

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 Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 983 West Bloomfield Road

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Mendon
state New York code NY county Monroe code 055 zip code 14472

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Ruth Purpont DBAPO 11/20/14
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:)

Jan Edson H. Beall 1.14.15
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
 Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
 County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

<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	
5	1	buildings
2	0	sites
0	2	structures
0	0	objects
7	3	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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/storage

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/storage

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: stone, brick, concrete

walls: wood, brick

roof: asphalt, metal

other: _____

Narrative Description

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

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

Summary Paragraph

Located near the hamlet of Mendon, the Miller-Horton-Barben Farm is still an active farm on lands that include the original farm acquired by Salmon Miller around 1808. The majority of the lands are given over to agricultural production. A roughly one acre parcel on the east side of the property contains a farm residence and associated agricultural buildings, which include four barns (one with an attached milk house), a smokehouse, silos and sheds. A small section near Bull Saw Mill Road (southeast of house and barns) contains a nineteenth century burial ground with sixteen known burials, the earliest dated 1811. The oldest documented building on the property is the Greek Revival style residence that was built by Salmon Miller around 1825. An early nineteenth century English barn is also one of the oldest buildings on the property, followed by a large mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival barn, so called due to the date of construction and the end-gabled roof with cornice returns. A gambrel roofed barn was added by Gottlieb Barben in the early twentieth century. North of the house is a small brick smokehouse, also dating from the nineteenth century. The house, barns, smokehouse and cemetery all contribute to this nomination. Non-contributing elements are the non-historic manure shed near the Greek Revival barn, two non-historic free-standing silos and a large, three-bay concrete and wood barn, part of which was built in the 1950s and later greatly expanded and recently extensively remodeled. The historic house and barns are largely intact with some renovations made to the interior of the house by the Barben family in the early to mid-twentieth century and recent repairs to the barns, funded by a New York State barn restoration grant. The Miller-Horton-Barben farm retains a high degree of integrity as a still active, agricultural property with buildings and associated features that exhibit a high degree of feeling, association, workmanship, materials and setting. The farm was given a century farm award in 2006 from the New York State Agricultural Society and was selected as the first farm to be locally designated as a historic heritage farm by the Town of Mendon Historic Preservation Commission in 2005.

Narrative Description

Established in the early nineteenth century, the Miller-Horton-Barben Farm includes large agricultural fields and a historic residence on West Bloomfield Road in the town of Mendon in southeast Monroe County, New York. The property is between Rush Mendon Road on the north and Bull Saw Mill Road on the south. West Bloomfield Road runs along the east side of the property between Rush Mendon and Bull Saw Mill Roads and the current address of the farm property is 983 West Bloomfield Road. The farm is located on the west side of the road in a largely rural area of the county, but there is some recent residential development west off of Bull Saw Mill Road and a subdivision is planned for land directly east from the farm on West Bloomfield Road. The land south of Bull Saw Mill Road contains part of the Lehigh Valley nature trail, a wooded area and a creek.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

The bulk of the Miller-Horton-Barben farmland is used to raise corn, grasses and hay for animal feed. Aerial views indicate some small stands of trees, one just north of Bull Saw Mill Road that marks the location of an early burial ground with sixteen known burials.

An area of just over an acre off of West Bloomfield Road includes the house and barns, vegetable and flower gardens, various trees, berry bushes and beehives. Contributing buildings to this nomination include a Greek Revival homestead, a Greek Revival barn, a gambrel roofed barn, an English style barn and a brick smokehouse. The English barn, smoke house, residence and Greek Revival barn were all built in the first half of the nineteenth century and the gambrel roofed barn dates from the early twentieth century. As previously stated, these buildings are located on the east side of the property. An asphalt paved drive runs from West Bloomfield Road into the property and the buildings are situated on either side of the drive. The first building encountered on the north side of the drive is the ca. 1825 residence. Northwest of the house are the brick smokehouse and a non-historic garage/barn and silos. The gambrel-roofed barn is at the west end of the drive and immediately behind it, is the English Barn. On the south side of the drive is the Greek Revival barn with its attached milk house and silo and a non-contributing manure pen. A large vegetable and flower garden is to the east of the barn, between it and the road. A few mature trees surround the residence and a small stand of fruit trees (apple and pear) extend to the edge of a cultivated field on the west. Other areas behind the barns contain berry bushes and bee hives. Cultivated fields surround the barn and residence section and are used for field corn, soy beans, oats, hay and wheat. The buildings contained within this space provide a visual evolution of the farm property from the early nineteenth century through the present and how the associated buildings reflect the historic character of the farm.

RESOURCE LIST:

Salmon Miller House, 1822-1825, contributing.

Set back from West Bloomfield Road, the Greek Revival style farm house was built by Salmon Miller, who originally settled on the land around 1808. When viewed from West Bloomfield Road, the house has a seven-bay wide, single-story first floor with a recessed entrance and a centrally placed, three-bay two story section set back flush with the recessed entrance. The house is of post and beam construction with wood clapboarding. Unfinished interior sections of the rear portion of the house indicate that the clapboards are nailed directly to the beams and wall studs. The front (east) portion of the house has a cobblestone foundation and the remainder is fieldstone. The seven bay portion has pilasters on each exterior wall end and the two end sections have two six-over-six double hung windows. The sloping shed-style roof slightly overhangs the eave, sheltering a wide plain cornice. The recessed entrance has turned posts, plain wooden rails and balustrades

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

and brick steps leading to the porch. The entrance has a wood and glass multi-light door set into a wide, eared door molding. Two six-over-six windows flank the door and are set into similar eared moldings and one is permanently shuttered. Two wood paneled doors enter into each end section of the first floor and these doors are also set into eared door moldings. The roof in the second floor is side gabled, which overhangs with a plain frieze band underneath. The windows are two-over-two sash. All windows have shutters of undetermined age. Photographs from the mid-nineteenth century indicate that the house historically had shutters.

When viewed from the drive, the south elevation shows a secondary entrance in the first floor and an enclosed porch. Also visible is a long, one and one-half story section extending west from the house. A lean-to is in the east corner with a non-historic entrance. Another entrance is near it, admitting access to the west wing of the house. Windows in the first level of this part of the house have non-historic replacements but original windows survive in the upper level and are nine-light fixed sash, some with shutters. A bell tower cupola is centrally placed on the roof and was used as a signal bell for the farmworkers. The upper floor of the wing was used as housing for farm laborers and many of the interior wall surfaces are unfinished or contain wall paper applied to the clapboards. The lower portion of the wing was used for a kitchen and storage. This kitchen was modernized by the Barbens in the mid twentieth century and is currently undergoing renovation with the intent of retaining any extant historic fabric that is uncovered.

The interior of the house has had a few alterations, all dating from the early to mid-twentieth century when the Barben family owned the house. The most dramatic changes were reversing the stair opposite the main entrance and replacing the parlor fireplace with a large fieldstone fireplace and a simple wood mantel. Other than the kitchen area, the remainder of the house retains its original wall finishes, trim, moldings, wood floors and doors. Many of the first floor interior doors still have the historic faux graining.

Salmon Miller barn, ca. 1850, contributing. "Greek Revival Barn"

Historic mid-nineteenth century photographs of Salmon Miller's farm show a large barn with a side gabled roof with a cornice return, which faced toward the house with the gable end facing the road. The barn is a large rectangular post-and-beam barn on a partial fieldstone foundation with vertical board siding, painted white. The foundation on the east end was replaced with concrete block in 2006 when that part of the foundation failed. With the foundation dug into a hill, this part of the building was originally used for livestock and now is storage. The upper, first floor portion contains wood horse stalls and open space in the rafters for hay. The beams, posts and purlins are visible as are the half round roof supports and the long center ridge beam. A cupola was added to the building in the late nineteenth century. The metal roof is an in-kind replacement (also done in 2006). The roofs of the attached lean-to on the southwest end and the milk house were replaced at the same time. The milk house is attached to the northwest end of the building, was added in the early

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

twentieth century and consists of concrete block walls with a wood door and a metal-seam roof. An early twentieth century open silo is also located on the north central portion of the building. The east gable end of the building has a sign from the Horton family when they renamed the farm *Maple Grove* in 1901.

English Barn, ca. 1825, contributing.

A three-bay English style barn with a fieldstone foundation, sided with long boards of vertical tongue and groove attached to post and beam construction. Beams show evidence of being hand hewn. Deteriorated portions of beams and roof boards were replaced in-kind when roof was replaced in 2006. Bays on the north side consists of an entrance door, a wide square hatch in the middle upper level and large opening at far end with a ramp for vehicle access. The interior is divided into two floors with a stair accessing the upper portion. The lower level currently houses a small area used as a workroom and the rest of the floor is currently used for small machinery storage. The upper level is empty. This barn is partly obscured from the road by the Gambrel-roofed barn.

Gambrel-roofed Barn, ca. 1920, contributing.

Also referred to a gable barn due to its extending gable peak on the north end, the barn was originally built by Gottlieb Barben for use as a horse and carriage barn. The barn sits at the end of the asphalt drive and its north bay functions as a garage. The building is a two story structure sited facing east with a side gabled gambrel roof and a part fieldstone and part concrete foundation. The upper section was used for hay storage. The entire building is clad in vertical board siding and the tin roof was recently replaced in-kind. The exterior east end of the barn has two hatch openings in the upper level and an external stair to the upper level attached to the wall.

Concrete Block Barn, ca. 1955 and 1965, non-contributing.

Part of this building was originally constructed in the 1950s as a one bay, cement block barn. It was greatly expanded in the 1960s with additional concrete block walls for two additional bays. The roof is side gabled and clad with asphalt shingle. Recent renovations and extensive remodeling (especially on the interior) have resulted in a loss of historic fabric/loss of integrity and is therefore considered non-contributing.

Smokehouse, ca.1850, contributing

Believed to have been built by Salmon Miller, the smokehouse is a small, square brick building with a side gabled roof. A wood batten door or hatch is in the upper portion of the smokehouse. The roof overhangs with a plain frieze band under the eave. The hatch to the smokehouse has a stone sill and the exterior walls appear to be nineteenth century brick.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Cylindrical Silos, ca. 1970, non-contributing.

Two cylindrical low metal silos on concrete bases. Historic aerial photos indicate that the structures were built around 1970, making them non-contributing due to age.

Burial Ground, ca. 1811-1858, contributing.

Also known as the Miller-Barben Cemetery, the burial ground is just north of Bull Saw Mill Road. It is assumed to have been for early farm families in the area with burials dating between 1811 and 1858, but some research indicates that persons interred may all have been members of the same church. (This research is ongoing.) Currently containing sixteen burials, the grounds are an early settlement era burial ground that originally had more burials, but some were reinterred in the Mendon Cemetery when it opened in 1867, including that of Salmon Miller. The remaining burials are arranged in two rows and most have rectangular slab markers with simple inscriptions. One obelisk marker is near the edge of the grounds. The town recently cleaned up the site and the Barben family currently provides additional maintenance.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/settlement

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1811-1964

Significant Dates

1811, 1825, 1850, 1906, 1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period begins with the earliest date of interment in the cemetery and ends with 1964, reflecting the fifty year time period for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places and the continued use of the property as a farm.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

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

One of oldest farm properties in the town of Mendon, the Miller-Horton-Barben farm is significant under Criterion A as an early settlement era property purchased by Salmon Miller in the early nineteenth century that has been continuously active as a farm to the present. Salmon Miller began farming the nominated property in 1808 and was officially deeded it in 1813. Miller was one of the early pioneers of the region and his experience was typical of the pattern of settlement around the turn-of-the nineteenth century. As a boy, Miller moved with his family from Connecticut to the Canandaigua/Bloomfield region, where he first assisted with the family farm and later, as the family became more established, worked in his father's saw mill and blacksmith shop. After marrying in 1801, Miller was soon looking for his own farm property, bought land in Mendon and lived on the property until his death in 1862. The farm was deeded to his son and grandson in 1858 and after the grandson's death, the farm was eventually sold out of the family to Hannah McHuron Horton in 1892. The Hortons sold the farm to Swiss immigrant Gottlieb Barben in 1906. The farm is also significant for agriculture in the Genesee region as it responded to the changes in the economy and agricultural practices of the nineteenth century as farms shifted from subsistence to large scale crop farming and livestock, largely made possible by improvements in shipping and transportation. This continued into the twentieth century as the farm shifted from dairying back to animal feed, as changes in the milk market forced a number of farmers to leave dairying. The farm is also architecturally significant under criterion C for its collection of early nineteenth buildings and one early twentieth century building, all retaining integrity as a collective unit in terms of function, feeling and association, along with materials, workmanship, location and setting. These include an 1825 Greek Revival farmhouse and English barn that are excellent examples of early nineteenth century agriculturally related buildings. A large mid-nineteenth century barn and smokehouse also exhibit characteristics of the Greek Revival style, especially the barn with its gable end cornice returns. The farm received a century farm award in 2006 from the New York State Agricultural Society and was declared the first heritage farm in the town of Mendon in 2005 by the town's historic preservation commission. The farm's history was also documented by the Rochester Institute of Technology's *Family Farm* oral history project in 2013, which compiled histories of several farms in Monroe County that were more than 100 years of age.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

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

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the late eighteenth century, lands in Western New York State were being opened to settlement with land companies marketing large tracts with easy payment terms. One of these land companies was known as Phelps and Gorham Purchase, which encompassed lands that included the town of Mendon in Monroe County, New York. Oliver Phelps, one of the principals in the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, was from Connecticut and advertised his lands for sale in Connecticut newspapers, which may have attracted the attention of Samuel Miller of Granby. In 1789, Miller, his wife Zelpha and his sons Samuel, Jr., and Salmon (sometimes referred to as Solomon), moved west, settling first in Canandaigua (Ontario County) where he opened a blacksmith shop, and later acquired farmlands in an area that became known as Miller's Corners (Ionia). The Millers were the first to settle in the Miller's Corner area, where they farmed the land and operated a blacksmith shop. In 1794, Samuel Miller acquired land in the town of Bloomfield where he opened a saw mill. Samuel, Jr. and Salmon were thirteen and eleven, respectively, and grew up assisting on the farm and with the mill and the smithy.

1801 was an eventful year for Salmon Miller. Now a young man in his early twenties, Miller married, and that same year, his father was killed in an accident at a barn raising. The farmlands at Miller's Corners were inherited by his older brother, Samuel Jr. Salmon and his bride remained in the area, possibly on his brother's farm, and in 1807, he found a suitable farm property of his own near the hamlet of Mendon, which he subsequently purchased. In 1808, he moved his family into a log cabin on the property. At the time of his purchase, the land was originally part of what was called the 11,000 Acre Tract, owned by James Wadsworth. In 1813, Wadsworth formally deeded the land to Salmon Miller.

Salmon Miller's farm prospered, growing wheat, which was a major cash crop for Monroe County farmers in the nineteenth century. Miller's father and uncle were credited with growing the first wheat in 1793 and by 1825, wheat and oats became the dominant crops in the region. The construction of the Erie Canal through the Genesee region (completed in 1825) encouraged farmers to plant large fields of wheat and oats and as late as 1900, these crops were still the largest cash crops in Monroe County.¹ Like most farmers in the area, the Millers at first produced what was needed on the farm to support a growing family that eventually

¹ Connie Cox Bodner, *The Development of Nineteenth Century Agricultural Practices and their Manifestations in Farmsteads in the Genesee River Valley* (Rochester, NY: Rochester Museum and Science Center, September 1990), 125.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

numbered nine children. The family also required a larger, more permanent house. In 1822, construction began on a wood frame house on the east side of the property that was completed in 1825. Around that time, Miller also had an English barn built with a place for pigs in the foundation space under the barn and stalls for horses in the ground level, indicating that the farm's success allowed him to add livestock.

With the opening of the canal, the shift from subsistence to cash crops intensified as more farm lands were put into cultivation. Before the canal, farmers were limited to nearby markets, which for Monroe County, the largest was Rochester. Located on the Genesee River, Rochester could easily receive farm products shipped on the river, or continue shipping products on to more distant markets such as Montreal via Lake Ontario. According to one study of agriculture in the Genesee Region:

Rochester-milled flour sold for premium prices because of its "superior whiteness." Some 26,000 barrels of flour were shipped from there in 1818, increasing to 67,000 barrels by 1820. Large-scale millers most often shipped their flour to commission merchants in distribution centers in the East where it was then sold at a profit. Including grain and flour, exports of lumber, whiskey, pork and dairy products shipped from Rochester amounted to \$410,000 in 1819.²

This change in transportation made an impact on the appearance of farms like the Salmon Miller farm. As lands were cleared for cultivation, more production translated into higher sales. The shipping of commodities to these markets brought in additional farm income and the combination of ready cash and available lumber from deforestation led to increased demands for frame houses and larger barns. By 1835, the typical farmstead consisted of cultivated fields surrounding a cluster of barns, specialized outbuildings (icehouses, milk houses, smokehouses, chicken coops, privies, etc.) and a residence. Farmhouses increased in size, were often of wood frame or plank construction and included wings to house farmhands. Larger kitchens were added, often occupying an attached wing where "herbs, grains, and vegetables were dried, dairy products were processed, wool, cotton and flax were processed, soap was made from ashes, and poultry were slaughtered."³ Barn construction improved, being timber framed rather than haphazard shelters. A common type was a variation on the English barn that was built into a hillside allowing farm wagons to drive directly into the barn. Lower levels were generally used for animals where straw and animal feed could easily be pitched down from the upper levels.⁴ This was reflected on the Miller farm by the construction of the English barn and later by the addition of a much larger barn built around 1850 that had more room for hay storage. By 1860, Salmon Miller's farm included a large Greek Revival residence with a kitchen wing and a detached smokehouse. A period photograph shows the house and barns surrounded by large farm fields.

²Ibid, 26.

³Ibid, 34.

⁴Ibid, 38.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

In 1858, Salmon Miller transferred ownership of the farm to his son Willis and grandson Adams. When he died in 1862, Salmon Miller was remembered as a pioneer who "...penetrated the forests. By industry and economy he soon collected a handsome property which he enjoyed in his old age. As a man of honor and probity he stood high in the community. His house was always open to the Christian minister, and the stranger and the traveler in the western wilderness always found a welcome."⁵ His son and grandson continued farming and Adams (grandson) began raising sheep. He was also noted for his fine horses and often lent his teams to the local undertaker for funerals. Adams's father predeceased him and after his death in 1892, the farm was willed to his nephew Frank who mortgaged the property three years later to Hannah McHuron. Several deed transfers took place amongst family members and Hannah McHuron, possibly the result of sorting out ownership that may have been part of a land swindle by Emmet McHuron, Hannah's nephew. He was arrested in 1898 for forging his Aunt Hannah's signature when he was managing the family livery stable in Syracuse. More research needs to be completed to sort out this matter, but what is clearly known was that the Millers were having financial problems, documented by court records from 1887-1890. In 1892, the farm was officially transferred to Hannah McHuron, and after her marriage in 1901, she transferred the land to her husband Alson Horton. After his death in 1904, his estate sold the farm to Gottlieb and Amelia Barben in 1906.

Very little is known about the Hortons, other than Alson Horton was originally from Onondaga County and that they renamed the farm *Maple Grove*. Their ownership of the farm in Mendon was relatively short lived when compared to the Millers (1808-1892) and the Barben family (1906 to the present). The Barbens were recent immigrants from Spiez, Switzerland where Gottlieb Barben was one of six children, three of them immigrating to the United States. The Barbens grew wheat, oats, hay, hops and buckwheat along with root vegetables and cabbage. By the turn-of-the-twentieth century, farms in the Genesee region were following national farming trends by adopting regional specializations based on local climates and resources. The temperate climate in the northeast resulted in a concentration on fruit, market garden crops and dairying. In Monroe County, wheat and oats remained the top cash crop, but farmers were diversifying by growing other grains such as buckwheat, barley, clover, hops and grasses.⁶ The Barbens kept pace with the trend and added dairying.

As more farmers moved to dairying by the end of the nineteenth century, improvements in farming techniques allowed them to send milk to market year round. Although milk prices declined in the late nineteenth century, rapid industrialization transformed the country into an urban nation, which led to increased demands for milk in

⁵"Salmon Miller." Unknown newspaper, November 1862.

⁶Bodner, *Nineteenth Century Agricultural Practices*, 57.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

cities, especially pure milk. Farmers adopted the practice of storing and feeding silage to the herds, previously dismissed as a risky practice since it was believed that storing the feed caused it to ferment like liquor. This supposedly tainted silage was believed to rot a cow's teeth and stomach and prevent it from calving.⁷ As more creameries accepted silage-fed cow's milk, the face of the farm changed as farmer's added silos to increase the capacity for storage. Gottlieb Barben added a silo and milk house to the Greek Revival barn built a new barn that could be used for additional storage and serve as a carriage house (the gambrel roofed barn). Another silo was later added on the south side of the Greek Revival barn, which is no longer extant.

In the late nineteenth century, 89 percent of land in Monroe County was farm land, which dropped to 31 percent by the early twenty-first century as the local economy first shifted to manufacturing and then to high tech industries. In 1875, Monroe County had 5,859 farms, averaging 65 acres. In 2007, the number of farms was 585, but the average size increased to 227 acres.⁸ The Miller-Horton-Barben farm is one of a few surviving farms in Monroe County, a result of the decline in the regional agricultural economy that took place throughout the twentieth century. After Gottlieb Barben died in 1930, his widow Amelia became the sole owner of the farm, who continued the farm operation with the help of her sons Edward and Fred, and daughter Louise. Amelia died in 1939, willing the farm lands to the children and in 1945, Fred bought his sibling's shares, making him sole owner. He carried on the dairying operation until 1960, when he reduced his livestock to a small herd of beef cattle and concentrated on cultivating wheat, oats, corn and kidney beans. When Fred Barben died in 1992, the property passed to his son Daniel who continues the farm operation today.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

Anyone passing by the Miller-Horton-Barben Farm on West Bloomfield Road will immediately recognize that the farm is a long standing operation, indicated by the historic house and barns. A metal plaque states that the house was built around 1825, but the sign is less visible from the roadway than the house. A view from the east end of the driveway shows a clear progression of age with three of the seven buildings on the property. The house is the oldest, being built in the Greek Revival period (ca. 1825-1860) and the large barn to the south was built several years later, but blends with the style of the house through its use of a Greek Revival style roof. Between these two is a very visible, early twentieth century barn with a gambrel roof, built to provide for more efficient use of storage. It was also used for housing wagons and carriages, by being placed at the end of the drive. The Greek Revival House and barn represent the early success of the farm that allowed the

⁷Ibid, 58.

⁸ James Goodman, "Farm Stories—RIT Project Documents Family Histories with Deep Roots," *Democrat and Chronicle*, 30 August, 2013.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm

Name of Property

Monroe County, NY

County and State

Millers to abandon their cramped log cabin and build a frame house. This was happening on farms all over the Genesee region as log cabins gave “way to frame houses, often of plank construction with covered porches and shingled roofs...The prosperity of the 1830s, large families, and often the presence of hired men on the farm resulted in the desire and need for better and larger homes. By 1842, most of the log houses and barns had been replaced by framed structures, if not throughout, then certainly in the more prosperous and older, settled areas.”⁹ Houses also displayed the latest architectural trends, but architecture was often secondary to its practical aspect. The placement and layout of the farmhouse was related to its efficiency and in the early to mid-nineteenth century, plans appeared in local newspapers and publications showing the best, most economic and efficient designs, with many of these contributed by women.¹⁰

According to one study of Greek Revival architecture in the Genesee region, “In America, the interest in Greek architecture swept over the country from Maine to Louisiana...Public buildings, churches, city residences, southern plantation mansions, village homes and farm buildings were built with Greek colonades [sic], porticos, pilasters, or merely with a few Greek architectural characteristics.”¹¹ Reasons given in the study were that interest was being fanned by excavations of ancient Greek ruins, which encouraged the study and collecting of Greek art and architecture. Ancient Greece was also recognized as the birthplace of democracy and when the Greeks were fighting for their own independence from Turkey, America was a sympathetic, if distant, supporter. In addition to copying buildings, upstate New York communities adopted Greek names, such as Ithaca, Syracuse, Palmyra, Athens, Attica and Ionia.¹²

With the early nineteenth century building boom in the area, Miller certainly saw the various Greek Revival style houses being built in the area that resembled classic temples with side wings. Miller’s house was more practical, consisting of a recessed porch with two enclosed side wings and a centrally located second story for private quarters. Separate entrances into the enclosed areas allowed for visitors and family to access these spaces while restricting access to the private quarters in the second floor. The house took on a less commonly used form of two story central portion surrounded by a one-story portion, sometimes referred to as a “cup and saucer” variant. For the Miller house, a wing section extended west and was obscured by the two story section of the main house. The wing was one and one-half stories with preparation and kitchen space on the ground level and rooms for the hired help above. While the main house had plastered walls, decorated doors and

⁹ Bodner, *Nineteenth Century Agricultural Practices*, 34.

¹⁰ Sally McMurry, *Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), 31.

¹¹ Carl F. Schmidt, *Greek Revival Architecture in the Rochester Area* (Scottsville, NY: Carl. F. Schmidt, 1946), 14-15.

¹² *Ibid.*, 15.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm

Name of Property

Monroe County, NY

County and State

large windows, the upper level rooms in the wing were mostly unfinished, sparsely furnished and contained smaller windows.

When they needed a newer, larger barn, the Millers gave it a Greek Revival style roof to show their level of sophistication by making it match the style of the house. The same was done with a small brick smokehouse behind the kitchen wing by giving it an overhanging roof with a plain frieze under the eaves and a stone sill for the door. Adding the Greek Revival Barn was again, more of a practical matter than a desire for a stylish building. By the mid-century, an English barn (built around the same time as the house) was too small for the needs of the farm as it produced more wheat and Miller's grandson introduced sheep into the operation. The availability of mechanical reapers and threshers allowed more crops to be harvested and processed, requiring more space for storage before shipping to market. One study pointed out that "New barns were built larger, usually by increasing their widths and heights and by adding more bays and drive-throughs to their lengths and it became increasingly common to use sawn, rather than hewn timbers."¹³ Miller's Greek Revival barn was twice the size of his English barn but rested on the same ridge on the property to allow for horses, wagons and other machinery to easily enter the building. The pitched roof and post-and-beam construction provided a tremendous amount of open interior space for crop storage, and the stone foundation, sawn boards and gabled roof gave a sense of stability and permanence to the building.

When Gottlieb Barben bought the property in 1906, the house and Greek Revival barn were useful for his needs for the farm, but the English barn was too small for anything other than small scale storage. He demolished another small barn that was on the property east of the English Barn and built a larger, gambrel roofed barn between the Greek Revival barn and the house. Gambrel roofed barns became the preferred style in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as being more practical. The pitch of the roof allowed for much more storage space. Technology also made gambrel roofs more economical to build by using balloon frame construction, milled lumber and machine produced wire nails.¹⁴

As the Barben family continued to farm the property, few changes were made to the farmstead other than to build another barn to accommodate the large machinery required for cultivation and harvesting. As machines increased in size throughout the twentieth century, the existing barns were too small and a larger concrete barn was added in the late 1950s and greatly expanded in the late 1960s. The previously existing barns remained largely unchanged, except for a machine shop placed in the first floor of the English barn and two

¹³Bodner, *Nineteenth Century Agricultural Practices*, 34.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, 59.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

silos and a concrete milk house attached to the Greek Revival barn. Two more free standing silos were added in the 1970s, both of non-historic metal construction. When the dairying operation ceased in the 1960s, the large silos were no longer needed and the newer metal silos were built as being adequate for the farm's needs. One of the tall silos attached to the Greek Revival barn was eventually demolished.

According to a news article about the Barben farm, "over the years many changes have been made, but some things remain the same." The exterior of the Greek Revival farmhouse looked the same from when the Millers occupied the building, but the interior had a few exceptions. The article described a walk through the farmhouse:

On the first floor there are today [1975] three bedrooms, bathroom, two living rooms, and a kitchen. The floor-length windows on the south side at one time were modernized, but in other rooms the solid wood panel is still below the window. Porches have been added. The fireplace, which had been torn out, has been replaced by one of stones coming from the farm. A furnace had replaced stoves...The floors have old wide boards. The rafters are put together with wooden pegs. The barns are the same as they were years ago...The Barbens love the old house which has been a farm home for all these more than 159 years and which has withstood the ravages of time. Few can boast of a house built so solidly. It never creaks or sways in the wind, a tribute to the early builder.¹⁵

The Barben family has always been involved in the community through organizations like the Grange and committed to the preservation of both the environment and the history of the farm. Still owned by the Barben family, the current generation has been recognized for the continued work of preserving the historic character of the farmstead. In-kind repairs were made to the barns in 2006 with the assistance of a barn restoration grant from New York State. A documentation project continues on the cemetery at the south end of the property that researches the interments and the connection of the burial ground to the pioneer community. To date, one of the burials has been identified as an American Revolutionary War veteran (Henry Courter, who died in 1838). In recognition of their efforts at preservation, the town of Mendon Historic Preservation Commission designated the farm as a local heritage farm in 2005.

CONCLUSION

When viewed as a unit, the Miller-Horton-Barben Farm is a surviving example of the evolution of rural life from the early nineteenth century through the early twenty-first century in the Genesee Region of New York State. The contributing historic features of the farm also illustrate how various needs were met for the families and the community, beginning with the house that was built to accommodate workers as well as the family, and provide proper space for domestic chores. Barns from three time

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm

Name of Property

Monroe County, NY

County and State

periods offer a comparison of different building techniques and uses, as the farm prospered and responded to changes in the economy. Also, the cemetery provided a somber but necessary solution to the problem of disposal of the dead in a rural area. The current owners (members of the Barben family) have been documenting the history of the property as well as maintaining the historic character of the buildings and burial ground to the best of their abilities, so that future generations of family and community will have a better understanding of what the farm meant for the Barbens, their predecessors and the Genesee region.

¹⁵ Marian Powell, "Historic Barben Home is Over 150 Years Old," *Honeoye Falls Times*, 9 October 1975.

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Bodner, Connie Cox. *The Development of Nineteenth Century Agricultural Practices and their Manifestations in Farmsteads in the Genesee River Valley*. Rochester, NY: Rochester Museum and Science Center, September 1990.

"Charging Forgery." *Syracuse Daily Journal*, 30 July 1897, 5.

Goodman, James. "Farm Stories: RIT Documents Family Histories with Deep Roots." *Democrat and Chronicle*, 30 August 2013.

Ham, Diane and Robert Luce-Majewski. *Around Mendon and Honeoye Falls*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004.

Kennedy, Joseph C. G. *Agriculture of the United States, 1860*. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1864.

Klein, Milton, ed. *The Empire State: A History of New York*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.

"Mendon Historic Preservation Commission Salutes Barben Farm." *Mendon-Honeoye Falls-Lima Sentinel* 16 June 2011.

Peck, William F. *History of Rochester and Monroe County, New York*. New York: The Pioneer Publishing Co., 1908.

Powell, Marian C. "Historic Barben Home is Over 150 Years Old." *Honeoye Falls Times*, 9 October 1975, 2.

Schmidt, Carl F. *Greek Revival Architecture in the Rochester Area*. Scottsville, NY: Carl F. Schmidt, April 1946.

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: Town of Mendon Historian's office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±73.57 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>294162</u> Easting	<u>4763591</u> Northing	3	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>294227</u> Easting	<u>4762674</u> Northing
2	<u>18N</u>	<u>294235</u>	<u>4763551</u>	4	<u>18N</u>	<u>293878</u>	<u>4762679</u>

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	18N	293887		4763589	
Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the current acreage of the Barben farm, which contains the original lands acquired by Salmon Miller in 1808/1813 and some expansion of the property with subsequent owners. Some encroachment has taken place in the northeastern section of the farm, which has been disposed of for new residential construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cindy Barben and Virginia L. Bartos, Ph.D. (NYS OPRHP)
organization _____ date 11 September 2014
street & number 983 West Bloomfield Road telephone N/A
city or town Honeoye Falls state NY zip code _____
e-mail cbarben@rochester.rr.com

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:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 2000x3000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger.

Name of Property: Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
City or Vicinity: Mendon
County: Monroe State: New York
Photographer: Virginia L. Bartos

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Date Photographed: 19 March 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0017: Farmhouse and drive viewed looking northwest from West Bloomfield Road.
- 0002 of 0017: Gambrel Roofed barn at end of drive, viewed looking west from West Bloomfield Road.
- 0003 of 0017: South elevation of house, view looking northwest. Non-contributing barn and silo in background.
- 0004 of 0017: Detail view of northeast corner of farmhouse showing cobblestone foundation.
- 0005 of 0017: East porch detail view showing doors and windows with shouldered surrounds.
- 0006 of 0017: Interior view of southeast parlor.
- 0007 of 0017: Detail view of doors in southeast parlor showing faux graining.
- 0008 of 0017: 2nd floor bedroom in east central portion of farmhouse.
- 0009 of 0017: Smokehouse, west of farmhouse kitchen extension, view looking northwest.
- 0010 of 0017: English Barn, west of Gambrel Barn, view looking south.
- 0011 of 0017: Interior view of English Barn.
- 0012 of 0017: South elevation of Greek Revival Barn, view looking north.
- 0013 of 0017: North elevation of Greek Revival Barn showing silo and attached milk house on west end.
- 0014 of 0017: Interior view of Greek Revival Barn, showing horse stalls.
- 0015 of 0017: View of farm looking east from east edge of farm field.
- 0016 of 0017: View of burial ground from Bull Saw Mill Road with farm in background (view looking north).
- 0017 of 0017: Burial ground, view looking east.

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

name Daniel & Cindy Barben
street & number 983 West Bloomfield Rd telephone N/A
city or town Honeoye Falls state NY zip code 14472

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.).

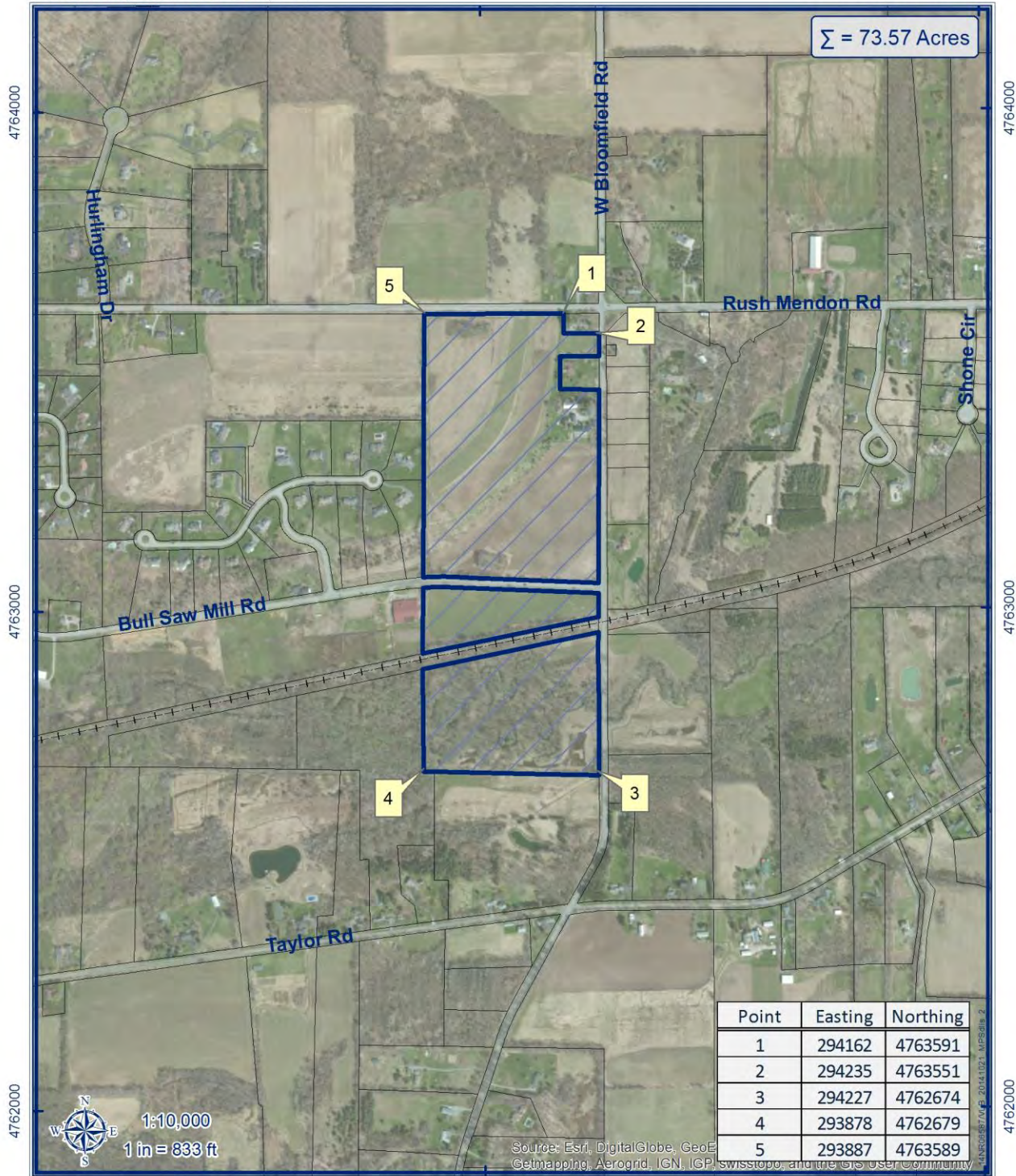
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to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

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
 Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
 County and State

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
 Mendon, Monroe Co., NY

983 W. Bloomfield Rd.
 Mendon, NY 14472



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



Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
 RailroadRemoved

Tax Parcel Data:
 Monroe Co. RPS
 monroecounty.gov/gis



Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, Daniel E. Barben, am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)
983 W. Bloomfield Road, Honeoye Falls, NY, 14472
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Daniel E. Barben 8/21/13
(signature and date)

BARBEN FARM
DANIEL AND CINDY BARBEN
983 W. BLOOMFIELD ROAD
HONEOYE FALLS, NY 14472
(mailing address)

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

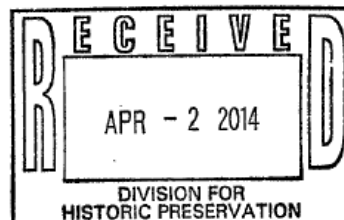


Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Monroe County

249 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620-3036
t. 585.461.1000
f. 585.442.7577

28 March 2014

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



Reference: Barben Family Farm
Town of Mendon, Monroe County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County (CCEMC) is pleased to provide this letter of support for Dan and Cindy Barben's Farm located at 983 West Bloomfield Road, Honeoye Falls (Town of Mendon), Monroe County.

CCEMC works closely with area farmers throughout the county, of which many in the area have long family farm histories. The Barben Farm however, distinguishes itself in so many ways. We had a tour of this historic farm on 26 March and was impressed with the classic Greek Revival farmhouse, the gambrel roofed timber-framed barns with wood joinery. The condition and integrity of these buildings too was amazing, a testament and lesson to the value and durability of this kind of construction. The feeling was truly inspiring.

The significance of this farm in shaping the history and character of this community is evident now as it was in its early days. Family farms were diverse; fruit, vegetables, grain, and livestock, providing good food and security to family and added to the local economy. And that tradition continues today with their farm stand that is popular by friends and neighbors.

In light of the recent and growing appreciation for locally grown food, the protection of agriculture, the character of this tightly knit community, the Barben Farm stands as a model and treasure for safekeeping. As such, CCEMC recommends the nomination of their farmstead to the State and National Registry for Historic Places.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Don Peterson".

Don Peterson
Agriculture Program Leader

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Susan Maney".

Susan Maney
Executive Director

cc: Barben Family

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State



390 Packett's Landing, Fairport, NY 14450 tel (585) 223-7570 fax (585) 223-7712 www.rrlc.org Innovation through collaboration

May 2, 2014

Hon. Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I am writing to support the nomination of the **Barben Family Farm, 983 West Bloomfield Rd., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 (Town of Mendon, Monroe County)** for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The owners of record are Dan and Cindy Barben.

Having participated in several National Register nominations; and having done the research and nomination papers for one other; I know the requirements of the National Register. I visited the Barben farm on April 14 and was very impressed both with the farm and the level of documentation to support its nomination. I believe the Barben Family Farm meets several of the requirements for nomination including association with people of regional significance (soldiers of the Revolution; founders of the town) and architectural significance. It continues to showcase the heritage of general farming that was once the backbone of the greater Genesee Region.

The farm is extremely well documented from both primary and secondary sources showing its detailed history as a designated "Century Farm," its association with early settlers and developers of the town, and its construction.

It is more significant that the farm is still a working family farm at a time when there are fewer of them in the Rochester area. The grouping of buildings on the site includes several barns that show the progression of barn architecture over the 19th and early 20th Centuries as the technology of farming increased and changed. The main barn is a virtual textbook of barn construction in the past

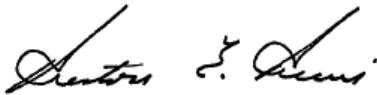
Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

century and a half. It combines traditional hewn beam construction with a later gambrel roof and doors that accommodated the "modern" devices used to expand production and provide efficiency in the early 20th Century.

Despite a few minor architectural changes, to include some windows and evidence of a long-changed porch, the house has retained its original integrity as evidenced from photographs in the possession of the owners. Together with the barns and other outbuildings, the farmstead presents a historic site and landscape of both historic and instructional significance.

Sincerely,



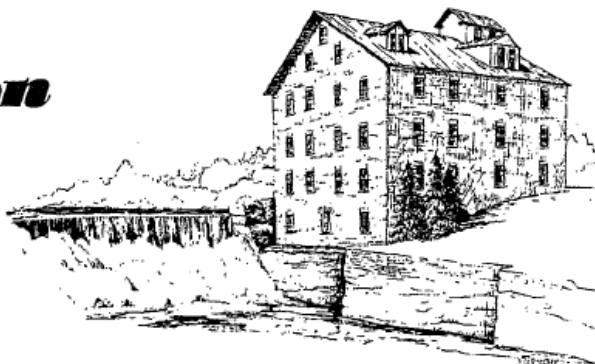
Preston E. Pierce, MAT, MLS, EdD
Regional Archivist
Documentary Heritage Program
Rochester Regional Library Council
and
County Historian
Dept. of Records, Archives, and Information Management Services
Ontario County

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Town of Mendon

*Preserving the Past...
Protecting the Present...
Promoting the Future*



May 16, 2014

VIRGINIA BARTOS
NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P. O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

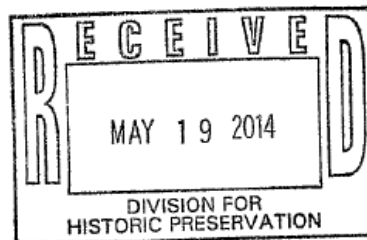
Dear Ms. Bartos:

At the request of Cindy Barben we have written the accompanying letter in support of her application for listing of her property. As she requested, we are sending this letter, addressed to Ruth Pierpont, to you to be placed in the file for her application.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Blake H. Held, AIA
Chairman of the
Town of Mendon Historic Preservation Commission



Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

Town of Mendon

*Preserving the Past...
Protecting the Present...
Promoting the Future*

May 16, 2014

Ms. Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P. O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

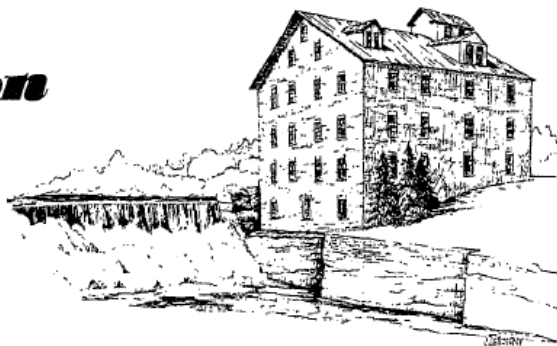
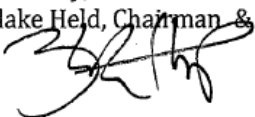
The Town Of Mendon Historic Preservation Commission was formed and officially became a Town committee in 1992. Serving the Town Board, Planning Board and community of Mendon NY, the Commission's purpose is to recognize and designate strong examples of our rich architectural heritage, and to educate and involve our residents through various programs and events; emphasizing the importance and value of historic preservation. The Commission was very pleased in October 6th, 2004 to review and accept the designation application of Daniel and Cindy Barben regarding their property at 983 West Bloomfield Rd. in the Town of Mendon. The property consists of strong, visually appealing, examples of a Greek Revival house and its associated Greek Revival Barn We are proud to have this property on our local register, as few other homes from that era remain in our region. Both the barn and house remain substantially unchanged from their original character, displaying classic forms and details of the Greek Revival Style.

As listed structures within our Town, Both the house and barn receive the protection of review by our Historic Preservation Commission for any proposed alterations to the structures, the property, or the surrounding environs within a five hundred foot radius. The Barben property designation has already proven valuable to the community in this regard. Recently, a developer of a 5 home subdivision directly across the Street from the Barben property brought plans before the commission, resulting in several key design element recommendations being made.

In addition to the local designation of the Barben Property, our Commission also recognized The Barben home and farm as a "Mendon Heritage Farm." To qualify for Heritage Farm status, a farm must be a working farm located in the Town of Mendon, NY, consist of 40 or more acres and continuously owned by the same family of lineal or collateral descendants for at least 50 years. In 2006, having received a NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Grant given from the NY State Barn Restoration and Preservation Program., the barn was sympathetically reroofed.

With the understanding that the Barbens are applying to have their property listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, The Town of Mendon Historic Preservation Commission is writing at their request to fully endorse this property. Locally, the importance to the community is obvious, its having housed persons important to the founding and development of the Town. Nationally, however, we believe this property to be of greater significance, offering a unique glimpse into the formal relationship of structures within a working farm from the early nineteenth century which continues to function in the same capacity to this day.

Sincerely,
Blake Held, Chairman & Geoff Tesch, Vice Chairman



Miller-Horton-Barben Farm
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
County and State

MENDON TOWN HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

179 Plains Rd. Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 585-624-4709

April 18, 2014

Ms. Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation
Peebles Island State Park
P. O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Dear Ruth:

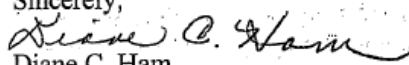
It is my understanding that Dan and Cindy Barben, 983 W. Bloomfield Rd. in the Town of Mendon, Monroe Co., NY are applying to have their property listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. I endorse this application.

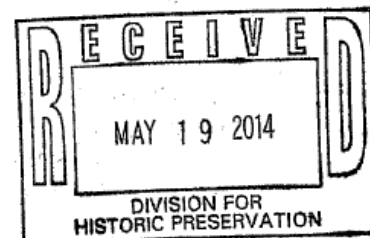
As Mendon Town Historian, a number of years ago I researched the history of the Miller-Barben property. It was settled about 1820 when Salmon Miller came to Mendon and built a log cabin in which to reside while his Greek Revival farmhouse was being completed about 1825. Four generations of Miller's farmed the acreage; later it was sold to Gottlieb Barben where three generations of Barben's have farmed while living in the Greek Revival house.

In 2004 the Mendon Historic Preservation Commission recognized the Barben home and farm as one of Mendon's Heritage Farms. (I am Consultant to this Commission.) A Mendon Heritage Farm is a working farm located in the Town of Mendon, NY which consists of 40 or more acres and has been continuously owned by the same family of lineal or collateral descendants for at least 50 years. The farm must have a remaining structure which is at least 50 years old. In 2006, Dan and Cindy Barben's property was also recognized as a Century Farm by the New York Agricultural Society.

The Miller-Barben house was listed on Mendon's Historic Register in 2005 by the Mendon Historic Preservation Commission. The house, itself, is one of the few 1825 houses still standing in the Town of Mendon. Very few changes have been made to the historic house over the nearly 190 years since it was built.

As Mendon Town Historian, I whole-heartedly support the nomination of this application to the State and National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Diane C. Ham
Mendon Town Historian
dianeham@rochester.rr.com





983





985





CIRCA
1825











POSTED
NO TRESPASSING















NEWTON
OCT. 1850

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Miller--Horton--Barben Farm

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 11/28/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/30/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/14/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/14/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001161

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.14.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

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

21 November 2014

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Miller-Horton-Barben Farm, Monroe County

I am also enclosing a revised nomination for the Andrew Short House, Monroe County. This property was originally listed on the register as the Florendin Feasel House. Subsequent research determined that this was not Feasel's residence, and we have revised the nomination, as per your instructions, to focus on its significance as an example of plank construction. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Please feel free to call Kathleen LaFrank at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Historic Preservation Office