

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

other names/site number "Mount Providence"; Ruhlmann House

2. Location

street & number 325 Summit Street [] not for publication

city or town Lockport [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Niagara code 063 zip code 14094

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ruth A. Purpont DSHPD 12/9/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet
 - [] determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet
 - [] determined not eligible for the National Register
 - [] removed from the National Register
 - [] other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper Alysa Abernethy date of action 12/27/15

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Niagara, New York

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u> </u>	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Stone Buildings of Lockport, New York

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19th CENTURY/Greek Revival

foundation stone

walls stone

roof asphalt

other wood details

Narrative Description

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

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Building Survey # NY-6095
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Social History

Period of Significance:

ca. 1833 – ca. 1911

Significant Dates:

Ca. 1833, 1854, 1868, 1911

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Unknown

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 18.25 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u>	<u>198595</u>	<u>4784673</u>	4	<u>18N</u>	<u>198236</u>	<u>4784275</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18N</u>	<u>198594</u>	<u>4784543</u>	5	<u>18N</u>	<u>198284</u>	<u>4784500</u>
3	<u>18N</u>	<u>198407</u>	<u>4784271</u>	6	<u>18N</u>	<u>198426</u>	<u>4784677</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Walkowski, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization New York State Historic Preservation Office date October 2014

street & number Pebbles Island Resource Center, PO Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643 x3214

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name Cynthia Kurk-Gerspach

street & number 470 Linwood Avenue telephone _____

city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14209

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

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Narrative Description of Property

The Pound-Hitchins House is a 2-story, five bay, side gabled Greek Revival house with rear wing, built of regular coursed, large-block ashlar Gasport Limestone, located in the City of Lockport, Niagara County. The house is located on approximately 14-acres of land on the south side of Summit Street in the southern area of the city. The property is sited adjacent to the Erie Canal, on its east bank, which runs to the west of the house. The house has a generous front lawn and is set roughly 160-feet away from Summit Street.

The front lawn of the Pound-Hitchins House retains a high level of integrity to many of its historic landscape features. The site contains an extant cast concrete hitching post, likely dating to ca. 1900, and fragments of a limestone carriage block, located at the front of the property near the main road. These contributing objects are sited on axis with the main entry door. The property also features a historic stone retaining wall, which is a contributing structure, located at the northwest area of the property along Summit Street. The front yard also contains remnants of its historic limestone pathway stones, which appear on an 1851 map of the property. Approximately 20 rectangular stone slabs run from the hitching post and carriage block south towards the main house. According to the property owner, sewer work near the front of the property may have obliterated those slabs closest to the house, or they may have become buried under the soil. Similar stone paving slabs also run perpendicular to the front path, running parallel to the front façade of the house. Part of a curved path, shown in 1851 with an elliptical shape, is also present near the street. Also located on the property are the ruined foundations of several historic stone barns, notably what appears identified as the barn and shed on the 1851 map, located to the southeast of the main house. The land in the area rises around the west side of the ruined foundation, suggesting that the barn may have been a bank barn. While the limestone foundation walls are deteriorated and overgrown with vegetation, they show traces of room divisions, suggesting the barn was divided into different working areas.

As a stone building located within the boundaries of the City of Lockport, the Pound- Hitchins House meets the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document titled *Stone Buildings of Lockport, New York* in Section F, page 4 . The requirements state the following:

1. The primary building material for above-ground walls is either Medina Sandstone or Gasport Limestone from local quarries or from soil excavated during the construction of the Erie Canal, the widening of the canal, or the reconstruction of the flight of five locks.
2. At least three exterior walls are constructed of stone
3. The stone is structural, not merely ornamental cladding.

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4. The overall form of the building is intact. Additions should not overwhelm the original building in size and placement. Many buildings incorporate later wood frame wings and additions. If additions are present they should be removable without impairing the integrity of the original structure.
5. Fenestration and door openings are intact and retain original lintels and sills. Replacement windows are acceptable as long as they have not required the alteration of the dimensions of the original masonry openings.
6. The mortar is largely intact. In examples with applied tuck point, normal weathering of tuck pointing and/or parging is acceptable.
7. The building retains character-defining features of its original style.

In accordance with the Registration Requirements for Sub-type A: Stone Residences (Section F, page 22), the Pound-Hitchins House also meets the following additional requirements:

1. The house must retain the most important elements of its setting, including the basic character of the surroundings, the historic relationship of the house to the public street, lawns essential to the setting of the house, walks, drives, or other significant landscape features.
2. Non-stone features, including doors, windows, door trim, porches, and decorative items, must survive intact.
3. Interior configuration, trim and significant features must remain intact.

Exterior

The Pound-Hitchins House was constructed ca. 1833 and consists of a 2-story with basement and attic, five bay, symmetrical limestone side-gabled Greek Revival house with end chimneys and an elaborated central entry. At the south end, a 2-story wing is present, with a three-bay stone garage building at its southern end. The main building has a smooth, regular, coursed limestone raised basement with blind window openings aligned to the windows above and a simple stone watertable. The stone work on the main elevation of the building is impressive, reflecting the high level of masonry skills in the Lockport area due to the construction of the Erie Canal. The stone is well cut with minimal, if any, mortar visible between the blocks; the façade almost reads as one continuous stone block. Fenestration is regular, with six-over-six double hung wood sash windows with modest, slightly projecting stone sills and stone lintels, set flush to the surface plane. The most elaborate feature of the main elevation is the central entry door, which is reached by a set of stone steps (deteriorated). The original six panel wood door is recessed slightly behind two engaged Ionic columns *in antis* with sidelights and panels between halved Ionic pilasters. A shaped entablature surmounts the columns and entry door, with a five-light transom above. A

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simple wood entablature is present beneath the eaves, and the low pitched roof has modern asphalt shingles. Four limestone chimneys are visible. The main portion of the house measures approximately 49-feet wide (west-east) by 37-feet in depth (north-south), and the entire house, including the rear wing and garage, measures approximately 100-feet in depth.

Side elevations of the main house are similarly detailed as the front elevation, although the stone here is slightly rougher in texture (either intentionally or through weather exposure) than that of the main façade. Notable features in the side elevations include gable returns and ox-eye wood windows in the attic.

At the south side of the building, a large 2-story wing was constructed. This wing appears to be original to the house and is included on the 1851 map of the property. While it is possible that some cooking was done in the large basement fireplace, which retains a pintel used for a crane, it's likely that the large first floor room of the wing served as a kitchen. This is further suggested by the fact that a brick-lined well is still present on the site, located just to the east of the wing and easily accessible from a kitchen in this location. This gabled stone wing is set slightly to the west of center on the main building and is similarly detailed as the main house, with smooth (now weathered), coursed limestone walls and a wood entablature. Masonry pockets above the first floor indicate the historic presence of large porches along the full length of both sides of the rear wing and connecting to the main house. These porches have long since deteriorated. Above these masonry pockets, windows of smaller size are present in the second story. A stone chimney is present, centered at the roof peak, toward the southern end of the wing.

Connected to the south end of the wing is another limestone gabled building. Historically identified as a greenhouse in 1851, this 1-story area now serves as a garage. The building consists of similar coursed limestone side walls with a three-bay wood frame opening. While the gable peak is currently sided with vinyl, the wood clapboard is beneath. A small window is also present.

Interior

The main portion of the Pound-Hitchins House is a center hall plan house, with parlors on either side on the first floor, and bedrooms on the upper floor. This section of the house also has a full basement and attic. The first floor of the wing contains a room on the ground floor that historically was used as a kitchen and is currently used for storage. Above is another large room currently used as storage. Despite sitting vacant for more than 60 years, the interior of the house is in relatively intact condition. The house is so intact to the nineteenth century that it does not feature an indoor bathroom. Wood floors are still present throughout the house, and the original plaster walls are largely intact. Plaster ceilings fared

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worse, and many have been temporarily removed to accommodate modern wiring and plumbing. The woodwork and trim of doors and windows features a wide vocabulary of forms common to the Greek Revival era. Many doors, particularly on the first floor, retain their faux painted wood grain finishes, a technique often seen where fine woods such as figured mahogany or cherry could not be purchased.

Basement

The basement of the main house features an earth floor, and the rough-cut limestone rubble foundation walls are visible. The ceiling is also unfinished, although certain areas appear to have once had a plaster and lath ceiling, and reveals the series of heavy beams and rafters that compose the floor system above. The basement is sectioned off into various chambers with additional stone walls, although their exact historic function is unclear. It's possible that the basement served as the original kitchen for the house, and these rooms served as work spaces and as storage for food, wine, and other goods. One room in the basement features a broad, curved wall and may have once housed a cistern. A large fireplace is present in the basement, and it's possible that this once served as a cooking hearth for the house. This fireplace features limestone block side walls, with a massive stone lintel over the open hearth. A pintel is still present in the back of the firebox, which suggests the presence of a crane used for cooking. The fireplace has been partially blocked with bricks to reduce its size, both below the lintel and above, and it may have been modified for a stove at some point.

Near the deteriorated stair to the basement is a large stone slab, set slightly into the earth floor of the basement. Local lore holds that this slab conceals a tunnel which originally ran between the house and the canal and was used to transport runaway slaves as part of the Underground Railroad. This claim is unsubstantiated, however, and what, if anything, lies beneath the slab is currently unknown.

First floor

The first floor of the main block is a typical center hall plan with parlors on either side. In the central entry hall, the main stair for the house is located. This stair, located along the southern wall of the main hall, is elegantly rendered with a turned urn newel post, turned balustrade and scroll patterned stringer details. The hall features a wood floor, plaster walls, high painted wood baseboard, and door surrounds with fluted moldings with decorative corner blocks. The inside of the main entry door is articulated with an elaborate surround encompassing the entry door, side lights and transom with a reeded molding and surmounted with a central panel above the transom. The plaster ceiling is accented with a medallion.

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At the east side of the house is a large double parlor. This large parlor is separated by doors, so that it could be closed for smaller functions or opened into a large space for events. The front parlor space features a wood floor and trim similar to that found throughout the house. Here, windows and doors are trimmed in a similar reeded molding as that of the entry hall, with similar corner blocks. The windows, set above a panel, contain paneled hinged wood shutters. The centerpiece of the room is an elegant fireplace, with stone hearth and figured grey stone (possibly limestone) legs and header around the firebox. The legs have a modest base and capital suggesting a Classical column. The room also features a heavy crown molding.

Connecting to this front parlor is a rear parlor, which is accessed through a large opening that is trimmed with a similar central panel as the main entry door. This opening accommodates two large paneled doors, which retain their faux wood grain finish. This rear parlor is similarly elaborated as the front parlor, with a wood floor, figured grey stone fireplace surround, reeded trim and heavy crown molding.

At the west end of the first floor is another parlor, accessed from the main entry hall. This room continues the vocabulary of materials and detailing as the large double parlor, although the room contains a wood fireplace surround. Working from the damaged original, which retained traces of black paint with grey and brown marbling, the homeowner has restored its faux painted finish. Flanking the fireplace are two original built-in closets, which suggest this room may have functioned as a library or office. The south wall of this room may have been altered; pockets for wall studs are visible in the ceiling beam, now exposed with the removal of the deteriorated plaster. Additionally, the wood floor shows evidence of having been patched. The original configuration of this portion of the room is unclear, however any alteration does not obscure the historic character in this space.

To the south of this parlor is a large room which is currently a kitchen but may have once been the formal dining room for the house, give its connections to the basement, the parlors, and the rear wing of the house. This space is detailed somewhat differently from the parlors. Here the doors and windows are trimmed with a Greek Revival pedimented surround and painted with a faux wood grain finish. The high level of detail in the woodworking, to simulate fine materials, suggests this was a formal room meant to impress guests and visitors, such as a dining room. Currently the space is used as a temporary kitchen. Directly connected to this room is a small room, to the west end of the space. This could have once served as a butler's pantry or a staging area for the warm food.

The first floor of the rear wing consists of a single large room. This likely once served as a kitchen wing for the house. A stair to the upper story is located along the western wall, but originally a stair appears to have been located along the north wall adjacent to the main house. Finishes in this room are more

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modest than those in the main house, consisting of a wood floor, plaster walls and ceiling (now removed), and simple door and window trim. At the south end of the room a bake oven remains, located in the deep stone wall. This oven has a beehive interior shape and was found with an unattached cast iron door with Gothic Revival arches (possibly dating to the 1860s). While the south wall containing the oven was plastered, surrounding the oven are tooled limestone blocks.

Second Floor

The second floor, being privately used by the family and their servants, is less opulent than the ground floor, which served as a public space. The upper level of the main house retains the center hall plan, although the stair opening has been enclosed with a temporary partition. This open hall is as wide and broad as the lower floor, serving as a generous circulation space. Flanking the hall are rooms that most likely served as bedrooms for the family and potentially for a servant. Typical in the second floor of the main block are wood floors, plaster walls and ceilings, and painted wood trim. Paneled doors generally retain their faux painted finish.

A room at the northwest corner of the second floor may have served as the master bedroom. This spacious room features a fireplace along the western wall. This fireplace is missing its surround, although a Classical style wood mantelpiece found in another room may be the surround for this fireplace. The room also features an original built-in closet along its south wall. Trim in this room is elegant, although less refined than that of the lower floor, with flat-cut trim and corner blocks with recessed squares.

Opposite from this master bedroom is a series of three rooms *enfilade*, which may have been bedrooms for children. Two larger rooms are placed towards the outer corners and open up into a smaller shared room that may have served as a play room or nursery. These bedrooms are comparably detailed to the master bedroom, featuring the same modest window and door trims with recessed square corner blocks.

The historic function of the upper floor of the rear wing is unclear. Census records from the 1840s-1860s note that several workers, laborers and others resided in the house with the Hitchins family, so it's possible that this room served as a bunk house for them. Or it could have functioned in relationship to a kitchen below. Whatever its function, the second floor of the wing is a large open room that is reached through a small stair in the southwest bedroom. The doorway is short, and the stair is integrated into the width of the stone wall. If the rear wing is a later addition, this doorway may have originally been a window, given its awkward size and proportion. Windows in the room are smaller than any others in the house and set low to the floor. This room features a wood floor, plaster walls, and once had a plaster ceiling. A very plain wood baseboard is present in the room, and the windows are trimmed with a small

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molding and apron. A stair, which connects into the lower room, is located along the western wall of the room, but the floor boards indicate that the original stair was built at the north end along the stone wall of the main block.

Attic

The open attic of the main house is accessed via a small stair hidden in a closet of a bedroom on the second floor. The large open space consists of the entire foot print of the rectangular house. A wood plank floor is found in the attic, and the rubble stone interior walls are visible. What is most prominent in the space is the massive roof framing system for the building. The roof framing consists of two transverse queen post roof trusses which receive longitudinal principal purlins on which common rafters rest. These queen post trusses are hand hewn and were cut slightly irregular, due to the axes and hand tools. Also visible in places are blank joints, where notches and even peg holes were cut, suggesting that the roof system may have been a trial-and-error process or that some of the structural elements were reused from a different building. They are assembled with mortise and tenon joints, which are fixed by wooden pins. Two long tie beams, hewn from massive (likely old growth) trees, run the entire width of the attic space, serving as the bases for the trusses. The massiveness of the roof structure recalls barn construction, and was likely employed to aid in tying the stone walls together to keep them from splaying outward. The ox-eye windows are visible in the attic, and their delicate spider web mullions can be examined. Also visible in the attic are portions of the brick chimneys on the gable ends.

Landscape

While the land surrounding the Pound-Hitchins House is no longer utilized in the same manner as indicated on a detailed 1851 map of the property, the land continues to be actively farmed and retains a highly rural feeling which is comparable to its nineteenth and early twentieth century character. The 1851 map suggests that the property once had a modified four-field type of field system. As recommended in 1791 by Rev. Samuel Deane, the farm house was to be sited close to the road, and toward the center of the property, with crop fields and orchards placed close to the house.¹ Mowing lots and pastures were located further away from the main house. Perhaps modified due to soil conditions, the 1851 map indicates that the land may have been organized based on this type. This type of field system was typical of early nineteenth century farming practices in New England. An orchard was once present to the west of the main house, again putting crops in close proximity to the residence. While the 1851 map only highlights the most developed are of the Hitchins property at the time, and not the full

¹ Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1984), 81-82.

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extent of the agricultural lands, it is suggested that the surrounding, more distant land, would have been pasture for the livestock. Today, there is little evidence of this original configuration of agricultural fields and pastures, due in large part to the development of modern farming methods and machinery and changing crop production. The orchard has since been lost, and the land is now a field.

Summary

The Pound-Hitchins House is an excellent and largely intact example of a stone constructed Greek Revival house. The high style of the rather opulent house reveals the use of pattern books and a conscious effort to build a house in the latest fashion and style. However, certain elements in the house reveal that the Niagara County region still faced a lack of high end materials and skilled fine craftsmen to accomplish the undertaking. There is an awkwardness to several interior features, such as the abrupt termination of window and door trim into an adjacent wall, to provide evidence for this. Further, the extensive use of decorative faux painted finishes on doors and fireplace surrounds reveals a lack of fine quality decorative woods in the region. The Pound-Hitchins House is reflective of the conditions in the emerging Lockport area shortly after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

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Statement of Significance:

The Pound-Hitchins House is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a distinctive Greek Revival example of limestone-built residential architecture in the City of Lockport, Niagara County, New York. Built ca. 1833 by Joseph Smith Pound, the nominated house is part of a local building tradition of stone construction in the Lockport area, which is documented in the *Stone Buildings of Lockport, New York* Multiple Property Documentation Form. The rapid economic and population growth of Lockport during the 1820s, during the construction of the Erie Canal and the "Flight of Five" locks, coupled with the discovery of abundant deposits of limestone and sandstone in the area, allowed many area residents like Pound to construct large, gracious residences of the latest styles and architectural trends. The five bay, symmetrically composed Greek Revival style limestone house still retains many decorative elements, including a highly detailed Ionic door surround, bulls-eye gable attic windows drawn from earlier Federal style models, and numerous marble fireplace surrounds on the building's interior. The house, along with its surrounding landscape, was once known as "Mount Providence" in the 1850s, when owned by Francis Hitchins, and was once a sprawling, elegant estate. During the twentieth century, however, the property was largely abandoned and neglected, resulting in the loss of its outbuildings and manicured landscape.

The house is also significant under criterion A, for its associations with the early development of Lockport, and its associations with many of the area's most notable citizens. The house was constructed by an early settler to the region, one with strong ties to the large Quaker community in Lockport. Joseph S. Pound was an early Quaker settler in Lockport, arriving in 1822 with his family, and working as the head miller at his brother-in-law Lyman Spalding's mill. Constructed of stone quarried on the property, the house reflects the growing use of pattern and style books in the region in the 1830s. The house is part of a tradition of stone building in Lockport, and is generally regarded as one of the largest and finest examples. Francis Hitchins, who owned and resided in the stately house between 1842 and 1868, was a prominent local figure in Lockport and helped work on repairing the Erie Canal in the 1860s. Known as a farmer, Hitchins was also a prominent businessman in the area, owning and operating a glass factory and sash and blind factory. Some local stories also connect both Pound and Hitchins with the abolition movement in Lockport and with the Underground Railroad. Michael Rogers, once a coachman for Governor Washington Hunt, owned the house between 1883 and 1911, and ran a well-known dairy on the property.

The period of significance for the house is between ca. 1833-1911, an era which encompasses the period when the house was owner-occupied, serving as the residence of Joseph S. Pound and Francis Hitchins followed by subsequent long-term owner Michael Rogers. After Rogers's death in 1911, the house was

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rented by various tenants for several years while his will was contested by relatives; it was known to have been vacant since the 1940s.

History and Development of the Pound-Hitchins House

The Pound-Hitchins House was constructed ca. 1833 on the northwest portion of lot 57 of Township 14, Range 7 of the Holland Land Company purchase. The parcel was originally purchased by Addison J. Comstock in 1824 for \$212.51 and encompassed just over 56-acres of land.² At the time of his purchase, the land was located in a largely rural area outside of the more settled areas of the village of Lockport, along the route of the nearly completed Erie Canal. The Comstock family members were some of Lockport's earliest settlers and land owners. Born in Farmington, Ontario County, New York, Nathan Comstock Jr. arrived in Lockport around 1816 and was followed by his brothers Joseph, Jared and Darius shortly after the canal route was fixed to run through Lockport. Addison Comstock and his father, Darius, however, did not stay in the Lockport area long after the Erie Canal was finished. In 1825, Darius and Addison Comstock purchased more than 600-acres of government-owned land in Michigan. After returning to Lockport to settle their affairs, they moved with their families to their land out west in 1826, where they founded the town of Adrian.³

After his move to Michigan, Addison Comstock retained ownership of the land he purchased in Lockport for several years before the land was purchased by Joseph Smith Pound in 1832 for \$967.81. Like Comstock, Pound was part of a substantial family of Quakers who migrated from Farmington, Ontario County to Lockport in the early 1820s. Born on May 1, 1808 in Farmington, Joseph arrived in the Lockport area with his family in 1822.⁴ He married Lavina Dillingham in 1829. After his father, John's, death in 1832, Joseph may have inherited some money that allowed him to purchase the land on Summit Street that same year. Early in his life, Joseph, along with his brother Samuel, worked as butchers, carrying on their father's trade, operating the J & S Pound Wholesale & Retail meats shop located on Main Street near the canal.⁵ Later, Joseph Pound worked as the head miller at his brother-in-law Lyman A. Spalding's large and successful grain mill, located at the headwaters of the "Flight of Five" locks in the center of Lockport.⁶

² Copy of deed, liber 5, pages 85-86 found in the files of "Hitchins House" at NY SHPO office.

³ C. B. Comstock, *Some Descendants of Samuel Comstock of Providence, R.I., Who Died about 1660* (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1905), 61, 107. Also, John I. Knapp and R. I. Bonner, *Illustrated History and Biographical Record of Lenawee County, Mich* (Adrian, MI: Times Print., 1903), 68.

⁴ "Pioneer Firemen," *Lockport Journal*, June 4, 1904.

⁵ Bob Kostoff, "Pounds Prominent Locally," *Niagara Falls Reporter*, September 8, 2009, accessed May 29, 2014.

⁶ "New Publications," *Niagara Falls Gazette*, September 28, 1859.

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Records suggest that it was likely Joseph Pound who constructed the stone house around 1833.⁷ Many local sources note that the house was constructed around that year, and the deed transactions support that date. Joseph Pound was noted as purchasing the land, adjacent to the already constructed Erie Canal, on August 1, 1832 at a cost of just over \$900. On October 25, 1832, Pound took out a \$2,000 mortgage with the New York Life Insurance and Trust Company for the property on lots 57 and 58.⁸ When Pound sold the property in 1835, he sold it for \$5,265 to John Cranson, and it was recorded that Cranson paid a mortgage of \$3,264 to Pound.⁹ While Cranson's purchase did include some additional acreage in lot 58, Pound's \$2,000 mortgage in late 1832, coupled with the fact that the price of the land skyrocket nearly 450 percent in only three short years, suggests that a building was constructed on the property sometime likely in 1833. Joseph Pound also apparently had the means to construct what was then a spacious, stately and modern house, as it was noted that "by prudence and careful investment he amassed a small fortune estimated between \$30,000 and \$35,000" at the time of his death in 1859.¹⁰ In 2014, this would have been roughly \$825,000 to \$960,000.

While documentation is limited, Joseph Pound was part of an Orthodox Quaker abolitionist family, and it's likely that he may have had ties to the strong local abolition movement. While residing in Farmington, his father, John Pound, served as a director of the Ontario Manumission Society, chartered by the State of New York in 1812 to help "those who are illegally held in slavery to the attainment of their personal liberty, and to assist in the education of people of color, whether free or enslaved."¹¹ John Pound may have also played a role as an agent of the Underground Railroad, as the 1830 federal census for Lockport indicates that an African American male between the age of 24-35, who may have been a laborer or even a freedom-seeker, also resided with his family.¹² Lyman A. Spalding, who married Joseph's sister Amy, was perhaps one of the most active and visible abolitionists in Lockport. Spalding was a prominent mill owner and business leader in Lockport, arriving in the growing area in 1822 at the suggestion of Addison Comstock.¹³ Spalding also served as secretary and treasurer of Lockport and Niagara County Anti-slavery

⁷ Among the many sources for a date around 1833 include Jack Barker, Jr. and Virginia B. Price, *Francis Hitchings House*, report no. HABS No. NY-6095, Historic American Building Survey (HABS) (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1983, 2011), 2.

⁸ Niagara County Mortgage Book #3, page 785 on file at the Niagara County Historians Office.

⁹ Deed records on file at the NY SHPO.

¹⁰ Shotwell, 11.

¹¹ Judith Wellman, Ph.D. et al., *Farmington Quaker Crossroads Historic District, Ontario County, New York*, report no. 07NR05702, State and National Registers of Historic Places (Albany, NY: NY State Historic Preservation Office, 2007), section 8 page 25.

¹² 1830 US Census; Census Place: *Lockport Ward 1, Niagara, New York*; Page: 409; NARA Series: M19; Roll Number: 95; Family History Film: 0017155.

¹³ Kathleen L. Riley, *Lockport: Historic Jewel of the Erie Canal* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2005), 29-30.

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Society, formed in 1836. Spalding's own diary records accounts of his harboring fugitive slaves.¹⁴ While Joseph S. Pound's personal involvement in the abolition movement is unclear, he was surrounded by family members who actively supported the initiative. Perhaps as an indication of his support of the cause, Joseph named his son Lyman, undoubtedly after his prominent brother-in-law, and also left Lyman A. Spalding a legacy in his will, indicating a close relationship between the two.¹⁵ While Joseph Pound may not have played an active role in abolition activities in Lockport during the early 1800s, it seems fair to surmise that he likely supported the cause.

It's unclear if Joseph Pound ever resided in the stone house on Summit Street. The "old Pound homestead" located at 114 Chestnut Street (presently near the corner of Chestnut and Washburn Streets) was referred to as the home of Joseph and, later, his son, Lyman Pound. It's possible that Joseph Pound constructed the stone house, then on the outskirts of the village of Lockport, as a country residence and farm, while he maintained a village residence.

After Pound owned the property in the early 1830s, the stone house underwent a series of changes in ownership before it was purchased by Francis Hitchins. Pound sold the property to John Cranston in 1835; Cranston later sold it to John L. Hovey and George Reynolds in 1836. Jacob Hall purchased the property in 1839 before selling it to Amos and Hannah Comstock, who at the time resided in Adams, Massachusetts, in 1840.¹⁶ It appears that the Comstock family never actually resided in the house, living for most of their lives in Adams and later moving to Michigan, while perhaps renting the property out for farming. On July 23, 1842, Francis Hitchins purchased the approximately 56-acre parcel in the northwest corner of lot 56, township 14, range 7 from Portous R. Root, who resided in Rome, Oneida County.¹⁷ Root had bought the property only a short time earlier, on June 20, purchasing it at a county auction. Root served as an engineer for the Erie Canal, and it's likely that Hitchins, who had worked as a contractor on the canal since the 1830s, knew Root and of his purchase, given the quick turn-around. Hitchins eventually purchased additional property in the area, including 68-acres just to the north (part of lot 58).

¹⁴ Historical New York Research Associates, Inc., "People and Sites Relating to the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, and African American Life, 1820-1880 Niagara Falls and Niagara County," ed. Tanya Lee Warren, section goes here, accessed May 29, 2014, 31.

¹⁵ Ambrose Milton Shotwell, *Annals of Our Colonial Ancestors and Their Descendants, Or, Our Quaker Forefathers and Their Posterity... Embracing a Genealogical and Biographic Register of Nine Generations ... of the Shotwell Family in America ... Together with the Pedigree and near Kindred of the Author's Parents, Nathan and Phebe B. (Gardner) Shotwell*. (Lansing, MI: Printed for the Author by Robert Smith, 1897), 11.

¹⁶ Amos Comstock was a distant relative to the Comstocks who were early pioneer settlers of Lockport. Prior to settling in Farmington, Ontario County, Nathan Comstock Sr. lived for a brief time in Adams, Massachusetts, and both lines of the family originated in Rhode Island.

¹⁷ Copy of deed, liber 29, page 240 found in the NY SHPO files.

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Francis Hitchins became the person most strongly associated with the property in the local community, even today. Francis Hitchins was born on December 13, 1802 in Tywardreath, Cornwall, England, the third son of Samuel, a tin miner, and Mary (Knight) Hitchins. Following the deaths of his parents, Francis and his wife, Mary (*née* Bennetts), and daughters Mary Frances Bennetts Hitchins and Elizabeth "Libby" Bennetts Hitchins set sail for America. They likely arrived in 1835, following Francis's brothers, Stephen, John and Thomas Hitchins, who all arrived in the United States in 1833. Francis and his family resided in Hoosick, Rensselaer County, upon their arrival in New York State in 1835, and he and his brothers were all naturalized in Albany in 1839.¹⁸ Francis Hitchins arrived in Lockport around 1840, as he appears as a resident in the village of Lockport in the federal census of that year.

While little information about Hitchins's background and training is available, he clearly had experience with construction and engineering. Francis, along with his brothers, was hired on several occasions to undertake enlargement and repairs of the Erie Canal, and it's likely that this work brought Francis to Lockport. Around 1838, Francis, John and Thomas Hitchins were engaged by New York State to undertake an expansion of the Erie Canal, where they built and finished Lock 10.¹⁹ In the 1840s, Francis, John and Stephen Hitchins were hired to again perform work on the canal, now on sections three and four, described as being the "mountain ridge near Lockport."²⁰ The 1840 Federal census also records that Francis Hitchins was a trained engineer. This work likely brought the three Hitchins brothers to Lockport to reside, as all three eventually made their homes in the area. Francis Hitchins's work on the canal continued, and in 1861 he put in the lowest bid of \$9,800 for repairs to the canal at section 13. He also appears to have been experienced with other forms of engineering, and in 1852, along with Asa W. Douglas, he built the Canandaigua and Niagara Falls Railroad from the Genesee River to Batavia.²¹

¹⁸ Bruce Genewich, "Francis Hitchins (1802 - 1876)," Find A Grave Memorial, May 17, 2010. Also, Kenneth Scott and Rosanne Conway, *New York Alien Residents, 1825-1848* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub., 1978), 53, ancestry.com. Additional information from ancestry.com genealogical files.

¹⁹ Samuel J. Hitchcock, *Laws of the State of New-York Passed at the Sixty-second Session of the Legislature, Begun and Held at the City of Albany, the First Day of January, 1839* (Albany: Printed by E. Croswell, Printer to the State, for Wm. & A. Gould & Albany, and Gould, Banks &..., New-York, 1839), 9.

²⁰ An act was passed in May 1847 by the State Legislature for payment to the Hitchins for their work on the canal, however the original record of when they worked on the canal enlargement has not been identified. *Laws of the State of New York Passed at the First Meeting of the Seventieth Session of the Legislature, Begun and Held The Fifth Day of January 1847 at the City of Albany* (Albany: Printed by E. Croswell, Printer to the State for Wm. Gould &, 1847), 244.

²¹ "Canal Repairs," *Lockport Daily Journal and Courier*, March 7, 1861.

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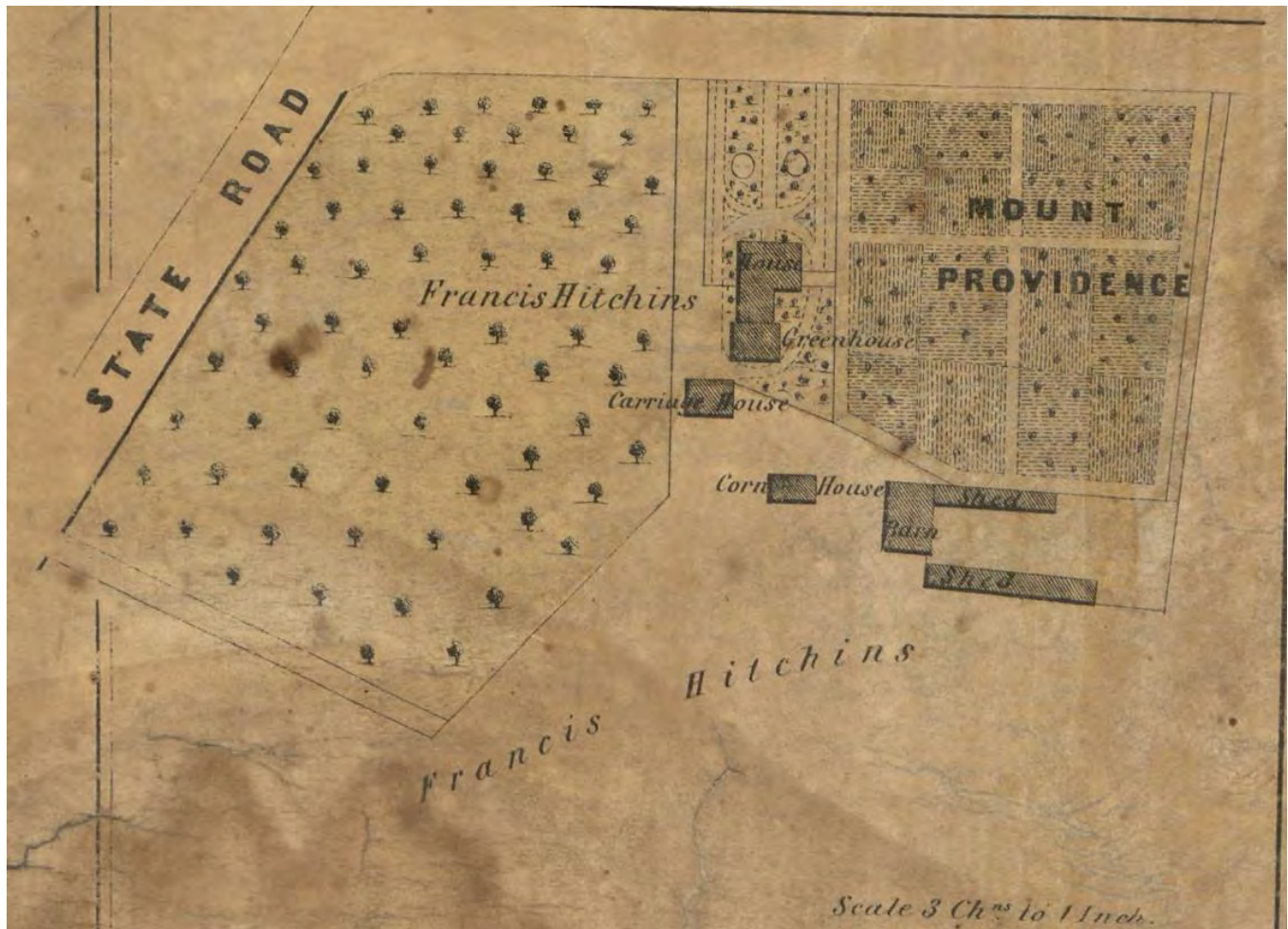


Figure 1: Detail, Map of the village of Lockport, Niagara Co., N.Y. (1851)

A map of Lockport, created in 1851, reveals interesting information about the physical layout and development of the Pound-Hitchins House property. By this time, the farm was known as “Mount Providence,” and featured a large, well-manicured landscape. The 1851 image focused in on the most developed part of the larger agricultural land, showing that the property consisted of the house with its rear wing. Attached to the rear wing was a greenhouse building. The configuration of the house in 1851 appears to be the same as what is intact today, although the greenhouse is now used as a storage garage. Typical of any nineteenth century farm, the property also contained several outbuildings, including a carriage house, a corn house, a barn with attached shed and a freestanding shed building. To the west of the house was a large orchard, and to the east of the house a plowed field is indicated. A barnyard is also suggested to the east of the barn and shed complex. The surrounding land owned by Hitchins, and not shown on the map, was likely used as pasture land for grazing. Surrounding the house itself and

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especially at the front yard, a series of ornamental gardens are indicated, with symmetrical, curved and straight front paths. The layout of the gardens is suggestive of those promulgated by noted landscape architect Alexander Jackson Downing.²²

During the early 1840s, Hitchins also purchased several other tracts of land near the stone house in Lot 57 and adjacent to the canal. Between 1841 and 1842 he purchased roughly 300 acres of land in Lots 58, 67 and 68 in Township 14, Range 6. The 1850 agricultural census reveals that he farmed only half of this land, leaving the other 150-acres undeveloped, and the farm was relatively modestly valued at \$1,800. During this year, Hitchins's farm focused on livestock, with 350 sheep that produced 1,200 pounds of wool, 20 swine, and 15 heads of cattle. The farm also produced 400 bushels of wheat and 2,500 bushels of oats among an assortment of other agricultural crops.²³ In 1860, however, the scope of the Hitchins farm changed, and less focus was placed on crop production. The agricultural census from this year records that 200 acres of the property was improved, and the value of the farm had increased dramatically to \$24,000. Instead of sheep, the farm focused more on dairy production, with 22 milch cows that produced \$2,000 worth of milk and 300 pounds of butter. Crops during this year involved modest production of wheat and rye, but 400 pounds of potatoes and 540 pounds of "Indian corn," which was likely used as feed for the livestock.²⁴

While Hitchins was known as a farmer, contractor, and builder, he was also well known for owning a prominent glass factory in Lockport. In 1850, Francis Hitchins purchased shares of the Lockport Glass Works, eventually buying out the other investors in 1853.²⁵ According to advertisements, the factory was a good-sized works located on Green Street near Transit Road and offered a wide variety of glass products, including vials, bottles and jars. While the company was the only glass works in Lockport for many decades, it appears to have faced financial difficulties. In 1862, Hitchins was forced to pay a fee for the real estate of the glass factory. At that time, he sold half of the interest in the company's real estate, stock and materials on hand to his daughter Elizabeth Hitchins Douglas and afterwards operated the

²² Downing was a highly influential figure in American landscape architecture during the 1840s and 50s. He published several books on the topic, beginning with his widely popular first book, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America*, in 1841. He also edited *The Horticulturist* magazine between 1846 and 1852, which further helped popularize his ideas on gardening and landscape. Downing's work helped popularize the concept of landscape architecture, as well as his own ideals of the picturesque landscape, and would have been very fashionable in the 1850s at the time the image of the Hitchins House appears on the map.

²³ Census Year: 1850; Census Place: Lockport, Niagara, New York; Archive Collection Number: A5; Roll: 5; Page: 165; Line: 36.

²⁴ Census Year: 1860; Census Place: Lockport, Niagara, New York; Archive Collection Number: A14; Roll: 14; Page: 1; Line: 3.

²⁵ Jean W. Dunn, "Glass: Lancaster and Lockport, New York," *Peachridge Glass*: 7.

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business as a co-partnership as "Hitchins & Douglas." Eventually, Francis Hitchins sold his remaining interest in the glass factory to Elizabeth Hitchins Douglas in 1865.²⁶

Today the Pound-Hitchins House is rumored to have played a role on the Underground Railroad, and while those stories have thus far been unsubstantiated through research, the association may have originated with an event from 1861. According to local Lockport newspaper reports, in April of 1861, a man by the name of Jones (or Johnson or Smith), a Lockport-area resident, lured a 25-year old African American man, Chancellor Livingston, to Kentucky with the promise of work. Jones had told Livingston he wanted him to work on his farm, located 3 miles from Lockport, but when the two men met up, Jones told him that he had business to attend to first in the East and the two men boarded a train. Somewhere along the route, Jones and Livingston switched trains and headed west toward Cincinnati. In Cincinnati, Jones pretended to own Livingston, but the large, well-dressed African American man attracted much attention. After questioning Livingston, Jones was eventually arrested for kidnapping the man, foiling his intentions to bring Livingston into Kentucky to sell him at a slave auction. However, Chancellor Livingston was held in Covington, Kentucky. Under the laws of Kentucky, a black man was considered to be a slave until he provided proof of his freedom, and, although a free man, Livingston was held as a slave until two white witnesses could attest to his free status. As an attempt to prove his nativity in the North, Livingston described in detail the Lockport area, and described his familiarity with several white community figures. He particularly described his relationship with Francis Hitchins, noting that he had been employed for him about a year prior. Once contacted by Kentucky authorities, Hitchins provided an affidavit, describing Chancellor Livingston and noting that he had recently disappeared from Lockport. Upon receipt of the affidavit, Livingston's status as a free man was confirmed, and he was released and given safe transit out of Kentucky, and even given a small sum of money raised by Kentucky residents sympathetic to his plight.²⁷ This story was later popularized in Western New York by local author Arch Merrill in the 1960s, and his book *The Underground, Freedom's Road, and Other Upstate Tales*, helped to perpetuate the local abolition mythology that surrounded the Pound-Hitchins House in the twentieth century.²⁸

The reasons why Francis Hitchins sold "Mount Providence" are unknown, but on January 1, 1868 he sold the property to Ira Farnsworth of Newfane, Niagara County, for \$30, 003.²⁹ Perhaps the financial troubles

²⁶ H. E. Sickels, *Reports of Cases Decided in the Court of Appeals of the State of New York*, vol. I (New York: Banks Brothers Law Publishers, 1872), 218-219. Elizabeth Hitchins Douglas was apparently a well-educated woman, reflecting the wealth and status of her family. She attended the Troy Female Seminary, a prestigious women's educational facility located in Rensselaer County, NY now known as the Emma Willard School, in 1846-47. See, Mary J. Mason Fairbanks and Russell Sage, *Emma Willard and Her Pupils; Or, Fifty Years of Troy Female Seminary, 1822-1872* (New York: Mrs. R. Sage, 1898), 324

²⁷ "The Case of Chancellor Livingston," *Lockport Daily Journal and Courier*, April 11, 1861,

²⁸ Arch Merrill, *The Underground, Freedom's Road, and Other Upstate Tales* (New York: Manufactured by American Book-Stratford Press; Distributed by Seneca Book Binding, Rochester, N.Y., 1963), 101-102.

²⁹ Deed records on file at NY SHPO.

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that plagued the glass factory forced his sale, or the more likely reason was that Hitchins, then age 60, simply wanted to retire. After leaving the Summit Street farm, Francis and wife Mary Hitchins resided on Union Street (near the railroad depot) with their widowed daughter Elizabeth Hitchins Douglas, her children, and her father-in-law, Asa W. Douglas. The 1870 federal census recorded the value of his "personal estate" at \$50,000 indicating that he was financially well-off (this is the equivalent of more than \$1 million today). Hitchins apparently did not stay retired for long, as he operated a sash and blind factory in the 1870s, operating near the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad freight depot. Francis Hitchins died on May 4, 1876 at the age of 68 and was buried in Lockport's Cold Spring Cemetery.³⁰

Although he operated the farm on Summit Street for several years as a 300-acre wheat and barley farm, Ira Farnsworth did not reside at the farm for long, selling the property in March 1878 to Seth Pratt and A. Ford Michael for \$30,000.³¹ The 1884 city directory for Lockport suggests that Farnsworth took up residence on the north side of Summit Street, at 117 Summit. On April 13, 1883 Michael Rogers purchased the property for \$30,000.³² The 1880 census suggests that Rogers may have actually resided at the farm previous to his purchase, as he is recorded as a laborer on the farm of S. Pratt.

Michael Rogers was born in March 1850 in the county of Roscommon, Ireland, and immigrated to the United States around 1855.³³ Arriving in Lockport as a boy, Rogers worked as a hired hand for some of Lockport's old established families. This service included serving as a coachman for NY State Governor Washington Hunt, working for Hunt until his death in 1868. Hunt and Rogers were said to have had a close, friendly relationship. After Hunt's death, Rogers worked in Lockport as a farmer and laborer. Through careful savings and hard work, Rogers quietly amassed a small fortune, using it to purchase the Summit Road farm in 1883.³⁴ In spite of his wealth, he continued to live a humble life, operating a dairy farm for nearly a decade. Rogers never married, although his sister, Maria, resided with him for many years in the stone house. When he retired from his dairy business in 1894, it was noted that he had amassed \$30,000 from his business.³⁵ Upon his death on April 1, 1911, Rogers left an estate valued at \$250,000.³⁶

³⁰ Bruce Genewich, "Francis Hitchins (1802 - 1876)," Find A Grave Memorial, May 17, 2010, accessed July 28, 2014.

³¹ Copy of deed, liber 149, page 343 found at the Niagara County Historian's Office.

³² Copy of deed, liber 168, page 394 found at the Niagara County Historian's Office.

³³ 1900 Federal Census data.

³⁴ "Coachman Leaves \$250,000," *Cincinnati Times*, ca. 1911-12, unpaginated, accessed July 28, 2014.

³⁵ "Encouraging to Milkmen," *Batavia Progressive*, April 6, 1894.

³⁶ "Coachman Leaves \$250,000..."

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Michael Rogers left no legal will and no direct heirs, resulting in decades of family drama. Months after his passing, lawyers still could not track down whether Rogers had left a widow, children or other direct family members.³⁷ John Rogers, a third cousin who worked on the Summit Road farm between 1902 and 1911, sued the estate for \$5,431.80 in 1913.³⁸ Eventually a will emerged, but it was contested by some family members. The legal battle eventually reached the U.S. District Court, where a jury held that the will was not Rogers's.

For decades, while the legal battle raged on, the house sat largely vacant and neglected, suffering deterioration and housing only an occasionally renter or squatter. Even in the last years of Michael Rogers's life, his farm was attracting a transient population that contributed to the decline of the property. On October 15, 1910, newspapers reported that six men (or "tramps" as the newspaper identified them) died in a massive fire on Rogers's property. The fire destroyed a barn that was already known as a "regular tramp hotel."³⁹ This situation apparently continued after Rogers's death in 1911, as another major fire on the property was reported on November 27, 1912, this one destroying an additional two barns on the property.⁴⁰ In 1919, the property was the site of a small airplane crash, which created further damage to some of the agricultural property. Lieutenant H.W. Smith and Corporal E.A. Nutter, flying a De Havilland Four airplane, were taking part in a transcontinental army race when their plane glanced off of an apple tree on Rogers's farm in bad weather and crashed to the ground. No one was injured, but significant damage to the landscape and property was reported.⁴¹

It was not until the 1940s that Rogers's will was finally resolved and the property had a new owner, although the house continued to sit largely vacant. At a public auction in 1947, the Summit Street farm property was sold to Raymond Ruhlmann for \$16,400. The sale of the property owned by the Rogers estate for more than 35 years was ordered by the Supreme Court in a partition action brought by niece Annie L. Hannon against any other heirs as well as the tenants of the property.⁴² Ruhlmann's interest was in the agricultural lands of the farm, which were near his own farm property. The house itself was used primarily for storage and remained vacant, continuing to slowly decline. Local neighbors recall that the house may have been rented during the 1930s and 40s by a series of boarders and tenants, including by a family by the last name of McAfee. A break-in in 1968 resulted in the loss of one of the house's elegant fireplaces and the damage of two others.⁴³ In 1977, the property was transferred to son Raymond E.

³⁷ "Cannot Find Heirs of Michael Rogers," *Buffalo Courier*, April 24, 1911.

³⁸ "Rogers Case Again," *Buffalo Evening News*, April 2, 1913.

³⁹ "News and Notes," *The Daily News* (Batavia), October 17, 1910.

⁴⁰ "This End of the State," *The Daily News* (Batavia), November 29, 1912.

⁴¹ "Flyer Smith Crashed to Ground after Bump into Rogers' Farm Tree," *Lockport Union-Sun and Journal*, October 9, 1919.

⁴² "Auction Nets \$42,500 for Rogers Estate," *Lockport Union-Sun and Journal*, November 25, 1947.

⁴³ "Old Homestead To Be Patrolled By Policemen," *Lockport Union-Sun and Journal*, February 1, 1968.

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Ruhlmann, who sought to protect and reuse the historic stone house, although this never came to fruition. Upon Ruhlmann's death in 2007, the Pound-Hitchins House once again stood vacant for several years until it was purchased by the current owners in 2013. Currently the property is undergoing stabilization and rehabilitation, in order to once again turn it into a single family residence and wedding venue.

Greek Revival Architecture in Western New York

The Pound-Hitchins House was designed in the fashionable Greek Revival style, which was popular roughly between the 1820s and the 1860s. The style first emerged in urban centers, including Philadelphia and Boston, as architects such as Benjamin Latrobe and Charles Bullfinch turned to Classical Greek influences as a source of inspiration for large scale public buildings such as banks, capitol buildings and churches. The Greek Revival style became America's first national architectural movement, as it was widely disseminated through the publication of design guides and pattern books. Popular books, such as Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and *The Builder's Guide* (1838) and Minard LeFever's *The Modern Builder's Guide* (1833) and *The Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835), provided useful, clearly defined guides for local craftsmen and builders, who translated the style from high-style buildings and houses to the more affordable and modest styles that became widely disseminated throughout the growing and expanding nation, including Western New York. While the young nation's pool of trained architects was still developing, these publications provided models and plans for carpenters, joiners and builders, who constructed the majority of early nineteenth century buildings in the growing country. In Western New York, the influx of settlers from New England areas, such as Connecticut, eastern New York, and Massachusetts in the early 1800s, helped to spread the style's popularity into the area. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 further aided in the style's proliferation in the region, as craftsmen and laborers traveled from the cultural centers of the East Coast to Western New York. The order, rationality and symmetry, as well as the associations with the logic and wisdom of ancient Greece and Rome, was viewed as a symbol for America's triumph over the chaotic wilderness of the western frontier, including Niagara County.

Simplified and more modest versions of the Greek Revival form were common throughout Western New York, while only the wealthy could afford the more elaborate versions. One of the earliest notable examples of the style in Western New York was the Old Court House, which was located off of Main Street near Lafayette Square (now the site of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library), built in 1816. The square-plan building featured a massive 2-story hexastyle Ionic portico facing the square and a cupola. By the 1830s, the style became widely popular for residential architecture.

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Many of Lockport's earliest residences from the 1820s and 30s were designed using elements of the Greek Revival style and incorporating them with forms and details of the earlier Federal style. The Col. William M. and Nancy Ralston Bond House (1823, NR listed) is one example of this type, utilizing the articulated entrance and flat lintels of the Greek Revival style with the side-gabled massing typical of the Federal period. The Conkey House (1842, NR listed) draws on the common front-gabled temple form popular with the Greek Revival vocabulary, but features a curved porch evocative of the Federal style. The Pound-Hitchins House likewise combines elements of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The side-gabled, 5-bay massing of the house is suggestive of the Federal style, as are the oval attic windows in the gable. However, the Ionic pilasters flanking the entry door, as well as the heavy cornice are drawn from the Greek Revival style.

The Pound-Hitchins House is a relatively high-style example of the Greek Revival style for the Lockport area in the early 1830s and demonstrates both the successes and challenges facing builders in the region during this early era. The stonework is of excellent quality, with minimal mortar joints to its smooth, regular coursed stone façade. From a distance, the main elevation of the house appears almost to be one solid block of stone because the joints are so minimal and so finely done. This indicates skilled masons worked on the project, many of which were in Lockport in the 1820s and 30s to work on the Erie Canal. However some detailing, especially in the woodwork, indicates that the region lacked the fine craftsmen of areas such as Boston or New York City. On the interior, several door jambs end abruptly at wall intersections, rather than being framed out completely and without being able to complete the trim or corner block details. The truss system in the attic also shows evidence of notches and joints cut in error. The use of painted faux-wood finishes on many interior doors also indicates that fine woods such as mahogany were unavailable in 1830s Niagara County. The faux-grain finish was applied to a more common wood as a means to dress it up with a stylish highly figured finish.

A History of Stone Residential Buildings in Lockport

(Much of the information provided in this brief history of Lockport's stone buildings has been summarized and paraphrased from the more thorough historical background presented in the related MPDF. For a detailed history of stone building, please refer to the multiple property documentation form Stone Buildings of Lockport, New York.)

Located on a geological formation known as the Niagara Escarpment, the City of Lockport developed around a series of locks built to carry the Erie Canal up the steep face of the ridge. The escarpment provided both an industrial basis for settlement in the area, but this geological formation also yielded significant quantities of good-quality stone for building, lending itself to a variety of applications for building and construction projects.

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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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During the Ordovician Period, roughly 475 million years ago, Western New York was covered by a large inland sea. Erosion of the ancient Taconic Mountains, located to the east in the area of present-day New England, over a span of millions of years resulted in large quantities of sediment to fill the shallow inland seas. This sediment created two layers of local bedrock in the Lockport area that were widely quarried for building material. Perhaps the best known is Medina Sandstone, a pink-brown sandstone named in 1840 for the village to the east of Lockport where it was first discovered. The other stone was named Gasport Limestone in 1913, after the nearby community of Gasport where it was common.

The Gasport Limestone, of which the Pound-Hitchins House is constructed, was deposited more than 420 million years ago in the Late Silurian period. The color of the stone ranges from a light grey to a buff, and sometimes also has a pinkish or bluish gray color. The Gasport type of limestone ranges from coarse to fine-grained and is a fossiliferous limestone. The stone forms a nearly level layer high in the Niagara Escarpment, extending in an east-west direction in the northern quadrant of the city, and varies in thickness from fifteen to forty-feet. Being a very hard, durable stone, Gasport Limestone was a common building material in the Lockport area. It was often cut into pieces three to ten feet thick and up to forty feet in length for use as columns and steps and was frequently used for treads, sills, lintels and facing blocks.

The present city of Lockport owes its establishment to the construction of the Erie Canal. In 1816, when the New York State Legislature authorized the canal, the area of today's Lockport was uninhabited. However, after the route of the canal was established, land speculators began to rapidly purchase land in the area, and in 1819, Main Street (also known as Mountain Road) was cut through the area. By 1820, when the final location of the flight of locks was determined, most of the land in the area was purchased. In 1821, land owners Esek Brown and Jared Comstock subdivided their large properties into lots and began to offer them for sale. Construction of the canal itself also brought scores of immigrants, including numerous Irish stonemasons, to the area. The construction camp established for the lock project formed the nucleus for the development of Lockport, which attracted a growing group of state officials, engineers, surveyors, businessmen and salesmen and finally received its name in 1821.

During the early decades of the 1800s, wood construction was prevalent in Western New York, as pioneers cleared their forested land and quickly built wood structures. Although rubble stone was commonly used in foundations, stone constructed buildings were not common. Cobblestone construction, using the small, rounded glacial stones found in the region, was one uncommon stone construction technique that was used especially in the region south of Lake Ontario. More traditional stone constructed buildings were typically limited to area near the Onondaga and Niagara Escarpments, where

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good-quality building stone could be easily quarried. Given its location on the Niagara Escarpment, its growing wealth thanks to its accessibility to the Erie Canal trade network, and the pool of skilled masons and stoneworkers, Lockport became a center for stone architecture in Western New York.

The construction of the Erie Canal locks left a legacy of quarries in the Lockport area. The locks themselves were cut through the Gasport Limestone ridge, and when completed in 1823, left large piles of rock along both banks of the canal through Lockport. This scrap stone was freely used by local residents for various construction projects throughout the center of the village. Like many nineteenth century communities, Lockport faced a series of fires that swept through its downtown and encouraged the use of fire resistant construction practices.

A thriving quarry industry developed around Lockport in the 1820s and '30s. Lockport's stone was not only utilized locally but was transported to other sites via the canal, including being used extensively in buildings in Buffalo, Rochester, and other canal cities in the early 1800s. One of the earliest quarries was established by William Wallace Whitmore, who arrived in Lockport in 1829 to work as a mason. A year later, he established a quarry and sand pit located at "Rattlesnake Hill," at the base of the escarpment in the northern quadrant in the present-day city boundaries. Whitmore's "Rattlesnake Stone" brand supplied a light grey Medina sandstone used for paving slabs, curbing, stair treads, sills, lintels and facing blocks. Whitmore, along with partners Charles E. Rathbun of Buffalo and William Carson of Rochester, operated a large and prominent manufactory in the 1830s, maintaining other stone yards adjacent to the canal in Buffalo and Rochester and another quarry in Medina. J.D. Shuler opened a quarry at Cold Spring, to the northeast of Lockport that extracted Gasport Limestone as early as 1832. In 1840, Benjamin and James Carpenter opened their operation, which quarried Gasport Limestone adjacent to the locks at the center of Lockport. Given the proximity of their business to the canal, the brothers had a competitive advantage. Their quarry supplied a large quantity of stone to projects in New York, Chicago, Rochester and to the mid-nineteenth century reconstruction and enlargement of the Erie Canal itself. By 1840, the quarries in Lockport shipped more than \$60,000 worth of stone annually to Rochester and Buffalo and, throughout the nineteenth century, shipped large amounts of stone to all major New York cities, as well as to Cleveland, Milwaukee and Chicago.

In addition to the larger quarries, many smaller operations were also common in Lockport during the nineteenth century. It is thought that the stone for the Pound-Hitchins House came from a quarry located in the southwest corner of the property. While there is no surface evidence of a quarry, there is a notable depression in the ground in this area of the land, suggesting its presence. The only documentation of quarrying on the property comes from an 1903 article that recounted that a recent survey of the nearby farm of Jeffrey Barnett on the west side of the canal indicated that his property encompassed a piece of

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land, less than an acre in size, that lay on the opposite side of the canal. This small piece of land included a "valuable quarry" owned by Michael Rogers, who leased the quarry to the German Asphalt company of Buffalo since the 1890s.⁴⁴

Since stone was such a common and widely available building material in the area, stone buildings are unusually common in Lockport. The city contains many examples of stone-built churches, commercial buildings and industrial buildings. However, the majority of those surviving nineteenth-century stone buildings are houses, which range from modest vernacular cottages to high-style Federal and Greek Revival residences that were built by the area's wealthiest citizens. Among the earliest extant stone houses are small vernacular Medina Sandstone buildings, including the ca. 1825 house at 124 North Transit Road, a barn located on Roby Street, and the ca. 130 house at 444 Old Niagara Road. At the time these buildings were erected, they would have been located in a largely rural setting, outside of the boundaries of the settled areas of the village. Lockport's Lowertown area contains a high concentration of Greek Revival and Federal style stone houses that date to the early 1800s and were once home to some of the area's most prominent citizens.

In general, the highest concentrations of stone buildings can be found close to the banks of the Erie Canal in Lockport. Stone houses with Federal style influences are found at 202 Akron Street, 242 and 243 Chapel Street, 32 Cottage Street, 171 Ontario Street and 6 Walnut Street, all within close proximity to the canal. Greek Revival examples include houses at 246 North Adam Street, 102 and 156 Ontario Street, 151 Chestnut Street and 131 Church Street. However, as the Stone Buildings MPDF noted,

"Lockport's most distinguished and sophisticated example of stone domestic architecture from the first half of the nineteenth century is the cut ashlar, Gasport Limestone, Greek Revival Style Hitchins House in the southwest corner of the city at 325 Summit Street."⁴⁵

Stone continued to be a popular building material in Lockport well into the nineteenth century. In most areas of Western New York, the availability and cheapness of sawn lumber and the development of the balloon framing system largely replaced stone construction by the mid-nineteenth century. However, it continued to be widely utilized for residential construction in and around Lockport due to the continued availability of good-quality building stone and the continued presence of skilled masons. Those Lockport residences built of stone in the mid-1800s reflected the popular architectural styles of the time, including the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles. Examples of stone Gothic Revival houses include two Medina sandstone buildings at 7 Vine Street and 101 Monroe Street, while the Gasport Limestone-built house at

⁴⁴ "Mr. Barnett's New Property," *The Lockport Journal*, March 26, 1903.

⁴⁵ *Stone Buildings of Lockport*, New York MPDF, Section E page 10.

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129 Outwater Drive also incorporates Moorish Revival influences in its ornamentation. The Italianate style, popular between the 1850s and 1870s, is reflected in several stone houses in Lockport, including Medina Sandstone examples at 57 Dayton Street and 453 East Market Street. Gasport Limestone examples of Italianate houses in Lockport include 112 Caledonia Street and 36 Spruce Street, among several others.

While stone residential architecture enjoyed a longer history in Lockport than elsewhere in Western New York, by the 1870s it began to fade in popularity. The low-cost wood balloon framing system that had become common throughout the United States after the Civil War finally supplanted stone construction in Lockport. Wood proved to be better suited to the complex massing, forms and floor plans that became popular in the late nineteenth century, as styles such as the Queen Anne and Shingle styles broke away from the more simplified, symmetrical plans favored by previous eras that could easily be rendered in stone. A small handful of houses were built of stone in the late nineteenth century, represented by the houses at 327 and 305 High Street and 246 North Adams Street, all designed in the Colonial Revival style.

Summary

The Pound-Hitchins House in Lockport is significant under criterion C, as an excellent local example of a limestone Greek Revival style residence. The house was clearly influenced by pattern books of the era and speaks to the growing sophistication of architectural styles and construction in the Western New York region in the 1830s. The house is also notable under criterion A, for its associations with the early growth and development of Lockport. For its connection to several of the community's most prominent and notable farmers and businessmen, the Pound-Hitchins House is also significant under criterion A.

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Name of Property

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries encompass a roughly rectangular parcel. See attached map with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass land that has been historically associated with the property since the 1830s, and reflect the current property associated with the house.

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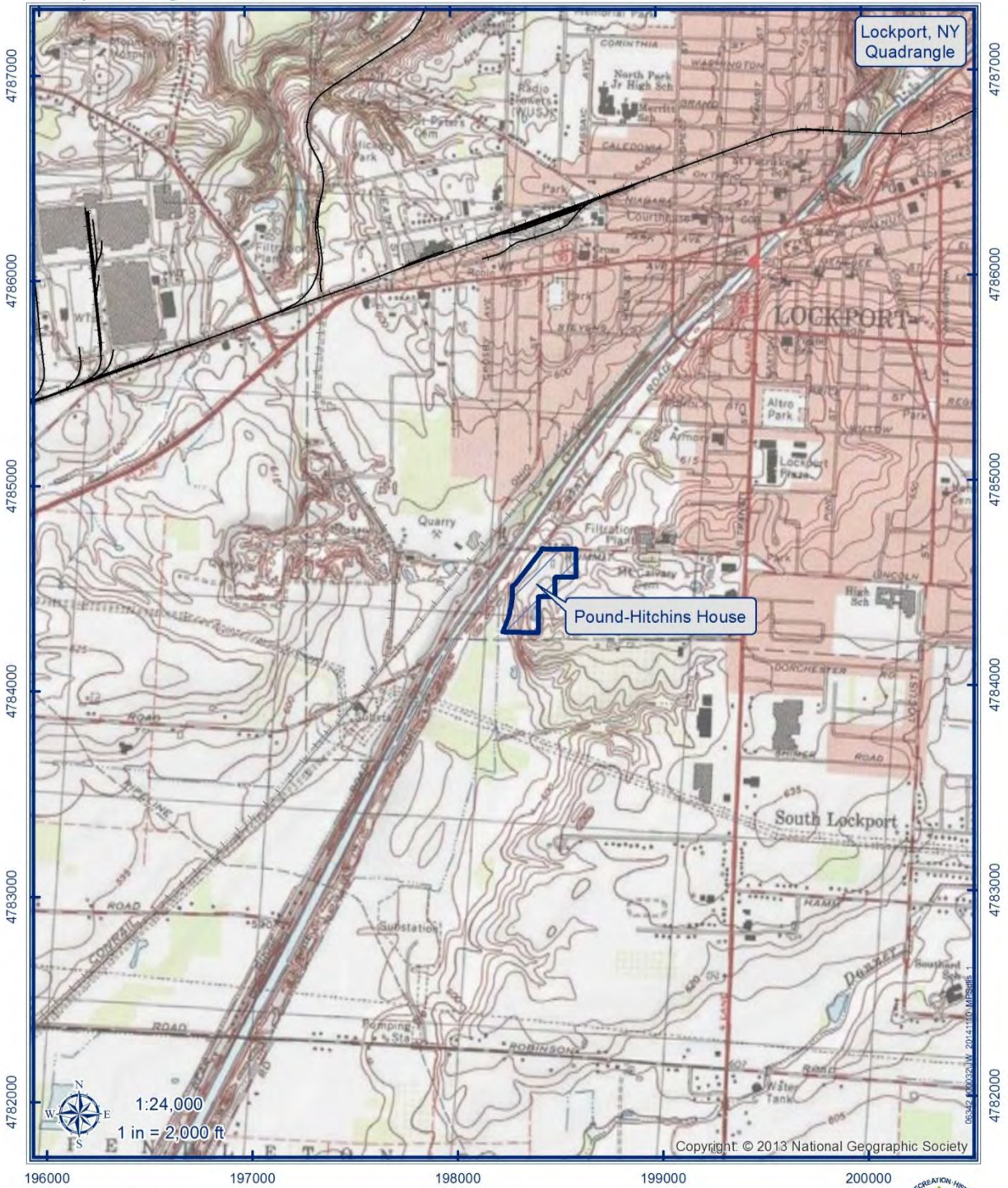
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Niagara, New York

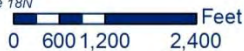
County and State

Pound-Hitchins House
Lockport Niagara Co., NY

325 Summit Street
Lockport, NY 14094



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



 Pound-Hitchins House

Tax Parcel Data:
Niagara Co. RPS
<http://gis1.erie.gov/GC/>



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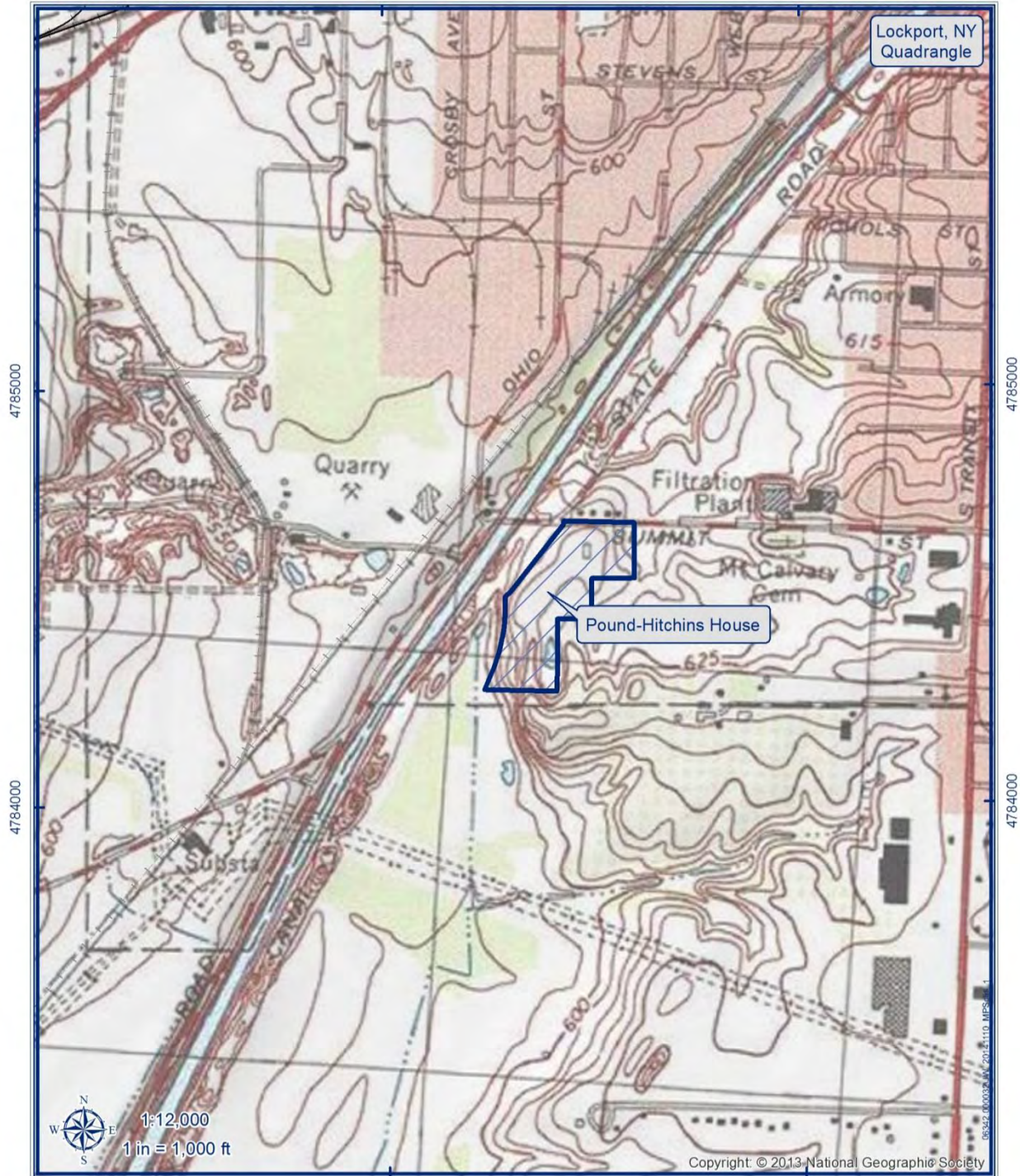
Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State

Pound-Hitchins House
Lockport Niagara Co., NY

325 Summit Street
Lockport, NY 14094



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



Pound-Hitchins House

Tax Parcel Data:
Niagara Co. RPS
<http://gis1.erie.gov/GC/>



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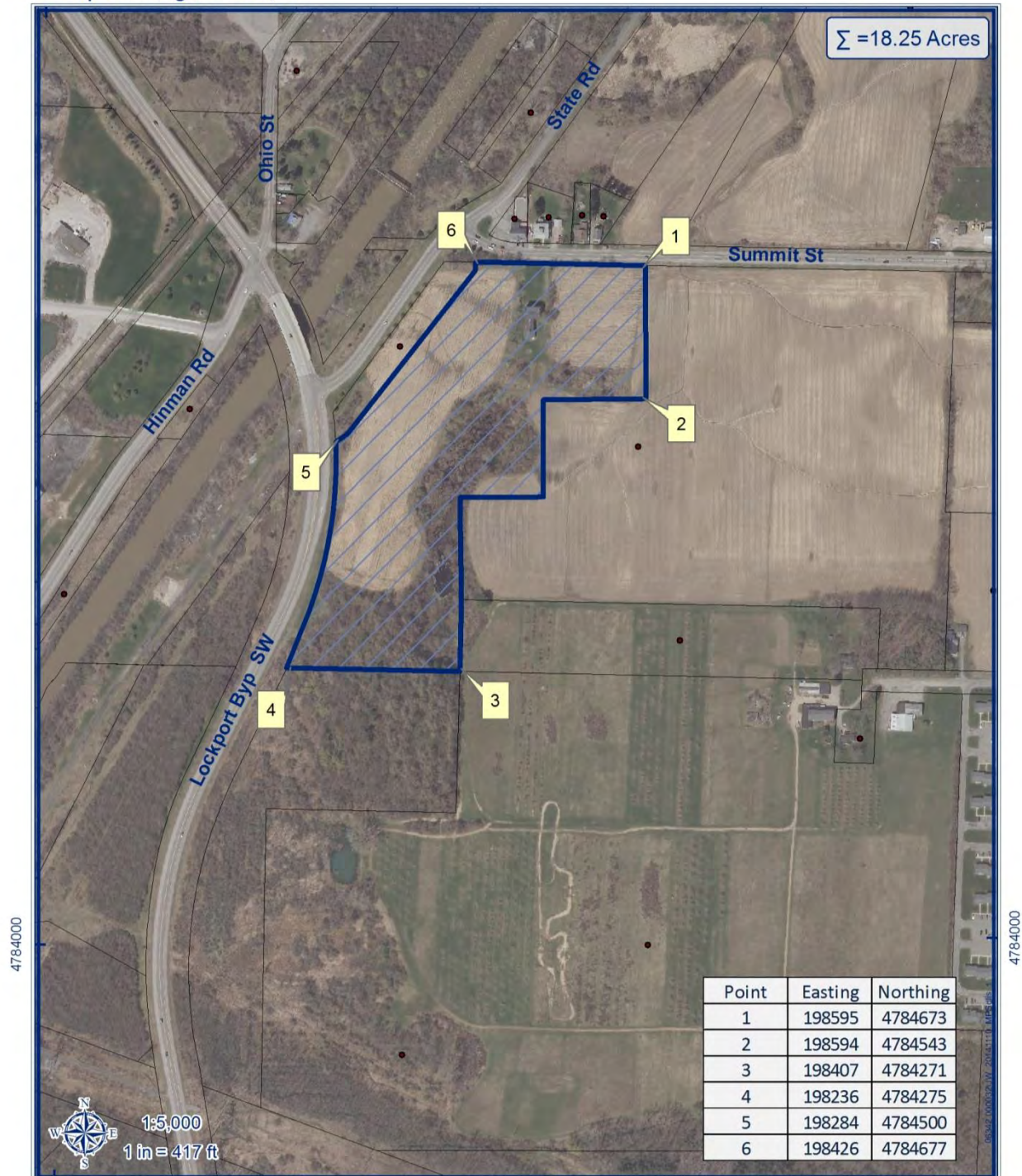
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Niagara, New York

County and State

Pound-Hitchins House
Lockport Niagara Co., NY

325 Summit Street
Lockport, NY 14094



198000

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



Pound-Hitchins House

Tax Parcel Data:
Niagara Co. RPS
<http://gis1.erie.gov/GC/>



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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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Additional Information

Photo Log

Name of Property: Pound-Hitchins House
City or Vicinity: Lockport
County: Niagara County
State: NY
Name of Photographer: Andrea Rebeck; Jennifer Walkowski
Date of Photographs: September 27, 2013; August 13, 2014
Location of Original Digital Files: Peebles Island Resource Ctr, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188
Number of Photographs: 19

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0001
Main elevation showing front lawn, looking south (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0002
Hitching post and carriage block, looking south (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0003
Front entrance detail, showing Greek Revival surround (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0004
East elevation, showing rear of main block and wing, looking north west (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0005
East elevation, showing wing, looking west (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0006
Looking north west toward garage/greenhouse (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0007
West elevation, showing masonry pockets for porch on wing, looking south east (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0008
West elevation of main block, looking north east (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0009
Detail of bull's-eye window in gable (2014)

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NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0010

Interior, center hall, showing main stair and plaster detail, looking south (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0011

Interior, stair detail (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0012

Interior, west parlor, looking west (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0013

Interior, double parlor, showing faux-finished doors and marble fireplace surrounds, looking north east (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0014

Interior, rear wing possibly used as kitchen, looking north towards main block (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0015

Interior, master bedroom showing wood trim, looking south west (2013)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0016

Interior, bedroom, looking north east (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0017

Attic, showing massive truss system, looking east (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0018

Basement, view of possible cooking hearth (2014)

NY_Niagara County_Pound-Hitchins House_0019

Exterior, ruins of barns located to the south east of house, looking east (2014)

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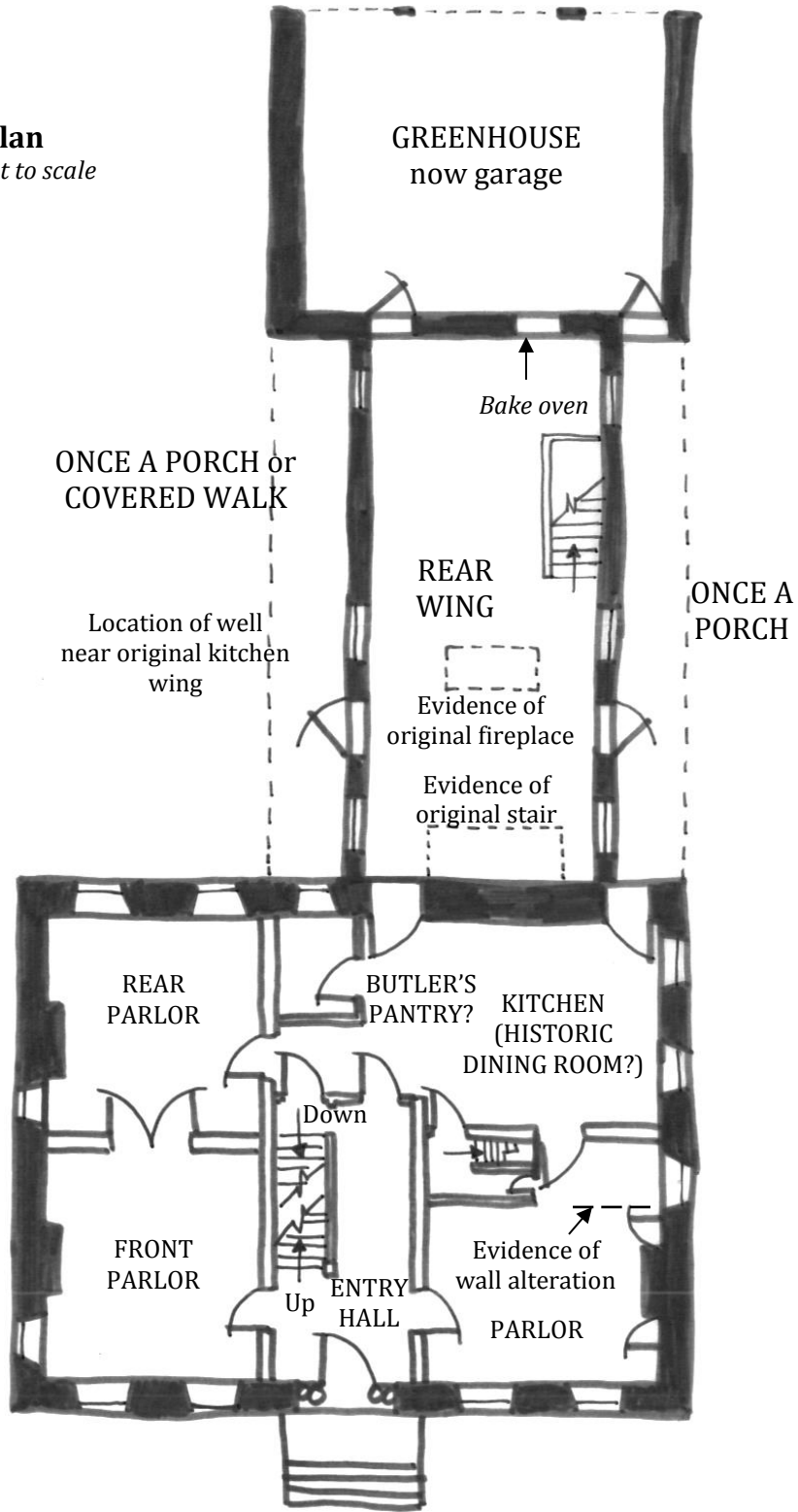
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First Floor Plan

Diagrammatical - not to scale



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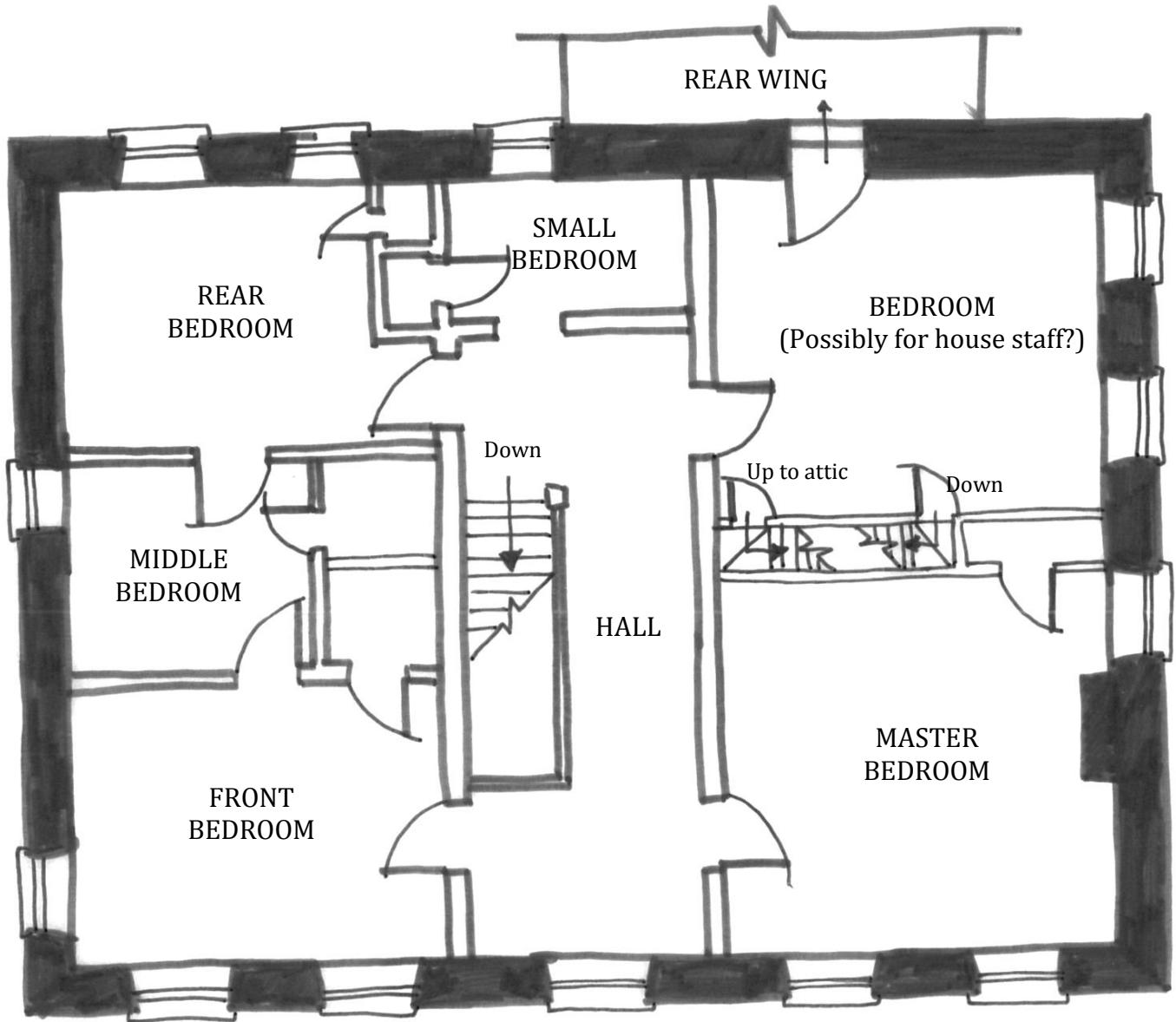
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Second Floor Plan, Main Block

Diagrammatical - not to scale



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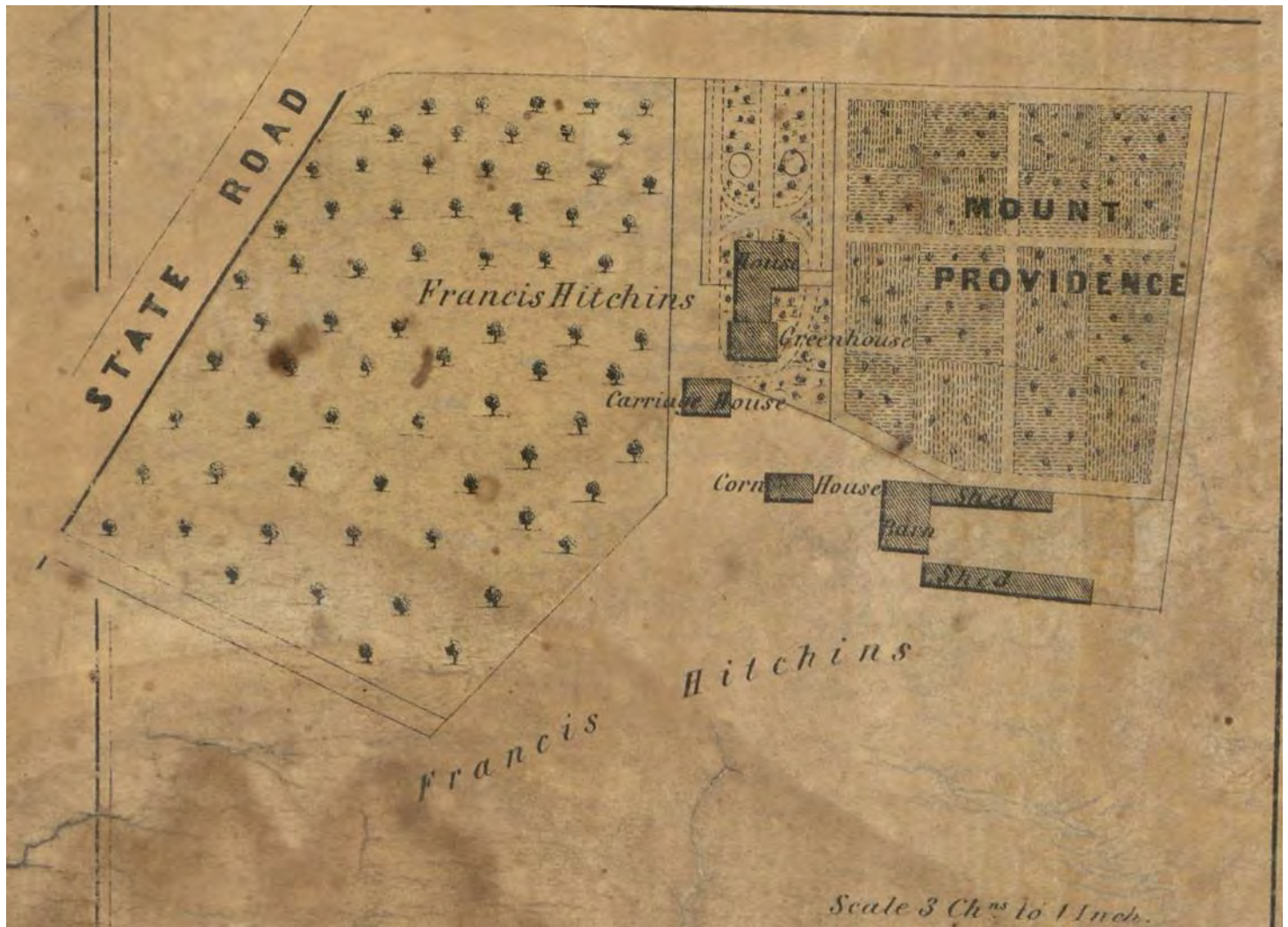
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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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Detail, Map of the village of Lockport, Niagara Co., N.Y. (1851)

This inset detail in a large map of Lockport depicts the Hitchins farm, "Mount Providence" at the height of its prominence. This image shows the extensive manicured grounds that once surrounded the house, and notes the rear portion of the house as a greenhouse. A carriage house, corn house, barn and sheds were also located on the property during this time. An orchard is shown at the west of the land, and a planted parcel to the east of the house.

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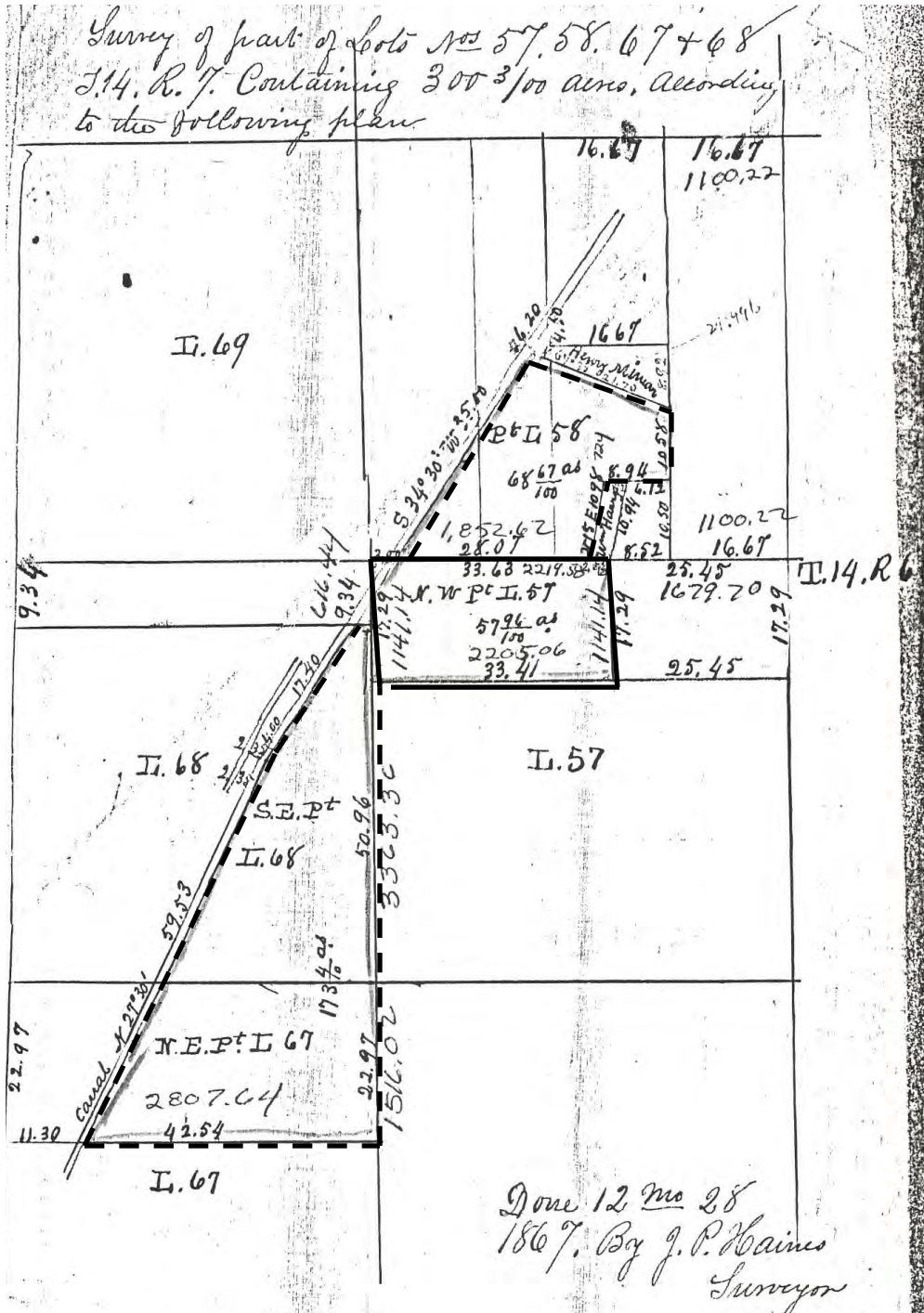
POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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**Survey of part of Lots Nos. 57, 58, 67 and 68, Township 14, Range 7
Containing 300 3/100 acres according to the following plan**

The map above highlights the property sold by Francis Hitchins in 1868. The solid line indicates the property containing the extant stone house. Note that the canal runs diagonally adjacent to his property.

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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

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Detail of Aerial Image (September 6, 1938)

The Erie Canal runs at the upper left corner, and Summit Street runs horizontally at the top. Notice here the divisions of the landscape, into what appear to be cultivated fields and nurseries.

Provided by owner

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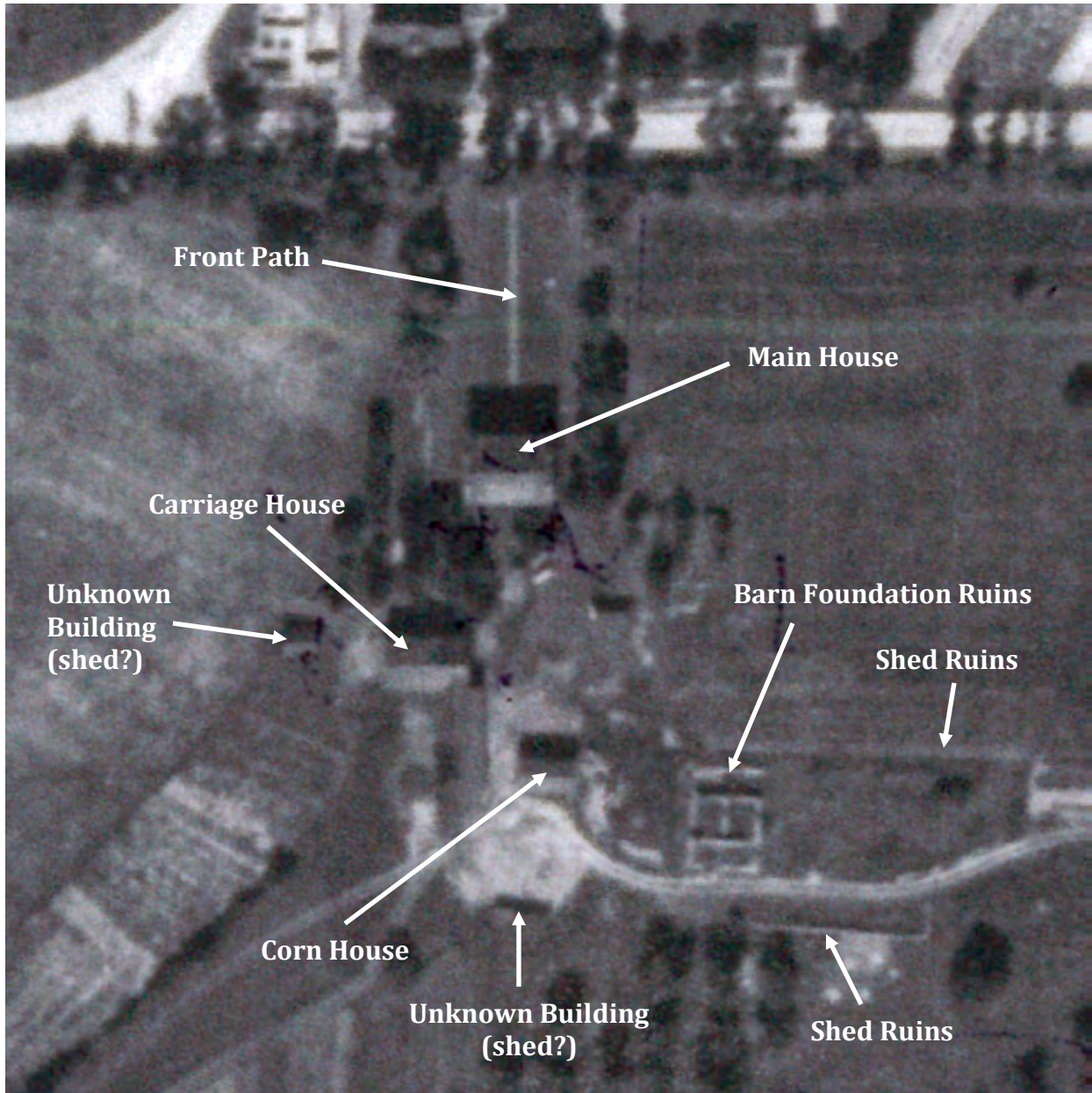
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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State



Further Detail of Aerial Image (September 6, 1938)

Extant agricultural buildings noted, based on 1851 map. While the barn burned down in the 1910s, the other buildings likely disappeared by the 1960s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State

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Detail, Map of Lockport, Niagara Co., NY (1860)

Note here that Hitchins owned two properties, the house along Summit Street and one to the southwest on State Road near the canal.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 10

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State



Detail, Map of Town of Lockport, Niagara Co., NY (1875)

Here, the house is shown as the property of a "J. Farnsworth." This could be a typo, however, as Ira Farnsworth was recorded as the owner in the deeds during this period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

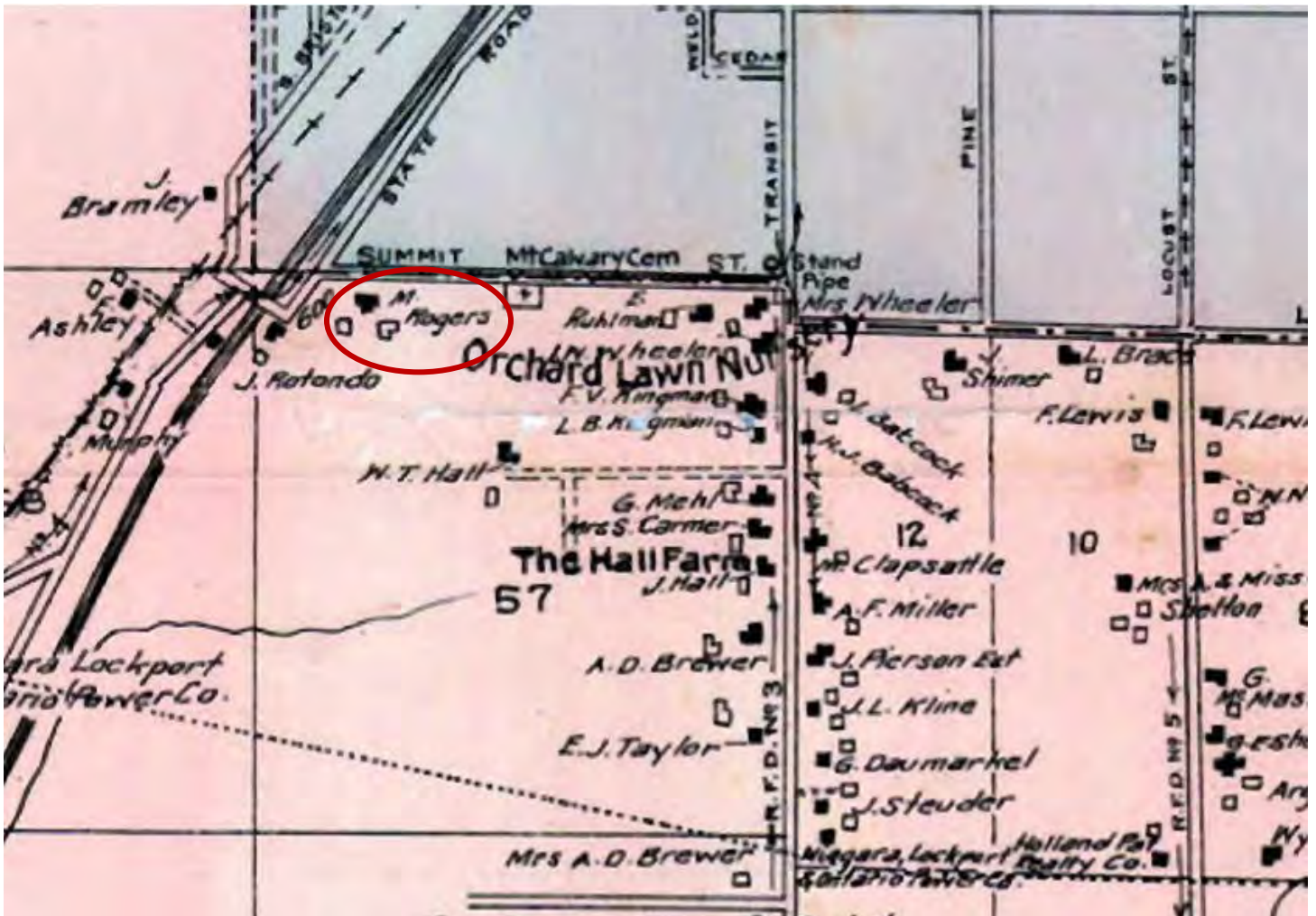
Section 11 Page 11

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State



Detail, Map of City of Lockport (1908)

Notice here that the Hitchins House is shown as owned by Michael Rogers, and lies just south of the then-boundaries of the city. The map depicts a T-plan house and two outbuildings at this time. The "Hitchins Bridge" over the Erie Canal (now known as the Summit Street Bridge) is shown at the upper left of this image.

United States Department of the Interior
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POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State



Detail, Map of the City of Lockport (1938)

Following Michael Rogers' death in 1910, the estate was unsettled and disputed by family members for many decades. Notice Rogers' significant land holdings along the east bank of the canal, including the parcel of the Hitchins House at Summit Street and State Road.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 11 Page 13

POUND - HITCHINS HOUSE

Name of Property

Niagara, New York

County and State

LOCKPORT GLASS WORKS.

FRANCIS HITCHINS,
(SUCCESSOR TO HILDEBETH & CO.)
Manufacturer of

VIALS, BOTTLES
AND
HOLLOW WARE.

Common, Prescription, Patent Medicine,
and all kinds of Vials;

Castor Oil, Packing, Heavy, Perfumery,
Cologne, Hair, Acid, Mineral, and Soda
Bottles;

Bell Glasses, Hyacinth Glasses, Lamp
Globes, and Digesting Bottles.

N. B.—The Glass is carefully packed, and can be forwarded
by water and railroad from the Factory; and is not liable to
break from land carriage.

Vials, Bottles, &c., Made to Order.

Particular attention will be given to private moulds of every
description.

MOULDS MADE & LETTERED IN THE BEST STYLE
And on the most reasonable terms.

PATENT FRUIT JAR.

It possesses superior advantages over every other Jar or Jar
heretofore brought to public notice for the preservation of Fruit
for any period of time. It is made of Glass, and for strength and
durability it stands unequalled in the country. Some of its
peculiar and very important advantages we will not fail to
mention:

First—The material of which it is composed
is perfectly safe, and will not corrode and poison the Fruit, as
is often the case when put up in tin and other poisonous sub-
stances.

Second—By being transparent, the condi-
tion of the Fruit can be ascertained at pleasure; while they are
so easily cleaned that they are as good as new for succeeding
years. The shape of the neck, also, is such, that the cork can
not be forced in by the atmospheric pressure on it, caused by
the cooling and consequent contraction of the Fruit in the bot-
tle. This is a very desirable quality and worthy of notice.

It is almost needless to state that the brief experience of a
single season has demonstrated to thousands the superiority of
this bottle in every respect, and that they are

CHEAPER

than any other bottle, jar, or can of merit ever brought before
the public, and so cheap as to be within the reach of all.

All orders will receive prompt attention, addressed to

FRANCIS HITCHINS, Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y.



Reproduction of
Advertisement, Lockport Glass
Works (1860)

Francis Hitchins owned and
operated the glass factory
between 1850 and 1866, during
the time he resided at the Pound-
Hitchins House.







































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pound--Hitchens House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Niagara

DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/27/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001215

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 1-27-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER Alexander DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

10 December 2014

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following two nominations, both on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Boxwood Cemetery, Orleans County
Pond-Hitchens House, Niagara County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office