



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

1. Name of Property:

historic name John Losee House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 17100 County Route 155 not for publication

city or town Watertown vicinity

state New York code NY county Jefferson code 045 zip code 13061

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Richard A. Purpoint DBHPO 12/23/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Edison H. Beall 2.14.14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

John Losee House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, New York

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 1 buildings

0 0 sites

0 0 structures

0 0 objects

1 1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation Sheet

John Losee House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, New York

County and State

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1828-1906

Significant Dates

1828

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

John Losee House

Name of Property

Jefferson County, New York

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property 4 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 18 | 425349 | 4863063 | 3 | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | | |

 See continuation sheet**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 Byname/title Travis Bowman, Historic Preservation Program Analystorganization New York State Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation date 8/27/13street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3259city or town Waterford state New York 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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Margaret W Harrymanstreet & number 17100 Co Rte 155 telephone _____city or town Watertown state NY zip code 13061**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Section number 7 Page 1

John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

Narrative Description:

The John Losee House is located on an irregularly-shaped parcel, south of the intersection of Swan Rd and CR 155 (Dry Hill Rd) in the Town of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York. The house sits at the crest of a high elevation known as Dry Hill, which affords it commanding views of the Black River valley and Lake Ontario to the west. The nominated property consists of the Losee house (c 1828) and a non-contributing garage, situated to the rear (east). The house fronts nearby CR 155 (Dry Hill Rd), with its gable ridgeline paralleling, giving it an alignment running roughly north to south.

Main House (c1828, contributing)

The house consists of a two story rectangular limestone dwelling with an attached two story rear frame ell. The limestone portion is a five bay, double pile form with a side-facing gable roof and rests on a limestone foundation. Both the foundation and walls are constructed of quarry-faced limestone blocks laid in regular courses, except the rear elevation which consists of irregularly sized blocks laid in rubble coursing. The foundation extends slightly beyond the wall. Ornamentation includes corner limestone quoins, an unadorned frieze band and moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable ends, projecting stone window sills, large stone window lintels, and a highlighted main entry (described below). There are four large brick chimneys, two near each gable end. Fenestration varies by block, elevation and story and will be described separately. The frame ell is a two story rectangular addition, covered by an intersecting gable roof, flanked on each elevation (north and south) by single story, shed-roofed blocks. All blocks of the ell rest on concrete foundations, are clad in wooden shingles and have roofs covered in standing seam metal.

Entrance elevation (west)

Fenestration on the main elevation is regular and symmetrical and consists of five openings on each story. The center entrance on the lower story is flanked by two double-hung, 12/12, aluminum clad windows set into moulded wooden surrounds; lighting the upper story are five 12/12, aluminum clad windows set into moulded wooden surrounds. All of the windows on both stories have large limestone lintels and projecting limestone sills. The lintels surmounting the upper story windows are slightly smaller as they abut directly against the moulded wooden cornice.

The main entrance is a Federal style six-paneled wooden door recessed into an elaborate moulded wood surround; it is emphasized with recessed panels, six-light sidelights, a full moulded entablature supported by engaged columns, a semi-elliptical fanlight with decorative tracery—including rosettes and an eagle. The whole is surmounted by an arched limestone architrave with a projecting keystone and a Gibbs-inspired side architrave of alternating square and rectangular limestone blocks. Currently the main entrance is accessed by a raised flagstone patio and a set of broad flagstone steps.

Side elevations, main block (north, south)

Fenestration on the south elevation consists of four double-hung, 12/12, aluminum clad windows set into moulded wooden surrounds. The windows are symmetrically placed, two to a story, near the corners and separated in the horizontal by a wide expanse of masonry (to accommodate the gable end interior chimneys). Fenestration on the north elevation consists of three double-hung, 12/12, aluminum clad windows set into moulded wooden surrounds and a side entrance. The exterior door is narrow, the same width as the upper story window above; it is six panels (the upper four have been replaced with glazing), surmounted by a transom. Like the south elevation, the openings are symmetrically placed, two to a story, near the corners and separated in the horizontal by a wide expanse of masonry. Lighting the upper half story on both gable ends are small 6/6 wood-framed windows set into moulded

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

wooden surrounds. All openings on the side elevations have large limestone lintels and all of the windows on the side elevations have projecting limestone sills. The foundation on the side elevations has been parged with concrete.

Rear elevation (east)

Most of the rear elevation is subsumed by the intersection with the ell. Only one opening in the limestone envelope is readable on the exterior; a window opening with a large limestone lintel and projecting limestone sill has been infilled with brick that was subsequently parged with concrete.

Ell, all elevations.

The rear block ells with the main block asymmetrically, almost aligning the south elevation of both blocks. The ell was constructed in the 1960s to replace an historic ell that was severely deteriorated; neither the original massing, nor the original fenestration of the original ell was retained when the ell was rebuilt. All windows on the ell are of non-historic materials. Except where noted, window openings are asymmetrically placed and include: two 6/6 windows on the shed block, one 6/6 window lighting the upper story of south elevation of the two-story block, four 6/6 windows—two lighting each story, symmetrically placed—on the rear (east) elevation, two 6/6 windows lighting the upper story of north elevation of the two-story block and a ribbon of 6/6 windows on the shed-roofed porch block. Entrance openings on the ell include doors on both north and south elevation shed-roofed blocks.

Interior.

In plan the first floor of the main block is three rooms arranged around a center stair hall, but based on extant evidence of interior partitions, the original plan was four rooms. The current configuration includes a large front dining room, a large parlor (that previously had been two, unequally sized rooms) and a rear kitchen. The upper story of the main block consists of four chambers arranged around the central stair hall. Finishes in the main block are a mixture of originals and replacements. Most of the walls are lath and plaster, but many of the ceilings have been replaced with gypsum board. Similarly, most of the floors are finished in early twentieth century, narrow, varnished, wood, but some original wide plank floorboards (now varnished) are extant on the upper story and the attic. Door and window casings are moulded and appear to be consistent with an early nineteenth century construction date, as do the six-paneled doors with wrought hardware, which are throughout the house. Some of the original wide beaded baseboard moulding is intact, but crown moulding in the original front rooms is a twentieth century replacement. Only the fireplace mantel in the parlor appears to be original to the house's construction; it consists of a fully moulded entablature supported by delicate fluted columns with square bases and capitals. A large fireplace with a side cook oven appears to be a twentieth century interpretation of an earlier form. The stair is still extant, although the newel and balustrade are early twentieth century replacements; a later paneled treatment has been added to the stairs as well. Finishes and the plan in the ell are all consistent with a 1960s construction date.

In the basement, framing members are mostly rough-hewn, with some bark edges, and square rule joined with butt cogs; there is no evidence of lath and plaster on the bottom of the joists, although the walls themselves do appear to have been plastered. Roof framing is common rafters with tails, joined at the gable peak with butt joints, nailed to a hewn plate.

Garage (late 20th century, non-contributing)

To the rear of the main house is a single story, gable-roofed garage.

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

Statement of Significance:

The John Losee House is architecturally significant as a distinctive early National Period example of domestic architecture in the town of Watertown, Jefferson County New York. Built c1828 for John Losee, the nominated house stands as a chronicle of the vernacular architecture of the immediate post-settlement era of the region and as part of a regional building tradition of stone construction in the Black River area. Economic growth combined with abundant limestone deposits in the area allowed wealthier farmers like Losee to construct large residences, dressed in the latest fashion. Losee's five-bay, double pile, symmetrically composed, house was embellished with detailing and features like an elliptical fanlight over the front door, corner quoins, and federal mantelpieces.

The period of significance, ca. 1828-1906, encompasses the entire period of Losee family ownership, from the probable construction date to when it was sold out of the family. This period includes the last contributing architectural changes made to the house, including many ca. 1900 colonial revival alterations.

History and Development of the Losee House

Born in Fishkill, NY, John Losee (1754-1837) was descended from a Huguenot family in New York's lower Hudson Valley and was a veteran of the Revolutionary War; he enlisted at White Plains, NY in 1777 and served thirteen and a half months in Col. Abraham Brinkerhoff's Second Regiment, Dutchess County Militia.¹ The exact date of Losee's immigration to Watertown is not known, but his name appears on the 1800 Federal census as living in Dutchess Co. and on an 1809 assessment roll for Watertown, so he arrived in Watertown sometime between those two dates. He may have already obtained property by 1809 as well; the 1809 "Assessment roll of the real and personal estate in the town of Watertown in the county of Jefferson" valued John Losee's property at \$188 and John Losee Jr.'s at \$318.² A later sale of the property noted that Losee obtained land in Lots #42 and #41, Town of Watertown, at the crest of Dry Hill, from Nicolas Low. Low was part of a group of investors who obtained the Black River Tract—Great Lots 5 and 6 of the Macomb Purchase—which they subsequently divided into eleven townships. The towns were divided by ballot between the investors, and Low received towns 2, 7 and 11 (Watertown, Adams and Lowville, respectively). Watertown, Town #2, was surveyed at 26,667 acres and divided into 52 lots of 450-625 acres, many of which were further subdivided.

Nicholas Low and his land agent, Silas Stow, turned out to be highly effective at attracting settlers. Only a decade before John Losee arrived in Watertown the area had been virtually unoccupied by a civilian, European population. Within a generation, the population had grown exponentially:

| Census Year ³ | Population |
|--------------------------|------------|
| 1807 | 231 |
| 1810 | 1,841 |
| 1814 | 2,458 |
| 1820 | 2,876 |
| 1825 | 3,416 |
| 1830 | 4,768 |

¹ Franklin B. Hough, *A History of Jefferson County in the State of New York* (Joel Munsell: Albany, NY, 1854), 277. <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com>.

² Edgar Emerson, ed. *Our County and its People: A Descriptive Work on Jefferson County, NY*. (The Boston History Company: Boston, 1898). <http://history.rays-place.com/ny/ellisburgh-ny.htm>.

³ Franklin B. Hough, *Census of the state of New York, for 1855*. (Charles Van Benthuysen: Albany, 1857). New York State Library: Digital Collections, www.nysl.nysed.gov/scandocs.

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

Family accounts and nineteenth century histories indicate that Losee had the nominated house constructed in 1828—a time when Watertown was hitting a growth boom. In fact, by the second decade of the nineteenth century, Watertown was among the preeminent settlements of the St. Lawrence region; Franklin B. Hough's *A History of Jefferson County*, provides a snapshot of the area when Losee was having the house constructed:

A census [of the village] of Watertown, taken in April 1827, gave...321 buildings, of which 224 were dwellings; 3 stone churches (Methodist, Universalist, and Presbyterian); court house, and jail; clerk's office; arsenal; 1 cotton factory with 1300 spindles, another (Beebee's) then building; 1 woolen factory; 3 paper mills; 3 large tanneries; 3 flouring mills; 1 furnace; 1 nail factory; 2 machine shops; 2 fulling mills; 3 carding machines; 2 distilleries; 1 ashery; 2 pail factories; 1 sash factory; 2 chair factories; 1 hat factory; 4 wagon shops; 2 paint shops; 4 cabinet and joiner shops; 8 blacksmiths; 4 tailor shops; 7 shoe shops; 3 saddle and harness shops; 8 taverns; 15 dry good stores; 2 hardware stores; 2 hat stores; 2 book stores; 2 leather stores; 1 paint store; 2 druggists; 2 jewelers; 2 weekly papers; 7 public schools; 6 physicians, and 10 lawyers.⁴

While the village of Watertown flourished due to the large number of industries, retailers and commercial operations, the surrounding *town* of Watertown, where Losee lived, contained some of the “largest and best farms in the county.” The prosperity of agriculture and industry was reflected in large amounts of new construction. Mercantile structures, public buildings, professional offices, churches, and the homes of the emerging wealthy class would have all exposed Losee to fashionable and sophisticated building tastes. Just to the southwest of the business district in Watertown (Public Square) were a series of elegant and imposing homes on large lots.⁵ The 1825 Orville Hungerford Homestead, originally built at 336 Washington St., was a grand example. Hungerford (1790-1851) was a prominent merchant, banker and two-term Member of the House of Representatives. Similar to the nominated Losee house, Hungerford's residence was a five-bay, center-hall form, embellished with Federal detailing, including a main entrance almost identical to the Losee house—a six-paneled wooden door recessed into an elaborate moulded wood surround, emphasized with recessed panels, sidelights, a full moulded entablature supported by engaged columns, and surmounted by an arched limestone architrave with a projecting keystone. The only differences between the Losee and Hungerford entrances is the patterns of the tracery and the use of Doric order capitals on the former and Ionic order on the latter. As a prosperous farmer in his own right, Losee chose to build a large and commodious house with a high degree of architectural merit.

There is no record of whether the Losee family had a dwelling on the property prior to the current one, but there is evidence that they occupied the property before the purported date of construction (1828). When John Losee's seven year-old grandson, Cornelius, died in 1821, the young child was interred in a plot across the road from the current house. More than a dozen Losee family members and descendants would be buried in this small (36 x 36') family plot over the next sixty years. The burial ground was listed in the deed and included all on property transfers, but no longer exists today (see integrity section, below).

Neither the mason nor the joiner for the Losee house is known, but the craftsmen clearly exhibited a familiarity with the design precepts of Classicism, as interpreted through the lens of local building traditions of the region during the Federal period. The stylistic choices of the Losee house range from the overall form and massing of the house's two-and-half story, five-bay, double-pile, center hall composition to the builder's emphasis on symmetry through regular fenestration and matching chimneys. Other ornamentation reflecting classical tastes includes large lintels over the openings, corner quoins, the unadorned frieze band and moulded cornice terminating in returns on

⁴ Hough, *A History of Jefferson County*, 116.

⁵ “NRHP, Public Square Historic District” NYS OPRHP

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

the gable ends, and a highlighted, recessed entranceway set off by pilasters, an elliptical fanlight, and a projecting keystone in the moulded arch. Principles of Federal design are reflected in the interior as well, most notably in the moulded surrounds, the six-panel doors and paneled window boxes.

The house and farm remained in the hands of the Losee family until the early twentieth century. The 1864 “New Topographical Atlas of Jefferson Co. NY” (see continuation sheet) indicated the property was owned by “C.V. & G. Losie”—likely the brothers Gabriel (1808-1881) and Cornelius V. Losee (1822-1889); both men are noted as dairy farmers in Durant & Peirce’s 1878 *History of Jefferson County, NY*.⁶ Gabriel was buried in the family cemetery on the farm, one of the last family members to be interred there; Gabriel’s brother Cornelius was buried in nearby Brookside Cemetery. Plate 9 of Robinson’s 1888 “Atlas of Jefferson County, NY” labeled the owner of the house as “JF Losee”—likely John Franklin Losee, the son of Cornelius. Hamilton Child’s 1890 *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County, N.Y.*, recorded the farm at that time: “J Franklin Losee 75 acres farmer” and “Cornelius V. Losee 200 acres, farmer, 20 cows (Died in Sept., 1889.)” The 1880s, however, had proven to be a difficult decade for the Losee family. All the members of the third generation of Losees to occupy the family farm—Gabriel, Margaret and Cornelius—died that decade, as did Cornelius’s wife, Roxa, and his daughter, Martha (Mattie); Margaret Losee (1818-1882) was the last Losee family member to be interred in the family burial ground on the farm.

The farm and nominated house passed to Cornelius’s son, John Franklin Losee (1857-1898), who appears to have run into personal and financial difficulty. In 1890, part of the Losee farm was advertised in a sheriff’s sale. A few years later, a notice published in the September 16, 1893 edition of the *Watertown Herald* recorded that John Franklin’s wife, Alta, “easily” obtained an absolute divorce after “he fell in with a bad crowd.”⁷ In September of 1897, John Franklin enlisted as in the US Army, 9th Infantry, stationed at nearby Madison Barracks in Sacketts Harbor, Jefferson County. The 9th US left for the US invasion of Cuba a year later, during the Spanish American War. Private Losee died of typhoid fever onboard the transport SANTIAGO, three days before his unit landed at Siboney and eventually took part in the Battle of San Juan Hill.⁸ Losee was buried at sea off the coast of Cuba. Losee’s obituary in the *Watertown Daily Times* noted flatly that “At one time he possessed considerable property; he lost it and joined the army.”⁹ With the death of John Franklin Losee, the farm and house appear to have passed to Cornelius and Roxa’s only surviving daughter, Mercy [Losee] Herrington. In 1906 the Jefferson County Savings Bank foreclosed on Mercy Herrington’s 1902 loan and sold the 210 acre Losee farm and nominated stone house at auction. Two brothers, James and John Bogart, bought the house and the farm, but James later (1912) conveyed his share to John. In 1916, John Bogart and his wife, Rozella, deeded the house to their daughter, Bertha [Bogart] Stone, and her husband, Henry Y. Stone, a future town supervisor of Watertown. Harry and Bertha Stone were listed as the owners of a 210-acre dairy farm in 1918, when the *Farm Directory of Jefferson County* was published. The Stones conveyed the property to their daughter, Eunice [Stone] Ball, and her husband, John, during the Second World War. John Stone continued the dairy and milk business on the farm until he and Eunice sold the property in 1965, ending almost sixty years of ownership by the descendants of John Bogart.

Integrity

Two separate articles were published about the house during the Bogart/Stone/Ball family ownership period. Both were written by David F. Lane, who published a series of articles about north country historic homes in the *Watertown Daily Times*, 1941-1956. The earlier article, dating to 1941, noted the “house contains nine principal rooms

⁶ Samuel W Durant and Henry B. Peirce, *History of Jefferson County, New York*, (L.H. Everts & co.: Philadelphia, 1878).

⁷ “Divorces Easily Got,” *Watertown Herald* September 16, 1893. <http://news.nynln.net>.

⁸ Fred Radford Brown, *History of the Ninth U.S. Infantry, 1799-1909*, (R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company: Chicago, 1909), 203. www.books.google.com.

⁹ “A Dry Hill Soldier’s Death/J Frank Losee of the Ninth Infantry, A Typhoid Fever Victim/ Expired on Board a Transport, in Sight of the Cuban Shore/ Formerly in Business Here,” *Watertown Daily Times*, June 1898. <http://news.nynln.net>.

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John Losee House
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besides hallways and closets and the rooms are high-ceilinged with numerous large fireplaces, most of which have been closed up. The large verandah is of modern origin.”¹⁰ Nine years later, Lane chronicled the house again, noting:

Before his death Mr. Stone [Henry Y. Stone] embarked upon a project looking towards the restoration of the house to its original appearance. A large verandah of modern type, which had at some time been added to the house, hiding the beautiful doorway, was removed. The concrete platform however, still remains but Mr. and Mrs. John H. Stone have in mind to go further with the restoration project, replacing this concrete platform with cut-stone steps and ornamental ironwork. Possibly also the type of original, small-paned windows will take the place of modern ones.¹¹

Both articles included pictures (see continuation sheets), providing an excellent snapshot of integrity during the mid-twentieth century. Current integrity of design and materials on the main block exterior is high. Changes include replacement windows, but the period newspaper photos indicate the windows had already been replaced with 4 over 4s (and four light transoms on the lower story); the current 12/12 windows echo the likely historic sash configuration. The sidelights on the main entrance were replaced with colored art glass, while keeping their historic fenestration. The largest effect on integrity was the loss of the two story rear frame ell. The ell, which is visible in the historic newspaper photos, was removed in the 1960s and replaced with single story frame example. Although constructed of non-historic materials, the scale and massing of the current ell does not detract from the Losee house and is not an atypical arrangement for the nineteenth century; these structures (often called back-houses) evolved as a form to incorporate more work spaces important to the domestic operations of a rural farmstead; made possible by advancements in stove technology, ells could be easily added onto as needed for dairying, laundering, weaving, storage, and could even incorporate the privy.¹² Integrity of materials on the interior is mixed. The house retains most of its lath and plaster walls and ceilings, some wide plank floors, and most of its doors, including period hardware. Some mouldings and surrounds were replaced in early-mid twentieth century colonial revival rehabilitation. The main stair newel, rail and baluster date to the late nineteenth century, along with the beadboard wainscoting in the dining room. All but one of the original eight fireplace mantels has been lost—as noted earlier, Lane’s 1941 article the fireplaces had been “closed up.” Unfortunately the 1950 article chronicled a more drastic change; it read “originally there was a fireplace in each of the eight rooms, although but one remains today.” At some point the house underwent another colonial revival rehabilitation. A reproduction bake oven was added to the dining room, along with a faux exposed beam ceiling; a 1974 *Watertown Daily Times* article mentions the bee hive oven in the dining room so it was in place by then. An interior partition was removed from north side of the house, creating a three room hall plan on the lower story, and small bathrooms have been fitted onto each floor.

The property itself has undergone multiple changes as well. The Losee family cemetery across the street was lost around the turn of the twentieth century. In 1912 Charles H. Losee, the son of Cornelius’s brother Hiram, visited the area and made a stop at the Losee family farm to visit the graves of his grandfather, Daniel and his great-grandfather, John. According to a subsequent *Watertown Daily Times* 1912:

¹⁰ David F. Lane, “Old Mansions of North Country, No. 30,” *Watertown Daily Times*, December 30, 1941. Reprinted Genealogy Department, Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, NY. <http://news.nnyln.net>.

¹¹ David F. Lane, “Old Houses of the North Country, No. 423,” *Watertown Daily Times*, August 26, 1950. Reprinted Genealogy Department, Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, NY. <http://news.nnyln.net>.

¹² Thomas Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, (University Press of New England: Hanover NH 1984); Thomas C. Hubka, “The New England Farmhouse Ell: Fact and Symbol of Nineteenth Century Farm Improvement,” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 2 (Vernacular Architecture Forum: Harrisonburg, VA, 1986), www.jstor.com.

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

Finds Ancestors Graves Neglected.

To come eastward 2,000 miles on his first visit to the former home of his parents and find that the graves of his ancestors in the private burial grounds on the old homestead have been almost obliterated by time and partly given over to the use of swine, is the experience of C.H. Loses [sic] of Marble Rock, Iowa, who arrived in Watertown a few days ago. Mr. Losee came here to visit the old Losee homestead on Dry Hill on which his father and his father's parents had lived. When he went out to the private graveyard on the old farm he had difficulty in locating the 16 graves. The place was sadly neglected and forgotten. What were once neatly rounded graves had sunken beneath the surface making it difficult for him to locate them. Because of this visit, Mr. Losee arranged to have the bodies disinterred and removed to one of the city of Watertown cemeteries where the graves will be property maintained.¹³

The article indicated the Charles Losee made arrangements to have the bodies disinterred and removed to a city graveyard, but no record has been found that the transfer took place. In fact, an oral history interview with Eunice Stone, a former resident of the property, indicated that the Stone family recorded the names on all of the stones, removed the stones (not the bodies) and erected a barn on the site in 1917. Later visitors record being shown one of the grave markers as well. According to Eunice, the following Losee family members were interred in the family cemetery:¹⁴

Back Row

- Gabriel Losee died 4 January 1881 age 72 years 7 months 19 days
- Daniel Losee died 19 September 1845 age 41 years 9 months
- Elizabeth wife of John Losee died 27 March 1845 age 62 years 11 days
- Stone broken with age 67 years 8 months (no addition information readable)
- Double stone John A Losee died 22 Aug 1837 age 84 years and Sarah his wife died 20 March 1837 age 82 years

Center Row

- Number of unmarked graves
- Cornelius son of John & Elizabeth Loose died 21 August 1821 age 7 years 12 days
- Two Stones with no inscriptions

Front Row Facing the Road

- John son of Daniel & Lydia J. Losee died 4 September 1850 age 12 years 1 month 15 days
- Sarah daughter of Daniel & Lydia J. Losee died 7 October 1845 age 16 years 2 months 9 days
- Sarah wife of Isaac Gardner Jr died 27 February 1863 age 53 years
- Margaret Losee died 6 February 1882 age 63 years 1 month 6 days

The 1917 Stone family barn burnt down in 1966 and the cemetery is no longer visible. As it cannot be determined if the Losee family members are still interred in the former cemetery plot, the cemetery is not being included in the boundary of the nomination. The 210 acre Losee farm was subdivided and the house was separated onto its own 4.33 acre parcel. Post-war residences were built on some of the surrounding parcels, breaking up the original Losee farmstead. Despite the loss of the acreage, the setting remains a compelling factor in the significance of the nominated house. The adjacent road is in the same alignment as on historic maps. Immediately to the west of the nominated house is a still-used agricultural field, which was once part of the Losee family's lands. The exceptional view of the Black River Basin and Lake Ontario, enjoyed by John Losee and his descendants is still intact. Although

¹³ "Finds Ancestors Graves Neglected," *Watertown Daily Times* July 6, 1912. <http://news.nynl.net>.

¹⁴ <http://www.nnygenealogy.com/pages/cemetery/history/370.html>.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

there are non-historic structures on Dry Hill, the overall character of the area has remained relatively rural—the setting would still be easily recognizable to previous occupants of the house.

Stone Building traditions in the St. Lawrence region

Limestone was particularly abundant in the area; the Ordovician limestone deposits occur in heavy beds, and the quarried rock is generally free of seams and imperfections. The high quality and texture of the stone, coupled with the extremely harsh winter climate of the region, made stone a sought-after choice for buildings. The Black River/St. Lawrence region has a rich tradition of limestone construction, including several examples listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The nearby town of Brownville has multiple NR listings under a Thematic Nomination, Stone Houses of Brownville; Watertown, Cape Vincent, Adams and Orleans all have several stone buildings listed individually and as part of historic districts; the Cape Vincent Multiple Resource Area nomination identified thirteen limestone houses and two limestone churches. Dozens of other stone buildings have been determined individually eligible. The 1855 New York State census recorded building type and historically, seven of Jefferson County's twenty-two townships stand out as having the largest number of stone dwellings. Out of 429 stone dwellings in the county, Watertown had the most at 63, followed by Le Ray (54), Brownville (49), Pamela (34) and Cape Vincent and Hounsfield, each with 30. At almost 4 percent of the total, stone houses outnumbered their brick counterparts by more than double; as expected frame dwellings represented the vast majority at almost 80 percent. Obviously not all of these stone structures have survived the intervening century and a half, but the 1855 census provides an historical snapshot of the prevalence of stone as a building material. Stone building in the St. Lawrence region represented a convergence of two New World traditions—English and lowland Europe (primarily Dutch and German) immigrants from across what is now the northeast United States and French influence from both Canada (especially Quebec) and French émigrés who fled to the failed Castorland colony during the French Revolution. While a great deal of variation exists in terms of style, size, ornamentation, massing etc., stone continued to be an important building medium in the region through many periods and among the various cultural groups. Jefferson County is home to many high-styled, early national period showpieces like the Jacob Brown Mansion (c1811), the aforementioned Orville Hungerford Homestead (1825), the two story, center pavilion John Felt house (1827), the Vincent LeRay house (1815, NR listed), and numerous other five-bay and three-bay, center passage dwellings with a range of neoclassical detailing. Stone was heavily utilized in more vernacular building traditions as well. Many dozens of one-and-a-half story, side-gable, double-pile examples are spread across the region. Some represent New England modes, like the cape-form, National Register listed, Amos Wood house in Ellisburg; others represent French influence, like the Capt. Louis Peugnet House (c1837) house in Cape Vincent, which has low, flared eaves that extend to a veranda, multiple dormers and casement windows. Throughout the mid-nineteenth century, Jefferson County's residents continued to build in stone. Greek revival detailing was executed on upright and wing forms and other side-gable examples across the Black River region, and the Claude Vautrin House (c1855) even shows influence of the Italianate. This widespread use of stone across the decades represents a local stone building tradition adapted for a vernacular interpretation of the popular principles, vocabularies and aesthetics of the various periods.

In addition to the domestic applications, stone was used in a variety of other buildings, including at least two mid-nineteenth century schools in LeRay, the c1820 three-story, hipped roof Brownville Hotel, the 1856 Dullivard Mill in Cape Vincent and two National Register listed churches—St. Vincent of Paul Catholic Church (c1855) and the First Presbyterian Society of Cape Vincent (1832). When stone regained national popularity as a building material in the late nineteenth century, many civic, commercial and religious structures were built in the region, representing a continuation of a long-standing tradition; Watertown, as the county seat, has many examples of this trend, most are listed in the Watertown Public Square Historic District.

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

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Lane, David F. "Old Houses of the North Country, No. 423," Watertown Daily Times, August 26, 1950. Reprinted Genealogy Department, Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, NY.

"Finds Ancestors Graves Neglected," Watertown Daily Times July 6, 1912.

Maps

S.N. & D.G. Beers and Assistants, "New Topographical Atlas of Jefferson Co. NY" Philadelphia, C.K. Stone, 1864.

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National Park Service

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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot number 91.17-1-24 in the Town of Watertown, Jefferson County, NY.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel (4.04 acres) under current ownership and includes the contributing house and its immediate environs, as necessary to justify architectural significance.

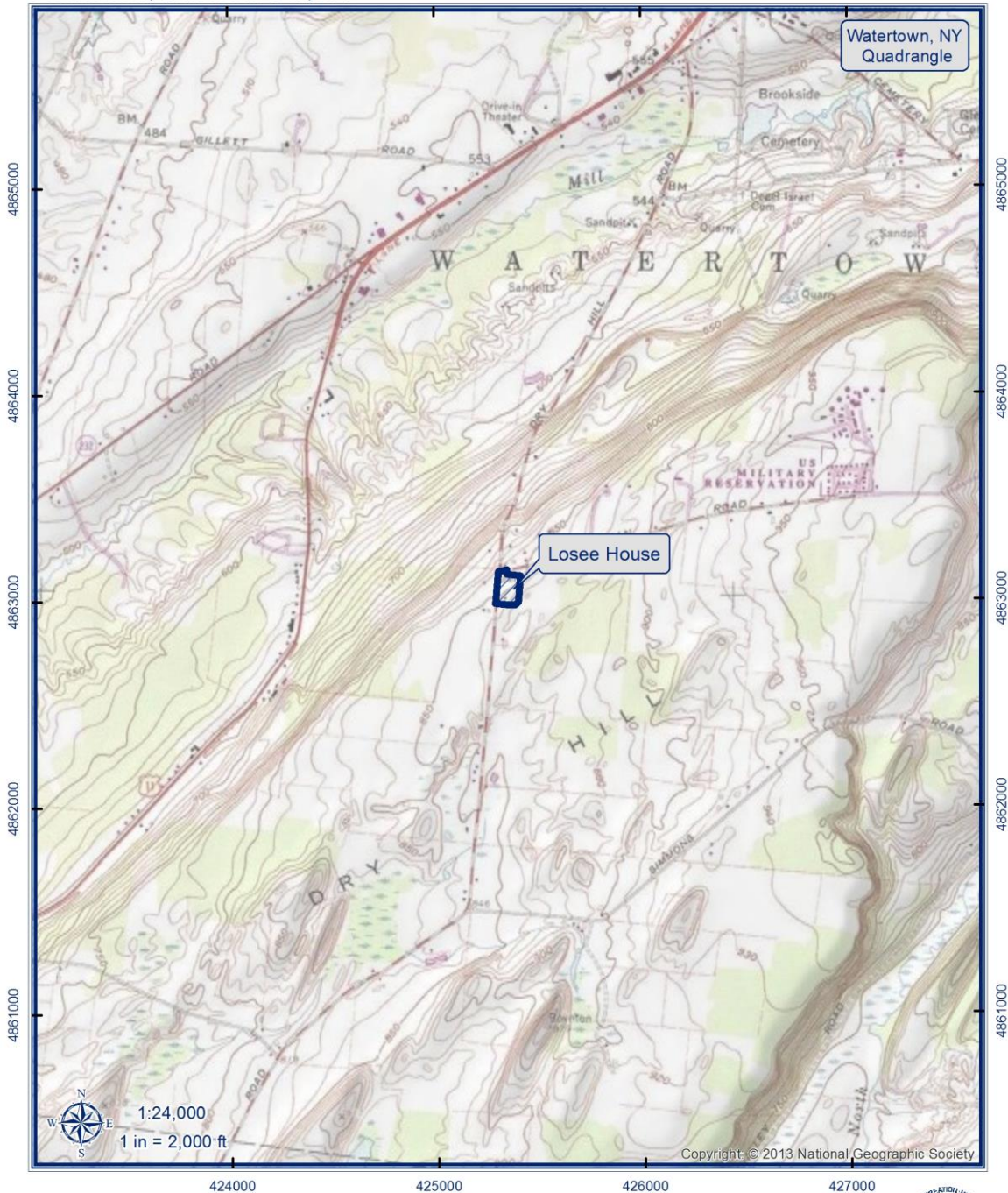
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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

John Losee House
Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY

17100 CR 155
Watertown, NY 13061



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



J. Losee House

Tax Parcel Data:
Jefferson Co. RPS
<http://www.jeffcountymaps.com>



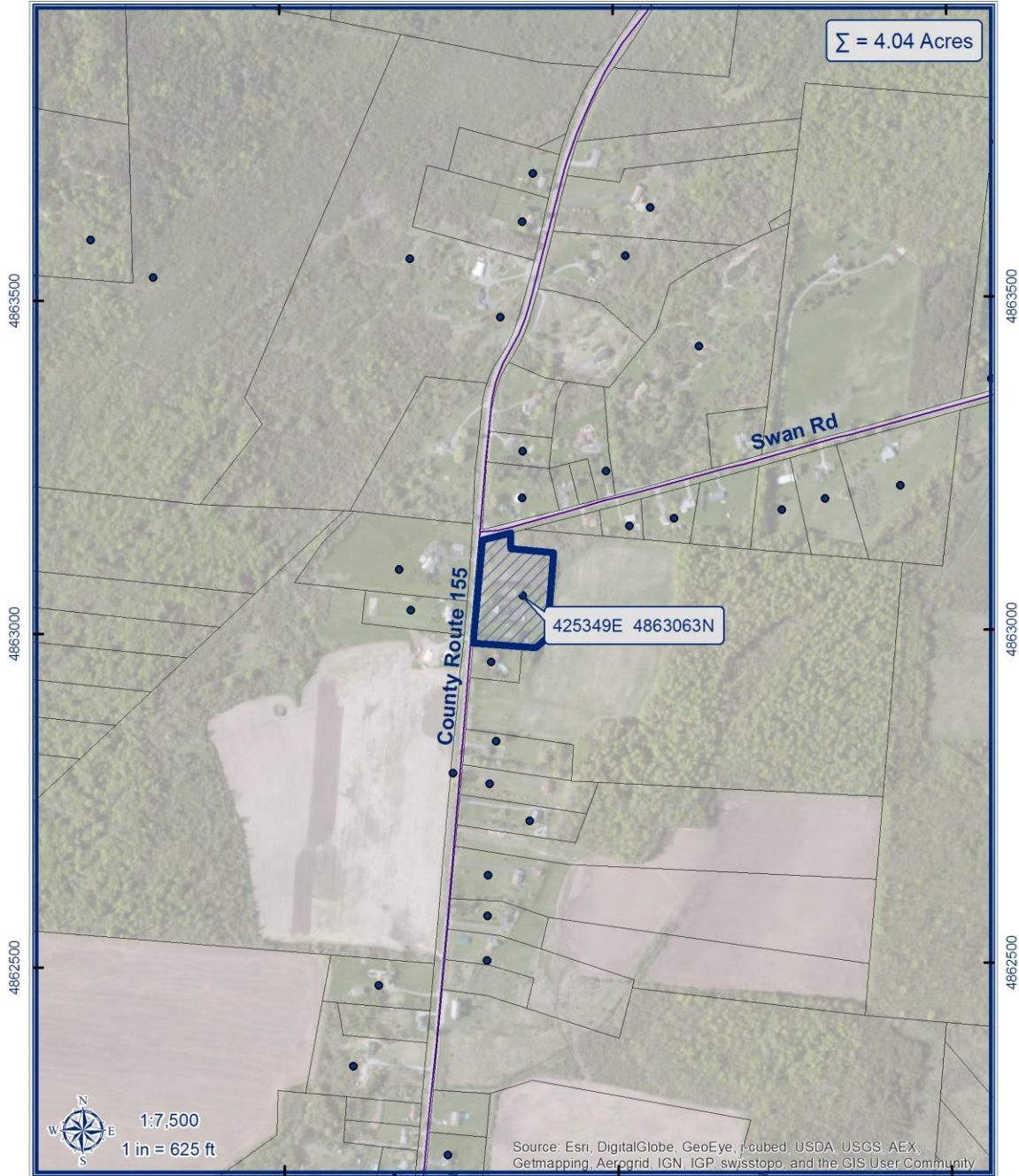
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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

John Losee House
Watertown, Jefferson Co., NY

17100 CR 155
Watertown, NY 13061



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



J. Losee House

Tax Parcel Data:
Jefferson Co. RPS
<http://www.jeffcountymaps.com>

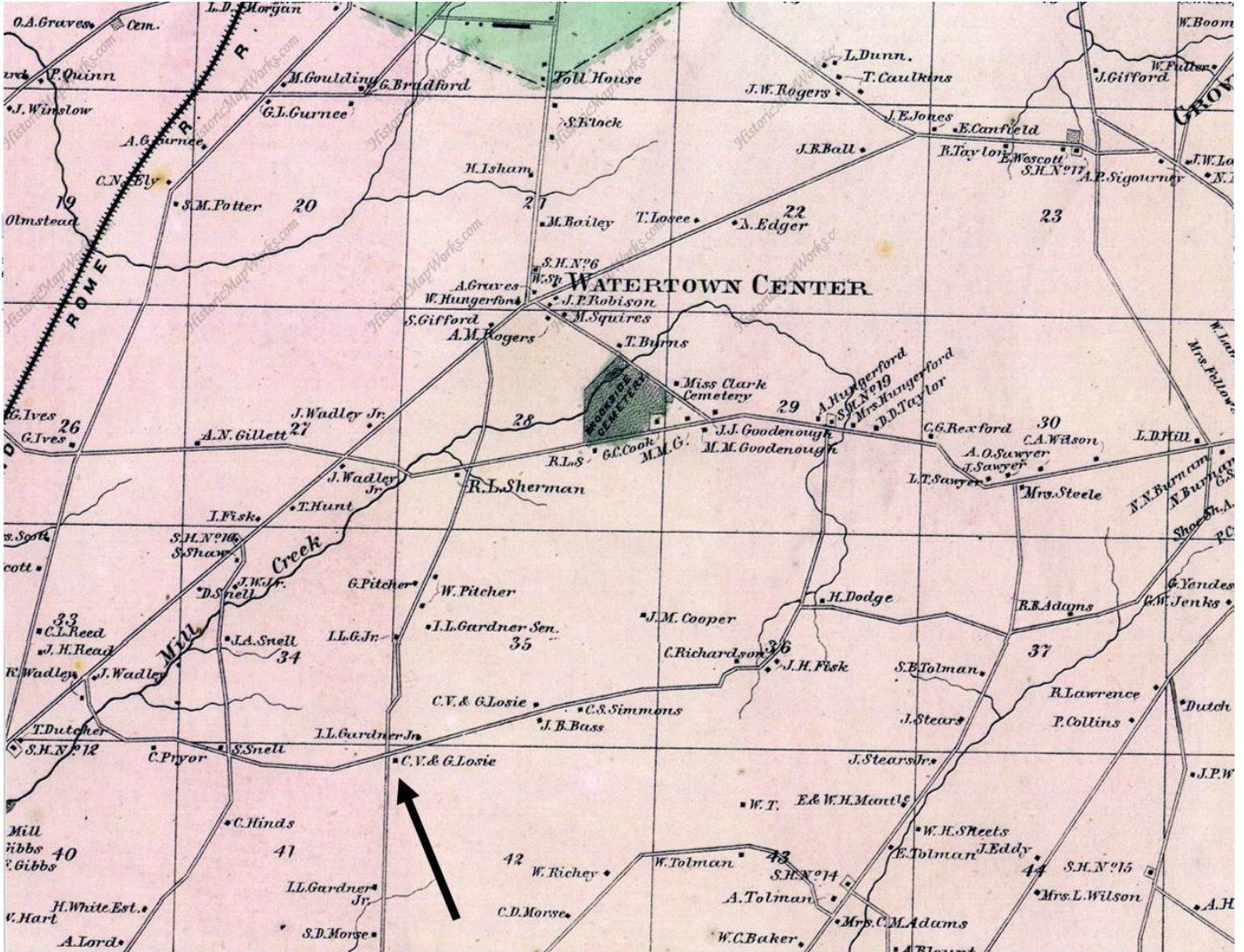


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CONTINUATION SHEET

John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

1864, C.K. Stone "New Topographical Atlas of Jefferson Co. NY"



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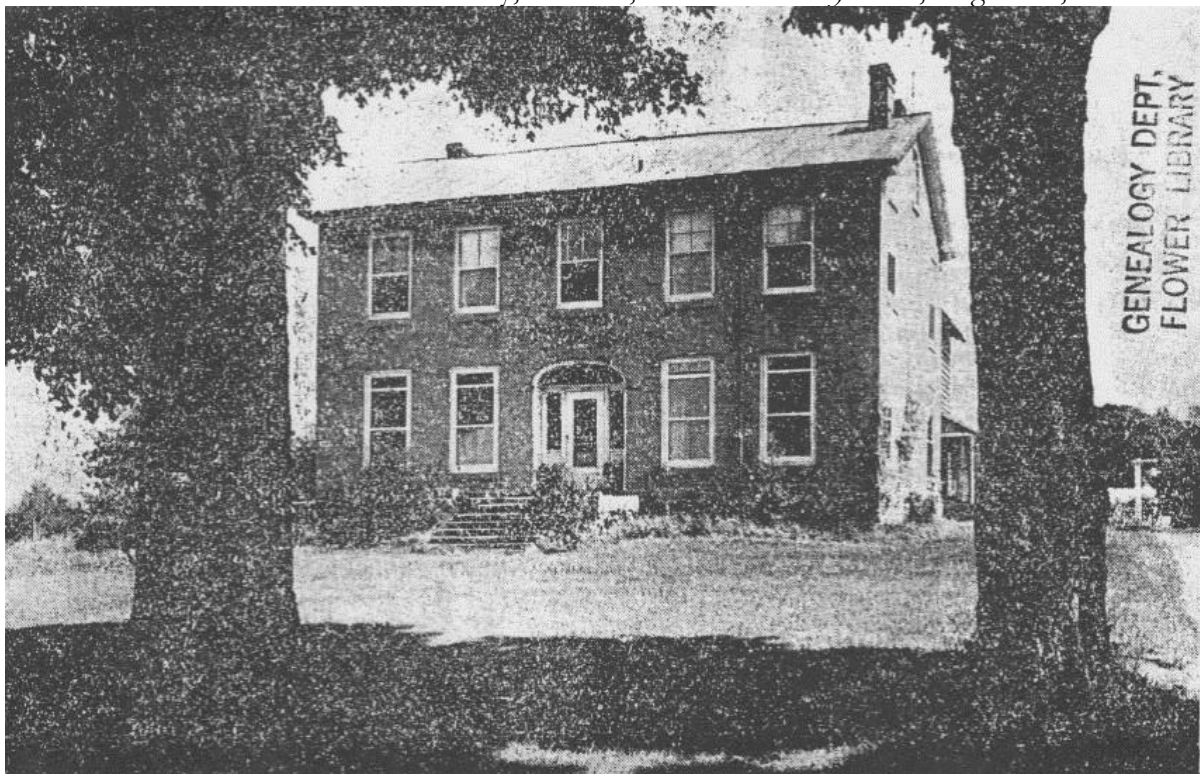
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John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

“Old Mansions of North Country, No. 30,” *Watertown Daily Times*, December 30, 1941



“Old Houses of the North Country, No. 423,” *Watertown Daily Times*, August 26, 1950.



United States Department of the Interior
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CONTINUATION SHEET

John Losee House
Jefferson County, New York

Photo Log (Prints from Digital Photos)

Name of Property: John Losee House
Location: Jefferson County, New York
Photographer: Travis Bowman
Date: July 12, 2013
Location of Negatives: CD-R Included
NY_JeffCo_JLseeH

PHOTO LOG

| PHOTO | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|--|
| 0001 | Exterior view, N-NW; ¾ House. |
| 0002 | Exterior view, E; Main entrance detail. |
| 0003 | Interior view; North front room—formerly two rooms (NE & NW) |
| 0004 | Interior view; Typical upstairs Chamber. |
| 0005 | Interior view; Detail window surround, dining room (SW) |











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Losee, John, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 12/30/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000004

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 2-14-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



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

23 December 2013



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

Troy Waste Manufacturing Company Building, Rensselaer County
Van Zandt, Jacobs and Co. Collar and Cuff Factory, Rensselaer
The Courier Building, Syracuse, Onondaga County
Sohmer and Company Piano factory Company, Erie County
Florendin Feasel House, Monroe County
John Lesee House, Jefferson County
Houk Manufacturing Company, Erie County
Building at 44 Central Avenue, Albany County
Albany Felt Company complex, Albany County

I am also enclosing a new disc of photos for the Kismet Temple, Kings County, as per your request. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office