

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 NEWTON-TABER-MARVIN FARM
other names/site number REILLY'S FARM

2. Location

street & number 149 CLARKS CHAPEL ROAD not for publication
city or town NASSAU vicinity
state NEW YORK code NY county RENSSELAER code 083 zip code 12123

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Ruth A Purpont DSHPO 9/12/16
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:

- 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 Edson H. Beall 11-2-16
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 type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
12	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing, storage,
agricultural field, animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing, storage,
agricultural field, animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: METAL

other: GLASS, METAL

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Synopsis

The Newton-Taber-Marvin Farm is a historic farmstead consisting of approximately 100 acres of associated land located amidst the scenic rolling hills of the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York. Principal among this farm's built features are a story-and-half timber frame dwelling with rear kitchen ell and shed-roofed section, ca. 1810 and later, and a commodious scribe-rule English threshing barn of late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. The farmstead additionally includes other historic-period buildings, those being a smaller square-rule timber-frame barn with flanking sheds, a milk house, a chicken coop, and an outhouse, in addition to more recent resources that continue to sustain contemporary agricultural activities such as a sugar house and tractor shed. Structures include stone walls, which demarcate field boundaries, and a hand-pump and associated stone-lined well located east of the house. The historic-period features constitute the farmstead's core and are clustered in relatively close proximity to one another; the house was built with its facade oriented to the northeast, towards the road, the other buildings being located behind and to the north of it—the large English barn was oriented so that its principal elevation, and corresponding doors to the center bay, faces to the southwest. The buildings were built on the flat shoulder of a rise of land and are accessed from Clarks Chapel Road by means of a forked entrance drive that meets the principal road at two points but which merges into a single roadway at a point north of the house. From there the road continues in a northwesterly direction, its tree-lined course flanked by open fields and dense woodlots. While the focus of its owner's agricultural endeavors have shifted been many times since this property was first settled and farmed in the eighteenth century, the nominated farm's setting nevertheless remains an evocative and historically accurate one, characterized by tilled fields, rubble stone walls, tree-shaded farm roads, and woodlots. The large field that extends to the northwest, behind and beyond the house and the early barn complex, is presently planted with small conifers, a function of the property currently functioning in part as a Christmas tree farm. Taken collectively, the Newton-Taber-Marvin Farm's buildings, structures and natural features convey a strong sense of place and a continuing tradition of agricultural endeavors dating back to the eighteenth century.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The nominated farmstead is located on the north side of Clarks Chapel Road, east of its intersection with Slivko Road and west of its intersection with Nassau-Averill Park Road (County Route 15), in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York. Burden Lake, one of numerous bodies of water which mark this part of rural Rensselaer County, is located to the northeast, beyond the Clarks Chapel Road-County Route 15 intersection. The larger setting of this section of Clarks Chapel Road is characterized by undulating topography and is marked by open agricultural fields, dense stands of deciduous and coniferous trees, and a series of ponds, one of which is located on the north side of the road and within the nomination boundary. Scattered residential properties align the road, including one of relatively modern conception that is situated across the road from the nominated farm, to the immediate southeast. A forked road, one section paved and the other not, provides vehicular access to the Taber-Marvin Farm, now operated as Reilly's Farm, before it merges into a single alignment and continues for a distance on a southeast-to-northwest alignment; at one time this was a public thoroughfare, clearly defined on historic maps, but it has since become a private road. The house's façade faces the road and it is bordered on its south and west sides by low rubble stone walls that help to define a front yard. A number of mature sugar maple trees are present around the house and provide shade when leafed out, including a small copse of trees which is situated in the triangle formed by the two forks of the entrance drive; mature oak and maples also are present along the roadside. Views from the property itself are expansive and include open fields, wooded hills, and to the east the more distant raised landforms of the Taconic Mountains. Open fields within the nominated property are clearly defined by stone walls and are in part used for animal pasturage.

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Taber-Marvin House, ca. 1810 & later (contributing building)

The house consists of the main block—a gable ended, story-and-a-half construct built on a rectangular plan—an ell which transformed the original footprint into an L-plan configuration, and a shed-roofed addition built between the northwest wall of the main block and southwest wall of the ell. All three appear to represent separate construction phases, the main block being the original construct. The original section was built above fully excavated basement and mortared stone foundation and is a timber-frame construct the joinery of which was cut on the square rule. It consists of a four bent braced frame with common rafter- purlin plate roof system, the rafters being nailed to a narrow ridge board at the peak. The post spacing of the bents matches the original room configuration of a narrow central bay with entrance hall and enclosed staircase which is flanked to either side by rooms. Larger components were hand-hewn and fashioned from hemlock and oak; the principal posts are oak, while smaller members, inclusive of ceiling joists, were sawn from softwood. The framing which sustains the first floor was in part built with reused material, as evidenced by empty brace and stud mortises and, in one instance, by one member that retains an early ochre finish. The house was built with only one hearth support, its width suggesting it accommodated a cooking fireplace; it corresponds with the northeast room, presumed to have been the original kitchen, which is serviced by its own exterior door. The opposite room, the parlor, was apparently heated by airtight stove as no accommodation for a hearth is visible in that location in the basement. A bulkhead door on the northeast elevation provided at-grade access to the basement and, given its historic function as a food storage area, is located in close proximity to the door that accesses the kitchen. The well and hand-pump also are located in relative proximity to the northeast room.

The exterior of all four elevations displays relatively consistent treatments, those being wood clapboard siding terminated by plain corner-boards, unmoulded wood window frames with drip caps, plain boxed cornices, and metal roofing of both the standing-seam and corrugated type. The façade of the main block is punctuated by five bays, not quite symmetrical in arrangement, with four windows and a central door corresponding with the first floor and, at half-story level, five square shaped windows only one of which, the central one, is glazed (the others are blind and fitted with louvered covers). The lower windows are fitted with two-over-two wood sash, the upper central unit with an inward swinging six-light casement. A simple shed-roofed porch sustained by four square posts shields the front entrance, which is fitted with a glazed-and-paneled door. The southwest gable end has a total of four windows, two each at first and half-story level, the lower ones again fitted with two-over-two wood sash. The opposite northeast elevation exhibits a similar appearance but it additionally includes an entrance into the room on that side of the house and a total of three windows. An exterior brick chimney, which services a furnace, is centered within that elevation; it rises between the two upper-story windows and through the roof decking. A shed-roofed porch aligns this elevation at first-story level and has partially enclosed ends framed out with clapboard and wood lattice.

The northeast elevation of the ell is recessed slightly from the northeast gable end of the main block. It has two windows and a door, the latter shielded beneath a cantilevered, shed-roof hood; at one time historic photographs indicate that a section of this elevation consisted of an open bay, presumably used as a wood shed. The northwest gable elevation is blind. Extending beyond the northwest corner of the ell is a small section of wall corresponding with the shed-roofed addition, which was more lightly framed than the main block and ell, which are timber framed; it accommodates a large batten door. The northwest elevation of this addition is blind and pierced only by a hopper-type wood flap; the southwest elevation is also blind excepting a small extension that was made to it in more recent times which accommodates a band of three windows in addition to a door, this portion of the exterior having wood shingles. A chimney rises from the roof ridge of the ell and additionally rises from the roof of the shed-roofed section.

The overall form of the building as it evolved in three distinct construction phases remains intact, save for the small extension described above. Noticeable changes from the earliest photographs of it include the

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introduction of two-over-two sash windows, which replaced earlier nine-over-six sash; the introduction of the half-story windows (all but one of which is blind) on the principal elevation; the extension of the eaves and replacement of the original wood-shingle roof; the introduction, and subsequent modification of, porches on the southeast and northeast elevations; the addition of a third window on the northeast elevation, and the enlargement of the windows corresponding with the upper level; and the replacement of the original paneled entrance door with a glazed-and-paneled door (it may have superseded the six-paneled Greek Revival-style door that now corresponds with the doorway between the ell and later section). Most of these changes appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century period and may correspond with a single concerted reworking of the earlier dwelling; they are alterations which fall within the ca. 1790-1966 period of significance and represent efforts to improve the livability and functionality of the house by its occupants.

The interior of the main block is characterized by expanses of plaster and sheetrock and exposed framing; the sawn ceiling beams, originally lathed and plastered, have since been exposed in the southwest room. The northeast room, which can be accessed directly from the exterior, has a fireplace of modern conception against the east wall. The earliest finishes are of post-1850 date and include the two four-paneled doors corresponding with the doorways into the main rooms from the front entrance. Upstairs much of the framing, namely the rafters, purlin-plates and associated posts, and the main wall posts have been exposed to view. Originally the upstairs plan consisted of two bedrooms located to either side of the central stair hall, and contained with a space defined by the position of the purlin plates and the end walls; some bracing and other framing were later removed to allow for the use of all the upstairs floor space.

Hand Pump & Well , ca. 1950 (contributing structure)

This cast-iron hand pump is marked "BAKER MFR CO EVANSVILLE WISCONSIN" and is bolted to a wood mounting affixed which in turn is affixed to a concrete-slab well cap. This model of pump, still made by Baker to this day, is known as a monitor lift hand pump and was first offered by the company in the 1870s; this particular version appears to be of more recent age.

Privy, ca. 1900 (contributing building)

Located immediately southwest of the house, this small wood-frame building, which was constructed with dimensional lumber and is shed-roofed, has flush-board wood siding and a corrugated metal roof.

Chicken Coop, ca. 1900 (contributing building)

The chicken coop has a dimensional lumber frame and shed roof; it has circular-sawn vertical wood siding and a corrugated metal roof. Fenestration includes two window openings fitted with two-over-two wood sash and a batten door.

English barn, ca. 1790 & later (contributing building)

This English or "three-bay" threshing barn is a signature feature of the nominated farmstead. It is large for this type, measuring 45' in width by 40' in depth, with a 14'-6" stable bay, 14'-6" center bay/threshing floor, and a 15' hay mow. The barn has a scribe-rule timber frame the four transverse bents of which defined its original internal tripartite configuration. It has a steeply pitched gable roof and was erected above shallow stone footings; a large shed-roofed addition was made on the northwest elevation (the opposite elevation at one time had a smaller shed addition, since removed). The frame is covered with horizontal clapboard and vertical wood boards—the latter, the earlier treatment, remains on the rear elevation's exterior and the upper portion of the gable ends and also under the clapboarding, which was nailed to it on the exterior—and a standing-seam metal roof. Roof planking appears intact from the first phase and consists of wide sawn plank. The principal eaves-front elevation, facing to the southwest, has large sliding doors (replacing an earlier door configuration), above which is discernible the position of a transom light, since closed off, in addition to a larger hay door and window near the southwest corner. The addition also has large sliding doors. Inside, the central threshing bay is spanned by a partial loft,

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consisting of planking which rests on log joists, flattened on top, which are tenoned into the two tie beams of the internal bents. The interior bents have dropped tie beams which are sustained at two points in their span by braced posts; the roof frame consists of a purlin plate/common rafter system, the rafters being of large scale and hand-hewn. Most all of the framing was hand-hewn and consists of both hardwood (for the uprights) and softwood. It is a commodious and impressive specimen of the general type, though it deviates in scale from the traditional scribe-rule 40' by 30' English barn type.

Milk House, ca. 1900 (contributing building)

This is a small gable-roofed building of light frame construction which is located in close proximity to the English barn. It has wood clapboard siding, an asphalt shingle roof, and, on its principal elevation, a batten wood door and a four-light casement window. It was used for fluid milk storage.

Small Barn with Flanking Sheds, ca. 1850 & later (contributing building)

The small barn, located opposite the larger English barn and oriented so that its principal elevation faces it, consists of the original central section—a square-rule timber frame building, gable fronted and of rectangular plan—to which lighter frame sheds were added to the side elevations subsequently. The original core section has hand-hewn framing and a pole rafter roof, and into its frame is incorporated some reused timbers from an earlier construct; the flanking sections are more lightly framed with dimensional lumber. The building is sided with wood clapboard and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The principal elevation has a central track-mounted sliding door and, at upper level, an outward-swinging batten door hung on surface-mounted hardware. The northernmost shed addition has an open bay at ground level and a small loft door above, the latter feature repeated on the southernmost shed addition, which is enclosed at ground level and accessed by means of an outward swinging door. The southeast elevation is punctuated by three window openings fitted with two-over-two wood sash.

Granary/corn crib, ca. 1900 & later (contributing building)

This building's form largely matches that of the small barn with flanking sheds, though smaller, it having a gable roofed central section which is flanked by sheds. It is lightly framed and was built with dimensional lumber.

Drive/Tractor Shed, ca. 1950 (contributing building)

A light wood-frame building erected with dimensional lumber, it consists of a central gable-front section with sheds to either side. It, along with the storage shed noted below, are located northwest of the house, along the road which extends from the farmstead core, and on its east side. Siding is both wood clapboard and vertical board, and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. The central and northernmost bays are open; the southernmost one has a track-mounted sliding door. The southernmost flanker shed was used in association with sheep rearing; it contains a small animal door that communicates with the adjacent field.

Storage Shed, ca. 1950 (contributing building)

A light wood-frame building erected with dimensional lumber, it follows the overall form of the adjacent drive/tractor shed, having a central gable unit flanked by sheds. All three bays are open. Siding is wood clapboard and vertical board and the roof is covered with corrugated metal.

Maple house/ "Sugar Shack," ca. 1950 (contributing building)

The maple house is a small gable-roofed building with wood siding and asphalt-covered roof; it houses a maple sap condenser and is entered via a door on the southeast elevation.

Stone Walls (contributing structure)

Rubble stone walls align many of the fields contained on the nominated parcel; they are being counted as a single contributing feature.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1790- 1966

Significant Dates

ca. 1790; ca. 1810; ca. 1850; ca. 1950

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance, ca. 1790-1966, begins with the presumed date of construction of the large English barn—this barn likely dates to the Newton tenancy period— and terminates at 1966, the 50-year cutoff point, given the continued agricultural use of the property to that period. All of the architectural features contained within the boundary were constructed during the cited period of significance and are deemed significant in the context of this nomination.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Newton-Taber-Marvin Farm is an architecturally and historically significant resource located in the Town of Nassau, Rensselaer County, New York, with a continuous history of farming activity and occupancy that dates back to the eighteenth century. The first identified owner of the nominated land was Abner Newton, a native of Worcester, Massachusetts and a veteran of the American Revolution, who improved and farmed these lands under a lease agreement from the Van Rensselaer family in the later eighteenth century. Around 1800 the Newton farm, consisting at that time of upwards of 400 acres, was subdivided and sold off, a portion of it being purchased subsequently by the Taber family; at that time the Van Rensselaer lease obligations for that acreage were taken on by two brothers, Gershom and William Taber, sons of Peleg Taber, a Quaker and Rhode Island native. Next the land was farmed by the Marvins, who had intermarried with the Taber family, beginning in the early 1870s; their occupancy spanned over a century and ended in the 1970s, during which time the property remained actively farmed. The nominated farmstead, which continues in active agricultural use to this day, retains a number of contributing buildings and structures, principle among them a commodious English three-bay threshing barn, likely dating to the late eighteenth century and the Newton family period, and a story-and-a-half dwelling built in the early years of the nineteenth century, for the Taber family, and which has been subsequently aggrandized; that house incorporated into its physical fabric building components likely salvaged from a house on site. The Newton-Taber-Marvin farm is set within an evocative and compelling agrarian landscape that contrasts open fields and pasture aligned by stone walls with wooded lots and expansive views of the Taconic Mountains to the east. The property is being nominated under NRHP Criterion A, in the area of Agriculture, given its long-established and documented history as a functioning farm, during which time the focus of its agricultural endeavors evolved in response to local and regional trends; both the landscape and the farm's various outbuildings attest to this long and layered history of usage. It is additionally being nominated under NRHP Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, given the survival of a number of significant buildings which portray various themes in regional vernacular architecture, among them the commodious threshing barn and the early nineteenth century dwelling.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Background

The Town of Nassau was created in 1806 from lands formerly contained within the adjacent towns of Petersburg, Schodack and Stephentown. First known by the name "Philipstown," in honor of patroon Philip Van Rensselaer, the present name was adopted shortly thereafter, in 1808. As the town's first name would imply, Nassau was once contained within the expansive Manor of Rensselaerwyck, but being situated on the interior, some distance from the Hudson River, settlement did not occur until there after the mid-point of the eighteenth century. The town's early population was not ethnically homogenous and was composed principally of people of Dutch, German and New England extraction; the earliest identified occupants of the nominated property, the Newtons, were natives of the Worcester, Massachusetts area. Hugh Wilson is credited as the first permanent European-American settler in what is not the Town of Nassau, having in 1760 established a homestead within the confines of what is today the eponymously named village. At that date the area was still populated by Native Americans, members of the Stockbridge tribe, who resided in a settlement known by the name *On-ti-ke-ho-mawck*; it was the Stockbridge who conveyed title to those lands first settled by Joseph Primmer in addition to Wilson. Nassau was and today largely remains a rural area, marked by hilly topography, traversed by the Kinderhook and Tsatsawassa creeks and the Valatie Kill, and checkered with numerous lakes and ponds, prominent among them Burden Pond, located a short distance north of the nominated farm. Foremost among its settlement areas are the Village of Nassau, which was situated in relation to the Valatie

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Kill, in addition to Hoag's Corners, East Nassau, North Nassau, Alps, Slab City, Brainard, and Miller's Corners.¹

The nominated farm was located a few miles to the southeast of Miller's Corners, which was noted by N.B. Sylvester in his 1880 Rensselaer County history as little more than "a small hamlet in the northwestern corner of the town." It is situated on Clark's Chapel Road, which crosses the Schodack-Nassau town border, and which takes its name from a Methodist house of worship that was located on the Schodack side of the border; it no longer remains, though an associated cemetery does, which contains the burials of many early residents of this area. The earliest identified family associated with this property was the Newtons, who farmed this leased land prior to 1800, after which time it became associated with the Tabers (Tabor variously); it was yet later the farm of the Marvin family, which had intermarried with the Tabers. Abner Newton (b. 1759), a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, was on these lands as early as 1788, when his name appears on a map of Van Rensselaer family lands; he was in New York State prior to that time, given his service in the 4th Regiment of the Albany County militia during the American Revolution. A 1794 newspaper advertisement, cited in its entirety below, indicates that a tavern had been kept there continuously since ca. 1782, confirming the occupation of the land to at least that date, if not earlier.

Between 1794 and 1800, Abner Newton was actively looking to sell the farm property. In April 1800 the *Albany Gazette* indicated that Newton's 384-acre farm, at that date still situated within the Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, was to be sold at public auction "if not before sold at private sale." It was described as "formerly owned and now occupied by Abner Newton... the same being held under lease from Stephen Van Rensselaer, esq..."² Apparently Newton had been trying to market the farm for sale as early as 1794, at which time the following advertisement appeared in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, published in distant Springfield, Massachusetts:

FOR SALE,

THAT valuable farm Situate, lying in the Town of Ransselaerwyck [sic], County of Rensselaer, and State of New-York, twelve miles east of the City of Albany, containing four hundred acres of excellent land, three hundred of which is under good improvement and good fence, well watered—there is good Meadow, which [may] be made to cut one hundred tons hay, there is two large English barns on said farm, three dwelling Houses, a Store-house, and a new Pot-ash House; there is now sowed on said farm one hundred and eighty bushels of Wheat; the farm layes [sic] convenient to make four handsome farms; it is a most excellent stand for a Tavern and Store, there has been one kept there this twelve years: For further particulars apply to the subscriber on the premises, who can give an indisputable title.

ABNER NEWTON.

Rensselaerwyck, May 29, 1794.³

The 1794 newspaper advertisement taken out by Newton in the *Hampshire Chronicle* is insightful in a number of ways. Firstly, it indicates Newton's desire to sell the property by marketing it to prospective buyers in Massachusetts, and coincides temporally with a period of substantial migration into New York State by New Englanders. This effort failed, perhaps due in some measure to these lands being held in perpetual lease and not outright ownership, the former arrangement being common in portions of the Hudson Valley where large

¹ J.H. French, *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State* (New York: 1860); N.B. Sylvester, *History of Rensselaer County* (Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880), 420.

² "A FARM for sale," *Albany Gazette*, 3 April 1800. While it indicates otherwise, Newton was deceased by this time.

³ "FOR SALE," *Hampshire Chronicle* (Springfield, MA), 8 July 1794.

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tracts of land were managed as manorial estates by families such as the Van Rensselaers and Livingstons. Next, it indicates that the nominated farm represents only a portion of a much larger farm that was subsequently broken up into smaller farm parcels, including that which was subsequently farmed by the Taber and Marvin families in the nineteenth century. The description of the farm indicates the continuing importance of wheat farming to the regional agricultural economy—wheat farming began a precipitous decline in eastern New York during the 1820s, and largely failed after 1830—and also indicates that pot-ash remained a desirable commodity. Like wheat, pot-ash was a resource for which cash could be procured in the markets of Albany, Troy and Lansingburgh at this date, and thus was an important byproduct of land clearing, given it was manufactured using the ashes from felled timber, and could generate income from lands not yet under profitable cultivation. While not presently known, the nominated property's large English barn may well date to Newton ownership period, given its physical characteristics and its impressive storage space and potential threshing capacity.

A notation from January 2, 1799 in the Van Rensselaer family account ledgers indicates that Abner Newton's lease obligations were satisfied by payment of 24 bushels of wheat due for his annual rent, and that the same payment was made the following year, on January 2, 1800. As cited in this ledger, the lease agreement between Newton and the Van Rensselaers was made on November 1, 1792, though other documentary sources indicate Newton's presence there as early as 1788, if not ca. 1782. In January 1802 Gershom and William Taber made their first annual payment in the form of 24 bushels of buckwheat to the Van Rensselaers, thus establishing their occupancy on these lands.⁴ While lease rents were typically made with a quantity of wheat, payment was sometimes made in cash or promissory notes, or commodities such as other grain, firewood, livestock, or manual labor. This system continued until the dissolution of the tenant-lease system, which came as a result of the anti-rent strife of the 1840s, which affected Nassau much as it did other areas of rural Rensselaer County and other parts of New York State.

Notable among Abner Newton's children was his son, Isaac Newton, who was born on the Nassau farm in 1794, around the time of his father's death. As noted in one mid-nineteenth century source, "About the commencement of the present century his family removed to Albany, where, from the death of his father, they became much reduced in circumstances; therefore young Isaac had no advantages of early education, and his first recollections were of toiling to earn his living."⁵ In spite of these unfavorable beginnings, Newton rose to considerable prominence as a pioneering figure in river steamboat navigation, and his career counted among its achievements important contributions to steamboat engineering and superintendence of the People's Line company. In 1846 a passenger boat built under the auspices of Curtis Peck and others was purchased by the People's Line and given the name the *Isaac Newton*, in honor of his achievements.⁶

That portion of the nominated farm which was part of the earlier Newton farm was next farmed by brothers Gershom and William Taber, who were sons of Peleg Taber (1742-1802), a Rhode Island native and Quaker; it was they who took over the lease obligations from the Van Rensselaers for these lands from Abner Newton. The elder Taber, who appears in the 1800 federal census of Schodack—Nassau had still not yet been partitioned off from it—was the head of a household of 10 individuals and was a carpenter by trade, as was his grandson, Silas Taber (b. 1810), a son of William Taber (1781-1854). At the time of the 1850 federal census William Taber remained the head of the household, and the complexion of the farm, then consisting of 158 acres of land valued at \$3,000, was itemized in the federal agricultural census of that year. Livestock included one horse and two oxen—the farm's draft animals—in addition to 6 milk cows, 22 sheep and 11 pigs. By this

⁴ Account Ledgers, Van Rensselaer Manor Records, 1630-1899, New York State Library.

⁵ "Inland Steam Navigation," *United States Magazine*, vol. 3, no. 5 [November 1856], 397.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 397-98.

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time no arable land was given over to wheat, and instead Indian corn was the central grain cultivated, in addition to rye and oats. The previous year's production included 80 pounds of wool, 40 bushels of potatoes, 40 bushels of buckwheat, 600 pounds of butter, and 30 tons of hay. By this period a more diversified agriculture had been assumed, with butter, wool and hay production by all indications being central to the farm's output. In 1854 William Taber died, and the following year, at the time of the 1855 New York State census, the nominated house was occupied by Silas Taber, who resided there with his wife, Margaret Taber, and four young children. It was subsequently occupied by a brother, Peleg Taber (1829-1860), who married Adelle C. Marvin.

In 1858 the nominated farm was central to a legal action that pitted members of the Taber family and others against one another, though the precise circumstances remain unclear. The plaintiffs were Peleg and Adelle Taber, William and Elizabeth Miller, and Draper Taber (b. 1814) who, like Peleg, was a son of William Taber; the defendants were Silas and Ann Taber, Philip and Polly Taber, Isaac Burton, Mary Burton, Charles W. Burton, Matilda Taber, Hannah Taber, Harriet Taber, Almira Taber, Chester Taber, and Phebe and Margaret Taber. The farm, consisting at that time of 146 acres, was then valued at \$4,450 and was auctioned for sale at the store of Edwin R. Ball.⁷ On one of the tie beams within the English barn there appears, written in lampblack, the notation "E.B.V.D.B." and the date "1858"; it is presumed that this may relate to this incident, though the precise nature of the initials remains unclear.

In 1871 the 146-acre farm was purchased by Enoch Lester Marvin (d. 1881) and his son, Peter D. Marvin (1835-1913), from Adelle Tabor, the widow of Peleg Tabor, excepting eight acres of land which were partitioned off and transferred to Leland Rhodes. The 1875 New York State agricultural census depicts the two adjacent Marvin dwellings, one valued at \$300, the other at \$500. The elder Marvin, then 58 years old, resided in the nominated house, which he shared with his wife, Sarah A. Marvin, in addition to a daughter, Mary Marvin, 31, and a granddaughter, Ophelia Taber, 15. The other household, on an adjacent property, consisted of Peter D. Marvin, 59, his wife, Esther, 38, a son, a daughter and a relation, Friend D. Taber, 61, a laborer who worked on the farm with the Marvins. Both Enoch and Peter, who farmed these lands jointly, listed their profession as farmer. Information on the Marvin farm's agricultural output can be gleaned from the 1880 New York State agricultural census, which indicates that the acreage was broken up into 40 acres of arable land, 60 acres given over to pasture, meadow and orchard, and 40 acres of woodlot. The Marvin farm was valued at that time at \$3,000, its livestock at \$625, with an annual estimated production value of \$1,000. Arable land was given over to the cultivation of buckwheat, Indian corn, oats, rye and potatoes, following the same general pattern as seen in the 1850 agricultural census. Butter production was again an important aspect of the farm operation, with 1,200 pounds produced in 1879, the output from the 9 milk cows the farm maintained. Swine and chickens were also kept, and the Marvins cultivated an apple orchard which produced 75 bushels from the same number of bearing trees.

Anson D. Marvin (d. 1968), a son of Peter D. and Henrietta Marvin, took over the farm in 1913 from his father at the time of the latter's death; Anna Goewey Marvin (d. 1974), who wed Anson Marvin in 1911, subsequently transferred the property to the Eley family, from whom the present owners acquired it. The household of Anson Marvin appears in the 1915 New York State census; Marvin, who noted his occupation as farmer, was residing with his wife, Anna, son, Howard, in addition to his mother and his sister, Mary, who was working as a school teacher. All of the farm's existing architecture predates the death of Anson Marvin in 1968; the latest buildings, for which precise dates are not known, likely were constructed no later than ca. 1950.

⁷ Rensselaer County deeds, book 106, 373.

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Architectural Analysis

This nomination includes a number of architectural resources which chronicle the evolution of the farmstead and portray various themes in regional vernacular architecture; principal among these are the Taber dwelling and the large English barn. Physical attributes indicate that the house was built by the Taber family in the early nineteenth century, as portrayed by diagnostic features such as its square-rule timber frame and the contemporaneous use of both a cooking fireplace and stove; portions of both the floor and roof frame employ timbers reused from an earlier building, perhaps a dwelling that was onsite previously. The original house was representative of a well-established typology in this region, being a one-and-one-half-story frame construct built above a rectangular plan; this form is closely associated with the New World Dutch houses and the H-bent framing system used to erect them, as distinct from the one and two-story types more closely associated with New England building traditions and framing methods. Various framing solutions were used to achieve the story-and-half form in the early nineteenth century; the nominated house was not built with closely spaced H-bents in traditional New World Dutch fashion, but instead employed four H-bents, the innermost ones corresponding with the narrow central bay. This bent spacing is more in keeping with New England traditions. The earliest image of the house indicates that its exterior has evolved since that time it was first photographed, and also demonstrates that it was from the beginning simply finished, without significant architectural elaboration. Features such as the nine-over-six window sash and wire-drawn cornices that trim the eaves comport with a date in the first quarter of the century, as does the nature of the timber joinery. The house was originally built as a self-contained building without a rear ell, which was added subsequently and allowed the kitchen to be removed from the main block; such ells were an early nineteenth century development in eastern New York and adjacent New England.⁸

The house's plan was straightforward, consisting of a narrow central bay that accommodated a cramped entrance directly in front of which was an enclosed staircase providing vertical circulation. The wide hearth support that remains in the northeast side of the basement indicates the presence of a cooking hearth in the room above; no hearth support was built on the opposite side, corresponding with the parlor, where instead an airtight stove was used for heating. It appears the original configuration of the main block was as it appears today, being one-room deep and divided by the narrow bay accommodating a stair; as such, it relates somewhat to traditional New England hall-and-parlor type plans, though in this instance a staircase has replaced what would instead be a central chimney mass.

The main barn is a noteworthy expression of regional vernacular architecture and is representative of the somewhat anomalous barn types sometimes built in eastern New York State, where there was significant cultural intermingling at an early date between the New World Dutch and New England cultural hearths. The barn is different in a number of important regards from scribe-rule English three-bay barns built in eastern New York prior to ca. 1810, the legacy of settlement by New Englanders, who were much accustomed to this traditional type. The early English barn, not unlike its venerable counterpart, the New World Dutch barn, was conceived for multiple purposes, namely the processing and storage of grain, the storage of hay, and to provide shelter for animals. In its characteristic form the early English barn was an end-gabled building with large flank entrance, its 40' by 30' plan typically divided into three asymmetrical bays: a 10' stable area, a 12' threshing and drive floor, and an 18' hay mow. The nominated building, by comparison, while it follows the three-bay internal arrangement, is nevertheless more decidedly symmetrical and more square-shaped in plan, and it measures an impressive 45' in width by 40' in depth. The use of dropped tie beams for the four principal bents, along with the common rafter-purlin plate roof frame system, suggests the influence of New World Dutch building practices; given this location, and its mixed ethnic-cultural intermingling, such a condition is not

⁸ 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, 1986).

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entirely unexpected. Given that grain farming, and wheat and rye cultivation, were central to the agricultural economy of eastern New York in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, the need for a larger threshing surface and increased storage capacity were important concerns driving barn design. Grain was typically threshed in English barns on the central floor, by means of two men using flails, and subsequently winnowed. The increased width of the threshing floor may have allowed for the treading of grain using animals, the separation of the grain being effected either by means of the animal's hooves or a device drawn behind, a common practice in the New World Dutch cultural hearth.

Changes in agricultural practices typically dictated the expansion and reconfiguring of earlier barns; however, the barn at the Newton-Taber-Marvin farm survived largely as built, having avoided being raised onto a banked site to accommodate a cow parlor, a typical later change for an earlier ground barn. Instead, a cow parlor was inserted within the building, at its rear. Such modifications were made to accommodate shifting agricultural practices, at which time dairying and hay production assumed a more prominent position in regional agriculture, assisted by developments such as the proximity of reliable railroad transportation.

In addition to these principal resources, which portray the development of the farm ca. 1790-1810, during the Newton-Taber period, the farmstead also includes a number of buildings which speak to other aspects of the farm, and other eras of agricultural development. Among the later buildings are a sap house, used in association with maple syrup production, a chicken coop, and a tractor shed, which speaks to the introduction of motorized machinery to the agriculture during the twentieth century.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

BOOKS & MAGAZINES

French, J.H. *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State*. New York: 1860.

Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, vol. 2. Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1986.

United States Magazine, vol. 3, no. 5 [November 1856].

Sylvester, N.B. *History of Rensselaer County*. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1880.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Account Ledgers, Van Rensselaer Manor Records (1630-1899), New York State Library.

Albany Gazette (Albany, NY), 3 April 1800.

Hampshire Chronicle (Springfield, MA), 8 July 1794.

Rensselaer County Deed Books.

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 99.4 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616621</u> Easting	<u>4715843</u> Northing	5	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616095</u> Easting	<u>4715238</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616886</u> Easting	<u>4715254</u> Northing	6	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616019</u> Easting	<u>4715459</u> Northing
3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616584</u> Easting	<u>4715010</u> Northing	7	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616372</u> Easting	<u>4715760</u> Northing
4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616173</u> Easting	<u>4715106</u> Northing		<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the enclosed mapping, which was drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1: 12,000 and 1:8,000; a solid blue line delineates the boundary. All maps are entitled "Newton-Taber-Marvin Farm, Nassau, Rensselaer Co., NY."

Boundary Justification

The NRHP boundary consists of what are today three separate tax parcels consisting of a total of approximately 100 acres of associated land; this represents a portion of what was, in the eighteenth century, a much larger 400-acre farm situated on the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. That farm's acreage was slowly reduced through sales during the nineteenth century; by the early 1870s the farm consisted of 146 acres of land. The nomination boundary takes in the core of the historic farmstead owned at the turn of the nineteenth century by Abner Newton, inclusive of a large English barn that likely dates to that period of tenancy. It additionally includes historically associated land given over to pasture, woodland and orchard. No land not associated with the property during the cited period of significance has been included within the NRHP boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date May 2016
street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 268-2167
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

PHOTOGRAPHS by William E. Krattinger; TIFF file format, November 2015 and June 2016, original files at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Waterford, NY 12188.

- 0001 EXTERIOR, farmhouse, view looking northwards towards principal and east elevations
- 0002 EXTERIOR, farmhouse, view looking southwards towards east and north elevations
- 0003 EXTERIOR, English barn, view looking to southeast
- 0004 EXTERIOR, small barn with flanking sheds, view looking westwards towards principal elevation
- 0005 EXTERIOR, farm lane, view looking south towards English barn
- 0006 EXTERIOR, sap house, view looking to northwest
- 0007 EXTERIOR, drive shed, view looking to east
- 0008 INTERIOR, farmhouse, view showing timber frame at half-story level; posts from two internal bents (down bracing removed), top plate and rafters.
- 0009 INTERIOR, farmhouse, basement, view showing post reused as part of current construct
- 0010 INTERIOR, English barn
- 0011 INTERIOR, English barn

Property Owner:

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

name Elizabeth Reilly
street & number same as nomination address telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

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ABOVE, undated photograph of dwelling, pre-1900; BELOW, early twentieth century view, date unknown; discernible changes include the addition of a second window at first-story level and the enlargement of the original upper-story windows.



NEWTON-TABER-MARVIN FARM

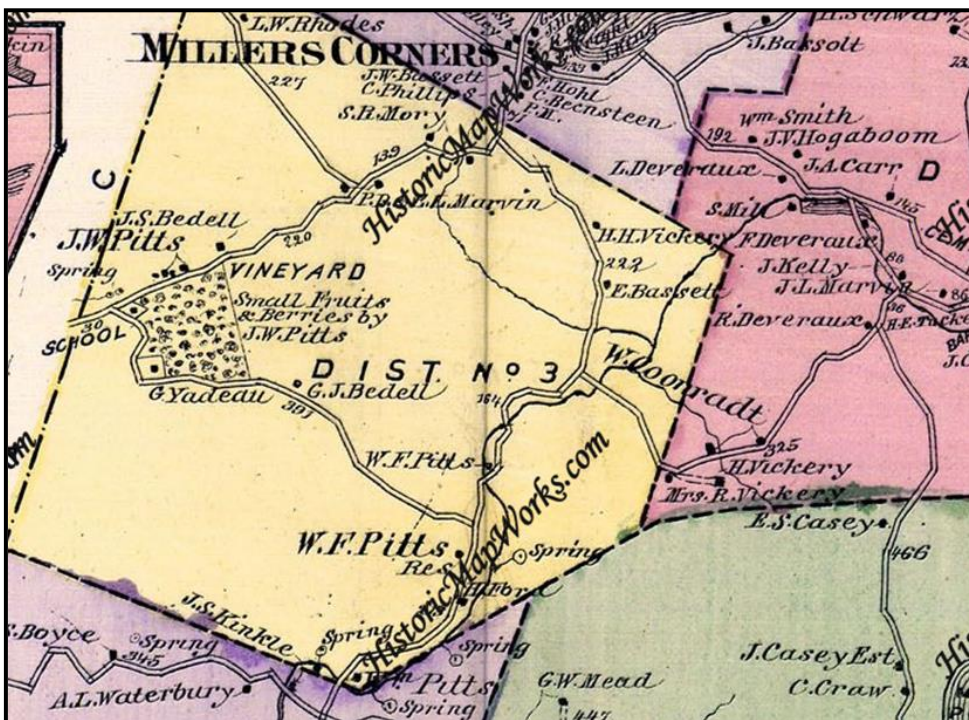
Name of Property

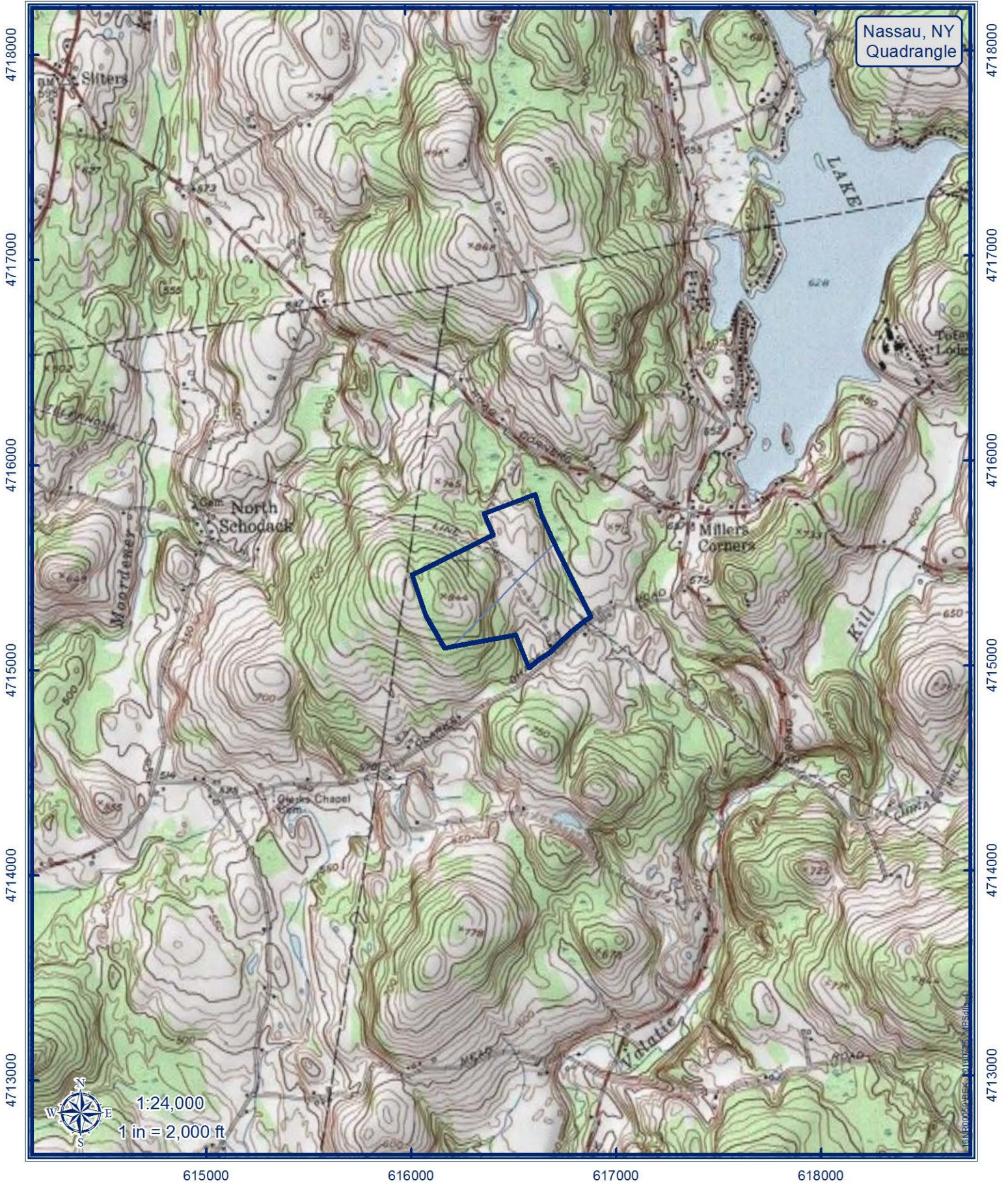
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ABOVE, historic winter view showing part of English barn, undated; BELOW, 1866 map showing property under the ownership of P.D. and E.L. Marvin (east of J.W. Pitts's vineyard).



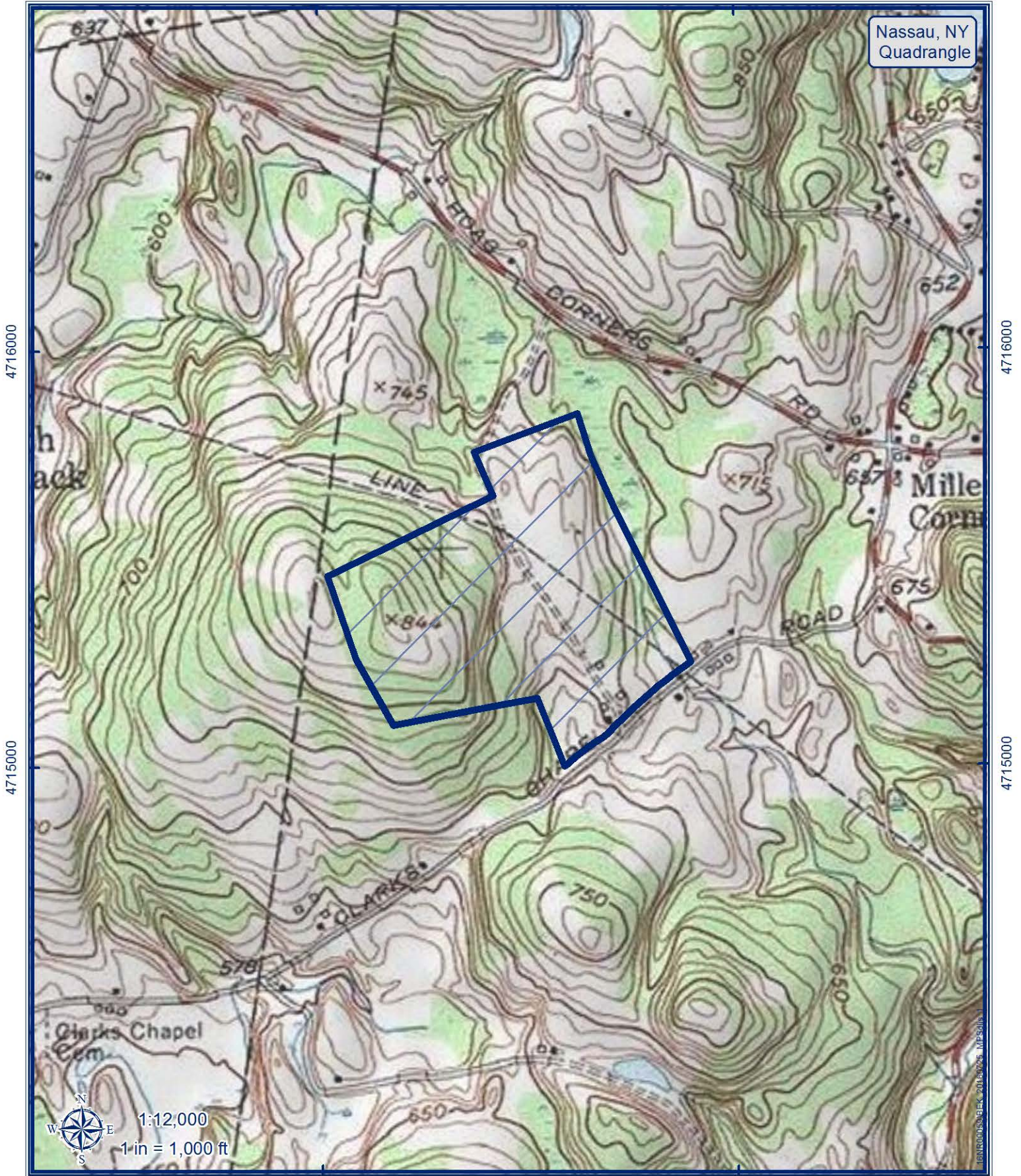


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Nassau, NY
Quadrangle



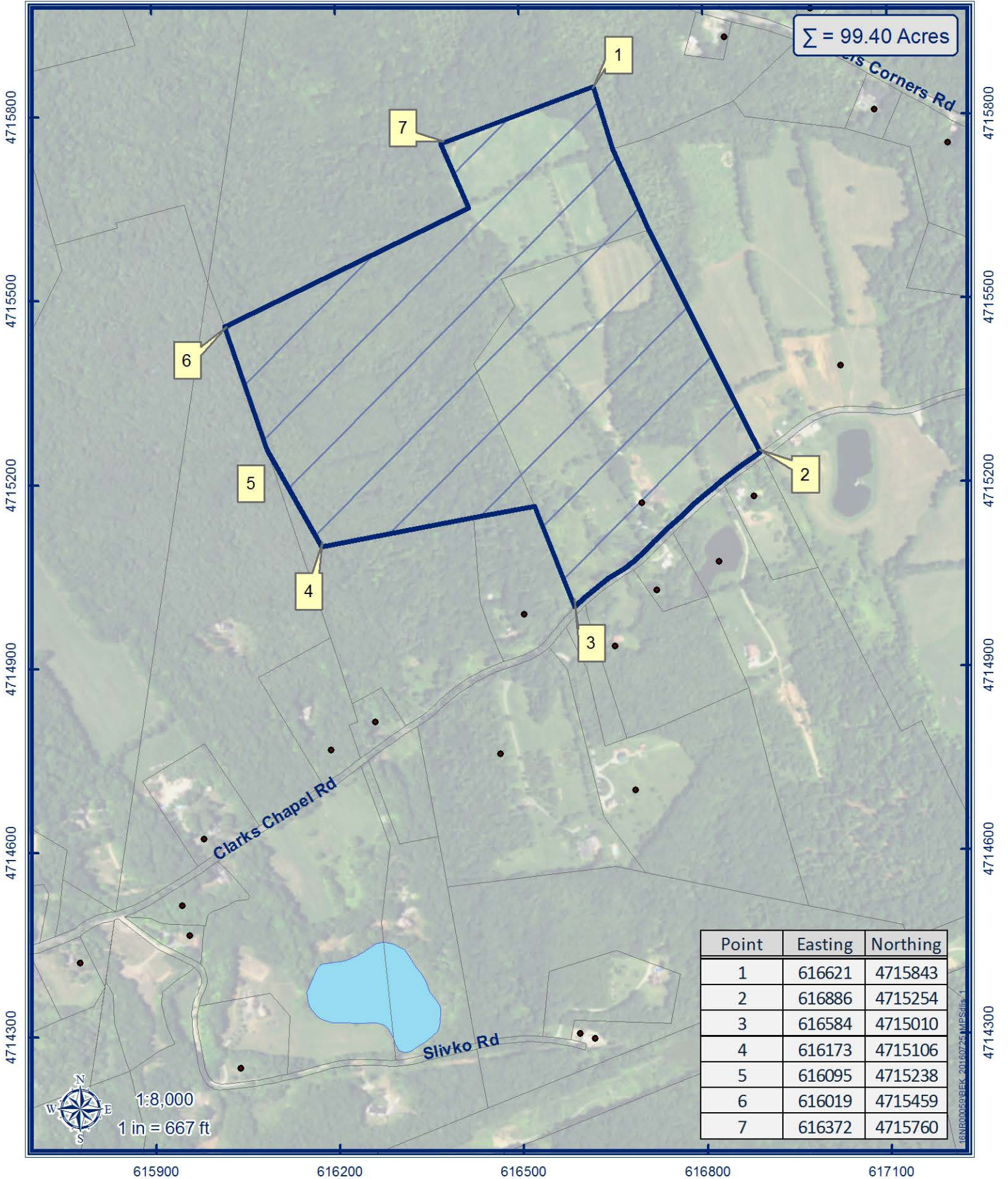
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Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



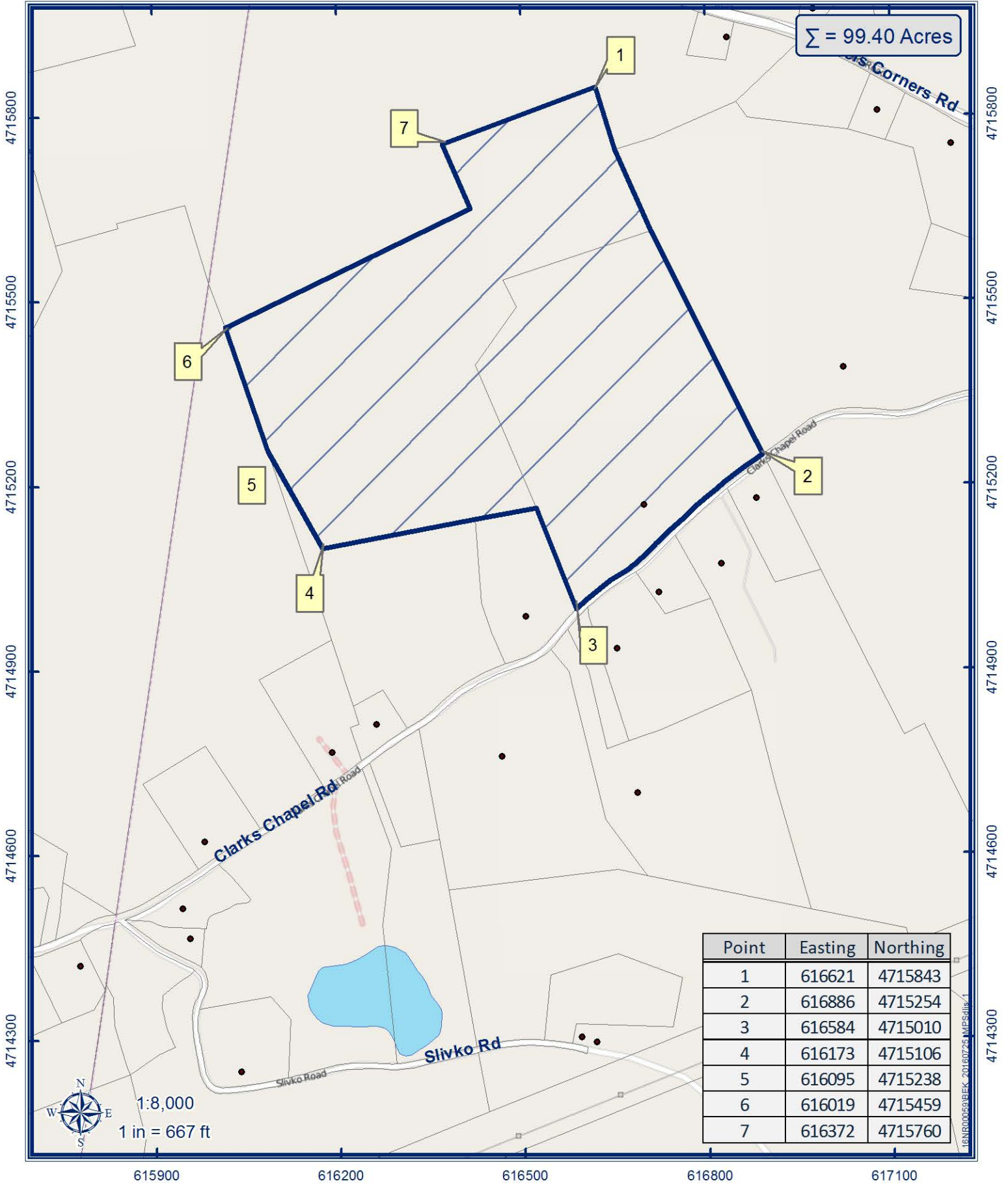
Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



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



Parks, Recreation
 and Historic Preservation



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



Parks, Recreation
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Welcome to the Farm





SUGAR SHACK











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Newton--Taber--Martin Farm

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Rensselaer

DATE RECEIVED: 9/19/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/04/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000752

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-2-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



14 September 2016

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

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Albany County
Newton-Taber-Marvin Farm, Rensselaer 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