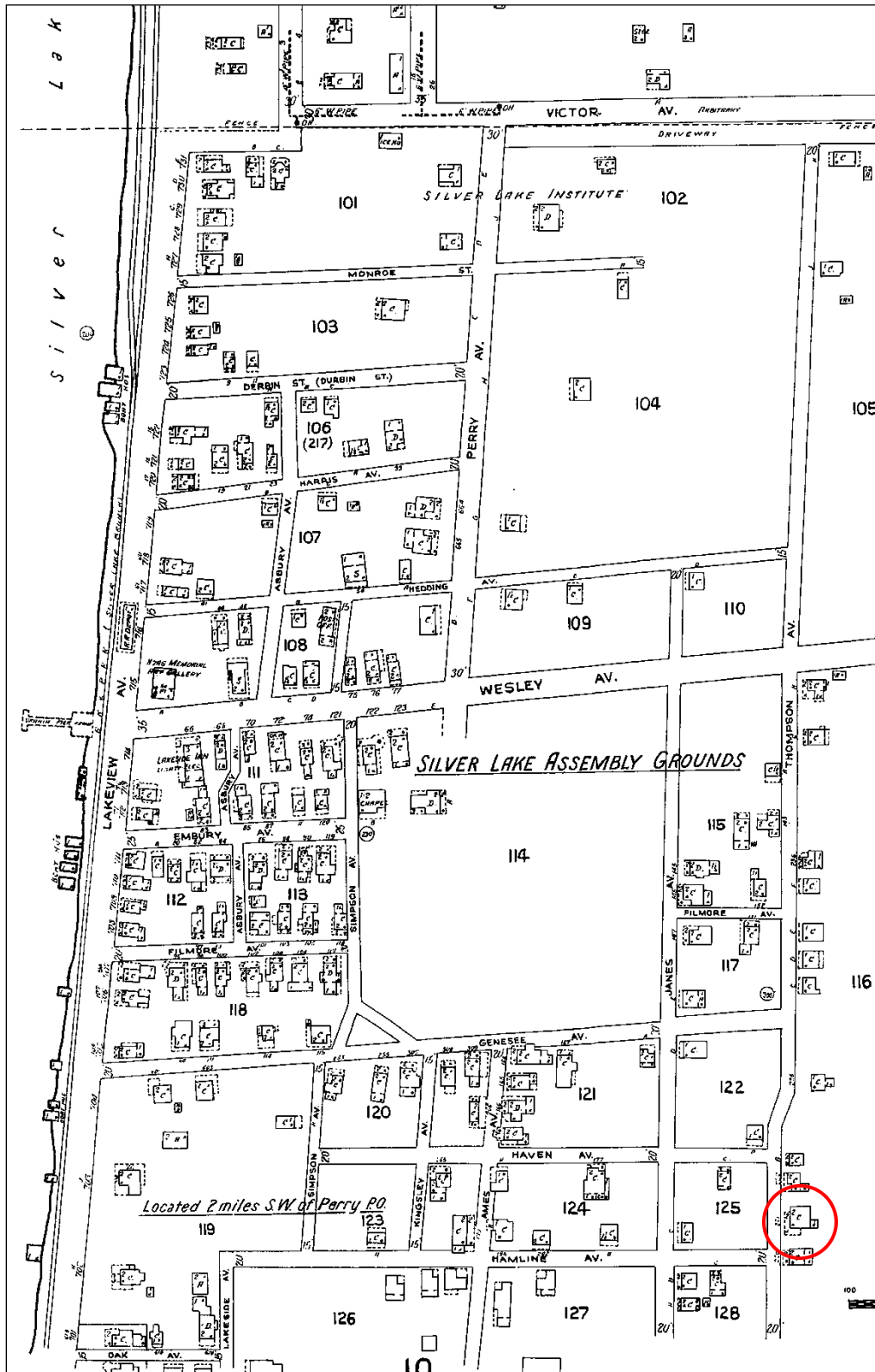
Section 11 Page 2

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State



Detail, Sanborn map (1924)

Showing general layout of Silver Lake
Institute

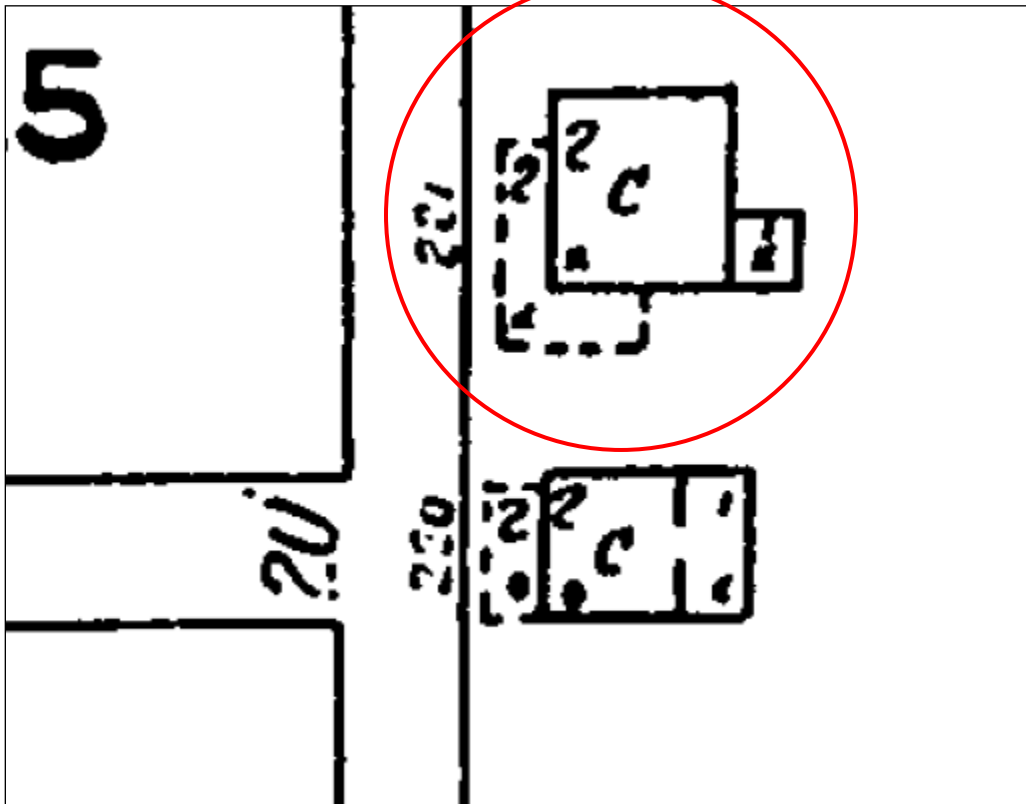
The Woodward Cottage has been
circled.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 3

Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Name of Property
Wyoming, New York
County and State



Detail, Sanborn map (1924)
Detail of the previous map, showing Woodward Cottage

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

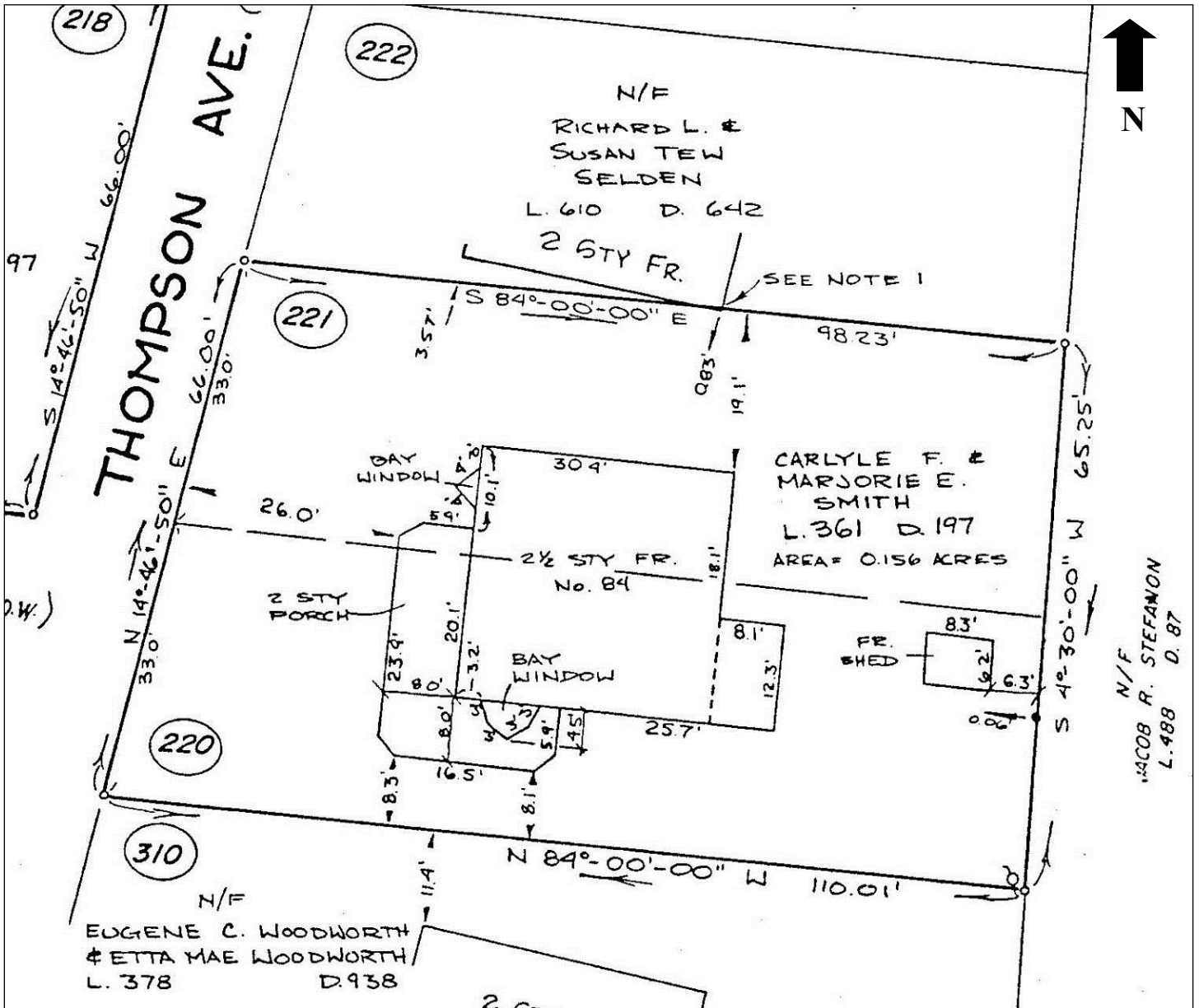
Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 4



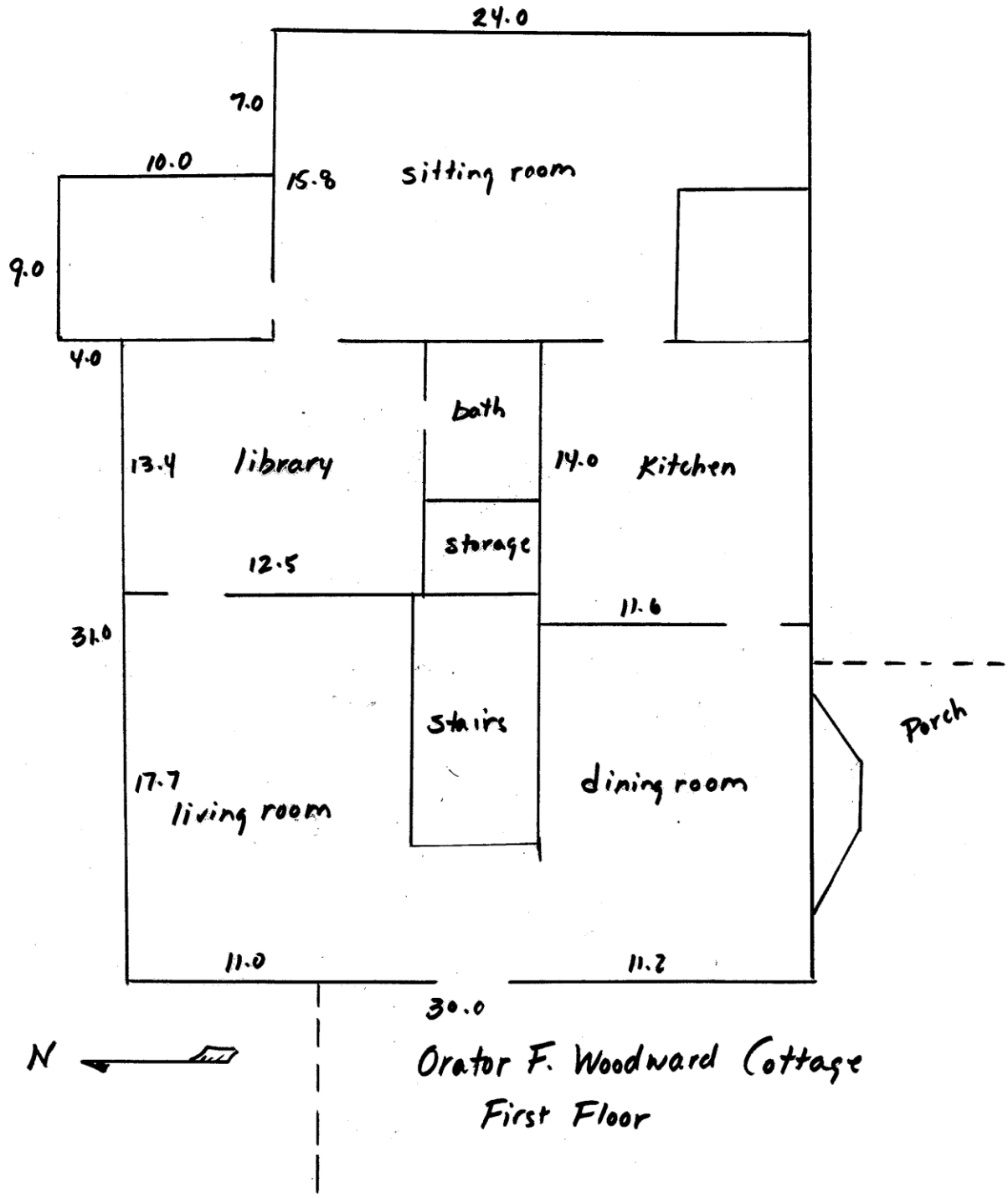
Detail, Property Boundary Survey (1993)

United States Department of the Interior
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Section 11 Page 5

Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Name of Property
Wyoming, New York
County and State



Floor Plan Sketch, First Floor
Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

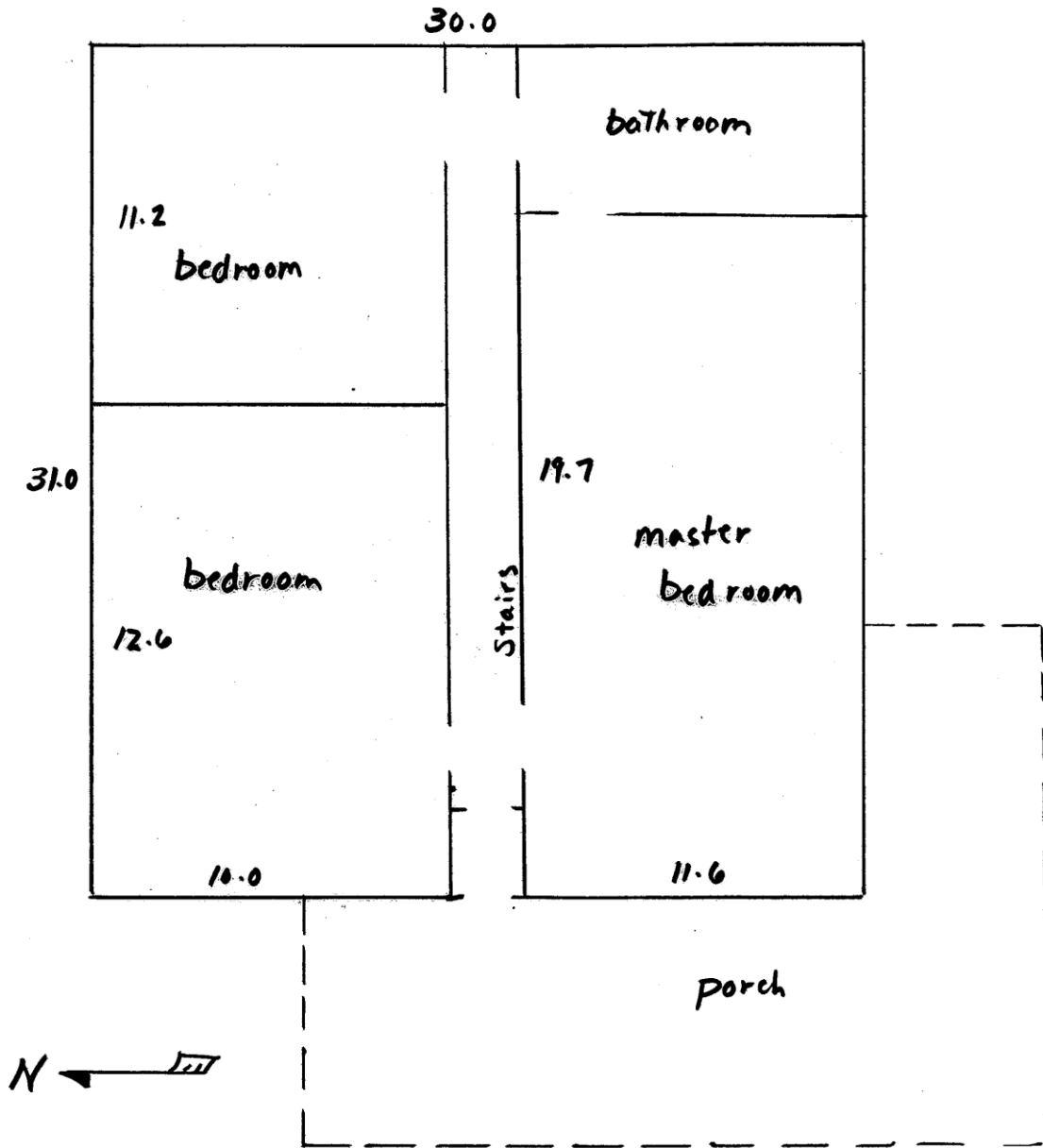
Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State

Section 11 Page 6



Orator F. Woodward Cottage
Second Floor

Floor Plan Sketch, Second Floor
Not to scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 7

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

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Orator F. Woodward Cottage (ca. 1935)

Source: Owen, Lynda Durkee. *The Art of Historical Thinking*. Valparaiso, Indiana: The Yesterday Road Co., 2007, page 302.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 8

Orator F. Woodward Cottage

Name of Property

Wyoming, New York

County and State



**Photograph of Orator F. Woodward Cottage (ca. 1970)
Photographer: Bob Murphy, Silver Lake, NY**



84
3931



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Woodward, Orator F., Cottage

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Wyoming

DATE RECEIVED: 7/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/26/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/10/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/23/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000559

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 8.23.16 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.

June 16, 2016

Ms. Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
PO Box 189
Peebles Island
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont,

We are writing this letter to you in reference to your letter of May 23, 2016. In your letter, you informed us (on behalf of the Silver Lake Institute) that the New York State Board for Historical Preservation is considering the F. Woodward cottage for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

The Silver Lake Institute is an historic community and was granted its Charter by the NYS Legislature in 1857. It then began its history as a place for assembly for the Genesee Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is located on the east shore of Silver Lake and has served as a retreat for many of the religious faithful. Many of the cottages within the institute have historic significance and have been passed down in families from generation to generation. The F. Woodward cottage is one of those esteemed cottages that is viewed by many to have historical importance, not only by its architectural design, but also by the significance of its original owner.

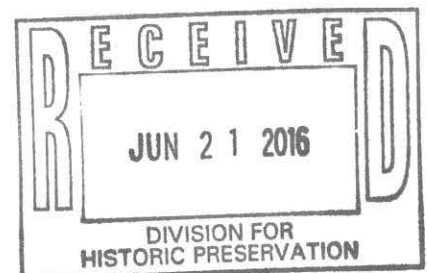
In 1982 a portion of the Silver Lake Institute was listed as a National Historic District. Not all of the institute was listed because of the disrepair to some of the properties. That was why the F. Woodward cottage was not included. Over time, surrounding properties have improved and nearby Epworth Hall has been listed individually.

On behalf of the Silver Lake Institute we are proud to have this historic cottage on our grounds and we overwhelmingly support this nomination.

Thank you for considering the F. Woodward cottage for nomination to the National and State Registers for Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Bill Schaefer
President
Silver Lake Institute Board of Trustees &
Mrs. Sharon Pratt
Chairperson
Epworth Hall Committee &
Staff Member/Landmark Society of Western New York
PO Box 20
Silver Lake, New York 14549





**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JUL - 8 2016

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

5 July 2016

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

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following nine nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Alton B. Parker Estate, Ulster County
Hepburn Library of Lisbon, St. Lawrence County
Benner-Foos-Ceparano Estate, Suffolk County
Fort Independence Historic District, Bronx County
Old Lowville Cemetery, Lewis County
Haxtun-Tower House, Dutchess County
Orator F. Woodward Cottage, Wyoming County
Webster Grange No. 436, Monroe County
Austin R. Conant House, Monroe County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office