

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

OCT - 9 2015

**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 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 Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

other names/site number Stone House at Chepachet Pond

2. Location

street & number 588 State Route 51 N/A not for publication

city or town Cedarville N/A vicinity

state New York code NY county Herkimer code 043 zip code 13491

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 P. Pimental DBAPO 9/30/15
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

Elson H. Beall 11.24.13

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property

Herkimer, New York

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY: Manufacturing, FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling, AGRICULTURE, FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, walls Stone, roof Metal, other Wood

Narrative Description

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

(See attached)

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property

Herkimer, 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)

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1830 - 1923

Significant Dates

1830, 1835, 1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property

Herkimer, New York

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 57.02 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18N
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joseph Novitski (with additional research by Emilie Gould, NYS SHPO)

Organization _____ date September 2014

street & number 12 E Pier Telephone 415-465-3823

city or town Sausalito state California zip code 94965

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

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Susan J. Huxtable

street & number Old Stone House, PO Box 59 telephone 315-822-6748; 917-841-9322

city or town West Winfield state NY zip code 13491

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, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

Descriptive Summary

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm is located on a 57.02-acre parcel situated on the east side of State Route 51 (formerly, the Ilion Plank Road), just north of its intersection with Swamp Road (running west to Wall Street) and Richfield Hill Road (running east to Depot Road) in the Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York.¹ Historically, the community that grew up around these crossroads was known as Chepachet.

The nominated property consists of a gable-roofed stone house (1830); timber-framed barn (early-mid 19th c.); stone smoke house (early-mid 19th c.); small family cemetery (1827-late 19th or early 20th c.); stone dam, mill pond, and mill ruins (between 1815-1830); and farm fields under cultivation since at least the 1820s.

The house is oriented roughly perpendicular to State Route 51 on a small rise with the barn and smoke house located to the rear (northeast). The façade (and roof ridge) face southwest towards the mill pond known as Chepachet Pond; its dam impounds waters of the upper Unadilla River flowing west southwest through low-lying land from Unadilla Lake at Miller's Mills. The mill pond defines the farm's southern boundary along Richfield Hill Road, and the river makes up the parcel's eastern boundary with meadows and forested lands rising northwest between the river and State Route 51. The cemetery is sited on a ridge north of the house and its outbuildings. The line between the Towns of Winfield and Columbia (also one boundary of Great Lot #78 of the Schuyler Patent) makes up the parcel's northern boundary.

Components

- Building – Stone house (1830)
- Building – Timber-framed barn (early to mid-19th c.)
- Structure – Stone smoke house (early to mid-19th c.)
- Site – Dodge family graveyard
- Structure – Dam, mill pond, and mill ruins (between 1815-1830)
- Site – Farm fields (57.02 acres)

¹ A small parcel of less than 3 acres situated on the west side of State Route 51, north of its intersection with Swamp Road, is excluded because it was acquired outside the period of significance.

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Herkimer County, New York
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N/A
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Section number 7 Page 2

The Stone House (1830)

The stone house consists of a 1 ½ story, rectangular-plan limestone building with a wood-framed screen porch (c. 1925) attached to the southeast elevation. The house is built into a hill with a side-cut limestone wall to the west of the front entrance, so that the basement is fully exposed on the northwest end of the façade and northwest elevation. The rear elevation, like the façade, partly exposes the ground floor; however, the slope of the hill is more natural, lacking a wall. The banked positioning of the house to create access to the cellar and finished kitchen follows local practice.²

The dressed limestone may have been quarried and transported from the neighboring Town of Litchfield, where Barrett Paving Materials continues to operate the Litchfield Asphalt Plant and Quarry.³

On the southwest façade and northwest elevation, the masonry consists of alternating thick and thin courses of rectangular rough-dressed limestone, with large lintels and narrow projecting sills associated with all original windows and doors. On the southeast and rear (northeast) elevations, the masonry is laid in more irregular, rubble courses; larger and smaller blocks are mixed on the southeast elevation, while the rear elevation consists of uniform, smaller stone. However, there is one exception. On the rear, large rectangular, dressed stones are laid between the three first-floor windows; these may indicate some sort of miscalculation in purchasing stone or a quick technique for creating straight jambs. The half of the basement wall visible on the façade is of dressed stone, while the partially buried wall at the rear appears to be less finished. Overall, the walls are about 14 inches thick.

Fenestration varies by elevation and story and will be described separately. Ornamentation includes simple corner quoins, an elliptical fanlight over the front entrance opening into the second story, and simple molded cornices with short returns on the gable ends. The current roof is dark-grey metal with standing seams and encloses a central brick and stone chimney. An external cement-block chimney was added to the rear (northeast) elevation in 1982 for a wood stove.

The Stone House, Façade (southwest)

The façade presents as a 1 ½ story house with part of the basement exposed on the west. Fenestration is irregular; one 12/12 wood sash window is located to the right of the door (slightly above door height), while two identical windows are placed to the left. The recessed front door is flanked with narrow sidelights (extending 2/3 in height) and trimmed with four simple columns with unadorned capitals and plinths. Above the door and its lintel, a simple Federal-style elliptical fanlight opens into the second story. This light is slightly narrower than the door opening below it, and the molding above has been slightly trimmed to fit the arch.⁴

² Other local buildings dug into hillsides, include the Loomis House (directly across Richfield Hill Road at its intersection with State Route 51 at the dam), two houses immediately north of the farm on the east side of State Route 51, and the Chepachet School.

³ Barrett Industries, "Barrett Paving Materials Inc." Barrettindustriescorp.com/our-companies/barrett-paving-materials

⁴ According to Anthony Temperton, a British glass conservator, fanlights went out of style in the UK after 1840 when rolled glass made larger panes and larger windows more affordable. "Fanlights," *Project Book Media Center: Articles*.

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Below the first floor window on the right, a corresponding basement window has been bricked in. On the left, below the first-floor window flanking the door, a 12/8 sash basement window is fully exposed. A basement door is situated between this ground-floor window and the edge of the wall; however, it does not line up under the second first-floor window on the left. The front door steps are wood without railings and sit on an elevated concrete pad.

The Stone House, Side elevation (southeast)

Fenestration on the southeast elevation is regular at the second story but asymmetrical on the first floor. In the upper floor, a central 2/2 wood sash window is flanked by smaller square 9-pane windows that open to the sides; the sills of all three windows line up.⁵ On the first floor, a door and 12/12 window are situated right of the center line, with a basement window below that window. To the left, the elevation is dominated by a late (c.1925) screen porch in Colonial Revival style. Access to the porch is through a door opening off the first floor; this door replaced an earlier window.

The wooden, gable-roofed 11' by 13' porch addition is attached with its ridge facing southwest, in line with the front façade of the stone house. Unlike the larger house, the gable end of the porch is decorated with an enclosed pediment; in addition, the cornice is deeper and lacks fascia trim. The porch openings have low railings with square uprights and are sheathed with full-length screen panels. The space under the porch is enclosed with wooden lattice panels. Stairs to the door are concrete with modern wrought-iron railings.

The Stone House, Side elevation (northwest)

Fenestration on the northwestern elevation is more regular than on any other elevation of the house. Since this is the elevation facing the old Ilion Plank Road (now State Route 51), the stone construction, date, regular fenestration, and exposed ground (basement) floor may have been designed to impress visitors. A path of granite slabs joins the lower entrance of the house to the driveway. A wooden pillar that could have served as a handhold in descending from a wagon has been removed but is saved in the barn.

Above the second story windows, an equilateral, stone lozenge carved with the date 1830 has been set into the masonry of the gable end. The fenestration of the second story is similar to that on the southeast elevation; a central wood sash window is flanked by smaller square windows, and the sills of all three windows line up. However, the central window seems to retain its original wood sash – 8/12 as opposed to 2/2.

On the first floor, directly below the flanking windows, are two 12/12 wood sash windows. Further, on the basement floor in a direct line below these windows, is a 12/8 wood sash window on the right (southwest) and a door on the left (northwest). An additional 12/8 wood sash window is placed off the center line and closer to the door. Since this window lacks a stone lintel but retains the original sash design, it is probable that the opening was added after the original construction date, and the window was moved into it when the door was

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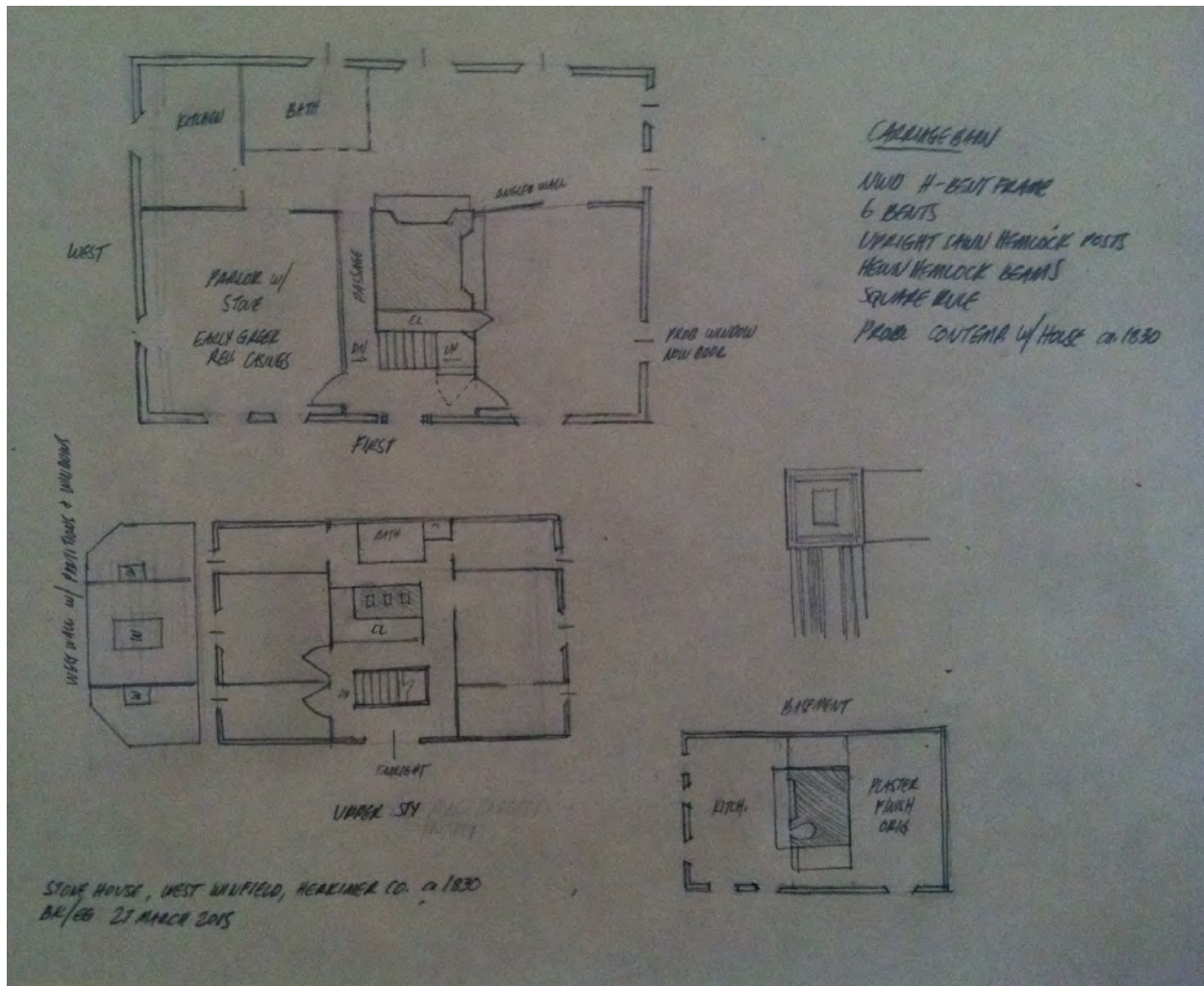
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converted from a window. This conjecture is supported by physical evidence; the door trim is more Victorian than the late Federal trim on the façade basement door.

The Stone House, Rear elevation (northeast)

On the first floor, three wood sash windows are placed on the rear elevation, slightly offset to the left from the centerline. The brick chimney appears to be situated between the right two windows and may explain the fenestration. The left and center windows are 8/12 wood sash; the rightmost 6/9 wood sash window is narrower than its lintel. As mentioned before, large dressed stones are laid between all three first-floor windows. A small 2/2 roof dormer was part of the original fenestration and lets light into a second-floor bathroom (added in 1962). On the exposed basement level, another narrowed, 6/6 wood sash window is placed below the 6/9 window. An external cement-block chimney was added on the north end of the wall in 1982.

The Stone House, Interior



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The interior is organized around a central chimney mass and appears to represent a late variation of a New England center-chimney plan found in traditional Cape Cod houses of both the single and story-and-a-half type.⁶

Building the house into the bank provides additional accessible-at-grade space for a kitchen in the basement.

As a result, the central chimney supports a basement cooking hearth and bake oven, in addition to two fireplaces at first-story level, each with a separate flue.

The date of construction, 1830, corresponds with the transitional period between the Federal and Greek Revival periods, and the interior finish is in large measure representative of the former. The first-floor plan consists of two front parlors (one with two windows on the facade and the other with one) on either side of a shallow hall.

The room on the left has two windows (but no fireplace) and is more formal than the room on the right (with fireplace). From the hall, narrow stairs to the second story and basement are fitted behind a paneled wall; a short passage leads to three rooms at the rear. Some alteration has taken place in these chambers. The kitchen in the northwest corner was constructed out of a pre-existing bedroom, and a full bathroom was added next to it towards the center of the house. The rest of the rear presents as a single room. However, the northeast corner (which now holds a modern woodstove) once held a small toilet room added in the early 20th century.⁷

Window, door, and fireplace trim combine Federal and Greek Revival characteristics. Some elements are largely Federal; others, transitional; some, largely Greek.⁸ In the hall, the inside front door, paneling under the sidelights, stair wall, and parlor doors show extensive graining. The more formal parlor includes painted, full-length window paneling and elaborate door moldings. The less formal parlor also has painted, full-length window paneling but less elaborate door trim.⁹ This room may have been used as a winter sitting room. It faces southeast and its fireplace is (somewhat awkwardly) placed in a corner recess.¹⁰ The recess is fully paneled with a warming cupboard above a finely detailed Greek Revival mantel with scalloped shelf and a full-length warming closet on the left. The shallow opening (dark brick with a stone hearth) could have enclosed a Franklin stove or ornamental fire frame.

The large rear room also contains a fireplace (brick with a brick and stone hearth, possibly rebuilt) and iron crane; the mantel consists of a simple architrave. Like in the informal parlor, the fireplace here is shallow and could have enclosed a Franklin stove or ornamental fire frame; alternatively, given the crane, it may be a Rumford fireplace, a cleaner-burning, late 18th-early 19th c. innovation. Overall, the door and window trim is simpler than in the parlors. However, the exterior door is distinguished by a mid-19th century doorbell – Taylor's Patent (October 23, 1860).

⁶ Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*, [Twentieth Anniversary Edition] (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2004), 36-37.

⁷ The current owner believes the toilet room was built for Mrs. Sophie Burgess Gere in the second quarter of the 20th century and was the first plumbing added to the house. It was removed when both the kitchen and full bathroom were installed in 1962.

⁸ Hubka (p. 42) notes that a mixture of styles may be found within vernacular New England plan homes as owners frequently finished the interior over time as funds (and time) became available.

⁹ This parlor also includes a French door leading to the screen porch, built around 1925

¹⁰ The back wall of the stair to the second floor and rear partition wall enclose the space.

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Throughout the first floor, the floors are planked with broad pine and cedar boards; the treads of the staircases are much narrower but appear to be made of the same wood. The walls are plaster mixed with horsehair over lath.

The basement is roughly divided into thirds with a storage area (and cistern) to the northeast, chimney foundation in the center, and kitchen to the southwest. The storage area retains lath and traces of plaster. Its foundation walls are built into the bank and surrounded with earth, which would have maintained the constant temperature needed to store food. The chimney foundation takes up most of the center of the basement; a storage area is fitted at the rear and the stairs from the first floor hall are fitted between the chimney mass and façade. Often, in a one or 1 ½ story Cape Cod house, chimney foundations are supported by an arch used for storage. However, in the Rice-Dodge-Burgess house, a cooking fireplace and bake oven open into the kitchen. Although called the "summer kitchen," the room was likely used as the year-round kitchen for the farm. The upstairs fireplaces seem inadequate to the task and the heat from the massive chimney would have warmed the whole house.

The owner remembers the fireplace being discovered during renovations in 1962. Before that time, the fireplace was covered and the space divided into two rooms accessed separately by the façade and northwest elevation doors. The small room accessed from the façade may have served as an office for the farm and mills.

The second story lacks fireplaces. It is accessed by a stair from the front hall that opens into an open area lit by the fanlight over the front door. The stair opening is surrounded by a balustrade on three sides. There are three bedrooms on each of the side elevations (northwest and southeast) - six rooms in total. These rooms correspond to the fenestration - two narrow spaces under the eaves, each lit by a 9-pane square window, and a larger, central, square room with an 8/12 (possibly replacement) window. Storage cupboards may have been built against the chimney mass sometime after the construction of the house. A bathroom was added at the center of the rear wall (into a pre-existing room) in 1962, using the small, rear roof dormer for light.

Timber-Framed Barn (early to mid-19th C.)

The 1906 *Map of Herkimer County* shows the house surrounded by 3 outbuildings.¹¹ The barn, with a smaller attached (or adjoining) structure, is represented northwest of the house. It may well predate the 1830s house. Its timber frame is representative of New World Dutch timber framing traditions, with a series of six closely-space bents (two posts connected with a corresponding tie-beam) constructed in a characteristic fashion. The joinery was cut on the square rule; posts are upright sawn hemlock; corresponding tie-beams are hewn hemlock.

The exterior seems to reflect a later reworking of the building. The gable end (south) opens onto the current driveway, with a sliding barn door on the first floor under a central hay door in the loft and round window in the peak. The east and west elevations have 6 over 6 windows, 1 on the east lighting a small enclosure (possibly a

¹¹ "Winfield," *Map of Herkimer County* (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1906).

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tack room) and 2 on the west lighting the wagon floor. The rear has a single door and a small window lighting stairs to the loft. The roof is sheet metal.

The building functioned for a time historically, as a carriage barn. In addition, there are remains of a foundation of a mid-nineteenth-century dairy barn on the knoll northeast of the house. This dairy barn supported the cheese-making operation recorded in census data for this farm after 1850.

Stone Smoke House (early to mid-19th C.)

Off the northeast corner of the house is a small, rectangular stone smokehouse. This structure is separated from the barn; a hand-pump and well are located between it and the door on the southeast elevation of the house. The site is typical for an early-mid-19th century farm. According to Cynthia Falk, in *Barns of New York*, smokehouses were typically placed about 20-40 feet behind a farmhouse with the gable-end door facing the house.¹² In this case, people could easily tend the process from the back room of the stone house. The structure is stone. However, unlike the house, the masonry is irregular rough rubblestone. A low door on the front provides access to the interior; the standing-seam metal roof lacks a stack.

Dodge Family Graveyard

A 19th century graveyard is situated on a ridge northeast of the house in the cedar woods above the pond. In the late 19th or early 20th century, most of the Dodge family members buried there were disinterred and reburied in the Cedarville Cemetery (less than 2 miles north) under a common monument. However, two monuments remain. The first is a standing headstone for Rufus Dodge, one of the founders of the Town of Winfield in 1816 and father of Sanders Dodge; Rufus is also listed on the Cedarville stone.¹³ Dodge's name on this monument is readable; little else is. However, the Cedarville Cemetery records say that he died August 13, 1838, aged 78.

The second headstone is clearer. It records two burials:

Gone but not forgotten

Isaac Seamans

Died

June 2nd, 1827

Aged 50 years

Polly

His Wife

Died April 18, 1854

Aged 62 years

¹² Cynthia G. Falk, *Barns of New York* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2012), 92-93.

¹³ Find a Grave, "Rufus Dodge." Findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=37507379

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Neither Isaac nor Polly Seamans was related to the Rice or Dodge families; however, Seamans was an early land speculator and owner of the farm who apparently continued to live in Chepachet after he sold the land to Charles Rice in 1823. Thus, the presence of this grave may indicate the existence of other burials of people from the hamlet. Further, such burials were probably left behind (like the Seamans) when the remains of the Dodge family were transferred to Cedarville.

An isolated gravestone located nearer the house is inscribed:

Mary H.
Daughter of
Sanders and Elizabeth Dodge
Died August, 1864
Aged 16 years

Mary was reburied with Rufus and the rest of the family in Cedarville.¹⁴

Dam, Mill Pond, and Mill Ruins (between 1815-1830)

In his *History of Herkimer County*, George A. Hardin notes that three dams had been built in Chepachet before 1893. The first dam was built in 1815, west of the current dam, for a cloth-dressing factory; it was demolished by William Green (owner of the adjoining farm) in 1885. A second dam was also built early in the early 19th c. by George Rounds for a saw-mill; it was located closer to the site of the current dam. Rounds sold his mill to Isaac Simmons [possibly, Isaac Seamans], and Simmons sold it to Charles Rice, who then built a third dam (above the first) that served a new gristmill (and possibly the old sawmill).¹⁵ The sites of the first two dams are downriver from the third dam. The first is outside the boundary of this nomination, while the second may be buried near (or under) the current double culvert bridge for State Route 51 over the Unadilla River. The third dam seems to have survived relatively intact with an added concrete spillway on the north.

This dam consists of granite and limestone blocks with rubble-loaded masonry in all interstices. The same early 20th c. postcards show wooden boards added to the crest of the dam to raise its head and increase water power; these boards were held in place with timbers wedged between the streambed and the dam. The stonework in these postcards seems identical to that of the current dam except for a set of capstones recently added to the abutments from a demolished limestone building.

In addition, the site of one of the two mills associated with the dam is still visible. The sawmill occupied the north pier of the dam and is pictured in an early 20th century postcard as a large 2-story frame structure set along the streambed below the current height of the dam. It no longer stands, but traces of a flume (raceway) can be seen running from a bend in the pond to the concrete spillway and stone pier of the dam. A few foundation stones are also visible.

¹⁴ Find a Grave, "Mary Elizabeth Dodge." Findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIn=Dodge&GSiman=1&GScid=728651&GRid=37515084&

¹⁵ George A. Hardin, *History of Herkimer County, New York* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co, 1893), 381.

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N/A

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The second mill was originally a gristmill located on the south side of the dam; however, by 1906, the *Map of Herkimer County* identifies the site as a cider mill.¹⁶ This mill is also shown in an early 20th century postcard as a large 1 ½ story structure with an addition supported above the streambed by a log foundation. However, neither the building, its foundation, nor its flume seems to remain as a result of improvements to Richfield Hill Road. The dam currently impounds a 4-acre mill pond.¹⁷

The dam, mill pond, and mill ruins are counted as one contributing structure, which includes the above ground, visible remains that can be identified and documented in the area of the Chepachet dam. However, since the rest of the site has been highly disturbed by road construction, additional professional testing would be necessary to add significance under criterion D.

Farm Fields

The 1835 deed transferring the stone house and half-ownership of the mills from Charles Rice to Sanders Dodge included approximately 200 acres of land; a survey conducted that year found that the tract was actually 227 and 1/100th acres (including the mill pond). However, several small properties – nine lots for nine different owners plus six cedar lots – were subdivided out of this deed to accommodate other residents of the hamlet of Chepachet. These seem to have been reabsorbed into the farm after the hamlet of Chepachet disappeared in the late nineteenth century.¹⁸ The other major change to the boundaries of the farm was Sanders Dodge's sale of 112 acres to James S. Ginbey in 1882.¹⁹

On the property today there are 19 acres of meadowland (13 of which are leased for haying), 15 acres of wetlands (as recorded on the NYS DEC and US National Wetlands surveys), and 20 acres of woodland (northern deciduous hardwoods and white cedar). (The remaining acreage is associated with the house and barn.)²⁰ Hedgerows of mature trees protect seasonal drainage and demarcate field edges. In 2003, a conservation easement (the Chepachet Conservation Easement) was negotiated by the Otsego Land Trust with the Susan J. Huxtable Revocable Trust for most of the Sanders Dodge site.²¹

Integrity

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm has maintained outstanding integrity since the beginning of its period of significance in 1830. Extended family of the current owner have owned the property since 1835 and, as will be

¹⁶ *Map of Herkimer County* (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1906).

¹⁷ Perhaps as a result of these boards, the 1868 *Atlas of Herkimer County* shows the pond covering more acreage than now. Similarly, the 1906 county map shows the mill pond extending northeast past the property line. A large beaver colony upstream from the dam seems to be restoring these historical dimensions.

¹⁸ The current (2015) tax map shows no other owners.

¹⁹ Hardin, *History of Herkimer County*. Part 2: *Family Sketches*, pp. 48-9.

²⁰ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, *Environmental Resource Mapper* (dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/ERM/viewer.htm); US Fish and Wildlife Service, *Wetlands Mapper* (fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.HTML)

²¹ Otsego Land Trust, *Baseline Documentation Report – Huxtable: Chepachet Pond, BDR Update* (2014).

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seen in the Significance Statement, taken on the farm as a trust to be preserved for later generations. The house itself is architecturally significant for its character-defining features and integrity in terms of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The barn is somewhat more changed, but reflects the transition from horses to automobiles. The stone smoke house retains all its essential features. Most of the burials in the Dodge family graveyard have been removed, but a few interments of non-family members apparently remain, along with three memorials from the early-mid 19th century. The dam, pond, and farm fields have been maintained for more than 185 years. Traces of sawmill and flume are visible near the dam; elsewhere on the property, there may be evidence of the now-abandoned hamlet of Chepachet. Overall, the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm presents an exceptional record of the early settlement of Herkimer County and its agricultural evolution.

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Summary of Significance

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of agriculture for its association with the evolution of agricultural industry in central New York and as a representative example of a settlement-era farm that evolved over two centuries to reflect those changes. The 56.7-acre nominated farm includes a stone house, outbuildings, graveyard, dam, mill pond, mill ruins, and fields. Its most significant building is the outstanding, early 18th century, New England-plan stone house, locally-significant under Criterion C. The period of significance begins in 1830, when Charles Rice, a landowner and early Winfield settler, built the stone house on a knoll overlooking Chepachet Pond and mills. Five years later, Rice sold the improved farm complex to Sanders Dodge, son of another early settler. The period of significance ends in 1923 with the death of owner Sarah Dodge Burgess, Dodge’s heir and daughter.

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm exemplifies the arc of development in central New York south of the Mohawk River – from late 18th frontier subsistence and early 19th century land speculation, through mid-19th century local manufacture and mixed farm production, to the late 19th century dairy industry and the early 20th century heritage tourism that still characterizes the area. The stone house and its remaining outbuildings and structures are also the most intact surviving features of the hamlet of Chepachet, named by late 18th century settlers from the vicinity of Chepachet, Rhode Island. Throughout the 19th century, the economy of the community was transformed by continually-improving networks of roads, canals, and railroads that supported manufacturing and commerce as well as mixed agriculture and dairy farming. However, by the early 20th century, these same transportation links hollowed out the community by facilitating competition from urban factories and more efficient farms in western New York State and the Great Plains. The area, while still prosperous, lost almost all of its value-added agricultural industries (and at least half of its population) and reverted to raw milk production. Much of the hamlet and all of the mills on Chepachet Pond have disappeared, leaving the stone house of the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm little changed since its construction in 1830.

The house itself is especially significant for its character-defining features and integrity in terms of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. It was been owned and cared for by a single extended family for the past 180 years and is an eloquent witness to the past.

Historical Significance

Site

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm is located at the foot of Richfield Hill on the west slope of the “New York Divide” – all rivers west of the hill drain into the Susquehanna, while all rivers north and east drain into the Mohawk and Hudson. Chepachet Pond itself is the site of the second dam on the southwest-flowing Unadilla River, whose headwaters are less than 2 ½ miles away at Miller’s Mills. However, part of the drainage of the adjacent Cedar Swamp also flows 9 miles due north; Steele’s Creek cascades into the Mohawk River through the “Ilion Gulph.”

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The elevation at Chepachet is more than 1,000 feet higher than the elevation at Ilion.¹ The farm is underlain by limestone rock and its soils are generally fertile and highly suitable for grasses and hay. However, despite these favorable aspects of the terrain, the area around the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm was not settled until the very end of the 18th century.

Settlement of Herkimer County

The lands north and south of the Mohawk River remained a frontier for white settlers due to the colonial land system, war, and Haudenosaunee occupation of the region. The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm lies in the northeast corner of Great Lot number 78 of the Schuyler Patent, a 43,000-acre property granted to David Schuyler by the King's Council of New York in 1755 and purchased from the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederation by several patentees. The boundaries of Schuyler, Bayard, and Staley's Patents meet at a point in the Town of Winfield less than a mile west of Chepachet and are outlined on the 1906 *Map of Herkimer County*.²

However no settlement was possible before 1760 due to French and Indian War raids against the Palatinate German settlers of the Mohawk Valley. After the war, the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys were redeveloped, but most of this activity took place along the river or near the new roads developed north of the river by Colonial Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Sir William Johnson. Johnson died in 1774. When the Revolutionary War began, conflict again depopulated parts of the Mohawk Valley. The majority sided with the new American government, but Johnson's descendants and many others remained loyal to the Crown and fled to Quebec. Together with smaller units of British regulars and officers and larger forces of Native American fighters commanded by Captain Joseph Brant (Johnson's brother-in-law, the war chief known to the Mohawk as Thayendanegea), many Loyalists returned to destroy Mohawk and Schoharie valley villages and infrastructure. Less than 12 miles northwest of Chepachet on the Mohawk River, Forts Dayton and Herkimer served as refuges during the September 17, 1778, attack on German Flatts; two months later, the Cherry Valley Massacre took place just 23 miles to the east. Although General George Washington directed the Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779 to destroy Haudenosaunee villages and "castles" in Pennsylvania and western New York, various British-Loyalist-Haudenosaunee raids continued for another three years. In July, 1782, almost a year after Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Captain Brant again besieged Forts Dayton and Herkimer until he was recalled by the British Governor of Quebec, Frederick Haldimand, following the official announcement of peace negotiations.³

Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary War laws and treaties completely reordered land ownership in the Mohawk Valley and western part of the state, opening areas away from the river to land speculation and settlement. On October 22, 1779, the New York Legislature passed the New York Act of Attainder (Confiscation Act) which banished and seized the lands of the most prominent colonial governors and Loyalists, including Mohawk Valley landowners Sir John Johnson, Guy Johnson, Daniel Claus, John Butler, and John Joost Herkemer

¹ In 1816, Eliphalet Remington harnessed the Gulph stream to power his second forge for rifle barrels, built in 1816. Nelson Greene, *History of the Mohawk Valley: Gateway to the West, 1614-1925*, (Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925) Vol. 2, 1805-1817. www.schenectadyhistory.org/resources/mvgw/history/128.html

² "Winfield," *Map of Herkimer County*, (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1906).

³ Dictionary of Canadian Biography, "Thayendanegea." biographi.ca/en/bio/thayendanegea_5E.html

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(co-patentee in Staley’s Patent).⁴ The act included a simple process for proceeding against other landowners; as a result, by the end of the American Revolution, at least a thousand attainders had been served.⁵

Subsequently, the 1783 Treaty of Paris transferred all land south and east of Lakes Ontario and Erie, and west to the Mississippi River, to the government of the United States. British forces were supposed to remove themselves from these territories but continued to occupy strategic sites like Fort Ontario until 1796. Their justification was the refusal of the new United States to compensate Loyalist landowners and the mistreatment of Britain’s Haudenosaunee allies. Both claims reflected reality.

After the peace, many Loyalists returned from British North America hoping to reclaim their lands. However, another state act, passed May 12, 1784, had directed the quick sale of all confiscated property. Most Loyalists found their lands reoccupied or sold, and few were allowed to resettle by hostile ex-neighbors.⁶

Similarly, the war weakened the Haudenosaunee and ended their title to large parts of the state. The Six Nations Confederacy was split by the American Revolution. The Mohawk and most of the Cayuga, Onondaga, and Seneca Nations maintained their allegiance to the British Crown, first negotiated by Sir William Johnson; the Oneida and Tuscarora Nations sided with the patriots, due to the influence of Presbyterian missionary Samuel Kirkland.⁷ The Sullivan-Clinton Expedition of 1779 destroyed more than 40 villages of the nations allied with Britain. More than 5,000 Haudenosaunee fled the western Mohawk Valley and Western Tier and were forced to take refuge at Fort Niagara over the winter of 1779-1780.⁸ The British promised to take care of their allies, but continental politics ensured that native claims of sovereignty were ignored.

The post-Revolution years left the Haudenosaunee with few options. Many Mohawk moved into Quebec and northern New York, settling on land reserved for them on both sides of the St. Lawrence River. Some of the western New York nations moved into the Ohio territories (from which they moved again into Wisconsin and Minnesota in the early 19th century.) The allies of the Americans fared little better. Beginning in 1785, New York State began buying land from the Oneidas to encourage white settlement of the Mohawk Valley. Many of these land cession treaties were in violation of the federal 1790 Indian Trade and Intercourse Act but they continued through 1809. In the 1820s, the majority of the Oneida nation left for Wisconsin and, later, Ontario, Canada, leaving only a few members behind on a tiny reserve in Oneida County.⁹

⁴ Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, *The New York Act of Attainder, or Confiscation Act, October 22, 1779*. archives.gnb.ca/Exhibits/FortHavoc/html/NY-Attainder.aspx?culture=en-CA

⁵ Jack Lynch, “A Patriot, A Traitor, and A Bill of Attainder,” *Colonial Williamsburg Journal* (Spring 2002). history.org/foundation/journal/spring02/attainder.cfm

⁶ George A. Hardin, *History of Herkimer County, New York*, (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co, 1893), 21-25.

⁷ Collin G. Calloway, “American Indians and the American Revolution,” *The American Revolution: Lighting Freedom’s Flame* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, [n.d.]). nps.gov/revwar/about_the_revolution/american_indians.html

⁸ Stanley J. Adamiak, “The 1779 Sullivan Campaign: A Little-Known Offensive Strategic To The War Breaks The Indian Nations’ Power,” *The Early America Review* 3(1), 1998. earlyamerica.com/review/1998/sullivan.html

⁹ These illegal treaties led to successful land claims in the late 20th and 21st century. Milwaukee Public Museum, “Oneida Treaties and Treaty Rights,” *Indian Country Wisconsin*. mpm.edu/wirp/ICW-106.html

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Peace and land brought a large influx of New England settlers into the Mohawk Valley. As the population grew, new counties were established. In 1784, Tyron County (named for the last colonial governor and making up much of the central part of the state) was renamed Montgomery County (for General Montgomery, who died in the 1775 Battle of Quebec). In 1789, Ontario County separated from Montgomery; in 1791, Herkimer, Otsego, and Tioga Counties were created. George A. Hardin, in his *History of Herkimer County*, claimed that new settlers were responsible for the formation of the new county over opposition from the pre-Revolutionary German settlers, who (presumably) resisted their loss of influence. Further subdivisions, realigned boundaries, and the incorporation of towns continued until the county achieved its final form in 1817.¹⁰ In particular, the town of Winfield was created in 1816, out of parts of the town of Litchfield in Herkimer County and parts of the towns of Richfield and Plainfield in Otsego County.¹¹ Chepachet developed in the northeast corner of Winfield at the second dam on the Upper Unadilla River.

Settlement of Chepachet, Town of Winfield

Most of the settlers who arrived in the area of Chepachet were New Englanders, attracted by available land and good water power. The area that became the town of Winfield was first settled in 1793 by Abel Brace from Hartford, Connecticut. Hardin notes:

When Mr. Brace came here there was no road from the Mohawk southward, and travelers were guided by marked trees.¹²

Mills were established early on the Unadilla in the village of West Winfield. In 1794 Joseph and Timothy Walker built a sawmill with one grinding stone; in 1798 Timothy Walker built a gristmill; and in 1808 Ira Walker built a sawmill further downstream.¹³ Hardin notes that Chepachet was similarly settled but gives no dates:

There is good water power here, which led to the settlement of the locality and the construction of mills. The first dam here was built by George Rounds to provide power for a saw-mill, which afterwards passed to possession of Isaac Simmons [sic: possibly Isaac Seamans], and later to Charles Rice, who constructed a new dam above the old one and erected a grist-mill and the large stone house still standing.¹⁴

The fact that the hamlet was named Chepachet suggests that at least some of these early settlers may have come from its namesake in Rhode Island.¹⁵ The family names Potter, Angell, and Davis are found in both communities.¹⁶

¹⁰ Hardin, 65-66.

¹¹ Horatio Gates Spafford, "Profile of the Town of Winfield," *Gazetteer of the State of New York* (Albany: D. B. Packard, 1824). herkimer.nygenweb.net/winfield.html

¹² Hardin, 369.

¹³ Hardin, 369-370.

¹⁴ Hardin, 381.

¹⁵ "Chepachet," *The Morning Courier and Enquirer* (New York), July 1, 1842. Fultonnews.com

¹⁶ In addition, a Chepachet, RI, website notes that, "There are only two villages named Chepachet in the country... a river runs through both communities... Both villages produced farm tools and each had a triphammer operation, a distillery, and

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The extension of the Cherry Valley Turnpike to Cazenovia came shortly after the NYS Legislature chartered the Third Great Western Turnpike Company in 1803. This road (now US Route 20) ran east to Albany and west to West Winfield just 3 miles south of Chepachet and greatly improved access to markets.¹⁷

Further improvements came in the late 1840s, when a plank road was built from Ilion (on the Mohawk River) to Cedarville (less than 2 miles north of the farm); Myron McKee addressed the Herkimer County Historical Society in 1903:

I remember the building of the plank road between Ilion and Cedarville. Before that was built the roads from the south, led over Elizabethtown Hill or over the hills in Litchfield; either way was bad for a large part of the year, and a large load could not be drawn up the hills. Cedarville was and is about one thousand feet higher than Ilion, and the hills on either side of the "gulf" were very steep. It remained for Eliphalet Remington to make possible a reasonable solution of the problem as to how to bring the great amount of travel and trade from Cedarville to Ilion. His idea was to build a plank road between Ilion and Cedarville following the stream, and thus having a uniform and comparatively easy grade. Through Mr. Remington's energy and liberality a company was organize[d] and the road was built. The road, built at an expense of two thousand dollars a mile proved to be of great benefit to Ilion and the Mohawk Valley, as well as a great convenience to those living at Cedarville and at places south...¹⁸

The 1835 deed for the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm shows that Chepachet was already a significant hamlet at that time. Nine small lots associated with nine different landowners were excepted from the property transfer, along with six "cedar lots" (wood lots for cedar fence posts and construction.) The earliest marked burial on the farm is that of Isaac Seamans in 1827.¹⁹ He had owned the land for a short time but sold it in 1824 and independently shows up in the 1825 New York Census. Presumably, he (as may others) lived on one of those lots and, since the hamlet lacked a church, was buried on the farm.

Hardin mentions other industries in Chepachet: a distillery, blacksmith shop, and trip hammer shop. The gristmill burned in 1840 and was rebuilt by Elmer Angell (Emer Angel, in the 1825 Census).²⁰ An 1868 map shows Larkin D. Smith occupying an approximately 3-acre parcel on the west side of State Route 51 at its intersection with Swamp Road; he ran the mills after Angell for 18 years. North of the stone house (on the same side of State Route 51) was "Smith Brothers Machine Sh. & Mills," and south were the school, a cheese

cloth factories. A large stone house still stands at Chepachet, NY as does the 1814 Old Stone Mill at the bridge in Chepachet, RI." Chepachet.com, "Vignettes." chepachet.com/vignettes.htm

¹⁷ Richard Palmer, "The Cherry Valley Turnpike," *The Crooked Lake Review*, 135 (Spring 2005).
crookedlakereview.com/articles/101_135/135spring2005/135palmer.html

¹⁸ Myron A. McKee, "Reminiscences." In *Papers Read Before the Herkimer County Historical Society Covering the Period From September 1902 to May 1914*, edited by Arthur T. Smith, Vol. 3 (Herkimer, NY: Citizen Press, 1914), 51.
<https://archive.org/details/papersreadbefore02herk>

¹⁹ His wife was buried with him in 1854.

²⁰ Hardin, 381; 1825 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York
newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/ny-1825-census/1825-herkimer-winfield-census.htm

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factory, and the home of Angell's widow.²¹ A branch rail line opened in 1872 to connect Richfield Springs to Bridgewater (and, thence, north to Utica and south to Binghamton and New York). This led the community to slowly shift east towards the "Cedarville" (actually Chepachet) railroad station and a new post office less than a mile away. By 1906, another Herkimer County map shows that the building at the intersection still stood and was labelled "C. Cole" but that the Smith properties had disappeared. The sawmill remained, though the grist mill had become a cider mill.²²

Chepachet persisted as an independent community with its own post office and school into the mid-20th century; today, with the exception of the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm, little remains but houses strung out along State Route 51 and the Richfield Hill and Chepachet Roads.

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm: Charles Rice

The deeds for Herkimer County in the late 18th and early 19th centuries were lost in a fire in 1804; consequently, the historic record for the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm starts after that date. In addition, many transactions associated with the parcel do not show up in the records. Starting in 1823, Charles Rice began to assemble a variety of properties (and exempt others occupied by people in the hamlet) to create the farm that he sold to Sanders Dodge. By the end of the period of significance, all the lots north of the stone house had been reabsorbed into the farm and more than half the farmland sold off in 1882. Thus, the exact legal record is incomplete, but the property reached its current size by 1923 at the end of its period of significance.

A great deal of land speculation accompanied the opening up of New York's western frontier. The parcel originating "at a hemlock tree" in the extreme northeast corner of Great Lot number 78 first appears in county records in 1819, where an indenture records the sale on May 15, 1816, of 153 acres for \$7,500 by James Pray of Winfield, NY, to Isaac and Pardon Seamans (presumably, brothers). The land was subject to a prior mortgage secured by the land, by Pray to the descendants of Rem Remsen and Abraham Brinkerhoff.²³ The amount of the 1809 mortgage is not mentioned in the deed from Pray to the Seamans, but the same day Pray recorded a mortgage with them for \$2,120.²⁴ Later in 1819 Pray sold the mortgage for the same amount, plus annual interest due, to Rem Remsen (again, presumably, a descendant).²⁵

Isaac Seamans had been buying and selling land in Chepachet for several years. In 1818, he bought (and almost immediately sold back to the original owner) a smaller property.²⁶ After he and his brother bought the farm from James Pray, he held on to it for four years, and continued to have a household in the hamlet that was

²¹ Beach Nichols, *Atlas of Herkimer County*, (New York: J. Jay Stranahan & Beach Nichols, 1868).

²² "Winfield."

²³ This mortgage is dated March 31, 1809, in the recorded deed but does not appear in Herkimer County mortgage books. Remsen and Brinkerhoff were related by marriage but both had died well before 1800. Presumably, therefore, the mortgage was held by their heirs who may have had the same (or similar) names.

²⁴ Herkimer County, County Clerk's Office, Mortgage Book B, 536.

²⁵ Herkimer County, County Clerk's Office, Mortgage Book B, 647.

²⁶ Herkimer County, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book 13, 267/272.

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counted in the 1825 Census (4 males, 3 females – one, his wife). He died June 2, 1827, and (as mentioned above) is buried on the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm.

Charles Rice, by contrast, had more resources and was a much more successful land owner and speculator. Samuel McKee, Justice of the Peace for Winfield and contemporary diarist, referred to Rice without exception as “Esquire Rice.” He figures in many land transactions in Herkimer County, on both sides of the Mohawk Valley, in the first three decades of the 18th century.

In Winfield, Rice first appears in the 1820 census, with 2 men and 7 women living at Chepachet.²⁷ On September 30, 1823, he bought 145 acres from Isaac Seamans and his wife Polly for the recorded price of \$1,100.²⁸ In the 1825 census, he reported 11 men and 7 women on 45 improved acres with 12 cows, 8 horses, 32 sheep, and 23 hogs. Presumably, by this time he was on the farm. The total acreage is not clear, but the large number of horses probably reflects the animal power needed to clear land and haul logs to a mill; the cows and sheep would help convert the cleared land to meadow.²⁹ That same year, Rice bought a house on less than one acre of land from Charles Hawley. In 1830, he seems to have persuaded Pardon Seamans and his wife Sally to sell him the remainder of the farm tract, about 10 acres with house and “improvements”; he rounded out this acquisition with three smaller parcels in the hamlet.³⁰ (The surviving New World Dutch barn may be one of Pardon Seamans’s improvements.) Somewhere in the decade, he also built the dam that remains on the farm, the two mills (no longer extant), and an iron furnace. Hardin reports Rice “cast the first iron plows used in the county,”³¹

The locations of Charles Rice’s original home, farm buildings, and foundry are no longer known. However, in 1830, he constructed the stone house and sited it on the north bank of the millpond overlooking his dam, sawmill, and grist mill.

Then, on February 23, 1835, Charles Rice sold 200 acres, more or less, in Great Lot number 78 for \$4,000 to Sanders and Daniel Dodge. A survey completed that year for Sanders Dodge found that the tract contained 227 and 1/100th acres, including the millpond, but excluding small “reserved portions” for various house lots in Chepachet, as well as half interest in the two mills, a mill house, and garden.³²

When Sanders Dodge took possession of his new stone house, the farm appears to have been well-established within the prosperous hamlet of Chepachet, and signaled that he and his family were equally well-established and prosperous members of the community.

²⁷ 1820 Federal Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York.

²⁸ Herkimer County, County Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 17, 116.

²⁹ 1825 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com/ny-1825-census/1825-herkimer-winfield-census.htm

³⁰ Herkimer County, County Clerk’s Office, Deed Book 17, 774. The deed mentions the 1809 mortgage as an exception to clear title in this transfer. Deed Book 24, 63; Deed Book 24, 61/62/63.

³¹ Hardin, 381.

³² Deed in the possession of the owner.

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The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm: The Dodge Family

Sanders Dodge's father, Rufus Dodge (1760-1838, birthplace unknown), seems to have arrived in the border region between Montgomery and Herkimer County in the late 18th century and started a family with a first wife. Gideon Dodge (circa 1792-1858) of Frankfort appointed "my brother Sanders Dodge of the town of Winfield Herkimer County" as executor of his 1855 will, and another brother, Caleb Dodge (1794-1850) was born in Columbia Center (5 miles east of the Rice-Dodge-Burgess farm).³³ Gideon and Caleb's mother apparently died sometime before Sanders's birth; Sanders's mother was Sarah Jones Dodge, born in 1778 in Nova Scotia during her parents' emigration from Wales to a farm in the town of Danube, 22 miles to the east. She was only 25 when Sanders was born in Minden in 1803 (and would have been 14 when Gideon was born).³⁴ The age distribution of the children in the family also supports the likelihood of an earlier marriage and additional children. The 1810 census for the then town of Litchfield lists Rufus Dodge with 2 male children under 10 (one of them Sanders), 1 male between 10-16, 2 males 16-26, and 1 male over 45 (presumably Rufus Sr.); in addition, there were 1 female aged 16-26 and one 1 female aged 26-45 (presumably Sarah Jones Dodge.)³⁵ This leaves 3 children (2 boys and 1 girl) unaccounted for in terms of his marriage to Sarah.

Rufus hosted the first town meeting for Winfield on June 7, 1816 (location unknown).³⁶ Wherever he was living at that time, he apparently had developed the means to educate his third (or possibly fifth) son. A profile of Rufus's grandson, Dr. Amos P. Dodge, mentions Sanders's early life:

Sanders Dodge, son of Rufus and the father of our subject, was born in [Winfield], and made such excellent use of his opportunities as to be one of the best educated men in the community. He went to St. Lawrence County when a young man, and was for some years private secretary of Mr. Parish, a wealthy mine-owner. After resigning that position, he returned to Winfield, purchased a farm, and devoted his time to agricultural pursuits until his death.... Sanders Dodge and wife were the parents of three children – Sarah, Mary, and Amos P. The father was a Democrat in politics, served as justice of the Peace for a number of years, was the candidate of his party for the Assembly, and also for Supervisor.³⁷

³³ Dodge Family Association, "Will of Gideon Dodge, Frankfort, Herkimer Co., New York," 1855 [Recorded 1858]. dodgefamily.org/Wills/Gideon_Dodge_will.shtml

³⁴ Caleb Dodge's mother is not listed in the biographical information associated with his 1850 burial in Cedarville Cemetery (See *Find A Grave*, "Caleb Dodge." Findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=87261048).

³⁵ The 1810 Litchfield census return supports the possibility that there was at least one more son (and perhaps a daughter) from the first marriage or a first child from the subsequent marriage. The NY State Census of 1835 lists a Rufus Dodge, Jr., living in Chepachet (but not Sanders Dodge) and, in an 1871 will, Rufus Dodge of Beaver Dam, WI, left a substantial bequest to Mrs. Sarah A. Burgess. The US census of 1870 shows that this Rufus Dodge was born in New York State. He may have moved west after the death of Jane M. Rider Dodge, listed in the Cedarville Cemetery records as "wife of Rufus Dodge, died Jan. 1, 1853 age 32 yrs."

³⁶ Hardin, p. 371. "It is said that the snow was several inches deep on that day; it was the remarkable cold season which is still remembered by old citizens."

³⁷ *Biographical Review: The Leading Citizens of Madison County*, (Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1894). home.comcast.net/~ingallsam/Bio_Review/404.htm

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David and, later, George Parish were two of the most important businessmen in northern New York in the first quarter of the 19th century, operating from the "Red Villa" in Ogdensburg (now listed on the National Register as the Remington Art Museum). As George Parish's secretary, Sanders Dodge would have been exposed to sizable mill and mining operations.³⁸ Family tradition, supported in part by recorded deeds, holds that Dodge was economically as much an entrepreneur as a farmer.

Although Sanders Dodge bought the farm in partnership with Daniel Dodge, it is not clear who immediately moved in. Neither Sanders nor Daniel shows up in the 1835 census for the town of Winfield, although there are listings for Rufus Dodge (and an older woman, presumably Sanders's mother) and Rufus Dodge Jr. (with four males – 2 able to vote – and one woman). A history of the Prescott family suggests that, after Daniel married Harriet Prescott in March, 1835, he became a farmer in Plymouth, Chenango County, about forty miles south.³⁹

On March 14, 1838, Rufus Dodge Sr. died and was buried on the farm. His gravestone remains in Chepachet, but a second stone also exists in the Cedarville Cemetery to which the family graves were relocated sometime in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.⁴⁰

Perhaps the impetus for Sanders to return to Winfield and take up residence on the farm was his decision to marry. His marriage to Elisabeth Prescott (1812 – 1887) took place February 29, 1839.⁴¹ Elizabeth was the sister of Harriet Prescott, wife of Daniel; both women came from a successful family in New Hartford, Oneida County:

*Her father, Daniel Prescott, was born in the same place, and spent his entire life there as a farmer. His son, Hon. Amos H. Prescott, was a member of the State Assembly for a number of terms, and County Judge of Herkimer for seventeen years. His son, Daniel, was also an Honorable. His grandson, William, is a member of the State Assembly at the present time.*⁴²

From 1840 on, Sanders and Elizabeth's residence at the farm is well documented. A little over a year later, the couple's first daughter, Sarah Adeline Dodge, was born on April 18, 1840 "in the house where she now lives."⁴³ A second daughter, Mary Elizabeth Dodge, was born June 7, 1848, died Aug 1, 1864 (aged sixteen), and was buried within eyesight of the house. Sarah Jones Dodge, Sanders's mother, died August 1850. His son:

... Amos P. Dodge, was born December 16, 1854 and schooled locally before leaving for the Clinton Liberal Institute at Clinton, N.Y. (sites of the present-day Hamilton College). After he graduated in 1872, Amos studied medicine with Dr. Spencer, of Winfield, before leaving the area permanently to study in

³⁸ Gates Curtis, *Our County and Its People: A Memorial Record of St. Lawrence County, New York*, (Boston: Boston History Company, 1894), 584-592.

³⁹ William Prescott, *The Prescott Memorial* (Boston: Henry W. Dutton & Son: 1870), 184.

⁴⁰ According to Susan J. Huxtable, most of the graves were relocated when the state began to restrict family graveyards.

⁴¹ Hardin, Part 2 (*Family Sketches*), 18.

⁴² *Biographical Review*.

⁴³ Hardin, Part 2, 17.

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Maryland and New York City and to practice in Albany and Ilion before establishing a permanent practice in Oneida Castle.⁴⁴

Meanwhile Sanders's farm was changing its agricultural and industrial focus. In 1840, the grist mill burned; it was soon rebuilt.⁴⁵ In 1845, the census lists a married couple with a female child under 15 living on the property with the Sanders Dodges; it is uncertain if they were working on the farm or in the mills. However, the agricultural part of the census shows a shift at the level of the town of Winfield from clearing land and subsistence farming to grain production; the four gristmills in town produced more revenue than the 11 sawmills.⁴⁶ Given that Sanders Dodge owned one-half of the gristmill on his property at the start of his tenure, it is reasonable to suppose that his farm may have started to produce grains like wheat and oats in this time frame.⁴⁷

Production of grains is confirmed in the 1855 agricultural census when the 51-year-old Sanders Dodge was reported living on 185 acres, of which 150 were improved. (The lesser size of the farm may reflect the transfer of partial ownership of the mills to Elmer Angell.⁴⁸) His farm produced 75 tons of hay from 60 mowed acres. Another 60 acres seem to have been used for grazing, although Dodge reported no sheep or cattle. This left 30 acres for crops. Cheese production was also reported. A dairy barn (no longer extant) was located by family tradition on the knoll to the southeast of the house, between the house and the family cemetery; it might well have been built around this time. Portions of the foundation remain in the thicket presently growing on the northwest face of the knoll. The value of the farmstead was reported as \$7,000, putting Dodge in the upper third of the farming population of the town (ranked by value of holdings).

At some point in the 1850s, Sanders Dodge sent his daughter Sarah to the West Winfield Academy, one of three schools in the town when it was founded in 1850.⁴⁹ Then, in the late 1850s, Sarah married George Washington Burgess. Unfortunately, he died within three years from consumption. His brother, physician Daniel Maynard Burgess, gives a dramatic account of his death during a failed trip to Bermuda to improve his health:

We sailed from [Bermuda] on the 25th of April, 1862, being passengers on the Bermudian bark "Eliza Bass." I provided all the things which I thought would be necessary to his health and comfort, even to shipping a cow to furnish him with fresh milk. He died the night of our first day out, and the loss of one so dear to my heart nearly killed me. On account of the sailor's superstition as to the bad luck to a ship while carrying a dead person, I did not reveal the fact of my brother's death to anyone, and continued to

⁴⁴ *Biographical Review.*

⁴⁵ Hardin, 381.

⁴⁶ 1845 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York. Only aggregated agricultural production figures are available from this census.

⁴⁷ 1855 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York.

⁴⁸ Unfortunately, ownership information is missing for the other shares in these mills, although E. Angell and David Hines had deeded water rights from Charles Rice. In 1892, Hardin (381) reported Elmer Angell ran a grist mill in Chepachet earlier in the century.

⁴⁹ *Utica Daily Press*, June 29, 1904, reported that Sarah Dodge Burgess attended the 2nd reunion of the academy. Fultonnews.com

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carry into our stateroom the meals which were regularly prepared for him. This food I threw out of a porthole each night, and continued to sleep in our room as if nothing unusual had occurred. By carrying out this heartrending farce, I succeeded in getting his body home to our family and his widow, and he was buried in the cemetery in East Winfield.⁵⁰

Sarah is recorded living on the farm in the 1865 census as a young widow with a 5-year-old daughter, Eva Burgess. She never remarried, eventually inheriting the farm from her father and dying there at age 82 (See next subsection).

Meanwhile, another shift in agricultural production was underway. In 1865, Sanders Dodge began to focus on dairy farming and finally sold his share in both Chepachet mills to Larkin D. Smith, a Civil War veteran discharged from the 152nd New York Volunteer Infantry for disability in 1864. Hardin reports, "Mr. Smith bought the mills at Chepachet in 1865, rebuilt them and run [sic] them about eighteen years."⁵¹ No longer in need of grain for his mill, Dodge invested in cattle. The agricultural part of the 1865 census listed 18 milking cows, 70 acres in grazing, and 53 acres in hay, producing 50 tons of hay. There were small plantings of oats, beans, corn, and potatoes, and the farm reported producing 150 gallons of maple syrup. But the principal farm product was 7,500 pounds of cheese plus milk for market.⁵²

Two factors propelled this change. First, Herkimer County became renowned for cheese manufacture with an internationally known cheese market opening in Little Falls in 1861. Second, a railroad line was developed from Richfield Springs connecting to the Susquehanna Valley in the late 1860s.

Hardin claims that:

Herkimer county may justly claim the honor of giving birth to cheese-dairying as a specialty in America. It was from Herkimer county that the business began to spread to the adjoining counties, and from thence to the different States and to Canada. In many instances Herkimer county dairymen, removing to distant localities, were the first to plant the business in their new homes; while in many sections cheese-dairying was commenced by drawing upon Herkimer for cheese makers to manage the dairies. Often, too, parties were sent into the county to obtain a knowledge of cheese-making, and returning home carried the art into new districts. Thus for many years Herkimer was the great center from which the new districts drew the necessary information and skill for prosecuting the business of cheese dairying with profit and success.⁵³

Initially, most of this growth took place in that part of the county north of the Mohawk River where farms had been longer established. As long as pastures were limited, herds were necessarily small, and cheese production

⁵⁰ Daniel Maynard Burgess, *Personal and Professional Recollections*, (New York: Printed for Private Distribution, 1911), 50-51.

⁵¹ Hardin, Part 2, 108. It is not clear who purchased the mills from Smith, but Hardin reports that the mills (still a grist mill and a saw mill) were owned by Daniel Mann in 1891 (Hardin, Part 2, 206).

⁵² 1865 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York.

⁵³ Hardin, 118-119.

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was limited to surplus milk. But in the 1820s, farm herds grew, more cheese was produced, and buyers began to circulate through the countryside purchasing cheese for sale in Massachusetts and, later, England. Farmers made improvements to their stock by importing English cattle and building covered milk barns. In addition, various inventions came out of the county like the first dairy steamer for manufacturing cheese, the steel curd-knife, and various types of cheese presses.⁵⁴

A crisis occurred in 1861. Cheese agents normally bought the rights to future production and only paid for their cheese after delivery. The bankruptcy of Samuel Perry, the largest cheese agent in the county, came after he attempted to monopolize the market. Many farmers were not paid for their products. As a result, there was great support for the development of a more regulated cheese market in Little Falls:⁵⁵

On some market days previous to 1864, hundreds of farmers have been in the streets near the railway depot, each with his wagon loaded with cheese boxed and marked with his name; while some twenty or more buyers were scattered among them and passing from wagon to wagon. Some from New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and other cities, with an occasional shipper from England, could be seen examining, boring, tasting, smelling and making bids for the loads...

...From 1864 to 1870, the Little Falls cheese market had acquired so high a reputation that it was considered the center of the trade in America, and its weekly transactions had a controlling influence in establishing prices at the seaboard. Reports of the market at its close were telegraphed not only to parties engaged in the trade in our leading cities but to the great cheese centers of Liverpool and London.⁵⁶

The second factor in the switch to dairy production on the Rice-Dodge-Burgess farm was the arrival of the railway. Bulk sales of products like cheese and raw milk were much easier by rail than transportation by road. The Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Valley Railroad (UC&SV RR) was formed in 1866 to connect Utica to Greene, NY (due south, along current State Route 12). A 21-mile branch between Richfield Junction (Bridgewater) and Richfield Springs was authorized in 1868 and opened on Nov. 25, 1872. In between those dates, the line was acquired in 1870 by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.⁵⁷ The effect was to connect the hinterland south of the Mohawk Valley to the west through the Erie Canal at Utica and to New York City markets through rail. Farmers in southern Herkimer County no longer had to take their wagons down the steep roads to Mohawk, Ilion, or Utica to ship fluid milk.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Hardin, 119-122.

⁵⁵ Hardin, 124-125. Perry’s bankruptcy was partially due to the outbreak of the Civil War, but the failure of his monopoly exposed the need for a more diversified market.

⁵⁶ Hardin, 125.

⁵⁷ “Utica, Chenango and Susquehanna Valley Railway,” *Wikipedia:WikiProject*. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Trains/ICC_valuations/Utica,_Chenango_and_Susquehanna_Valley_Railway; UC&SV Route, *History*. ucsvroute.com/history/

⁵⁸ The Ilion and Cedarville Plank Road was constructed during the “plank road mania of 1847-48” and terminated less than 2 miles north of the farm. However, the steep grades continued to limit transportation of heavy loads. Nathaniel S. Benton, A

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The Richfield Springs branch line crossed the Richfield Hill road less than a third-mile east of Chepachet Pond. Sanders Dodge ceded a right of way over his property for the railroad and, in 1870, bought 29/100s of an acre from a neighbor to establish a depot (named for Cedarville, not Chepachet).⁵⁹ The first station agent was Delavan A. Angell, who worked out of a box car for the first summer.⁶⁰ The line was successful so the Lackawanna Railroad upgraded the track starting in 1896 and built the current station around 1903. Passengers, milk, and other agricultural produce were carried on the branch through World War II.

In the 1875 agricultural census, Sanders Dodge (now 72) is recorded living in the stone house on 180 acres with his wife Elizabeth Dodge (aged 62), daughter Sarah A. Burgess (35), son Amos P. Dodge (21), and granddaughter Eva A. Burgess (now 15). Sanders is still listed as farmer and his son is identified as a doctor working in Brooklyn, NY. That year Dodge plowed 10 acres, grazed 75 acres, mowed 45 acres of meadow, and left the remainder in wood and timber. He harvested small amounts of winter wheat, oats, spring barley, buckwheat, corn, and potatoes from the plowed land, and a small orchard provided 50 bushels of apples and 5 barrels of cider. The largest crop was hay – 67 tons – intended for his 18 milk cows. Cheese and butter production were only 200 pounds, probably reflecting more sales of raw milk shipped daily to market on the railroad. The family kept a few chickens, three horses, and three pigs that were slaughtered, providing 700 pounds of pork. The cash value of the farm was \$9,000, with \$1,025 in gross sales. The stone house was valued at \$1,000, the farm buildings at \$250, stock at \$1,181, and tools at \$120; the remainder was the value of the land.⁶¹

Agricultural census records cease after 1875 but it can be assumed that dairying continued to be the dominant cash crop on the Rice-Dodge-Burgess farm, as it was for the rest of Herkimer County. The region was increasingly well-connected to the larger world, especially after telephone service arrived in 1883.⁶² However, many changes took place within the family in the next fifteen years.

James S. Ginbey began to work part of the farm in 1876. Three years later, he married Almira Seckner of the town of Columbia and three years after that, in 1882, he bought 112 acres from Sanders Dodge. As of 1893, Hardin reported:

*... [He] still owns it, having added many buildings and made it very complete. He has cleared a part of the farm from the woods and improved the remainder.*⁶³

Sarah Dodge Burgess's only child Eva (Evaline) married Leslie D. Smith in December, 1882, and their daughter Sophia was born in August 1884. Smith was farming in Herkimer County before the marriage but, shortly after, moved to Norwich, Chenango County, (about 45 miles south) and purchased a 200-acre farm that he began to

History of Herkimer County, (Albany: J. Munsell, 1856), 219.

⁵⁹ Deed in the possession of the owner.

⁶⁰ Hardin, Part 2, 4.

⁶¹ 1875 New York State Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York. NOTE: Agricultural census records cease after 1875.

⁶² *Brookfield Courier and Reporter*, September 6, 1883.

⁶³ Hardin, Part 2 (*Family Sketches*), p. 49.

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work in 1886. Eva was in poor health after Sophia's birth and for much of her marriage.⁶⁴ In 1885, the *Richfield Springs Mercury* reported Sophia (still an infant) was visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Burgess.⁶⁵ At the time of Eva's death in October, 1888, the paper reported that:

*Mrs. Smith has been an invalid for several years. She leaves a little daughter who will live with her grandmother, Mrs. Sarah D. Burgess, of Chepachet.*⁶⁶

The local paper in Chenango County gave further details of Eva's life and showed that the Dodge family's commitment to education – for female as well as male children – had continued into another generation:

*Eva Burgess Smith was born in Cedarville, Herkimer County, twenty-nine years ago. She received her education at Fort Plain and Hamilton Female Seminaries. A fine and appreciative student, she particularly excelled as an artist, and executed with the brush many oil paintings of far more than ordinary merit.*⁶⁷

Sophia's father stayed in Norwich as farmer and supervisor of the Town of Plymouth, remarried in 1890, and raised another family.⁶⁸

Many more changes were coming. Sanders Dodge was reported as being in poor health in 1885. His wife, Elizabeth Prescott Dodge, died July 1887 and he died October 1889.⁶⁹ An obituary lauded "Esquire Dodge":

*The death of our old and respected townsman, Mr. Sanders Dodge, occurred at his late residence after a short illness, on Saturday, the 5th inst. Esquire Dodge was nearly 87 years of age and had lived where his death occurred, half a century. Perhaps none of our townsmen were more widely or more favorably known.... Mr. Dodge, through prudent and judicious management, accumulated a good competency of earthly wealth, but those who now come into the possession of the same will scarcely prize its value as they will the memory of a kind and loving father, whose long life record was without spot or stain and whose sterling integrity of character, and strict honesty in business transactions were universally conceded...*⁷⁰

⁶⁴ *Richfield Springs Mercury*, August 22, 1884

⁶⁵ *Richfield Springs Mercury*, May 7, 1885.

⁶⁶ *Richfield Springs Mercury*, November 1, 1888.

⁶⁷ "Death of Mrs. L.D. Smith." From a clipping book compiled by the Dodge-Burgess family. Some of Eva's paintings remain at the farm.

⁶⁸ NY Genweb: Herkimer, NY, *Chenango County NY Residents, Herkimer County NY Connections*.
herkimer.nygenweb.net/ancestors/chenanherkimer.html

⁶⁹ *Richfield Springs Mercury*, May 7, 1885.

⁷⁰ "Sanders Dodge." Family clipping book.

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Sarah and her brother jointly inherited the farm, but Amos continued to live and practice medicine in Oneida Castle, NY, and never seems to have been personally involved in its operation. In 1899, he deeded his half of the farm to his sister.⁷¹

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm: Sarah Dodge Burgess

At the time of her father's death, Sarah was a 49 year-old woman who had been a widow for 25 years. Her education at the West Winfield Academy had given her a devotion to culture that she passed on to her daughter and granddaughter. In the 1870s, she personally inherited a thousand dollars from a relative in Wisconsin that must have given her some independence. (This relative, another Rufus Dodge – who may or may not be the Rufus Dodge Jr. listed in the 1835 census – left the remainder of his estate to “forever be sacredly held used and applied for the education and tuition of worthy indigent females” and for the founding of a female seminary in his community of Beaver Dam.⁷²) She probably had the proceeds of the Ginbey sale to live on, as well as any proceeds from the now much smaller farm. She began to be featured in the local newspapers as a benefactor to various groups, frequently holding picnics and meetings at “the old stone house” to raise money for charitable causes. For instance, the October 17, 1890, *Ilion Citizen* reports:

The Ladies Society was entertained at Mrs. Burgess', Chepachet, last Friday afternoon. There were forty present. Rev. O. B. Beals announced the program. The choir assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones of Chepachet and Miss Adell Jones of Unadilla Forks furnished the music and Miss Sophia Smith a recitation. As Mrs. Burgess had offered a prize to those present who could recite the most lines of "Gray's Elegy" and as Mrs. Will Brown, Miss Amelia Angell, and others had it committed entire the prize was awarded by lot to Mrs. Brown who recited it to the company. After refreshments were served they adjourned to meet at the hall in two weeks, Oct. 24th.

Sarah became a part-time resident sometime in the 1890s. She is reported “stopping at the Dodge mansion” in 1899 and closing her house for the winter in December, 1903.⁷³ Various people visited her; she visited her brother, Dr. Amos Dodge, in Indian Castle. She went camping in Unadilla Forks with Sophie in 1907. Sophie graduated from the West Winfield High School in 1901.⁷⁴ She went away to New York City, and the 1906 *Ilion Citizen* announced when she came back to Chepachet (probably on the train) to spend her vacation with her grandmother.⁷⁵ In 1908, the paper noted that she had a position in the Syracuse University library.⁷⁶ On June 24, 1909, Sophie married Charles B. Gere of Syracuse at the farm in Chepachet.

⁷¹ From an abstract of deeds in the possession of the owner covering the period 1889 to 1963.

⁷² Dodge Family Association, “Will of Rufus Dodge, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin,” 1871.

dodgefamily.org/Wills/Rufus_Dodge_Wisconsin.shtml Rufus apparently disinherited his heirs who went to court to break his will. The case was decided in favor of female education in 1879. Wisconsin Supreme Court, *Wisconsin Reports: Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Vol. 46 (1879)*, 70-106.

⁷³ *Ilion Citizen*, August 18, 1899; December 24, 1903.

⁷⁴ *West Winfield High School Register of Alumni 1915-1916*. herkimer.nygenweb.net/winfield/winfieldalumni.html; *Ilion Citizen*, June 14, 1906.

⁷⁵

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July 1—The social event of the season took place at the home of Mrs. Sarah Dodge Burgess at 1 o'clock June 24, 1905, when her granddaughter Miss Sophie Evanden Smith and Charles Bissell Gere of Syracuse, were united in marriage by Rev. Jas. H. Huxtable of Boston.⁷⁷ The ceremony was performed on the lawn under a bower of June roses, ferns and daisies. The bride was beautiful in a gown of white messaline satin trimmed with old rose point lace from her mother's wedding gown. She wore a veil of tulle and carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. The bridesmaids were Miss Edith Gere of Syracuse, [sic] of the groom and Miss Marion Dodge of Oneida, cousin of the bride and were gowned in pink and white barred organdie and carried pink and white sweet peas. The best man was William Snyder of Syracuse. Mary Spencer of West Winfield played the wedding march from Mendelssohn's. The groom's gift to his bride was a broach of sapphires and pearls. Her gifts were many and very beautiful. Among them which will be highly prized was a mahogany linen chest lined with cedar cut from the tree grown at her grandmother's home. The decorations were in charge of Truman Brockway of Richfield Springs. Mrs. M. Mathis, caterer from Syracuse, with her daughter and eight young ladies from Richfield Springs, served 190 guests to a bountiful wedding dinner. Guests were present from Syracuse, Norwich, Richfield Springs and Oneida. The bride and groom left on a trip at 4 o'clock amid a shower of rice and a wealth of heartiest congratulations.⁷⁸

The *Ilion Citizen* for 1916-19 is full of social listings describing more visits from cousins, school-closing picnics, meetings of the Dorcus Band (associated with the Methodist Church), trips from Syracuse by Sophie and her children, and trips by Sarah Dodge to Syracuse and the Adirondacks. In the fall of 1916:

The Philathea girls held their annual picnic Monday afternoon in Mrs. Burgess'[sic] orchard. Nearly all the members were present. Hot coffee and bacon sandwiches were served besides many other good things. In the twilight hours, the girls toasted marshmallows [sic] over the camp fire, played games and sang some of the old familiar songs. The picnic was a very enjoyable occasions.⁷⁹

The following week, twenty members of the Herkimer Auxiliary of the Old Ladies Home "accepted an invitation from Mrs. Burgess of Chepachet to meet at her pleasant summer home" – now clearly a part-time residence. Mrs. Nettie Walker, a cousin from Herkimer, had spent the summer with Sarah and co-hosted the event. The guests arrived by automobile, taking a picturesque trip through the Ilion gorge to get to Chepachet:

The wholesome open air appetites acquired on the way were welcomed after arrival with an appetizing brunch. Later took place the business session of the circle and then a session of work for the Red Cross. The gracious hospitality of the hostesses made complete an event which charmingly combined sociability and practicality, as befits wartime functions.⁸⁰

⁷⁶ *Ilion Citizen*, July 9, 1908..

⁷⁷ The officiating preacher, Rev. James Huxtable, was the great-grandfather of the present owner of the property.

⁷⁸ *Ilion Citizen*, July 1, 1909.

⁷⁹ *Ilion Citizen*, September 14, 1916.

⁸⁰ *Richfield Springs Mercury*, September 14, 1916

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In October, 1917, Sarah (now 77 years old) installed a hot air furnace in the stone house but the plumbing remained rudimentary.⁸¹ The paper noted that she was dividing her time between Chepachet and Syracuse, where she lived with her daughter. She died March 15, 1923, in Chepachet, and was buried in the East Winfield Cemetery under a stone of archaic design that matches the stone of her husband, George Washington Burgess, who had died in 1862.

Legacies

The choice of this stone, and the remarkable preservation of the house for the almost 35 years that Sarah Dodge Burgess owned it, demonstrate her interest and fidelity to historic things and places. She recognized the importance of her home as a center for the community of Chepachet (even as the hamlet slowly dwindled in the early 20th century.) In 1919, she was recorded as attending a meeting of the Daughters of the War of 1812.⁸² Many furnishings and interior finishes are original to the late 19th century. The biggest changes to the stone house came after Sarah's death with the addition of a covered porch in the 1920s and modern plumbing in the 1960s.

Another legacy may have been the house's influence on Sarah's great-grandson, Charles Bissell Gere, Jr., a Syracuse architect who became a convert to the cause of historic preservation and a board member of the Landmarks Association, precursor to the Preservation League of Central New York. His obituary describes how he helped save the euphonious Gere Building in downtown Syracuse:

Mr. Gere, an architect, was a partner in the architectural firm Curtin, Kane, Gere and Ashley. For many years his office was located in the historic Gere Building on Hanover Square. The building, built in 1894, was named for his great-great-grandfather. Designed by Charles E. Colton, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

When it, and its western neighbor, the Gridley Building, was [sic] threatened with demolition in the early 1970s, Mr. Gere advocated its preservation. The result was a change in the city's redevelopment plan for the area.

In 1974, the then Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency and Mr. Gere's architectural firm undertook a \$200,000 rehabilitation of the Gere Building, supported by a \$90,000 federal restoration grant.

The granite, brick and terra cotta exterior was sand-blasted; marble wainscoting and mahogany woodwork were refurbished. Mr. Gere and his partners rolled up their sleeves and worked on the project themselves.⁸³

Charles Bissel Gere Jr. drew up the plans for the 1960s modifications to the Old Stone House for his sister and then owner, Sarah Burgess Stires, Mrs. Millmore Stires. It seems fitting to extend the same National Register

⁸¹ *Ilion Citizen*, October 11, 1917.

⁸² *Ilion Citizen*, September 18, 1919. Her uncle, Caleb Dodge, was a War of 1812 veteran.

⁸³ *Syracuse Herald-Journal*, July 20, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
----- Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
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N/A
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Section number 8 Page 18

recognition to Charles Gere’s great-grandmother’s house on the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm and to continue an almost 200-year tradition of historic preservation.

Architectural Significance

The stone house on the Rice-Sanders-Burgess Farm is significant for its high integrity, setting and character, modified New England Plan interior, and masonry construction. As mentioned in Section 7, the house retains almost all of its character-defining features from its construction date of 1830. The exterior, with the exception of a screened porch (added in 1925) and a masonry block chimney (added in the 1980s), dates from the end of its period of significance (1923); the only substantial changes before that were the addition of a new door and altered window on the basement level of the southwest elevation. The interior is almost equally intact. The original fireplaces, moldings, and painted graining remain, in a mix of Federal and Greek Revival styles.

Further, the house demonstrates a strong relationship to its setting and retains a sense of the character of 19th century Chepachet. The façade faces the dam, mill pond, and ruins of the original sawmill and grist mill built before 1830 by Charles Rice. In addition to the formal Federal-style front door with fanlight, there is a door into the basement (achieved by building the house into a bank). This part of the house may have served as an office, as well as kitchen; in any case, the design carefully segregates “work” and “leisure” functions. Back of the house are an early New World Dutch timber-framed barn and stone smokehouse, along with the original well and hand pump. To the north, are the grave of Sanders Dodge’s second daughter and the Dodge Family graveyard. For Sanders and Elizabeth Dodge, and for their daughter Sarah Dodge Burgess, all their world was contained within their view.

Third, the house is executed in a modified New England Plan style that directly links the building to the first period of settlement in Herkimer County. The Revolutionary War removed Haudenosaunee and British threats to safety and opened the land system to speculation and settlement. This section of Herkimer County was quickly settled by people from southern New England and the Hudson Valley; these settlers brought with them traditional, vernacular architectural styles from the 18th century that persisted here into the second quarter of the 19th century.

Finally, the masonry construction of the house is beautifully executed. The limestone was probably brought to the site from a quarry in the Town of Litchfield. Small details, like the positioning of the fanlight above the front door, show great finesse in cutting the stone to float the fanlight between the door and cornice. The use of stone was a statement of permanence, stability, and prosperity by the second-generation settlers who built and occupied the farm.

Overall, the stone house on the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm is locally significant and eligible in its own right for listing on the National Register under Criterion C.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

Archival Resources

Abstract of deeds in the possession of the owner.

Clipping book in the possession of the owner.

Deed in the possession of the owner.

Herkimer County, County Clerk's Office: Deed and Mortgage Books.

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Federal Census, Town of Winfield, Herkimer County, New York: 1820, 1830.

New York State Census, Town of Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York: 1810 (Available through newhorizonsgenealogicalservices.com)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York

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N/A

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Section number 9 Page 2

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National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York

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N/A

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Continuation Sheet**

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
----- Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
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N/A
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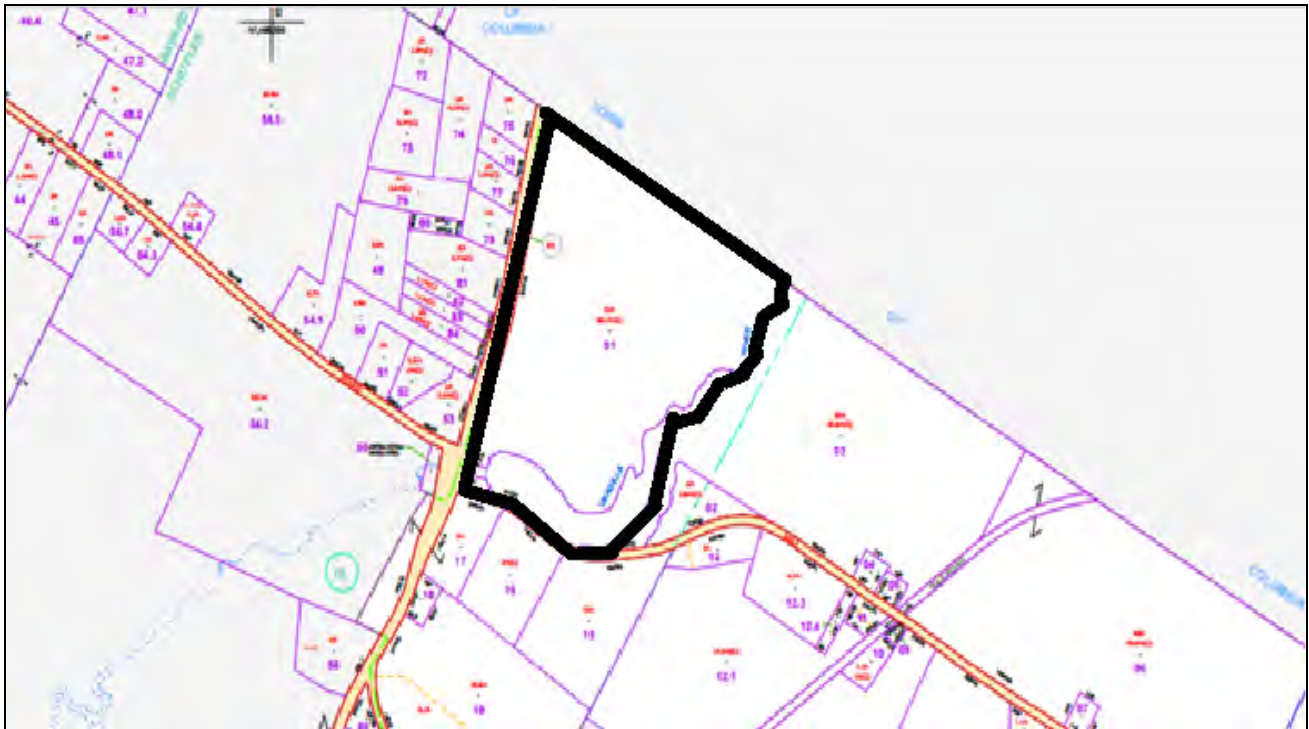
Section number 10 Page 1

UTM References

Point	Easting	Northing
1	490268	4751509
2	490708	4751250
3	490706	4751208
4	490648	4751102
5	490450	4750876
6	490378	4750817
7	490296	4750823
8	490107	4750925

Verbal Boundary Description

The Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm is shown on the attached tax map as parcel 130.3-2-1 in the Town of Winfield, Herkimer County. The heavy black outline on attached map defines the boundaries of the nomination.



Verbal Boundary Justification

At its maximum, the Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm encompassed more than 200 acres; however, the nominated parcel represents the size of the farm at the end of its period of significance in 1923.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

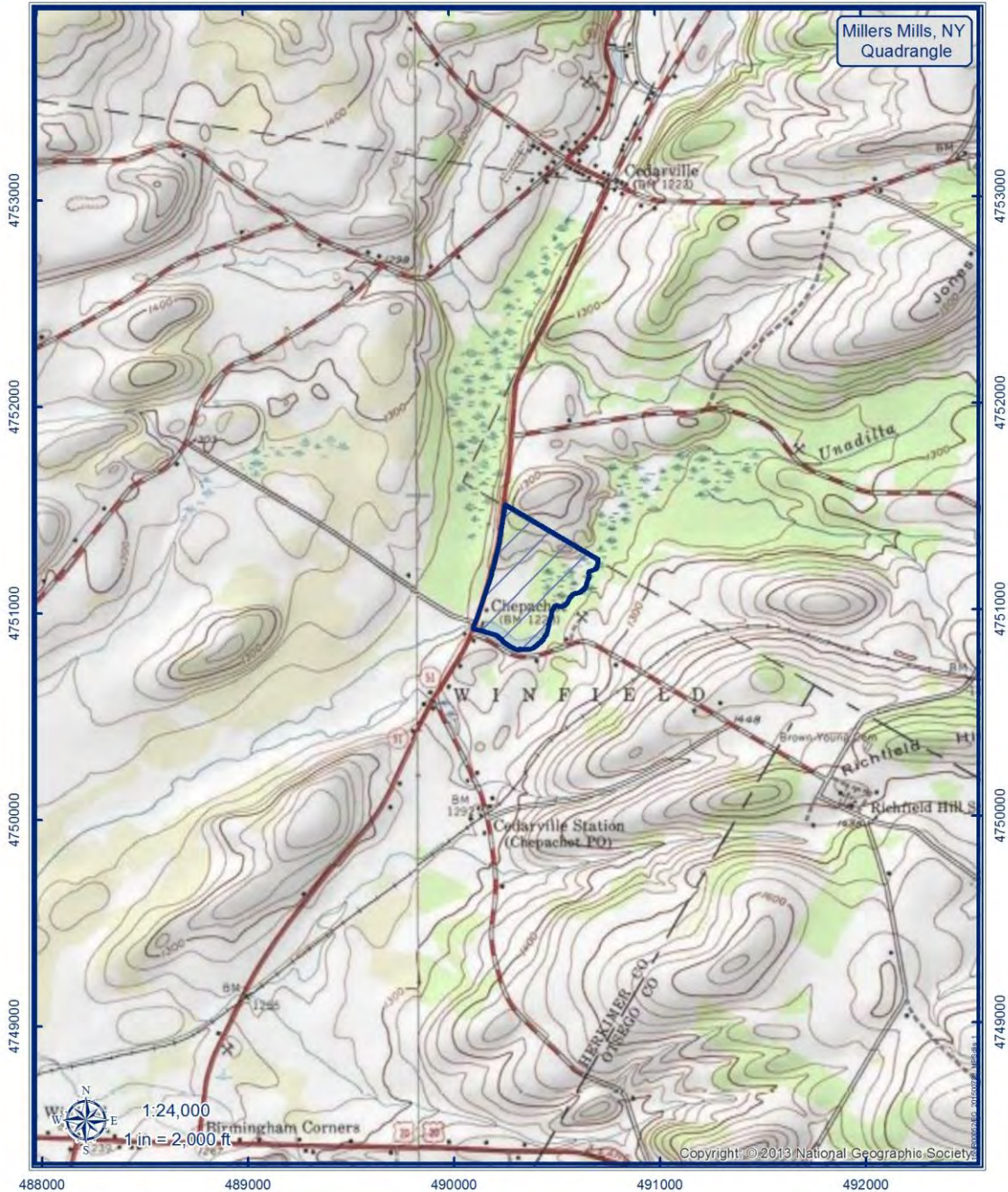
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 2

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY

588 State Route 51
West Winfield, NY 13491



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



Rice-Dodge-Burgess



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

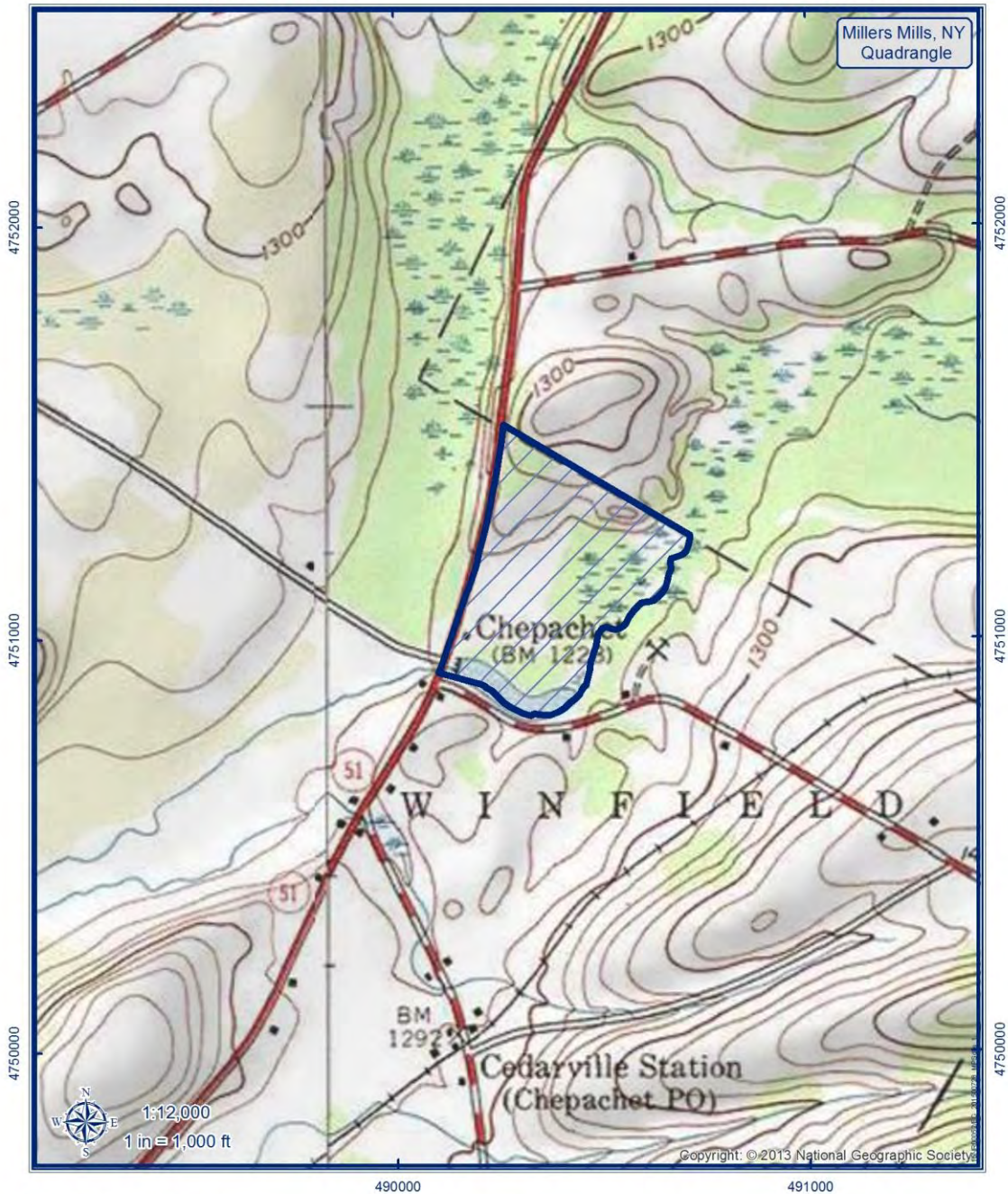
National Register of Historic Places
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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 3

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY

588 State Route 51
West Winfield, NY 13491



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
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Rice-Dodge-Burgess



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

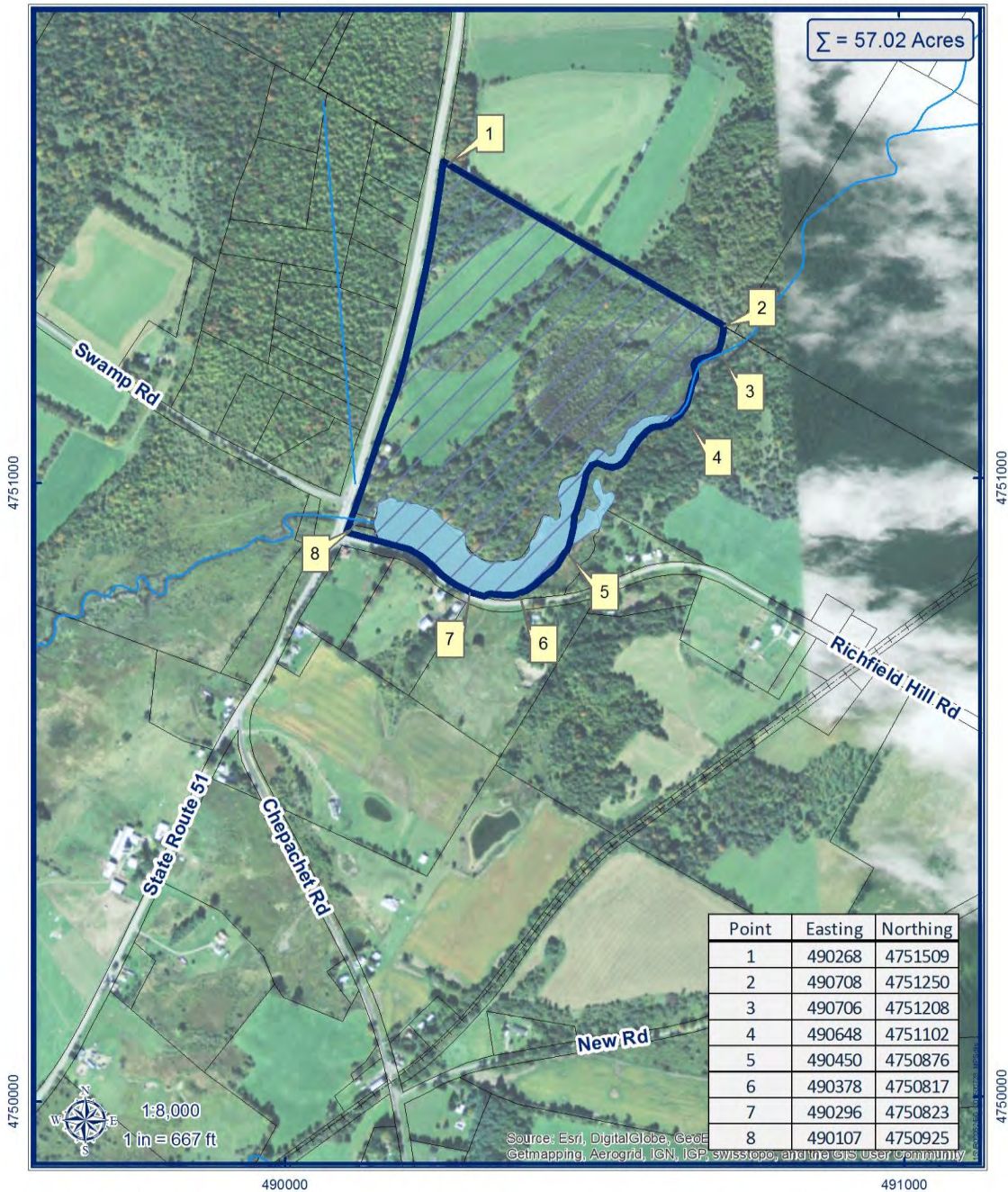
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 4

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
 Winfield, Herkimer Co., NY

588 State Route 51
 West Winfield, NY 13491



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



Rice-Dodge-Burgess



Parks, Recreation
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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
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Map of Resources within Property



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National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property

Herkimer County, New York

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 1

Additional Information: List of Photographs

Name of Property: Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
City or Vicinity: Cedarville (Vicinity)
County: Herkimer
State: NY
Name of Photographers: Emilie Gould
Date of Photographs: March 27, 2015, and August 13, 2015
Location of Original Digital Files: NYS Historic Preservation Office
Number of Photographs: 16

<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0001</i>	Façade (southwest)
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0002</i>	Detail of front door and fanlight
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0003</i>	Side elevation (southeast)
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0004</i>	Side elevation (northwest)
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0005</i>	Side elevation detail: Date stone
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0006</i>	Rear elevation (northeast)
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0007</i>	Interior: Winter parlor fireplace
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0008</i>	Interior: Rear room fireplace
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0009</i>	Interior: Upstairs bedroom
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0010</i>	Timber-framed barn and stone smoke house from southeast entrance to house
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0011</i>	Timber-framed barn: Northwest elevation
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0012</i>	Dam, mill pond, and mill ruins
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0013</i>	Dam, mill pond, and mill ruins: Spillway and sawmill ruins
<i>NY_Herkimer County_ Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm_0014</i>	Dam, mill pond, and mill ruins: Spillway (left center)

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
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Section number 11 Page 2

Additional Information: Historical Maps

1829 Map showing 18th century Patent Boundaries:



David H. Burr & Simeon De Witt, *Map of the County of Herkimer* (New York: D.H. Burr, 1829).
digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-f250-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99

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Continuation Sheet

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
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N/A
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Section number 11 Page 3

1859 Map of Chepachet showing plank road (with toll station) near Cedarville:



R.F. O'Connor & T. Golden, *Map of Herkimer County, New York* (Little Falls, NY: R.F. O'Connor, 1859).

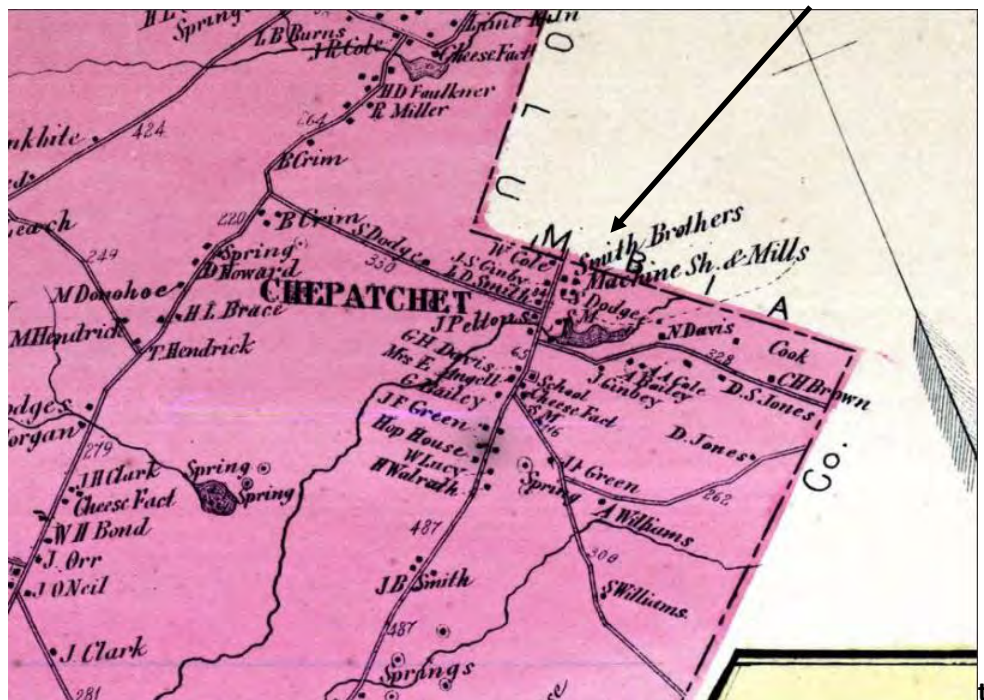
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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 4

1868 Map showing growth of the community of Chepachet:



Beach Nichols, *Atlas of Herkimer County* (New York: J. Jay Stranahan & Beach Nichols, 1868).

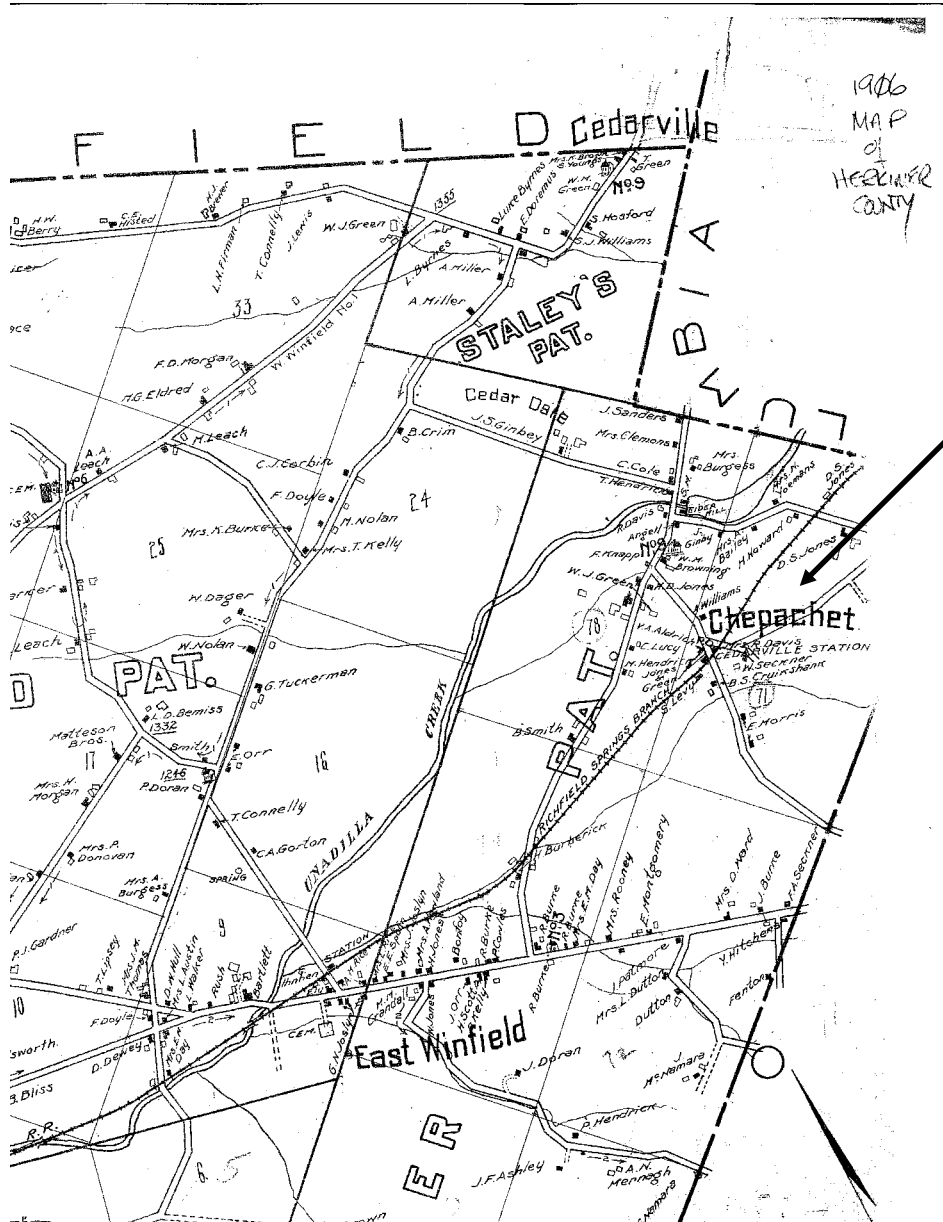
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Continuation Sheet

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Herkimer County, New York
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Section number 11 Page 5

1906 Map showing shift to Cedarville (Chepachet) Station:



"Winfield," Map of Herkimer County (Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1906).

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National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
----- Name of Property
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----- County and State
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Section number 11 Page 6

Aerial View of Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm:



Google Maps, 2015.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
----- Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
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Additional Information: Postcards

Chepachet Mills (early 20th C.) showing the grist/cider mill south of the dam:



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm
Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York
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Section number 11 Page 8

Chepachet Mills (early 20th C.) showing the sawmill north of the dam:



Cedarville (Chepachet) Station (1903):



**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**

Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm

Name of Property
Herkimer County, New York

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 11 Page 9

Additional Information: Tombstones on Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm



Rufus Dodge



Isaac and Polly Seamans









1830





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Rice--Dodge--Burgess Farm
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Herkimer

DATE RECEIVED: 10/09/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/04/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/19/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/24/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000821

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 11-24-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered by
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.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 9 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

30 September 2015

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 five nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

House at 288 Wimbledon Road, Monroe County
Globe Woolen Mills Company, Oneida County
University Presbyterian Church, Erie County
Rice-Dodge-Burgess Farm, Herkimer County
Charles Chauncey Dwight house, Cayuga County

These are our final nominations for the federal fiscal year. 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