



56-756

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Peck, Watrous, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_  
name of related multiple property listing N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 8814 Wesley Road

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

  
city or town West Bloomfield  
state New York code NY county Ontario code 069 zip code 14469

### 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 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Michael Polyzach Deputy SHPO 23 JAN 2017  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
X entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:)

for [Signature] 3/13/17  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

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DOMESTIC/residence

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

New England Colonial

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foundation: stone

walls: wood

roof: Wood, asphalt shingle

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Watrous Peck House was built ca. 1803 in the town of West Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York. West Bloomfield is in the west end of the county, bounded by Livingston and Monroe Counties on the west and north and the towns of East Bloomfield and Richmond on the east and south. Much of the town retains its rural character of rolling topography with a number of farms and scattered rural residences, including the Peck property on Wesley Road. Watrous Peck was from Connecticut and the house he built in 1803 followed the common New England center-chimney form and includes Georgian interior details (fireplaces, wood wall paneling, etc.). The house is two-stories and five bays on the façade with a side gabled roof. The building exhibits corner post and beam construction with clapboard cladding. A later, one-story ell is on the northeast end of the building, with a south facing secondary entrance. Much of the building's visible stone foundation has a cobblestone veneer added, possibly dating from around the same time as the addition. The exterior was at one time covered in aluminum siding and the current owner is removing it and restoring the clapboarding, which appears to be in good condition. The property also contains a one and one half-story, detached four-bay garage that is non-contributing, being constructed in 1984. No other buildings/structures are extant on the property associated with the Peck House and farm, except for the remnant foundation of a smokehouse. A large barn across the road was built ca. 1904 on a portion of the Peck land owned by a Clark Allen, Peck's son-in-law. The barn has lost substantial integrity with a partial collapse (rear) and new construction added to the front, and records are not clear as to whether it was actually built by Clark Allen or a lessee. The property also contains a non-historic house. Therefore, this parcel is not included in the nomination.

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### **Narrative Description**

Watrous Peck was one of the early settlers in Ontario County, purchasing roughly 169 acres that were mostly dispersed after his death into four separate farm parcels that were subsequently built upon. The house stands on the last remaining six acres of Peck's original lands. The house is located in the town of West Bloomfield on Wesley Road, west of the village of East Bloomfield and the city of Canandaigua. West Bloomfield is the westernmost town in Ontario County and has the distinction of being the smallest township in the county. Wesley Road runs south of State Routes 5 & 20, the major east-to-west route through the town. The Peck House is located on the north side of Wesley Road at the point where it begins to bend north toward Taft Road. The only historic structure on this portion of the road is a large, late nineteenth century barn directly

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across from the house on Wesley Road, but is not part of this nomination since it was built after the period of significance and not by Peck.

Built around 1803, the Peck house was built on land obtained during the sale of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase after it was surveyed (1789). Situated on a rolling hilltop, the house faces south with second growth locust trees marking the front property line. The property also has a non-historic saltbox style garage located just east of the dwelling, constructed in 1984 and is therefore non-contributing due to age. A curved, gravel covered drive is between the house and the garage. A low stone fence in front of the house was built well after the period of significance and is therefore not historic.

### **Exterior**

When viewed from Wesley Road, the house appears as a two-story, center chimney building with a side gabled roof with large eaves, and a stone foundation with a partial cobblestone veneer. The form of the house follows that of a New England Colonial of the center chimney, four room pattern, although the house is roughly L-shaped, due to a later, one-story addition on the northeast side. The building is of post and beam/plank construction, clad with horizontal clapboarding with a large horizontal beam visible on the exterior above the foundation. It is interesting to note that the lowest portions of the foundation have several significantly larger stones to begin the wall building process. The building was at one time clad in aluminum siding and the removal of the siding revealed corner posts and wood clapboarding still in good condition. Most of the foundation has a cobblestone veneer of stones laid in rows, possible added at the same time as the northeast addition.

The façade shows the even fenestration seen in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century design that extends to the one story addition. The front door is centered at the middle of the front facade and flanked on the lower floor by two windows at each side. The second floor features five windows with the center window directly above the front-entry door, all comprising a five-bay, symmetrical configuration. The original dwelling featured twelve-over-twelve windows. Many of the original window casings are intact and period-style twelve-over-twelve wood window sashes are currently being installed. A large center chimney is visible from Wesley Road and appears to be either recently replaced or repaired.

As previously mentioned, the house is a New England style post and beam plank house. The structural integrity is derived from its classic post and beam engineering by utilizing mortise and tenon construction locked together with a trennel (French for tree nail). The entire post and beam structure is clad with vertical planks. The house exterior is then clad in decorative clapboards attached with hand cut nails. The foundation

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is a rubble stone construction with a cobblestone veneer. The front door is complimented by two very large original cut stone step pads. An original six-light transom window is over the front door.

Examination of the dwelling's window casings reveals an early construction type reflecting the technology of the late eighteenth century. More research needs to be done to determine if the window casings and sash were reused from an earlier dwelling or that the casings were built using traditional methods. Again due to the scarcity of nails, no nails or nail holes are evident in the casings, being held together exclusively with trennels. Based on design type and construction methods, it is believed that the original sash were a twelve-over-twelve configuration. Period twelve-over-twelve sashes are in the process of being installed, being salvaged from other buildings in the area.

### **Ell/Addition**

The ell/addition was added to the main dwelling in the mid-to-late 1820s around the time the Erie Canal was being constructed north through Monroe County. Approximately fifteen by nineteen feet, it is located at the northeast corner of the main dwelling, added as a summer kitchen. The late 1820s date is supported by the presences of a historic large cast iron wood cook stove, consistent with the type of goods available after the canal opened (1825). Also reflecting the canal era is the cobblestone veneering over the foundation.

The ell is currently utilized as living space. In the 1860s, a small covered porch was added to the southeast corner that once had an exterior door with an open step. In the late 1900s, the porch was enclosed and fitted with a modern bathroom, which was removed in 2015. Currently, the porch is enclosed and serving as an entry vestibule. Photographic and physical evidence indicates that a three stall carriage house was added to the rear of the house, assumed to have been built around the same time the ell. It was situated adjoining the north rear wall of the ell. Since the back foundation wall lacks the cobblestone veneer as seen in the rest of the house also supports the construction date of the carriage house, but unfortunately the removal date cannot be documented.

### **Interior—First Floor**

A wood paneled door with a seven-light transom is centered in the front of the house. It is generous in width and opens into a small foyer space with entrances to the parlor on the right and a dining room on the left. The foyer, parlor and dining room are in the front portion of the first floor of the house. The foyer and dining rooms are of the same size and symmetrical to one another.

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The foyer features original horsehair plaster walls, baseboard moldings partly obscured by baseboard heating, chestnut flooring and a small paneled door on the far wall. This small door measures 22 inches wide and 48 inches high, which opens into a four-foot wide by six-foot deep, brick lined space. The brick ceiling is approximately five and one-half feet high and arched. In the left rear corner is the original dome shaped beehive oven that is in the kitchen. The right rear corner has a small ledge and backs up to the parlor firebox. Each side of the tiny space has a brick ledge approximately twenty inches from the wood plank floor and approximately twelve inches in depth. The purpose of the space is open to conjecture and may have been used as a dry pantry, since it would be warm and dry being surrounded by three fireplaces (kitchen, dining room, and parlor). It would be an ideal place to store grains and food goods, protected from unwanted moisture.

To the right (east) is a parlor with a large brick and stone lined fireplace on the inner wall. The fireplace is positioned abutting a massive central chimney as are all fireplaces. Wood panels surround the fireplace that has a moulded mantel shelf. Square edged molding surrounds the inner hearth and the outer hearth is brick. The fireplace features a crane mounted on the north side, unusual since most cooking would have been done in the kitchen seen through the door to the north of the fireplace. The room features wide baseboards, horizontal board wainscoting topped with a narrow chair rail, and original paneled doors set into square-edged moldings. Like the foyer, the flooring is the original chestnut boards. Visible in the corner is the squared vertical beam.

To the left (west) of the foyer is another room, currently used as a dining room with a more modest-sized brick and stone fireplace, again located on the inner wall connecting to the central chimney. The fireplace has a Georgian style mantelpiece consisting of two end pilasters with architrave, wide frieze and cornice/mantelshelf. Above it are two raised wood panel doors with a fixed recessed panel forming a built-in cupboard space that is off center, assumed to accommodate the massive central chimney and or the bake oven that lies behind the same wall. Like the parlor, the dining room has horizontal board wainscoting, continuous baseboards, wood paneled doors, and original door and window moldings. This room features original horsehair plastered walls and ceiling, and chestnut flooring.

The kitchen is centrally located on the first floor at the rear of the dwelling and features the original brick and stone cooking hearth measuring forty-eight by forty-five inches, complete with an iron cooking crane. On the right side of the firebox is the original domed brick bake oven. It is fifty inches deep and with a thirty-six inch diameter domed beehive. Just below the beehive oven is a small niche for holding dry firewood. Due to ongoing repairs, the plaster around the cooking hearth has been removed, exposing the substantial brick wall

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of the central chimney. Wall surfaces on either side are full-height vertical boards with base and crown moldings. The original chestnut flooring is intact. The west end of the kitchen area contains a modern working kitchen with a clear division in the floor boards showing where it was originally closed off as a small room. This area was originally believed to have been a burning or sick room.

The kitchen also has a non-historic exterior door and a twelve-over-twelve window in the north wall, access to the ell and an enclosed stair to the upper floor on the east. The floor of the ell entrance has non-historic tile but the rest of the walls, floors and ceilings contain the historic fabric and finishes (wood floors, wood wainscoting, plaster, etc.) The enclosed original stair on the east side of the kitchen shows vertical plank walls with a non-historic handrail and painted steps and risers. The stair ceiling is vertical wood planking as well.

Just beyond the stairwell is the buttry or pantry, located on the first floor in the northeast corner off the kitchen. Its location would have made it suitable for storage, being the coolest room on the first floor while still being convenient to the kitchen. The room is approximately thirteen by six feet. The walls are a combination of vertical boards over thicker horizontal planking. The room also has an east-facing window and a door that leads to the basement.

The basement staircase is original with a steep slope, well-worn treads and a handrail of scrap wood. The basement extends the entire footprint of the dwelling. The fieldstone foundation is visible as is a stone-lined bulkhead and cobblestone floor. The massive stone support pier for the central fireplace is also visible as are the log floor joists. The main carrying beams are all hand hewn with mortise and tenon. There is a network of these hand hewn beams showing that the rear of the dwelling has beams laid front to rear, while the front of the dwelling has its beams laid side to side. The log joists are laid in between the hand hewn joists and in the same direction. The log joists are several different species including pine, oak and walnut.

## **Second Floor**

As previous mentioned, access to the second floor is from the enclosed staircase off the kitchen. A long hallway connects with four bedrooms and a full bath. The hallway surface is a combination of horizontal and vertical boards with beaded edges and the wood floor is covered by a reproduction period woven carpet. The hallway is roughly twenty-two feet long with access to the attic in the northeast via an original door and enclosed stair. The attic is unfinished although it has poplar tongue and groove flooring. The attic clearly shows the post and beam construction and horizontal clapboards. Two massive knee wall hand hewn timbers provide structural strength to the roof rafter system.

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Bedrooms consist of two larger front bedrooms (south side) and two smaller bedrooms on the north. The front bedrooms are nearly mirror images, seventeen by seventeen-feet and feature historic features such as fireplace mantels with Georgian profiles, plaster surfaces, wood (pine or poplar) floors, and original baseboard, door and window moldings. Both rooms also have original wood paneled doors and chair railings. The vertical members of the post and beam construction are evident in both rooms. Both have three large windows and both open into a small centrally located room, possibly a necessary room where a chamber pot and washstand would have been located. These two front bedrooms were clearly meant to impress with their fine finishes and materials and one features wood wall paneling around the fireplace.

### **Non-contributing features**

The current owner has been restoring the interior and exterior features and fabric of the house. During the removal of a tree in 2015, the floor and a partial cobblestone foundation of an outbuilding were discovered on the property, located approximately thirty feet from the northwest corner of the house. Historic photographs show a smokehouse in the approximate location of this foundation. Due to the loss of the structure, this feature is considered non-contributing and is considered too small to count.

Also non-contributing is the 1984 four-bay garage and workshop, located east of the house. The garage was purposely built to be compatible with the house by using a colonial salt-box form and wood clapboarding. Windows also mimic the house by being either six-over-six or eight-over-eight double-hung sash. Three garage bays on the south side have wood garage doors and the fourth bay on the east features an entrance and a large multi-light picture window. The property contains no historic landscape features although several mature trees are along Wesley Road.

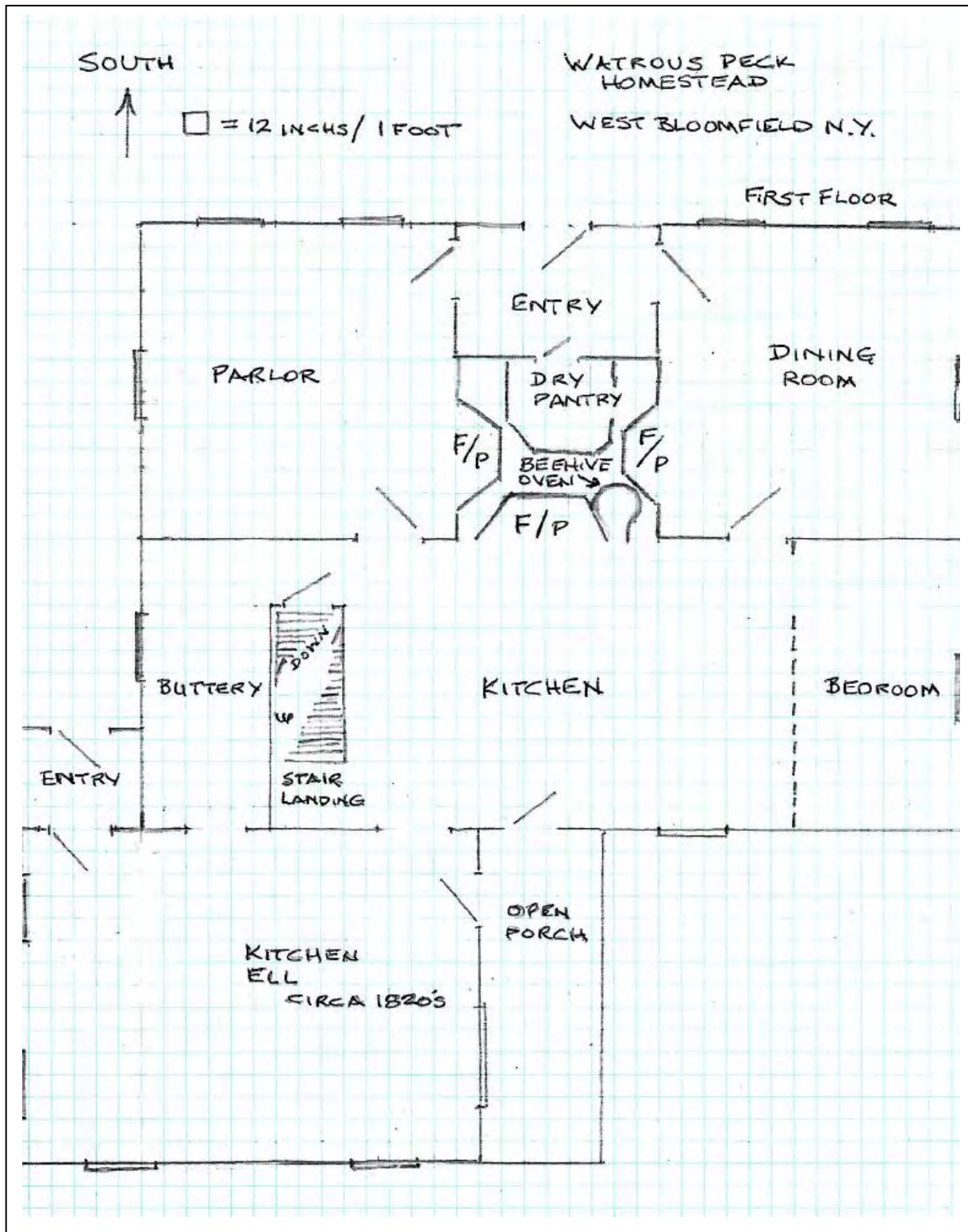
Overall, the Watrous Peck House retains a high degree of integrity to its period of significance. Eighty percent of the interior of the house is original and features five fireplaces, an intact beehive-oven, chestnut floors, wide pine floors, a cobblestone basement floor, and a very unique domed brick-lined dry pantry. The two front bedrooms, dining room and parlor feature the original plaster surfaces. The rear bedrooms and upstairs hallway are characterized by both horizontal and vertical wide plank walls. The building did at one time contain an enclosed porch and an attached carriage barn but both are assumed to have been built (and removed) after the period of significance. During exterior restoration work, the outline of a one-bay porch was revealed on the façade as the aluminum siding was removed. Clearly, the outline indicates a late-nineteenth century design and will not be restored since it dates from after the period of significance. West Bloomfield's economy



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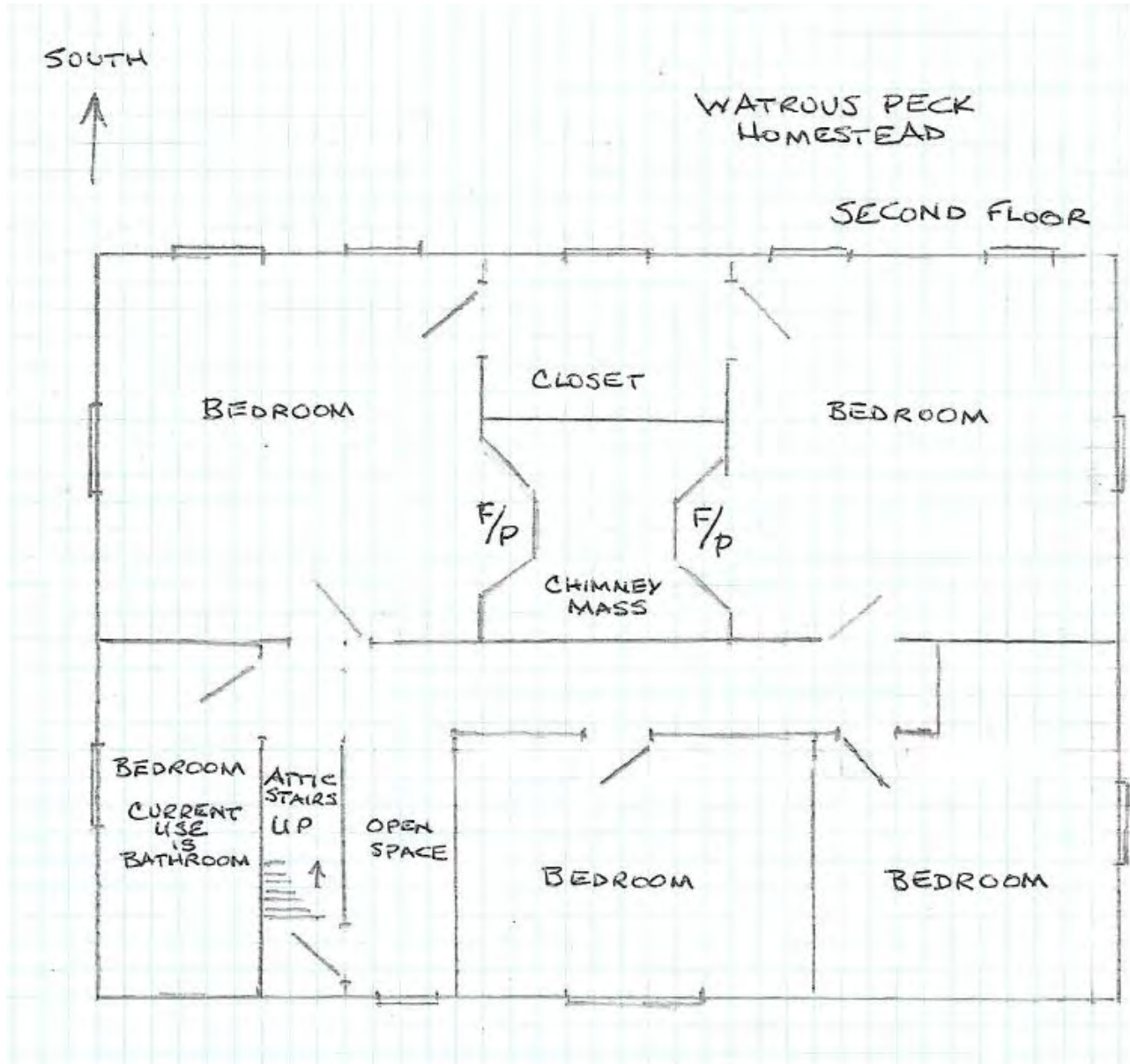
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is still dominated by small scale farming. The surrounding countryside is very rural with scattered residences and large agricultural fields. As such the area's setting is much as it was when the Peck house was built.



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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration & settlement

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1803-1862

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1803, ca. 1820, 1862

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

(possibly) Watrous Peck

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period begins with the construction of the house and ends with the death date of Watrous Peck. Since the house is most closely associated with Peck, its significance begins with the year Peck constructed the house and the end date marks the end of his period of occupancy.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Located in rural Ontario County, the Watrous Peck House is significant under Criteria A in the area of exploration/settlement for its association with the early settlement of the town of West Bloomfield. Many of the early settlers were from New England, especially Connecticut, largely due to the marketing in New England of the western lands available in the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. Watrous Peck was part of the post-Revolutionary westward migration of New Englanders who sought larger, more productive farmlands that were sold at affordable prices. Peck bought approximately 169 acres in 1801 for his farm, built the house shortly after the land purchase and lived in it until his death in 1862. The house is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a New England Colonial farmhouse, a type Peck would have been familiar with, being from Connecticut. The house follows the traditional pattern of a large central chimney with rooms laid out on all sides. The house is also of post and beam/plank construction, made possible by the plentiful forested lands of Ontario County. The house also features cobblestones in parts, possibly obtained from excavations of the Erie Canal, which ran through nearby in Monroe County with ports at Pittsford and Fairport, less than twenty miles from the Peck House. More than likely, the stones were gathered from the farmlands and added when technology developed methods for cobblestone construction (ca.1825). Although most of Peck's lands were dispersed after his death, the house remains much as it did during his residency.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## Historical Context

The history of the Peck House begins in Lyme, Connecticut, where Watrous Peck was born on April 14, 1777. These were early years of the American War for Independence and coastal villages in Connecticut like Lyme became important naval centers for the American forces. Lyme was described as:

...situated at the mouth of the Connecticut river on the east side; 40 miles southeast from Hartford, and about the same distance east from New-Haven...The town is accommodated with several good harbours, of which those at the mouth of the Connecticut, Lieutenant's and Eight Mile rivers are most important. The Connecticut, throughout the whole extent of the town, has sufficient depth of water, for large vessels, and in general affords safe and good landing places...The fishing business is carried on extensively, is an important interest, and employs, in some seasons of the year, considerable industry.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Pease, John C. Pease and John M. Niles. *A Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode-Island*. Hartford, CT: William S. Marsh, 1819, 159-160.

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After General Benedict Arnold defected to the British, he made a series of raids on Connecticut coastal towns, destroying houses and private property. In early September 1781, much of the town of New London where Lyme was located was burned by the British. Although it's unknown if and how the Peck family suffered during these raids, it is known that the overall destruction was severe and in 1783, the Connecticut General Assembly assessed the damage at \$500,000 (according to an 1819 account). As people began to recover their fortunes, many began to look west to start new lives as farmers on newly available lands like those in western New York. Connecticut eventually established the Western Reserve in Ohio in 1793 where the western most lands were reserved for the fire sufferers and became known as the Firelands.

Even before the Connecticut Western Reserve was established, New Englanders were moving west as lands in Western New York State were being opened to settlement. Land companies marketed large tracts for sale with easy payment terms, including the land company operated by Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham. The Phelps and Gorham Purchase secured the rights to all lands west of Seneca Lake in central New York State and between the south shore of Lake Ontario south to the north border of Pennsylvania. In 1790, Phelps and Gorham sold at a loss the lands west of the Genesee River to Robert Morris, but kept the lands east toward Seneca Lake and established Canandaigua as the county seat. Phelps opened land offices in Canandaigua and in Suffield, Connecticut and advertised his lands for sale in Connecticut newspapers. The region became a gateway to further westward development as roads purposely went through Canandaigua. Early settlers like the Peck family came in significant numbers to take advantage of the region's fertile soil, abundant wildlife and extensive flora. The reports and advertisements may have attracted their attention and shortly after his arrival Watrous Peck purchased 169 acres in lot 54, township ten, range five of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. Peck purchased the land from Samuel Pitts, son of Captain Peter Pitts who was one of the first settlers in the area (town of Richmond). Pitts secured some 3000 acres from Phelps and Gorham including the 169 acre tract sold by his son Samuel to Watrous Peck in 1801.

Peck was already in the area, having moved from Lyme in 1799. He either built or had a house constructed on his property around 1803, possibly in preparation for his 1804 wedding to Betsey Ball. The lands Peck purchased eventually became part of the town of West Bloomfield in 1833 when it was divided from the town of Bloomfield. Peck's brother, Reynold Peck, was elected as the first town supervisor. He was later elected as a representative to the New York State legislature from Ontario County (1840). In addition to Watrous's brother Reynold, his parents and three other siblings also settled in West Bloomfield, some of them arriving before Watrous. His brother John S. settled in West Bloomfield in 1792. More research needs to be done to

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determine if the Peck family followed a common settlement pattern of sending a family member, possibly John S., to first secure lands before the rest of the family moved west. What is known is that Reynold Peck, Sr., his wife, Deborah and six of their children (including Watrous) ended up in West Bloomfield.<sup>2</sup> What is also known is that a number of early settlers in West Bloomfield came from New London/Lyme and Guilford, Connecticut.

Being from Connecticut, Watrous Peck used a well-established New England center chimney plan for his new house. The center chimney form dominated residential construction in New England from the late seventeenth through the eighteenth century. Earlier houses were smaller and more utilitarian in nature, but as the colonies grew and prospered, houses became more refined, allowing for more spacious, more elegant buildings. According to J. Frederick Kelly's book on early Connecticut domestic architecture (first published in 1924), "The central-hall plan, with minor variations, held sway throughout the Revolutionary period, up to the beginning of the Greek Revival period of 1830. Until that time, it was almost invariably the custom to build the house with its main roof ridge parallel to the street or road."<sup>3</sup>

Peck's house followed the colonial Connecticut formula of center chimney with roof ridge parallel to the road. The central chimney determined the floor plan of the house with two large rooms on the sides and a kitchen and smaller adjoining room on the north side (rear). Peck centered a front door and evenly spaced windows in both the first and second floors, following the traditional colonial arrangement of a five-bay, symmetrical configuration. The abundance of trees and the availability of saw mills allowed Peck to use post and beam/plank construction techniques that required large amounts of lumber.

Compensating for the scarcity of nails, the posts and beams were connected with mortise and tenon, secured by trennels (trennel being the French word for tree nail). The trennels were literally wooden pins that locked the post and beams that could then be sheathed with thick vertical planks. During this period of home building in America nails were scarce. The wooden pins known as trennels were the preferred alternative, being easier to obtain. Once the post and beams were set, the exterior walls were then sheathed with thick vertical planks. The planks were grooved to insure a tight, interlocking fit. The vertical planks in Peck's house were approximately eight feet long, sixteen to twenty inches wide and two and one quarter inches thick. The exterior was then clad with narrow clapboarding but in this case, with hand cut nails. All of this rested on a stone

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<sup>2</sup> Darius Peck, *A Genealogical Account of the Descendants in the Male Line of William Peck, One of the Founders in 1638 of the Colony of New Haven, Connecticut* (Hudson, NY: Bryan & Goeltz Steam Book Printers, 1877), 59.

<sup>3</sup> J. Frederick Kelly, *The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut* (New York: Dover Publications Inc., 1963), 17.

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foundation. Peck also used vertical boards as wall surfaces in some of the rooms, but the larger, more elegant rooms were plaster over the boards or had raised panels installed around a fireplace.

Other than being listed as a farmer in census records, little else was recorded about Watrous Peck and his life in West Bloomfield. Apparently he was a member and leader of the local congregational church and offered his house as a meeting place in December 1823 when charges were brought against one of the members for unfavorable moral and religious character. Peck's father was a veteran of the American War for Independence and after his death in 1814, he was buried in the local cemetery. Watrous Peck was buried in the same cemetery in 1862.

Watrous and Betsey Peck had eight children, six of them surviving to adulthood. Betsey Peck died in 1828, a few months after the birth of daughter Sarah, and Watrous was confronted with raising the children on his own, one being an infant. In 1829, he married Paulina Rexford and it may have been around this time that he added the summer kitchen to the northeast corner of the house. He and Paulina had no children together and of the six surviving children, only the youngest, Sarah, remained in West Bloomfield. His oldest son, Edward, moved to Michigan and another son, William, moved to Iowa. In 1855, the New York State Census noted that Watrous and his son, John Sears, were co-heads of household, both listed as farmers. After Watrous Peck's death in 1862, John Sears moved to Oberlin, Ohio and the property was deeded to his sister Sarah and her husband, Clark Allen. The Allens actively farmed the property until 1876 before moving to the village of Lima (Livingston County). Census records for 1900 indicate that Clark and Sarah Allen were landlords of the property and in 1908, the land was deeded to their son, Mahlon.

Mahlon Allen also lived in Lima and rented out the lands before the family began dispersing the property in the 1930s. It is unknown if his father, Clark Allen, built the large barn across the road or if it was built by one of his tenants (first documented in the 1904 Ontario County atlas). In 1930, the property was sold to Arthur Pollex and again in 1963 to Kenneth Hood who lived in the Peck house until a new ranch house was built on property across the road. They then sold off a six-acre portion that contained the house in 1964 and the house currently functions as a rural residence, rather than a farmhouse. Subsequent owners made few changes to the house, other than to add modern conveniences, wrap the house in aluminum siding and replace the windows. Currently, the siding is being removed and the exterior clapboarding restored, returning its appearance to what it was during Watrous Peck's lifetime.



Peck, Watrous House  
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY  
County and State

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Child, Hamilton. *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Ontario County, N.Y. for 1867-8*. Syracuse, NY: Hamilton Child (Journal Office), 1867.

Conover, George S., Ed. *History of West Bloomfield, New York*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1893.

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Henry, Marian S. *The Phelps-Gorham Purchase*, 25 February 2000; online at <http://www.americanancestors.org/StaticContent/articles?searchby=author&subquery=Marian%20S.%20Henry&id=370>.

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Milliken, Charles F., ed. *A History of Ontario County, New York and Its People, Volume 1*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1911.

Pease, John C. and John M. Niles. *A Gazetteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode-Island*. Hartford, CT: William S. Marsh, 1819.

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Turner, Orsamus. *History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase and Morris's Reserve*. Rochester, NY: W. Alling, 1851.

"United States Census, 1840" database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1951-25147-2235-16?cc=1786457> : 24 August 2015), New York > Ontario > West Bloomfield > image 11 of 30; citing NARA microfilm publication M704, (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration).

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Ontario County Historical Society

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

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Peck, Watrous House  
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY  
County and State

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 2000x3000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. For districts, key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Watrous Peck House

City or Vicinity: West Bloomfield

County: Ontario State: New York

Photographer: Virginia L. Bartos

Date Photographed: 29 June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

0001 of 0014: Watrous Peck House façade (south elevation) looking north from Wesley Road.

0002 of 0014: Looking southeast showing north and west elevations and addition of house.

0003 of 0014: East elevation showing northeast addition, view looking northwest.

0004 of 0014: Front step with detail view of cobblestone veneer and hewn beam.

0005 of 0014: View looking east toward noncontributing garage.

0006 of 0014: Vestibule by main entrance with blue door for chimney storage space.

0007 of 0014: Interior view storage space off vestibule.

0008 of 0014: East parlor with views toward vestibule (left) and kitchen (right).

0009 of 0014: Dining room, west side of first floor

0010 of 0014: Kitchen showing exposed brick.

0011 of 0014: Southeast bedroom, second floor.

0012 of 0014: Second floor hallway looking west.

0013 of 0014: Looking east from northwest bedroom.

0014 of 0014: Interior view of first floor addition.

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**Property Owner:**

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

name Michael Borgeest

street & number 8814 Wesley Road telephone N/A

city or town West Bloomfield state NY zip code 14469

**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.460 et seq.).

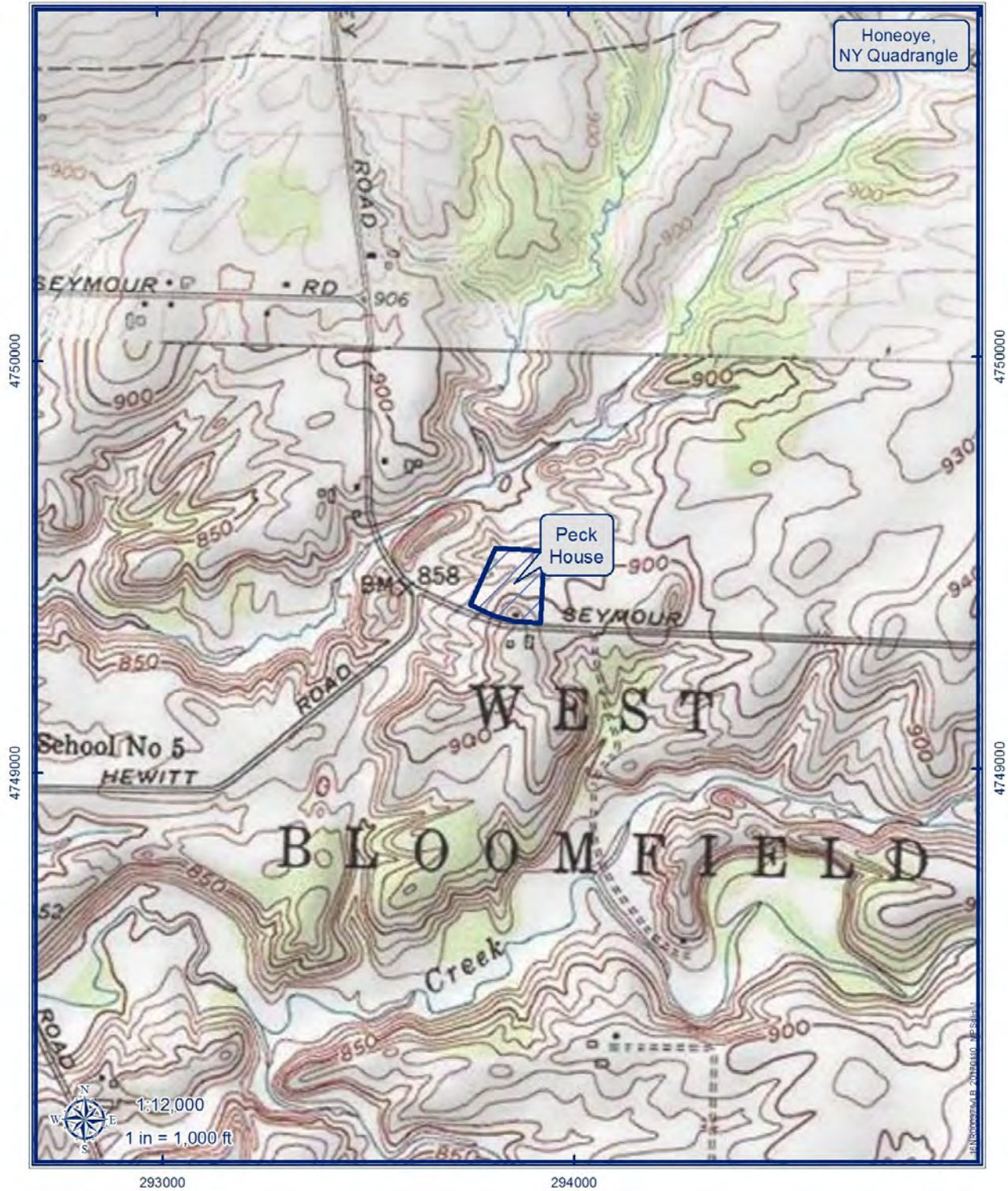
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Peck, Watrous House  
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY  
County and State

Peck, Watrous, House  
West Bloomfield, Ontario Co., NY

8814 Wesley Road  
West Bloomfield, NY 14469



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



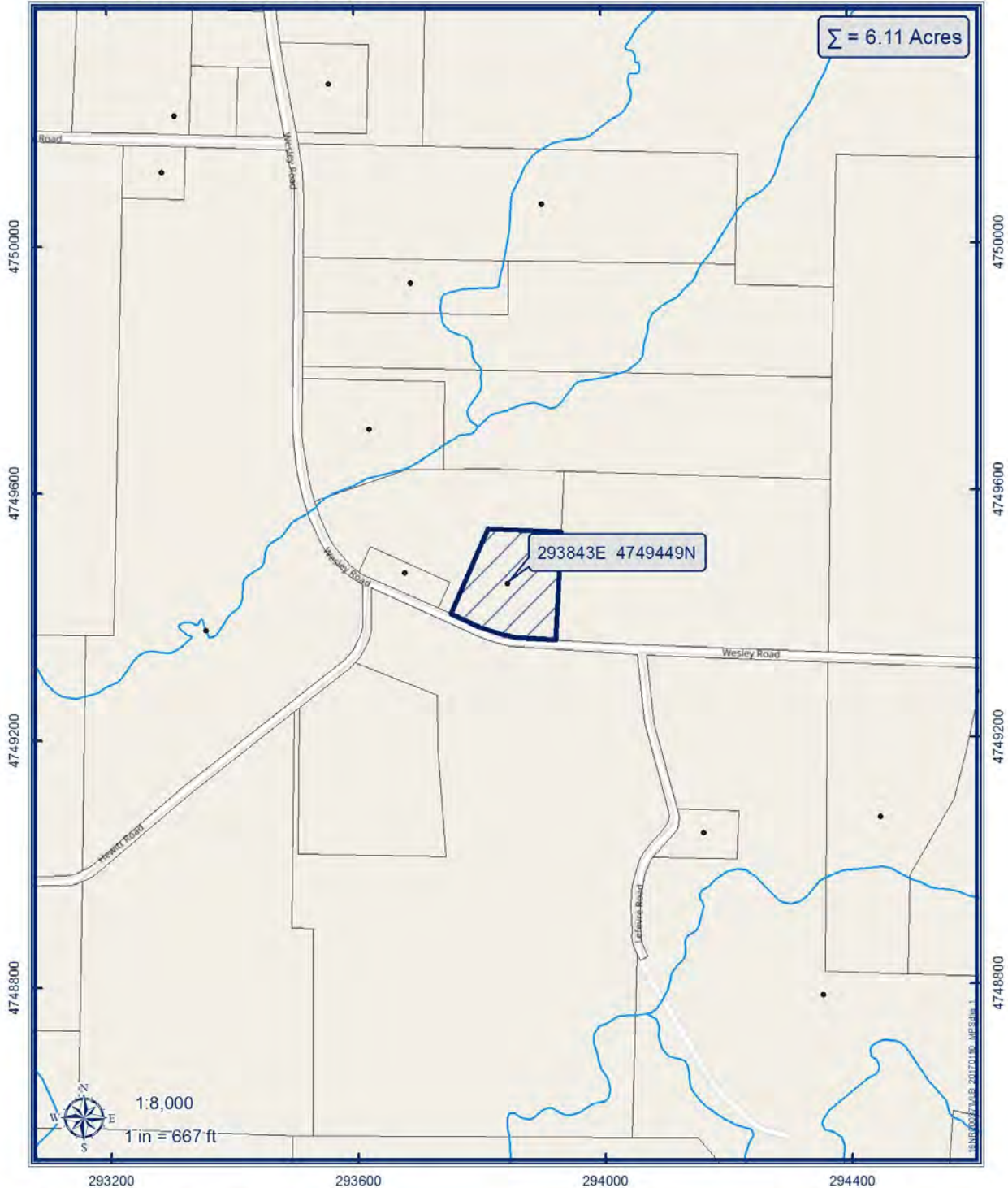


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received:  Date of Pending List:  Date of 16th Day:  Date of 45th Day:  Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept  Return  Reject  Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner



23 January 2017

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

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Henry Whitney House, Broome County  
Lakeview Cemetery, Onondaga County  
Phillips-Manning House, Chenango County  
Lakeview Historic District, Chautauqua County  
Watrous Peck House, Ontario County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office

Peck, Watrous House  
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY  
County and State

*Town of West Bloomfield*  
*Supervisor*  
*Todd D Campbell*  
*PO Box 87*  
*West Bloomfield NY 14585*

Office (585) 624-2461  
Fax (585) 624 4830  
[tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org](mailto:tcampbell@townofwestbloomfield.org)

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Division for Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island, PO Box 189  
Waterford NY 12188-0189

Attn: Ruth L. Pierpont  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Historic Preservation

Re: Watrous Peck House  
8814 Wesley Road  
West Bloomfield, NY 14469  
Ontario County

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

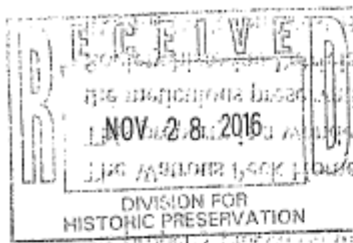
The Town of West Bloomfield is pleased to hear of the consideration of the above named property for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The owner has made a significant effort to preserve and restore the property. We greatly appreciate his efforts and wholeheartedly endorse the nomination. We look forward to the property being listed in the State and National Registers as a part of our ongoing efforts to preserve and promote our historic properties in the Town of West Bloomfield. Please let me know if you need any further information or supporting documentation from the Town of West Bloomfield.

Best Regards,

  
Todd D. Campbell

Peck, Watrous House  
Name of Property

Ontario County, NY  
County and State



*West Bloomfield Historical Society*

P. O. Box 173  
West Bloomfield, NY 14585

November 25, 2016

Attn: Ruth Pierpont and Virginia Bartos  
Division for Historic Preservation, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island, PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont and Ms. Bartos:

The West Bloomfield Historical Society fully supports the application of Michael Borgeest to have his property placed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Watrous Peck Homestead is one of West Bloomfield's earliest remaining historic structures. This property is a wonderful example of the early settlement of the Phelps Gorham Purchase, and the meticulous preservation of the homestead by Mr. Borgeest helps to bring that story to life. Society historian Patricia Talley also supports the application based on the influence of early settlers like the Pecks on West Bloomfield history, and the age and fine condition of the 1803 homestead. Both are outlined in Mr. Borgeest's Statement of Significance.

Mr. Borgeest is Vice President of our Society and has great respect for the historic features of the community. He is actively involved in preservation efforts at the 1834 building that serves as our Historical Society headquarters and also serves as our program chair. Additional evidence of his knowledge and keen interest in America's past can be seen in his accomplishments as a furniture maker specializing in the building of Windsor chairs using traditional methods.

It is our hope the Nominating Committee will respond in the affirmative to this very worthy application from Mr. Borgeest.

Sincerely yours,

*Suzanne Washburn*  
Suzanne Washburn, President  
West Bloomfield Historical Society

**CHAIRMAN**  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INCUBATION  
AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**COMMITTEE MEMBER**  
AGING  
AGRICULTURE  
CITIES  
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& SMALL BUSINESS  
CONSUMER PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**RICH FUNKE**  
Senator, 55TH District

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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
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(585) 223-1800  
FAX: (585) 223-3157

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**  
FUNKE@NYSenate.GOV

**WEBSITE:**  
FUNKE.NYSenate.GOV

November 18, 2016

Ruth Pierpont  
New York State Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Deputy Commissioner Pierpont,

I am writing to express my strong support for the historic preservation of the Watrous Peck House in West Bloomfield, NY.

Watrous Peck was the sixth-generation descendent of William Peck, a founding father of the colonial settlement of New Haven, Connecticut. In 1801, following his ancestors pioneering ambitions, Watrous purchased 169 acres of land in what is now West Bloomfield from Samuel Pitts, the son of Captain Peter Pitts, who was the first settler in the town of Richmond, NY. Soon, the region became a gateway to further westward development as settlers came for the extremely fertile soils, abundant wildlife, and extensive flora. The region also became home to a portion of the Erie Canal, which helped transport manufactured goods and farm produce across the State.

The Peck home was built in 1803 and is one of few homesteads remaining that exemplify the early settlements of the New York. Having survived over 200 years of harsh winters, sweltering heat, and all that upstate New York's climate has to offer, 80% of the interior remains original. The rural development and surrounding countryside supports the ambiance of the historical nature of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The story of Watrous Peck and his estate exemplify the history of America and the early settlers who helped shape it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rich Funke  
NYS Senator, District 55

