

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property:

historic name Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
other names/site number Benjamin Leonard House

2. Location

street & number 126 West Liberty St. not for publication
city or town Rome vicinity
state New York code NY county Oneida code 065 zip code 13440

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Ruth A. Percupet DBHPD 4/4/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 6.5.13

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96

Name of Property

Oneida County, New York

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

1 0 buildings

0 0 sites

0 0 structures

0 0 objects

1 0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt, Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation Sheet

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96

Name of Property

Oneida County, New York

County and State

8 Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTROY

Period of Significance

c1848-1932

Significant Dates

c1848, 1926, 1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hiram Soper (Mason) & D.B. Prince (Carpenter), 1848 block.
Rice & Atkinson Architects, 1932 rear addition.

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96

Name of Property

Oneida County, New York

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	462857	4784548	3			
	<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>		<i>Zone</i>	<i>Easting</i>	<i>Northing</i>
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Travis Bowman, Historic Preservation Program Analyst

organization New York State Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation date 1/14/2013

street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3259

city or town Waterford state New York zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state NY zip code 13440

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description:

The Rome Elks Lodge No. 96 is located on the north side of West Liberty Street in the city of Rome, Oneida County, NY, on a lot running roughly southwest to northeast from West Liberty Street to West Park Street. The grounds of the nominated property consist mainly of paved asphalt surfaces except for a small stretch of open lawn fronting West Liberty Street. The building itself is a two and half story, asymmetrically-massed structure (c1848) with a large, rectangular rear addition (1932), a sun porch (1926) and large two-story projecting portico (1926).

The front portion of the building (c1848) is massed as two offset rectangular blocks, both covered in side gable roofs clad in standing seam metal, but the front of the two offset blocks also has a front gable peak, creating a cross gable roofline for that portion. Both of the front offset blocks are of masonry construction, with bricks laid in a common bond and rest on foundations of squared limestone blocks laid in regular courses. A limestone water table separates the foundation from the brick wall. The rear addition (1932) is brick cladding over steel framing, rests on a reinforced concrete foundation and is covered by a gable roof clad in standing seam copper. The single story sun porch is brick cladding over steel framing, and rests on a foundation of concrete masonry units. Fenestration varies by story, elevation and block and will be described separately. Unless specifically noted, however, all of the windows on the main block are of the same form and ornamentation; they consist of paired, tall and narrow wood-sash windows with cut stone sills and heavy, arched ornamental cast iron hoods, also in pairs. The hoods feature raised wedge-shaped keystones with rosettes and stylized acanthus leaves on the corbels. Windows on the rear addition are also rounded arches, but have surrounds constructed of brick voussoirs and cast stone projecting keystones. The rear addition windows are ornamented with paneled wooden aprons, multi-colored lights and decorative tracery in the arch itself.

Main Elevation (South)

Fenestration on the main elevation is regular and symmetrical and consists of three bays. On the lower story is the center entrance, which is flanked on the side bays by window openings described in the summary paragraph. This pattern is repeated on the upper story, including a center door accessing the balcony and window openings in the side bays; the balcony door has a heavy, arched ornamental cast iron hood that matches the windows. Visually, the main elevation is dominated by a large, full-height, pedimented portico supported by two fluted columns with Doric order capitals; the frieze band below the pediment has the words "B.P.O. Elks 96" applied in raised wooden lettering and there is an ornamental clock in the pediment. The portico surmounts a half-height entry porch and an upper story balcony. The former has a shed roof supported by rounded, un-fluted columns connected with decorative Chinese railings; the frieze band on porch has the words "B.P.O.E." applied in raised wooden lettering. The latter is enclosed by squared, chamfered posts connected by Chinese railing, and roofed by the portico. Other ornamentation on the main elevation includes a slight roof overhang, emphasized by a decorative band of scroll sawn arches at the eave.

Side Elevation (West)

The upper story and a half of the original house (the two offset front blocks) is visible on this elevation, but most of the lower story has been subsumed by the addition of a sun porch in the 1920s. A protruding windowed hexagonal bay is the only the pre-1926 opening left on the lower story; the bay is lit by a ribbon of six round arch windows, set in moulded wooden surrounds. The bay is ornamented with a moulded wooden cornice, a decorative band of scroll sawn arches and a dentil course at the eave. A single window of the type described in the summary paragraph lights the upper story of the front offset block. Lighting the upper story of the rear offset block are six round arched windows—three on the pediment of the gable and one each on the front and rear exposed planes where the two

offset blocks meet. These windows are single round arched examples (not paired), with single arched ornamental cast iron hoods that match those already described (i.e. raised wedge-shaped keystones with rosettes and stylized acanthus leaves on the corbels). An oculus window lights the attic half story. The sun porch is lit by pairs of multi-light (10 light) casement windows with four light rectangular transoms, laid in a ribbon across all three elevations of the porch. The surrounds include moulded squared wooden piers and projecting cast stone sills. Ornamentation on the sun porch includes a continuation of the historic moulded cornice on the projecting hexagonal bay (minus the scroll sawn arches in the frieze and the dentil course) and a soldier course of bricks that echoes a continuation of the historic water table.

Side Elevation (East)

There are four openings on the gable end of the original (c1848) block. Lighting the upper story are two paired round arch windows of the type described in the summary paragraph, including the ornamental arched hoods. The lower story has a protruding windowed hexagonal bay that matches the fenestration and ornamentation described on the west elevation. The final opening is a door, covered by a half height entry porch; the porch has decorative iron railings and round, unfluted support columns. Based on historic photographs, this door replaced a window that was in the same location. Connecting the front block to the 1932 addition is a small enclosed entryway. This entry is lit by four 6/1 wood framed windows set in a ribbon, with moulded wooden surrounds and paneled aprons. The windows are separated by moulded squared wooden piers and ornamentation on the entry matches that of the 1926 sun porch—including a moulded frieze and cornice. Oculus windows light the attic half stories on all of the gable pediments. Ornamentation on the elevation includes a continuation of the moulded friezes and the decorative band of scroll sawn arches in the frieze.

Rear Elevation

Most of the rear elevation of the original, c1848 house was subsumed by the 1932 addition, although the oculus windows lighting the attic half stories on all of the gable pediments are still visible.

1932 Rear Addition

The 1932 addition is five bays in length, with each side elevation having regularly-spaced windows of the type described in the introductory paragraph. In addition to the windows lighting the main story, there are also regularly-spaced, fixed, single-light windows lighting the basement. Other openings on the rear elevation include a louvered round arch with a surround of brick voussoirs and a projecting cast stone sill and an enclosed (brick) rear entrance covered with a shed roof clad in copper. Ornamentation on the rear addition includes a moulded wooden cornice and frieze bands, terminating in returns on the gable end. The builder also incorporated a visual continuation of the cornice line by use of a two soldier courses of brick, separated by a header course.

Interior

Although the original center stair hall floor plan is interpretable, the interior of the building reflects changes to the finishes during the early twentieth century remodels. On the entry floor the Rome Elks Lodge includes a large dining room and parlor, a bathroom, a smaller lounge and a rear kitchen. Finishes in these rooms mostly reflect the nineteenth century occupation of the residence, and include lath and plaster walls and ceilings, moulded door and window casings, two marble fireplace surrounds and one arched fireplace surround, arched panel doors, varnished wooden floors, and a varnished oak paneling treatment in the dining room. Rooms with early twentieth century finishes include the stair hall, the rear kitchen extension and the 1926 sun porch. These rooms have period window and door surrounds, carpeted floors. The sun porch has a coffered ceiling treatment done in Beaverboard and the

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stair hall includes a moulded arched entry with decorative moulded spandrels and corbels. Of special note on the first floor is the Elks' lodge room, housed in the 1932 rear addition. This room has a varnished wooden floor, ornate neoclassical door and window surrounds, a separate lighting system with neoclassical and patriotic moulded details, and an intricate ceiling treatment that includes a dentil course crown moulding, ornate ceiling medallions and grates connected by lineal moulding scrolls of fruit and flora; the room also has a raised dais at the north end, surmounted by a massive taxidermy elk head and an ornate clock. The stairs themselves are ornamented by applied stringer decoration, turned balusters and square newels. At the top of the stair landing is a set of chimes. Finishes on the upper story are mostly consistent with the nineteenth century. These include moulded door and window surrounds, arched panel doors, lath and plaster walls and varnished wooden floors. There are four chambers on this story, used mainly for offices and storage space; the floorplan is unchanged on this level. Later finishes in the upstairs' rooms include decorative aches and molded corbels that echo the lower stair hall and a coffered Beaverboard ceiling treatment. The attic is unfinished and is accessed via a stair from the upper stair hall. There are two bar/grills in the basement and both have been renovated since their conversion to this purpose in the 1920s and 30s. The larger of the two rooms has a drop ceiling, varnished knotty pine walls and a linoleum floor. The smaller also has a drop ceiling and linoleum floor, but the walls are gypsum board accented by a beadboard wainscoting.

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Oneida County, New York

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Statement of Significance:

The Rome Elks Lodge No. 96 is historically significant as the headquarters of an early twentieth century civic organization with important ties to the City of Rome. Built in the mid-nineteenth century for either Benjamin Leonard, a prominent druggist, or Rome Attorney William S. Parkhurst, the house was constructed by one of the premier builders in Rome during the period. It was constructed as an early expression of the Italianate, and included paired, tall, narrow, rounded arched windows with heavy ornamental cast iron hoods, projecting windowed bays, a centered gable, corner quoins and widely overhanging eaves. In the 1926, the Rome Elks rehabilitated the house to use as their Lodge and the nominated building's current exterior treatment is meant to evoke a representation of neoclassical architecture that was favored for large-scale civic architecture of the period. Because the neoclassical stylistic changes were retrofitted onto an earlier, nineteenth century, building, the Elks Club lacks several hallmarks of the movement—symmetry is only maintained in the monumental portico and rear addition for example. However, modest neoclassical detailing like Chinese railings, a projecting pavilion supported by fluted columns with Doric order capitals, arched openings, a moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable end, squared pilaster piers, paneled interior treatments and carved oval rosettes were applied to the building with some skill. In 1932, the Elks made the final contributing change to the building—the addition of a large rear Lodge room. The firm of Atkinson & Rice continued the building's neoclassical makeover, designing a rectilinear block with symmetrical fenestration, round arched window openings, and classical details like a full cornice at the eave (terminating in returns on the gable end), an ornate moulded ceiling, projecting keystones and an abundance of ornament.

The transition of the nominated building from a private residence to the home of a community and fraternal organization is indicative of a larger trend in the City of Rome during the early twentieth century. Many social and civic organizations were moving to Liberty Street and the surrounding blocks at the time, and the neighborhood was transitioning from a residential area to an extension of the city core.

The period of significance (1848-1932) has been framed to include the possible construction date to the last contributing architectural changes to the building.

History of Occupation

The 1877 centennial of the siege of Ft. Stanwix led to an intense study of the Rome's local history. A series of newspaper articles was published in the 1870s, followed by the publishing of two major local histories—Samuel W. Durant's *History of Oneida County, New York: with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers* (1878) and Daniel E. Wager's *Our City and Its People: A Descriptive work on Rome, New York* (1896). Through these published sources, a complete history of ownership was established for many properties in Rome. Durant published a conjectural 1810 map of Rome (see continuation sheet) and annotated the map with the history of each property up until that time; for the nominated property he wrote "No.76.—Before 1810, a frame dwelling stood on the site now occupied by Wheeler Armstrong's residence. Dr. Blair lived there in 1810 and erected a wing to it."¹ Wager's description of the property contained even more detail. He wrote:

Where the Parkhurst or Leonard house stands, now the residence of Wheeler Armstrong, there was erected a frame dwelling prior to 1820. Dr. Blair built the wing which was afterwards removed to near Mr. Elwell's, as previously stated. The premises were afterwards owned by Horace Adams, and there Comstock Baker lived and died. Adam Van Patten lived there awhile. The main part of the building was moved to the corner

¹ Samuel W Durant, *History of Oneida County, New York: with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*. (Everts & Fariss: Philadelphia, 1878), 382, 384. <http://archive.org>.

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of Steuben and Church streets, where William Williams occupied it. Not far from 1847 Benjamin Leonard erected the present building there, where he lived until his death. William S. Parkhurst next owned and occupied the premises until his death. Wheeler Armstrong now resides there.²

Benjamin Leonard operated a successful drug store in Rome until his death on June 10, 1853. It appears Leonard purchased the lot on West Liberty Street from Horace Adams in 1847 or 1848 and had the house constructed shortly thereafter. A structure does appear in the location of the nominated building on the 1852 *Map of Oneida County, New York, From actual Surveys by A. E. Rogerson & E. J. Murphy, Surveyors*.³ The structure is shown on that map as a rectangular block with a rear addition.

Obituaries published in Rome's local newspapers have provided the names of the builders of the house. A March 9, 1894 notice read: "Death of Mrs. Hiram Soper whose husband built the home of the late B. N. Huntington, the D.P. McHarg house (Odd Fellows' temple) the Wheeler Armstrong house [the nominated Elks' temple], B. J. Beach's residence, the Liberty Street School and other Rome buildings." Three months later, on June 16, 1894, the *Roman Citizen* published an obituary for contractor Daniel B. Prince; it read:

He [Prince] returned to Rome in January, 1848. In 1850 he built Zion Church, and in 1856 he began the erection of the residence of the late B. N. Huntington...Mr. Prince built three houses on North Washington street. One is now owned and occupied by H. D. Spencer and another by John D. Oxner. The third was located on the site of Hon. Jim Stevens' house. He also built the house owned and occupied by Wheeler Armstrong on West Liberty street, the Rome Academy and the Commercial Hotel.⁴

Hiram Soper appears to have been working in the area during the 1840s and 1850s, but he moved to Iowa in late 1855 or early 1856; his name appears on the June, 1855 New York State census in Rome, but a February 26, 1856 newspaper notice published in the *Roman Citizen* established that Soper was no longer living in the town. In the 1860 and 1870 federal censuses, Soper listed his profession as "brick mason," indicating this was likely his role in the construction of Leonard house. Daniel B. Prince listed his profession as "Master Carpenter" (1860) or "builder (1870) on those censuses, similarly denoting his likely contribution to the nominated building. There was a large amount of construction occurring in Rome in the late 1840s—a fire destroyed more than thirty buildings in Rome's downtown (Dominick, Washington, Liberty and James streets), near the nominated house, in January of 1846. Many of the buildings lost had been replaced by the end of the 1847 construction season, and almost all had been replaced by 1848.⁵ A comparison of the nominated house to other 1840s examples, however, is difficult because few (if any) are still extant. An early primary source on Rome does provide a description of at least one similar house. In 1851, Pomroy Jones noted in his seminal history of the county, *Annals and Recollections of Oneida County*, that Rome "contained 500 dwelling houses, some of them very elegant structures, and preeminent among them which is that of Mr. Edward Huntington, on Liberty St., which is of brick, finely stuccoed and shaded, in imitation of stone."⁶ Historic photographs of the nominated house (see continuation sheets) show the bricks were covered in stucco prior to the 1926 renovations, including imitation stone corner quoins. The Edward Huntington house was built by Daniel Prince (who also built the nominated building) in 1844, but no images of it could be located.

² Daniel E. Wager, *Our City and Its People: A Descriptive work on Rome, New York*. (The Boston History Company: Boston, MA, 1896), 117. <http://archive.org>.

³ *Map of Oneida County, New York, From actual Surveys by A. E. Rogerson & E. J. Murphy, Surveyors*. (Newell S. Brown, publisher: Philadelphia, 1852).

⁴ *Rome Citizen*, June, 16, 1894. www.fultonhistory.com.

⁵ Wager, *Our City and Its People*.

⁶ Pomroy Jones, *Annals and Recollections of Oneida County*. (A.J. Rowely: Rome, 1851), 381. <http://books.google.com>.

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After the death of Benjamin Leonard in 1853, the house and lot were sold to Rome Attorney William S. Parkhurst. The April 19, 1854 edition of the *Rome Daily Sentinel* included the statement “We learn that the house on Liberty street, owned by the late Ben. Leonard, has been purchased by Wm. S. Parkhurst.”⁷ At least one contemporary newspaper account substantiates that Parkhurst lived in the same house that Leonard had built; a May 9, 1855 article in the *Rome Daily Sentinel* noted: “N. H. Leffingwell is erecting a brick dwelling house on Liberty street, next to the house formerly owned and occupied by the late Benjamin Leonard, now owned by W. S. Parkhurst.”⁸ An 1858 map, *Gillette’s Map of Oneida Co. New York From actual Surveys under the direction of J. H French by N.S. Beers, D.J. Lake & F.W. Beers*, shows a structure in the location of the nominated building, with similar massing to that already described on the 1852 A. E. Rogerson & E. J. Murphy map.⁹ Although published histories and period sources and maps suggest the current house is the same structure as the one built by Leonard in c1848, these sources are not infallible, and the possibility that cannot be discounted that Dr. Parkhurst had the nominated house constructed in the 1850s or 1860s, replacing Leonard’s earlier, c1848, residence. Some of the Italianate and Gothic decorative elements on the nominated house are generally associated with tastes from the mid-1850s to 60s, rather than the 1840s. For example, an image of the now-demolished B.N. Huntington residence on Liberty Street, built in 1855 by Soper and Prince (according to their obituaries), shows a stuccoed exterior, heavy window hood molds, an exotic cornice treatment, tall, narrow windows and a hexagonal, windowed projecting bay. Another possibility is that Dr. Parkhurst undertook a massive rehabilitation of the house during his ownership. The work could have been done by Soper or Prince (or both), or the mason Soper could have built the original c1848 house and the contractor Prince could have done the rehabilitation in the 1850-60s. The 1846 fire in Rome would have provided an excellent opportunity for new architectural styles and ideas to be put into practice in the town. It’s location on east-west routes like the Erie Canal, various turnpikes, and railroads would have allowed ideas, pattern books, and architects to exert influence in Rome. For example, Richard Upjohn designed the National Register listed Zion Episcopal Church—the nominated building’s neighbor to the west—in 1850. Alexander J. Davis lived in Utica as a child, and had known commissions in Oneida and Herkimer counties. Although there is no indication that the original house was architect-designed, the builders of the Leonard or Parkhurst house would have had ample opportunities for exposure to Picturesque, Gothic, Bracketed and Italianate motifs, vocabularies and designs. Daniel Prince’s obituary noted that he worked in New York’s Hudson Valley (specifically Poughkeepsie) during the early 1840s, the same time AJ Davis was executing commissions in nearby Newburgh and Hudson, and Prince built the 1850 Zion Church, designed by Upjohn.

Whether there was an earlier house onsite or not, Parkhurst lived in the nominated house until his death on May 9, 1869. A notice dated November 10, 1870 appeared in several newspapers and advertised the sale of “the house and lot formerly owned and occupied by the late William S. Parkhurst, in the city of Rome, on Liberty St.” Eventually the house was sold to Wheeler Armstrong; Armstrong’s obituary noted: “Soon after his marriage [he married Emma Brown in 1870], a year or so, Mr. Armstrong purchased the house at 102 West Liberty street, where he since lived. The house was built in 1847 by Benjamin Leonard.”¹⁰

The first known image of the house was under Armstrong’s ownership. An 1886 birds-eye view of Rome (see continuation sheet) showed many details of the house including the peaked front gable roof, a half-height entry porch, moulded window hoods, ocular windows in the gables, a rear addition, and the protruding windowed

⁷ *Rome Daily Sentinel*, April 19, 1854. www.fultonhistory.com.

⁸ *Rome Daily Sentinel*, May 9, 1855. www.fultonhistory.com.

⁹ *Gillette’s Map of Oneida Co. New York From actual Surveys under the direction of J. H French by N.S. Beers, D.J. Lake & F.W. Beers*. (John E. Gillette Publisher No.’s 517, 519 & 521: Philadelphia, 1858).

¹⁰ “News in Rome/Death Summons Esteemed Resident/Wheeler Armstrong Victim of Paralysis,” *Utica Herald Dispatch* January 16 1912. www.fultonhistory.com.

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hexagonal bay on the southeast elevation.¹¹ Armstrong died in 1912 and his widow occupied the nominated house until 1923 when she sold it to the Jervis Public Library Association. The library was located in the former John B. Jervis homestead on North Washington Street, which was (at the time) considered an inconvenient location because it was too far from the civic center of the city. By contrast, the character of West Liberty Street—only a block away from City Hall and the civic core of Rome—was transitioning from a residential neighborhood into a more public one. When plans for the library to obtain the nominated house were announced publically, the editor of the *Rome Sentinel* rejoiced:

The site that has now been selected for a down town library is deemed to meet every demand. It is close to the retail business section of the city; it is within sight of the post office and the Y. M. C. A.; it is around the corner from the City Hall; by using the rear entrance it is but a block from the High School and Court House. The library property will adjoin that of Zion Episcopal Church with its Ignotus Club activities; St. Peter's and St. Mary's Catholic Churches are but a block distant on either hand and the Presbyterian Church the same distance away to the north. To the east of the library will be the Odd Fellows; on the next block the Knights of Columbus and the Woman's Club; around the corner on Washington street is the Masonic Temple. Nearly every lodge room in the city as well as every theater is so close that it would be convenient for persons attending them to drop in at the library going or coming. At present the library is wholly out of the way for residents of East and West Rome, being six long blocks north of Dominick street. No one from either of those sections ever 'drops in' but makes a serious business of 'going to the library.' Even persons living within a few blocks of the present library commonly make a special trip there, rather than carry books down street and back.¹²

In August of 1923 the Jervis Library Association announced a massive, \$95,000, project for the nominated property. Plans drawn by the Albany architectural firm of Fuller & Robinson included a new Gothic Revival stone building to be built on the front of the property, effectively turning the nominated house into a rear wing of the new library; several interior renovations for the nominated house were also planned. To help defray the price tag, the library association contracted to sell the Library's former site—the John B. Jervis homestead—to the Board of Education for use as a Junior High School. The John B. Jervis homestead site was to be sold for \$24,000, which would realize a \$9,000 profit after purchasing the nominated house and lot for \$15,000. The additional \$86,000 needed to convert the nominated house and lot to the new library would have to be raised through funds on hand, subscriptions, and a tax increase. The legal sale of the former John B. Jervis homestead and the purchase of the nominated property were set for January 1, 1924, but the library failed to gain the support it needed. Throughout the summer and fall, editorials questioned the both the initial cost of the project and the subsequent yearly operating costs, and the legality of raising taxes to cover all of those expenses. By December of 1923, the Library Association trustees conceded that they had abandoned the plan to move to W. Liberty Street; instead a new addition would be built on the library's current property. The Board of Education allowed the library to void the contract to buy the former John B. Jervis homestead, but the library was still under contract to buy the nominated house. Library trustee Dr. W.L. Kingsely privately purchased the nominated house for the \$15,000 asking price in January of 1924, thus relieving the Library Association of its contract.

¹¹ *Rome, N.Y. Published & drawn by L. R. Burleigh.* (Beck & Pauli, lithographer: Troy, NY, 1886) <http://memory.loc.gov>.

¹² "Jervis Library to Move to Liberty Street, Selling to School Board; Plans Drawn for \$95,000 Stone Building/Wheeler Armstrong Homestead Acquired for Down Town Site." *Rome Daily Sentinel*, August 1, 1923. www.fultonhistory.com.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

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Nine months later, Kinglsey sold the property to the Elks Club for the same \$15,000 price tag. Once the Elks secured ownership, the organization's building committee offered two alternatives for the property. The first alternative was to demolish the nominated house and build an entirely new lodge. The second alternative was to complete short-term renovations, making the house immediately useable, and then add a large rear addition after more funding was secured. According to an article in the *Rome Daily Sentinel*, the proposed improvements included in renovation alternative were "the repairing of the outside of the building where the plaster has fallen off, the erection of large verandas, the taking out of partitions and the installation of new and up-to-date plumbing and other fixtures, painting, etc."¹³ Eventually the Elks chose to renovate the house rather than raze it, and work began in the spring of 1926 after a capital campaign raised the necessary funds.

An examination of newspaper articles, pre-1926 photos, and Sanborn insurance maps show the exact changes that the Elks made to the building at that time. The exterior stucco was removed, the half-height entry porch was replaced with a large two-story projecting portico, an enclosed sun porch addition was put on the northwest elevation, a separate "ladies entrance" (an enclosed entry porch) was added to the east elevation, and a small addition was put on the rear. The interior was modified to fits the Elks' needs while attempting to maintain the "home-like atmosphere" of the building. When the building opened to the public for the first time on November 1, 1926, the interior was described by a correspondent for the *Rome Daily Sentinel*:

As one enters through the main entrance, facing Liberty street, one finds at the right of the Colonial hall the library, and at the left the men's lounge. Next on the right is the ladies' lounge, with a private entrance from the driveway. On the other side of the hall is the ladies' dining room. The kitchen adjoins at the rear.¹⁴

The basement was turned into a restaurant and the upper story chambers were left in their original configuration to be used as offices, a card room and a billiards room.¹⁵ Over 1,000 people toured the renovated lodge when it opened—a clear indication that the building and the Elks organization served a social function for the city.¹⁶ In fact, the move towards a neoclassical exterior for the Elks Lodge was in keeping with the trend of Liberty Street (and the larger surrounding neighborhood) becoming the civic and public center of Rome. The neoclassical style was considered particularly appropriate for public buildings during the period, and the unidentified designer of the 1926 renovations was clearly interested in the language of the neoclassical and colonial revival. The most obvious aesthetic change was the addition of the portico, which gave the building a monumental entrance, but other classical details were added as well; these included support columns with Doric order capitals, squared pilasters/piers, Chinese railings, and a paneled interior treatment with carved oval rosettes. At the same time as the axial entrance and "colonial details" (as the *Rome Sentinel* styled them) were being added, however, the overall symmetry of the building was altered by the addition of the one story enclosed sun porch on the northwest elevation. Ironically, in an effort to make the building appear more "early" the 1926 renovators chose to remove the stuccoed exterior and the scored quoins, two of the aesthetic features of the original building.

One potential candidate for the 1926 designs was Stuart Gerwig, the head of the Rome Elks building committee during the period, and future Exalted Ruler and Officer of the Lodge. Gerwig was trained as an architectural

¹³ "Rome Elks Discuss Building Projects/ Many Favor Erection of New Structure—Committee to Arrange Finances," *Rome Daily Sentinel* November 21, 1924. www.fultonhistory.com.

¹⁴ "Elks' New Home Opened to Public/1,000 Persons Visit Beautiful Club Rooms/Ladies Among Guests at Evening Reception/Lodge Universally Commended on Development," *Rome Daily Sentinel* November 1, 1926. www.fultonhistory.com.

¹⁵ "Will Remodel Future Home for Rome Elks' Lodge," *Rome Daily Sentinel*, March 19, 1926. www.fultonhistory.com.

¹⁶ "Elks' New Home Opened to Public/1,000 Persons Visit Beautiful Club Rooms/Ladies Among Guests at Evening Reception/Lodge Universally Commended on Development," *Rome Daily Sentinel* November 1, 1926. www.fultonhistory.com.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
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Section number 8 Page 6

engineer and worked in the municipal office of Harold G. Rice, a principal in the firm that designed the 1932 addition to the nominated building.

In June of 1928 the Elks voted to proceed with the second phase of the renovations—adjoining a large addition that could be used as lodge room, an auditorium, and a large banquet or meeting space. Another capital campaign was instituted to raise the \$75,000 the building committee estimated for the cost of the addition, but in the midst of the Great Depression, it would take four years to raise the necessary funds.¹⁷ Plans by several architects were reviewed and in May of 1932, the building committee selected the design of Atkinson and Rice. The five bay addition was built by a local contractor, Zingerline Brothers, and was the last major architectural alteration to the building.

Like the 1926 changes, the design of the wing was indicative of the building's transition to an expression of monumental neoclassical styling. Atkinson & Rice used regularly and symmetrically placed large round arched windows with classical details like projecting keystones; these echoed the earlier nineteenth styling of the Italianate, but gave it a monumental aspect, more *en vogue* with the neoclassical. Similarly, the full cornice and returns echoed earlier, nineteenth revivals of the Classical motifs. The interior was done entirely in the language of revival—rosettes, floral swags, fruits bunches, ovals, medallions and eagles provide an overabundance of ornament on the interior, all fitted into a rectilinear space of monumental proportions. Both the 1926 renovations and 1932 addition were praised in period newspapers for their success in the application of the “colonial.” The neoclassical movement prized traditions and elements of the past, and both enjoyed immense popularity in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

By the post-Civil War period, America was entering a period of tremendous economic growth, allowing both new industrialists and the wealthier middle class the opportunity to afford new construction. Wealthy clients hired formal architects to design fashionable residences, and those architects invariably began to employ historical antecedents and elements in their creations. Neoclassical designs found their way into periodicals, published atlases, pattern books and builder's guides, allowing the middle class and their local carpenters and builders to emulate these historic models. An array of styles and motifs competed with one another—Georgian, Gothic, Elizabethan, French provincial, Tudor, Renaissance and classicism all blended together freely in a pure rejection of vigorous symmetry. By the turn of the century, America's nascent colonial revival movement turned away from its roots in the shingled dwellings of old New England and towards the high-styled residences of Colonial America. The language of the Georgian, Adams and Federal architecture of America had the order and symmetry of classicism, the adaptation of Renaissance forms (specifically Palladianism) and the perceived historical pedigree to appeal to anti-European eclectics.

Atkinson & Rice

The partnership between Harold G. Rice and Edward G. Atkinson was founded in the fall of 1928. Harold G. Rice (1896-1984) was a civil engineer and Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Rome; he wrote Rome's zoning plan and ordinance in 1932. Although his background was in engineering, Rice never made that distinction—in period publications, Rice referred to himself most frequently as an architectural engineer. He trained as a draftsman in the office of F.W. Kirkland (a Rome architect), worked in the office of Earl Hallenbeck & Frederick Revels while attending classes at Syracuse and landed a job in the architectural department of Eastman Kodak in Rochester. No buildings designed by Rice during this early period could be located. After service in the Navy during WWI, Rice

¹⁷ “Elks Vote to Build \$75,000 Annex to Home,” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, June 8, 1928. www.fultonhistory.com.

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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

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returned to Rome and worked as a practicing civil engineer—first for the firm of C.W. Knight & Son and later for the Rome Gas, Electric Light and Power Co; he opened his own firm in 1925 and was appointed Commissioner of Public Works in 1927.¹⁸ Edward G. Atkinson (1884-1952) was born in Rome but spent most of his career working in Schenectady. After graduation from Syracuse he entered the office of Marcus T. Reynolds, a prominent Albany architect. Later he took a position with the General Electric Company, designing and appraising the company's buildings throughout the United States. He was appointed the advisory architect for the City of Schenectady and opened his own firm in 1914. Atkinson was recognized by his contemporaries for his pioneering work with reinforced concrete construction, especially for schools. He designed several schools, including New Lebanon School (Columbia County), Van Antwerp School (Niskayuna, Schenectady County), Mont Pleasant School (City of Schenectady), and the National Register Listed East Nassau Central School in Rensselaer County.¹⁹

Few commissions by the firm of Atkinson & Rice could be found. The Montgomery Ward building (1929), housed in the Nickley Block on East Dominick St. in Rome, was demolished by the construction of the Ft. Stanwix reproduction in the 1970s. The Stittville School, in Oneida County, was replaced in the 1960s. The Capitol Theater (1928) in Rome is still extant and has been determined individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Although only one building designed by the firm is known to still be extant, photographs of all three buildings (see continuation sheet) show similarities—block massing, parapet rooflines and neoclassical detailing.

Integrity

In its current form, the building represents several periods of its occupation and has excellent integrity to its period of significance. Some extant details may be from the occupation of Benjamin Leonard (c1848-1854), including marble fireplace surrounds and some six panel doors on the upper story. The house likely underwent stylistic changes during the occupation of either William S. Parkhurst (1854-1870) or that of Wheeler Armstrong (1871-1912), and, as noted in the previous section, may have been entirely replaced. Several extant interior and exterior details reflect this mid to late nineteenth century occupation; most of the window and door casings date to this period, as do the arched paneled doors, the arched fireplace surround in the first floor lounge, and the beaded baseboard moulding. The twentieth century changes are most evident on the exterior, including the removal of the stucco, the side porch addition, the portico and the rear addition. Interior spaces that most reflect this period are the rear lodge room, the stair hall and the dining room/side porch. The only spaces that have been altered after the period of significance are the two basement bar/grills. Both have finishes from the mid to late twentieth century, but retain their original functions to the Elks Lodge.

¹⁸ "Harold G. Rice Is Named Public Works' Commissioner/Mayor Tedd Makes Announcement of His First Selection for Office-Mr. Rice Civil Engineer and Well Equipped for the Work," *Rome Daily Sentinel*, November 27, 1927. www.fultonhistory.com.

¹⁹ "Commissioner Rice in Partnership/Joins with Edward G. Atkinson of Schenectady/The Latter a Former Rome School Graduate/A Pioneer in Hollow Reinforced Concrete Wall Building," *Rome Daily Sentinel*, October 4, 1928. www.fultonhistory.com.

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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
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Section number 9 Page 1

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Rome Citizen, June, 16, 1894.

Rome Daily Sentinel, April 19, 1854.

Rome Daily Sentinel, May 9, 1855.

“Jervis Library to Move to Liberty Street, Selling to School Board; Plans Drawn for \$95,000 Stone Building/Wheeler Armstrong Homestead Acquired for Down Town Site.” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, August 1, 1923.

“Rome Elks Discuss Building Projects/ Many Favor Erection of New Structure—Committee to Arrange Finances,” *Rome Daily Sentinel* November 21, 1924.

Will Remodel Future Home for Rome Elks' Lodge,” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, March 19, 1926.

“Elks' New Home Opened to Public/1,000 Persons Visit Beautiful Club Rooms/Ladies Among Guests at Evening Reception/Lodge Universally Commended on Development,” *Rome Daily Sentinel* November 1, 1926.

“Harold G. Rice Is Named Public Works' Commissioner/Mayor Tedd Makes Announcement of His First Selection for Office-Mr. Rice Civil Engineer and Well Equipped for the Work,” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, November 27, 1927.

“Elks Vote to Build \$75,000 Annex to Home,” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, June 8, 1928.

“Commissioner Rice in Partnership/Joins with Edward G. Atkinson of Schenectady/The Latter a Former Rome School Graduate/A Pioneer in Hollow Reinforced Concrete Wall Building,” *Rome Daily Sentinel*, October 4, 1928.

“News in Rome/Death Summons Esteemed Resident/Wheeler Armstrong Victim of Paralysis,” *Utica Herald Dispatch* January 16 1912.

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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

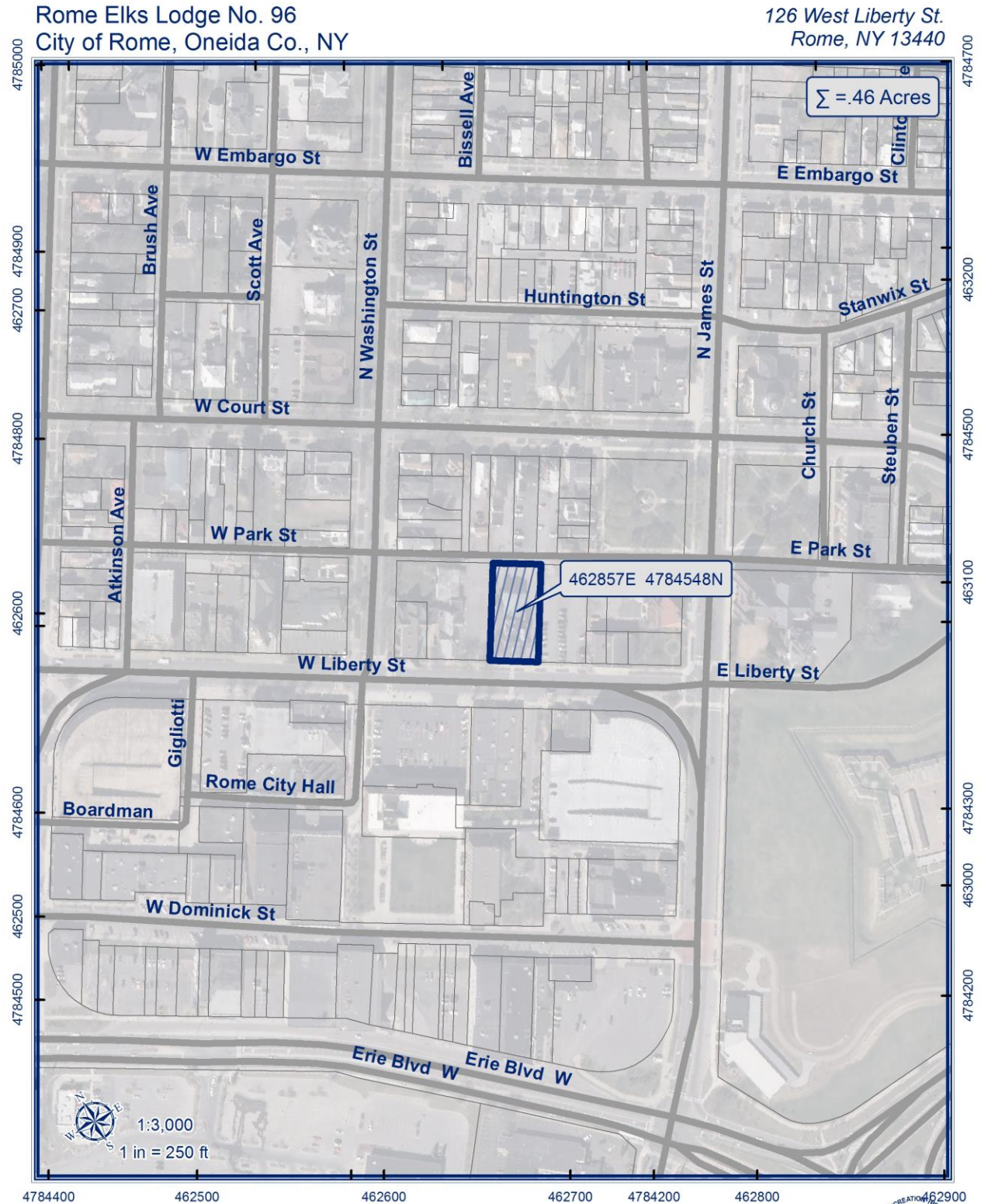
Section number 10 Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot number 242.050-0001-057 in the City of Rome, Oneida County, NY.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property includes the entire parcel (0.46 acres) under current ownership and historical ownership and the only extant building onsite.



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



Elks Lodge No. 96

Tax Parcel Data:
 Oneida Co. RPS
<http://oneida.sdgny.com>



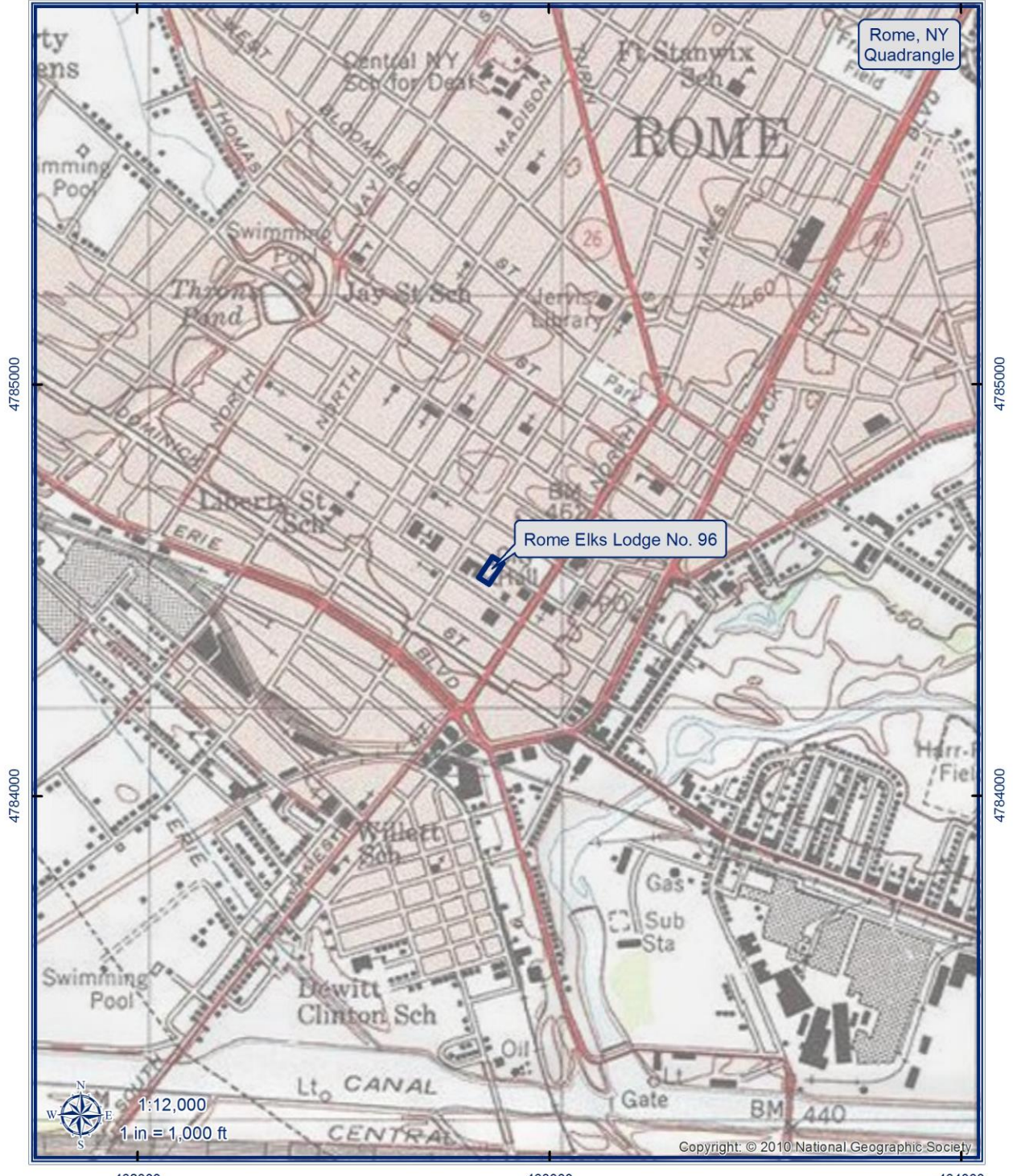
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
City of Rome, Oneida Co., NY

126 West Liberty St.
Rome, NY 13440



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



 Elks Lodge No. 96

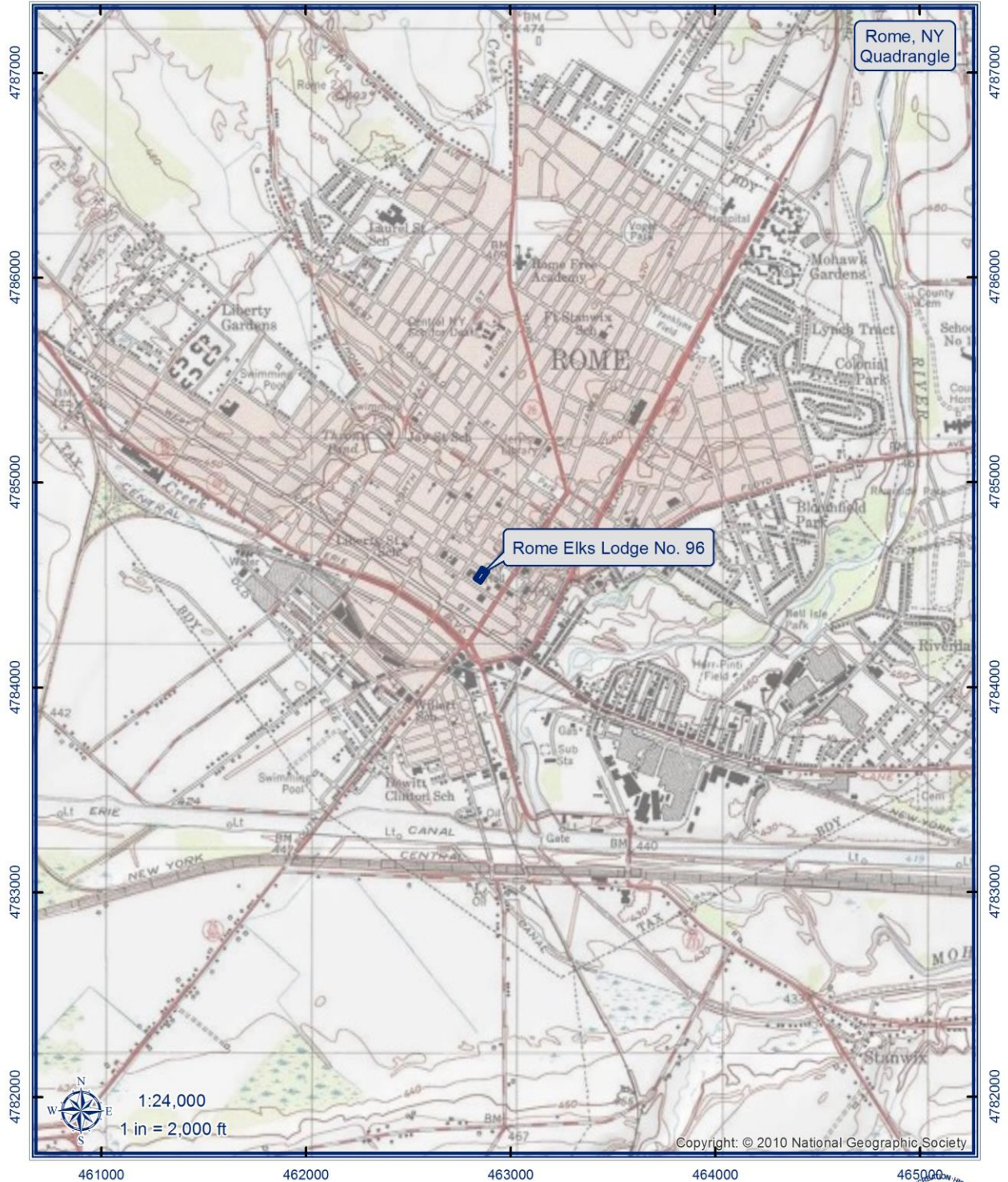
Tax Parcel Data:
Oneida Co. RPS
<http://oneida.sdgny.com>



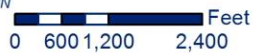
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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
City of Rome, Oneida Co., NY

126 West Liberty St.
Rome, NY 13440



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



 Elks Lodge No. 96

Tax Parcel Data:
Oneida Co. RPS
<http://oneida.sdgny.com>



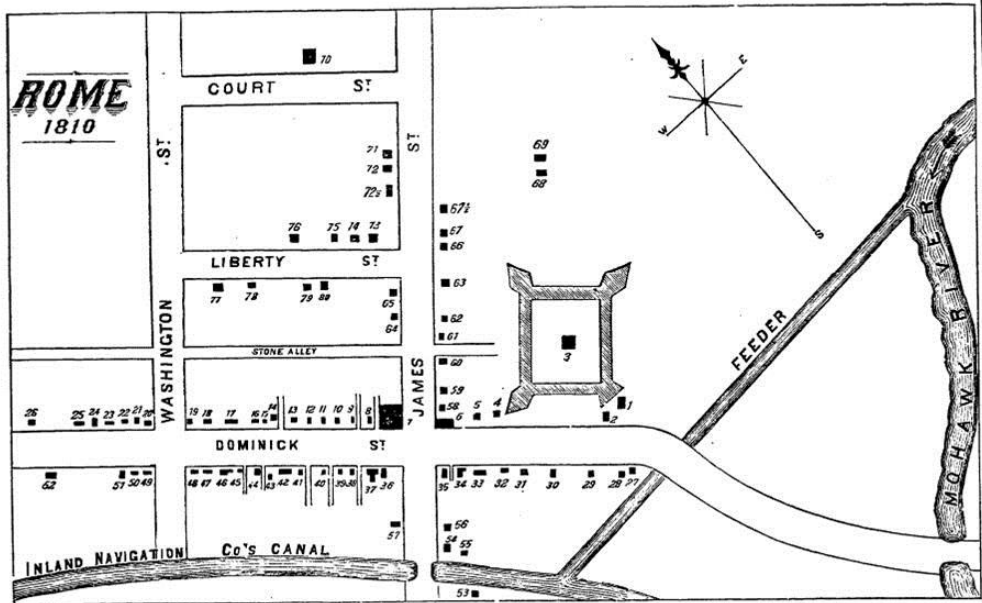
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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
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Conjectural 1810 map of Rome published in Samuel W Durant, *History of Oneida County, New York: with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*, 1878. Nominated property is at location #76.



Undated, early 20th century photograph of nominated house

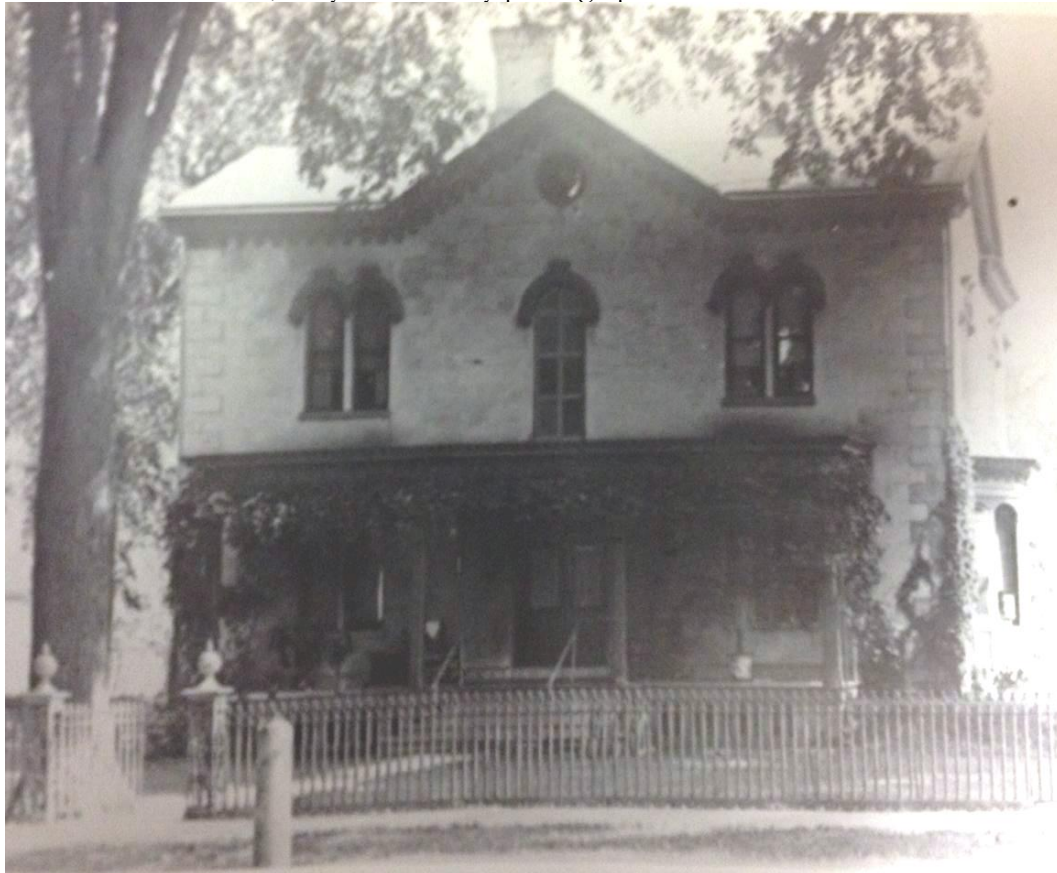


Image of house prior to the 1926 renovations by the Elks.



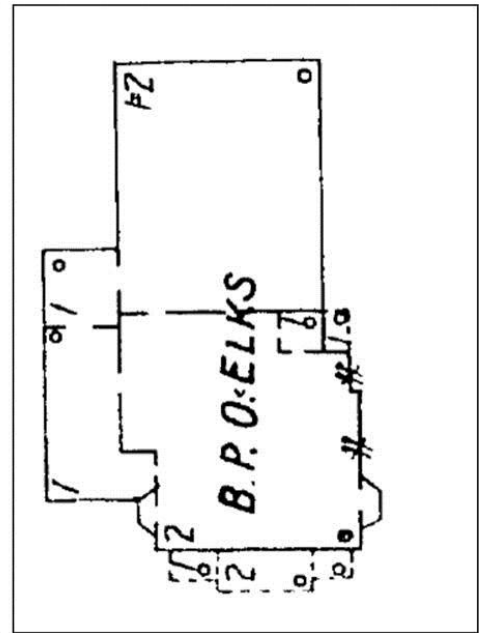
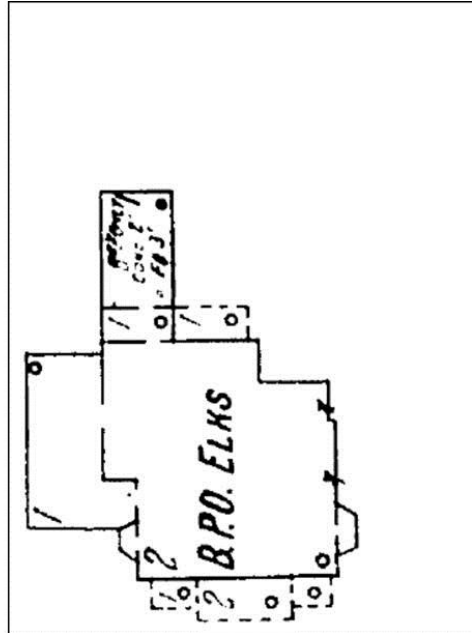
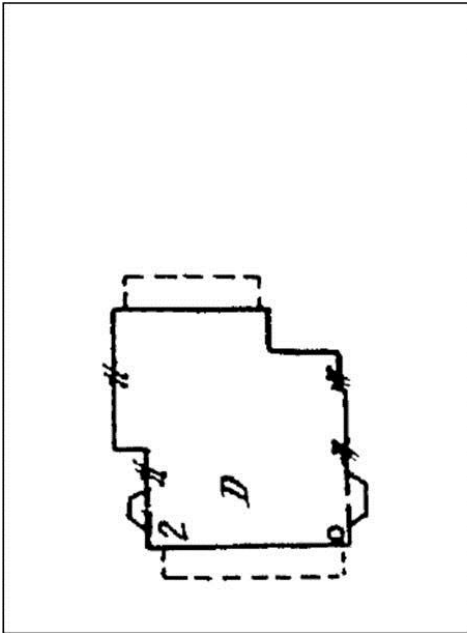
Detail of Birdseye view of Rome, 1886. Nominated house shown with an arrow.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

Details of nominated property on Sanborn Insurance maps for Rome 1924 (Prior to Elks ownership), 1930 (showing the 1926 renovations) and 1949 (showing the 1932 rear addition).

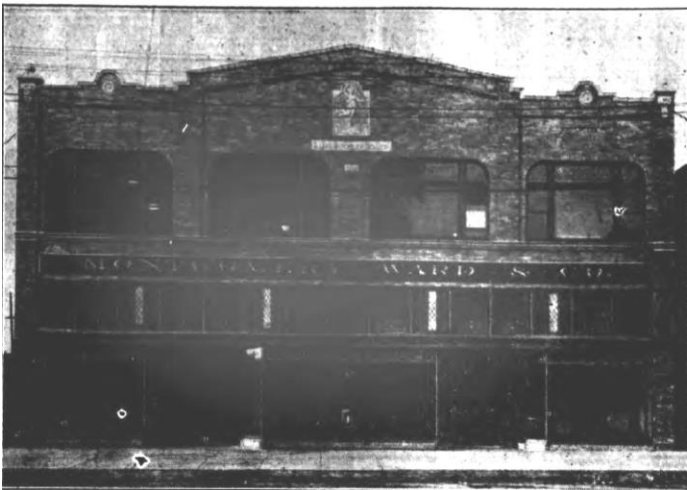


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Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
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Known commissions by the firm of Atkinson & Rice. Capitol Theater, Rome (above), Nickley Block, Rome (below left), Stittville School, Floyd (below right); The Capitol Theater is the only surviving building.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96
Oneida County, New York

Photo Log (Prints from Digital Photos)

Name of Property: Rome Elks Lodge No. 96

Location: Oneida County, New York

Photographer: Travis Bowman

Date: November 8, 2012

Location of Negatives: CD-R Included

NY_OneCo_RomeElks

PHOTO LOG

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
0001	Exterior view, N; $\frac{3}{4}$ View.
0002	Exterior view, NW; Rear Addition.
0003	Interior view; Dining Room.
0004	Interior view; Lodge Room.
0005	Interior view; Lounge.



B.P.O. ELKS 96

No Parking







EXIT







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rome Elks Lodge No. 96

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Oneida

DATE RECEIVED: 4/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/17/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/05/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000359

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 6-5-13 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.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Higher Education
Aging
Energy
Veterans' Affairs
Local Governments

ANTHONY J. BRINDISI
119th Assembly District



March 4, 2013

Ms. Ruth L. Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and
Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Pierpont:

I wanted to thank you for sending me the information regarding the nomination of the Rome Elks Lodge No. 96 headquarters for placement on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Since this letter is dated February 21, 2013 and was received in my office on February 25th, I am assuming that the deadline to submit comments on this nomination of February 20th that you had in your letter was a misprint.

I am very much in support of this nomination. This building is one of the most unique in Rome, serving as a very well maintained example of the Italianate style of architecture found in upstate New York in the mid 19th Century. Periodically, the building has been restored, but its architectural integrity has remained.

It first served as the home of several of Rome's most prominent families. Then, nearly 90 years ago, it became the home of the Rome Elks Club. The club itself has a history of service to the community dating back to 1888. This building has remained the site of a number of significant community events throughout the years.

I would ask that my comments in favor of this designation be provided to members of the State Review Board for the Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Brindisi
Member of Assembly



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

12 April 2013

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose seven National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register. Four of these are submitted on disc. They are:

Rome Elks Lodge No. 96, Oneida County
Herschell-Spillman Motor Company Complex, Niagara County
Brace Farm, Herkimer County
Meetinghouse Green Road Cemetery, Herkimer County

The other three are submitted on paper. They are:

Rockland Print Works, Rockland County
Cartin-Snyder-Overacker Farmstead, Rensselaer County
Auclair-Button Farmstead, Rensselaer County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office