

RECEIVED 2280

334

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

APR 12 2013

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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 Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and Mathewson Family Cemetery

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 204 Bice Road

not for publication

city or town Cooperstown

vicinity

state New York

code NY

county Otsego

code 077

zip code 13326

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.

Rudolph A. Paupert
Signature of certifying official/Title

DSHPO

3/29/13
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

Colson H. Beall

Date of Action

5-28-13

Mathewson-Bice Hse & Cemetery

Name of Property

Otsego 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	
2	3	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

Mathewson-Bice Hse & Cemetery

Name of Property

Otsego 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)

settlement

architecture

Period of Significance

C1800-1943

Significant Dates

na

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data

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

Name of repository:

Mathewson-Bice Hse & Cemetery

Name of Property

Otsego County, New York

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 39.92 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

1	18			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				

3				
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
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 Emily Lang and Jessica Mayercin, Graduate Students contact: Kathleen LaFrank, New York SHPO

organization Cooperstown Graduate Program date January 2013

street & number Box 800 telephone 607.547.2486

city or town Cooperstown state New York zip code 13326

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 _____ zip code _____

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity, Otsego Co., NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and Bice Family Cemetery are situated in the northeastern corner of the town of Hartwick in Otsego County, New York. The property is just south of the border with the town of Otsego and only a few miles west of the village of Cooperstown. The nominated property was originally part of a 125-acre farm; however, beginning in the mid-twentieth century, the remainder of the property was sold off and developed with other adjacent farms and residences. The 37.31-acre nominated property is located north and south of Bice Road (originally Grange Road), a short east-west spur that connects Bissel and Jarvis Roads. The parcel to the north of Bice Road, which is primarily wooded, contains no buildings, while the one to the south, which is open and used for haying, contains the domestic buildings and cemetery. The house is positioned at the northern edge of the southern plot, just south of Bice Road on a small rise. The house faces south, looking across an open field toward the cemetery, which is marked by a small clump of trees and enclosed by a cut-stone wall. A small stream flows along the southern border of the parcel, which is bordered by woods. Beyond the farm, to the far south, low hills provide a backdrop for the valley farmland. The nomination includes 2 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site and 3 non-contributing buildings.

House

The house was constructed near the center of the original 125-acre parcel, and its entrance faces south to the valley rather than fronting toward the original (and current) roadway. The rectangular building is five bays wide and two bays deep with a center entrance. There is also a one-story addition sheltered by a shed roof on the east side elevation. The rear of the addition is a mud room, while the front is an open porch. The house is constructed with heavy timber posts and vertical plank frame construction. Rather than studs, pieces of sawn timber stand vertically between the sill and the plate. The house's exterior features wood clapboard siding, replaced in the 1980s with quarter-sawn horizontal planks placed one over another.

The house sits on its original foundation of local cut stones. At one point in the house's history, homeowners covered the exterior of the foundation walls with concrete, but the concrete has since been removed to expose

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity, Otsego Co., NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

the original stonework. This same stone was used for the foundation of the one-story addition, the original outbuildings, and the stone wall surrounding the Mathewson family burial ground. The building features narrow cornerboards and a very shallow cornice. It is surmounted by a steep side-gable roof. The roof cladding was replaced with slate by the 1920s, and the current homeowner replaced the slate roofing with asphalt shingles. There are two brick chimneys: an original center chimney (possibly rebuilt from the attic up) and an exterior chimney on the east end that serves the mudroom. The roof is framed with common rafters, collar ties, and no ridge pole and is sheathed with wide wood boards.

Window openings are generally symmetrical, except for one second floor window on the east elevation that may have been moved. Many of the windows in the house have been replaced throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Likely multi-pane to begin with, the windows appear in an early twentieth-century photograph as having a two-over-two configuration. Homeowners have since replaced these with windows more appropriate to the period of construction. All windows are wood. Each of the first-floor south, west, and north-facing windows have twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash. A small window on the eastern end, in what is now the mudroom, has one twelve-over-eight double-hung sash. The second-story double-hung sash windows are twelve-over-eight. Twelve-over-eight sash windows are also found in the gable ends, lighting the attic. Windows are set within narrow wooden frames with projecting molded lintels. The exceptions are the second floor façade windows, which are built to the cornice, which functions as their lintel. The main entrance is a narrow wooden panel door with wide strap hinges surmounted by a five-pane glass transom. The door is set within a narrow wooden enframement topped with a projecting lintel similar to those in the window frames.

The house features a typical New England floor plan of the late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries characterized by a massive center chimney flanked by rooms on either side and three rooms across the rear. Three first floor fireplaces share the chimney. The main entrance leads into a small lobby entry in front of the chimney; a wall shields the staircase, which leads to the second floor. The central chimney did not permit a

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity, Otsego Co., NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

central hallway; thus the small entrance lobby acted as a passage to two rooms, one to either side. The three rooms across the rear of the structure can only be accessed from one of the two front rooms.

To the west of the entry, the house's front parlor is one of the few rooms in the house that features plaster walls and a chair rail. This "best" parlor features an elaborate and very fine wood fireplace surround and paneled overmantel. The overmantel is symmetrically organized but asymmetrically placed in relation to the mantel. On the other side of the entry, the east side of the house contains the house's original "hall," a multi-purpose room with a large cooking hearth and adjoining bake oven. This is a less typical (but not unheard of) location for the kitchen, which is more commonly placed in the rear room behind the chimney. There is no plaster in this room. Instead, walls are entirely finished in wide wood panels, some of which have beaded edges. It is not known if these walls once had plaster that was removed, if they were intended to have plaster that was never finished, or if this was the intended treatment. There is a paneled overmantel above the hearth, which is flanked by paneled cabinets. This large room is currently divided by a low wall, with the northern end now defined as a modern kitchen. The latter space was likely a former buttery, which would have been divided of as a separate space, one of three located across the rear of the house.

Adjoining the buttery and accessible from the hall is the center rear room, also finished in vertical board paneling, which is now used as a dining room. It also includes a fireplace connected to the central chimney. This smaller fireplace is fitted with a crane for cooking and may have represented a secondary space for preparing meals, possibly converted to this use for the widow of the builder after his death. A small room in the northwest corner of the house is currently used as an office and storage space. The room allows passage between the parlor and the current dining room. In this room, half of the walls are finished with plaster and half retain wide, wooden planks like those found in the hall.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity, Otsego Co., NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Floor boards are wood. Generally, the narrower boards are chestnut, while the broader panels are pine, indicative of the old growth forestry. These wooden elements are especially visible in the hall. The small one-story east wing was likely built during the early twentieth century. Originally used as a woodshed and summer kitchen, the space is now used as a mudroom and porch. An additional chimney was added to the mudroom in the early twentieth century.

The second floor of the house follows roughly the same floor plan as the first floor, with chambers above the hall, parlor, and dining room. Although the plan is generally intact, the second story has had considerably more twentieth and twenty-first century renovation work. The spaces on the second story of the house include: two full bedrooms, a large media room and office space, and one full bathroom. A small door on the western side of the second floor provides access to the attic staircase. The second floor originally had two fireplaces from the house's central chimney, but these were later removed. The master bedroom, over the parlor, also has plaster walls and a chair rail, but all other second floor rooms also have plank walls.

Farm buildings

The land was historically used for agriculture and a hand-drawn map of the property and structures as they appeared in the 1920s showed a large barn, hop house, and chicken coop. Unfortunately, these structures are no longer standing. Only one historic agricultural building survives. This is a twentieth-century wood-frame garage used to house farm equipment and wagons. The building is currently used as a chicken coop. The property also contains a small wooden threshing barn, similar to the type that would probably have been constructed on this farm in its early years. The barn was moved to the site from another property in the town of Hartwick and reconstructed on site by the current owner. Although the barn is old, appropriately sited, and relatively rare, it does not retain sufficient integrity to qualify for listing because later historic additions to the barn, such as a basement added to house cows, were left behind during the move and other features, such as the

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity, Otsego Co., NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

siding, were changed. The barn is non-contributing. A pottery shed and kiln are also recent additions to the property; both non-contributing.

Mathewson Family Cemetery

The small Mathewson family burial ground, used by the family from 1813 to 1850, is located to the south of the house. The overgrown plot is surrounded by a cut stone wall and features eight headstones. A large tree near the center of the burial ground has caused several stones to shift, and erosion has occurred due to weather over the years. Most of the eight stones are simple, rectangular, limestone markers; however, that of the two Mathewson daughters who died within days of each other is larger and much more detailed, with urns, stars and other decorative motifs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse is significant under criterion C as an excellent and well preserved example of a New England plan farmhouse of the early national period. In form, plan and style, the house is an intact representative example of New England regional architecture carried to New York by a migrating family. The two-story wood-frame building is five bay wide and two bays deep, featuring a central chimney flanked by rooms on either side and three rooms across the rear, a typical New England plan. The building is especially interesting because of its vertical plank framing, a New England construction technique that was also popular in New York in areas with New English settlement and surpluses of wood. The house is especially distinguished by its fine Federal era paneled fireplace surround and overmantel, as well as its large intact kitchen hearth. It is somewhat unusual because nearly all of its interior rooms are finished in wide, vertical board planks, some with beaded edges. Only the parlor features fully plastered walls, a chair rail and a fully detailed decorative mantle. The form and plan of the house, as well as the use of interior plank walls, recall common Rhode Island building traditions that the Mathewsons probably carried from their original home. The farmhouse is also significant under criterion A as it reflects patterns of local and regional settlement. Beginning with David Mathewson, a Rhode Island native who settled the land in 1796, it served as the core of a farmstead through 1943. Here migrants from New England in the early national period and immigrants from eastern Europe in the early twentieth century lived and worked the same 125-acre farm. The Bice family (originally Bajec), the second significant occupants of the farm, were eastern European immigrants who purchased the farm in 1913 and successfully farmed the property until 1943. Although reduced to just under 40 acres, the house, one remaining outbuilding, and the Mathewson family cemetery serve as physical manifestations of the early settlement and subsequent development of this agricultural area. The Mathewson Family Cemetery is additionally significant for the information it provides about one of the town's founding families.

Town of Hartwick

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

What is now the town of Hartwick was part of the territory controlled by Mohawk Valley native groups until 1763, when the land was purchased by John Hartwick. The Susquehanna River forms the east border of the town line, and the Otsego Creek forms the western border. William Cooper (of nearby Cooperstown) originally leased land in the area from John Hartwick in 1791 and later sold parcels of it to New England settlers from 1794-1799. Nine of the men Cooper sold this land to owned farms of over 200 acres in size; the rest owned modest parcels of land similar to the 125 acres that Cooper sold to Rhode Island native David Mathewson. From 1794 to 1802, land in the area that is now Hartwick went through many changes in ownership, with less than half of the original Hartwick landowners remaining by 1802. The Mathewson land, however, remained in the hands of long-term owners, serving several successive generations of different family farmers through the mid twentieth century.

Mathewson Family

David Mathewson purchased his land in the town of Hartwick from William Cooper for 50 pounds on July 11, 1796. This transaction was recorded in the Otsego County recorder's office on December 18, 1801. David Mathewson was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on May 11, 1760. His great-grandfather, James Mathewson, was born in England in the 1620s. James and his wife, Hannah Field, moved to the colony of Rhode Island before the birth of David's grandfather, John, in 1668. David's parents were New Englanders – his father was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1708. David married Betsey Smith in 1785 and moved his family to Otsego County from Rhode Island after the Revolutionary War. The Mathewsons were part of a large wave of New Englanders who headed west into New York after the war in search of larger and more fertile farmland. David Mathewson constructed the nominated house near the center of his 125-acre parcel in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. While the exact date of the house's construction has not yet been determined, the style, method of construction, and plan of the house suggest that it was constructed shortly after the land was purchased in 1796.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

David Mathewson's will, dated April 7, 1822, indicates his desire to leave the farmstead to his sons, David Jr. and Laban. David also made provisions for his widow in his will. Mathewson left Betsey with "one room from my dwelling house, she having her choice, and two beds and bedding, also one-third of my household furniture." This stipulation, a common one in the period, may explain the creation of a secondary cooking fireplace in the rear room behind the center chimney. Here a small fireplace was altered to include a crane for cooking sometime in the nineteenth century. If Betsey had chosen this room after her husband's death, the space may have been adapted to serve all her needs, including food preparation. David's probate inventory illustrates the success of the Mathewson family farm, listing numerous cows (several of which he left to his wife and daughters), horses, swine, fifty bushels of apples, thirty-five casks of cider, 196 pounds of cheese, 44 bushels of oats, and 100 pounds of hog's lard. This success was continued by his son Laban, who, during his time as a farmer, was also the Hartwick town supervisor. Laban was awarded several premiums for various crops, including best ten rods of carrots and second best acre of oats, by the Otsego County Agricultural Society in 1846. After retiring (c1854), Laban and his wife moved to New Jersey.

Mathewson Family Cemetery

As was typical for farm families in the settlement period, the Mathewson family set aside a small portion of farmland as a family burial ground. The cemetery, which is located at a distance from the house to the south, was first used in March 1813, when two of the Mathewson daughters (Rhoda and Mary) died within one day of each other. David Mathewson was buried there in early 1823, after his death on December 31, 1822. His wife, Betsey, was laid to rest in 1841. Lucina Roberts, another daughter of David Mathewson, was buried in October 1822, and two of Lucina's children were buried in the cemetery in the mid-1830s. The final burial occurred in 1850, when David Mathewson Jr. died. There are no markers for Laban Mathewson and his wife, who had retired to New Jersey and must have been buried near their new home. The small family cemetery contains eight gravestones and is enclosed by a low cut-stone wall, its stone similar to that used for the house foundation. The wall tightly encloses the eight graves, suggesting that the builders intended to restrict it to a few family

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

members. As a near complete record of the Mathewson family's occupation of the farm, the cemetery provides important information about the town's settlement.

Later nineteenth century history

In 1854, Laban Mathewson sold the house and 125 acres of land to Isaac and Sabra Tucker. The Tucker family owned the land for thirteen years, continuing its use as an agricultural homestead. The Tuckers sold the land and house to David A. Russell in 1867. David Russell and his family were the next significant owners of the farm, and it became known as the David Russell Farm in local print sources. Future deeds regarding the sale of this parcel of land reference it as "being the homestead farm of the late David Russell." Russell and subsequent owners continued to use the land and any associated outbuildings for agricultural purposes. According to the 1875 New York state census, the Russells farmed 100 of the 125 acres, leaving 25 acres of woodland unimproved. Crops from the Russell farmstead for 1874 included 125 bushels of potatoes, 250 bushels of Indian corn, 300 bushels of apples, 50 pounds of maple sugar, 50 pounds of wool, and 1,200 pounds of pork.

Bice Family

After a brief period of ownership from 1907-1913 by Oliver and Margaret Clayton, the 125 acres was sold to John Bajec (later known as Bice) in 1913. The Bajec/Bice family came from Eastern Europe and initially lived and worked as "operatives" (probably industrial workers) according to the city directory for Little Falls, New York, before moving to Otsego County and purchasing the farmstead. Photographs from the mid to late 1920s show the Bice family in various settings on the land and around the house and verify the addition of a small woodshed on the eastern side of the house in this period. These photographs are the earliest known images of the site.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

The 1920s proved to be a very successful decade for John and Mary Bice's farmstead. The 1920 federal census notes that the Bajec family lived on Grange Road, and their house was valued at \$2,000.¹ Photos of the house from the early to mid-1920s provide visual evidence of the improvements and expansions made to the building. These pictures, taken by the Bice family, also show the wide variety of agricultural activities that the family was engaged in throughout the 1920s. One of the family's photographs shows John, as a successful farmer, standing in front of a large stack of hay, surrounded by hens and multiple grain bags. Other images include hogs from the farm, numerous types of poultry, and several farm wagons.

While it is unknown what condition the house was in when the Bices purchased it in 1913, mid-1920s images show a house that appears to have been improved and very well kept. A photograph dated 1927 shows the south and west-facing facades of the house; the two-over-two sash windows are trimmed with bright white wooden frames that contrast against the darker wooden siding on the house. This white trim is continued in the panels and perimeter of the front door and around the base of the house near the foundation line. The roof appears structurally sound with no wear or missing shingles. Similarly, the siding of the house is clean and appears undamaged. Mrs. Bice stands outside the front door with a broom, while a stray chicken and a horse-drawn farm wagon sit by the western wall of the house. A 1940 rural survey showed that the Bice farm continued to thrive, noting that the farm had more than 12 cows and between 100 and 500 poultry. The accompanying survey map showed that the Bice house was the only one on the road and that the house did not connect to an electrical line.² The Bices continued to farm until 1943, when John retired.

John and Mary Bice sold the house and 125 acres of land in 1943 to August and Stanley Konchar, neighboring farmers in the town of Hartwick. The parcel began to be subdivided after 1947; future conveyances included the house and 1.6 acres rather than the original 125 acres surveyed. The original 125 acres also began to shift

¹ At some point the road was renamed Bice Road

² 1940 *Special Classified Rural Register Compass System Map, Otsego County, New York* (Ithaca: Rural Surveys, Inc., 1940).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

from active farmland to residential beginning in the mid-twentieth century, with development of modern residences on neighboring parcels from the 1960s to the present. The current homeowners have purchased back just over 37 acres of the original 125 and lease the land to local farmers for haying. Although not illustrative of the farm's agricultural history, the nominated land provides an appropriate and intact historic setting for the farmhouse and cemetery.

Architecture

Available evidence suggests that this house was built c1800 or a few years earlier. The farmhouse is an example of the most typical late eighteenth century-early nineteenth century house form erected in New York by settlers of New England origins. The building is five bays wide and two bays deep with a massive center chimney. It is constructed of heavy timber post and beam framing with plank-framed walls and wood clapboard siding. The interior plan is organized with three primary spaces dispersed around the center chimney, each with a fireplace. Derived from ancient English building traditions, this house form had become well established in southeastern New England by the first decade of the seventeenth century and was probably common in Providence, Rhode Island, the original home of David Mathewson. Farmhouses in this period often served as production centers for the farm, and the center-chimney type afforded a practical plan in which the large first floor rooms could be adapted for multiple purposes. At the same time, the center-entrance facades reflected the eighteenth-century preference for symmetry. In New England, the floor plan with entrance lobby and stairs was so persistent that in some places it continued to be built after the chimney itself had been moved to other locations.

Although this form can be built in a variety of different sizes, the two-room-deep, two-room-wide version with a full two stories was the largest variation and indicated some degree of wealth on the part of the occupant. Other differences in wealth were expressed in more finely crafted embellishment, such as paneling, woodwork,

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

and balusters.³ In the Mathewson house, the very fine wood mantel and fireplace surround is another indication of the wealth or status of the owners, while several of the motifs, such as the sawn Greek key molding, are familiar Rhode Island motifs.⁴ The Mathewson house was also constructed with thick, hand-hewn vertical planks attached to a heavy wood timber frame, a popular option for timber-framed houses in New England and parts of New York well into the nineteenth century. In this case they are nailed to the exterior of the plate, whereas other times they fit into a groove or are nailed to the inside. Some believe that plank framing required less skill in joinery and/or could exploit natural resources in heavily wooded areas. Considering the house's early date, either of these theories can explain the choice made by the Mathewson family to use this method of framing for their home. Perhaps most influential was the strong tradition of plank framed houses among New Englanders.

A threshing barn currently standing on the property to the east of the main house is considered a non-contributing building. Although the farm probably featured a similar barn, this example was moved in the early twenty first century and reconstructed on site. And, although the moved barn is of the same period as the house, it lost several of its historic features in the move and is thus no longer intact. A small shed, constructed and used by the present owner as a pottery studio, is also non-contributing. A smaller wood-frame building to the southwest of the main house, however, is a contributing building. Currently used as a chicken coop, the building was an early twentieth-century garage used to house automobiles and farm wagons and machinery by the Bice family. The Bice family's chicken coop had a stone foundation and was located to the southeast of the house; this is now used as a garden area, and the building no longer exists.

³ Nora Pat Small, "New England Farmhouses in the Early Republic: Rhetoric and Reality," *Shaping Communities: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VI*, ed. Carter L. Hudgins and Elizabeth Collins Cromley (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997), 35-42.

⁴ At least one well known Rhode Island carver, Joshua Wilbur [or Wilbour], migrated from Newport to Exeter, Otsego County c1802; however, no works of his have been identified in Otsego County to date. Richard Slaney, "Jo;Wilbur"
<http://www.netris.org/RIToolmakers/Wilbur/JoWilburArticle.html>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

The Mathewson-Bice farmhouse is an example of a regional architectural type and a distinctive early nineteenth century framing technique. The farmhouse and land represent early national period patterns of westward expansion and settlement. The use of the surrounding land for agriculture and the creation of a family burial plot is indicative of typical settlement practices in the post-Revolutionary United States. A variety of immigrants (from New England and also from Eastern Europe) occupied the house and land over a period of roughly 150 years and continued to farm the 125-acre plot. The farm, settled by David Mathewson, later became the homestead farm of David A. Russell and later of John and Mary Bice. By the time the Bices sold the property in 1943, Grange Road, which transected the property, had been renamed Bice Road after the farm's last significant owners. The Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and Mathewson Family Cemetery represent the long history of settlement in the town of Hartwick along with the specific history of the several families who lived here. The house itself remained remarkably intact over this long period and represents settlement era construction methods and styles.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Cummings, Abbott Lowell. *The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay, 1625-1725*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1979.

“For Sale: The David Russell Farm.” *The Otsego Farmer*, February 16, 1906.

Garvin, James L. *A Building History of Northern New England*. Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 2001.

Jordan, Stephen B. “Houses Without Frames: The Uncommon Technique of Plank Construction.” *Old House Journal* 21, no. 3 (1993): 36-41.

Lewandoski, Jan Leo. “The Plank Framed House in Northeastern Vermont.” *Vermont History* 53, no. 2 (1985): 104-121.

Noble, Allen G. *Traditional Buildings: A Global Survey of Structural Forms and Cultural Functions*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd., 2007.

“Plank-And-Beam Framing for Residential Buildings.” American Wood Council (2003): 1-34.

The Inspector’s Journal. “Plank Framing Discussion Forum.”
http://www.inspectorsjournal.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=9177.

The Old House Web. “Old houses: plank construction.”
<http://www.oldhouseweb.com/how-to-advice/boxhouse-plank-construction.shtml>.

Small, Nora Pat. “New England Farmhouses in the Early Republic: Rhetoric and Reality.” *Shaping Communities: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, VI*, ed. Carter L. Hudgins and Elizabeth Collins Cromley. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997. 35-42.

Upton, Dell. “Architectural Change in Colonial Rhode Island: The Mott House as a Case Study.” *Old-Time New England* 69, no. 225 (1979): 18-33.

Williams, Michael Ann. “Pride and Prejudice: The Appalachian Boxed House in Southwestern North Carolina.” *Winterthur Portfolio* 25, no. 4 (1990): 217-230.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

UTM Coordinates

1. 501456/4727174
2. 501735/4726830
3. 501765/4726528
4. 501565/4726508
5. 501424/4726707
6. 501163/4726943
7. 501204/4727154

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the largest intact parcel of land historically associated with the Mathewson-Bice farm that still retains integrity. While surrounded by more contemporary development, the nominated property retains an intact rural setting typical of a farm.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and
Mathewson Family Cemetery
Cooperstown Vicinity Otsego County, NY

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 1

Photographer, Photos 1,2, 3,4, 6: Jessica Mayercin
Student, Cooperstown Graduate Program
Box 800
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Date : 2012

Photographer: Photos 5,6,7,8: Cynthia Falk
Professor, Cooperstown Graduate Program
Box 800
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Date: 2013

Tiff Files: CD-R of .tiff files on file at
National Park Service
Washington DC

and

New York SHPO
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188

Photo List:

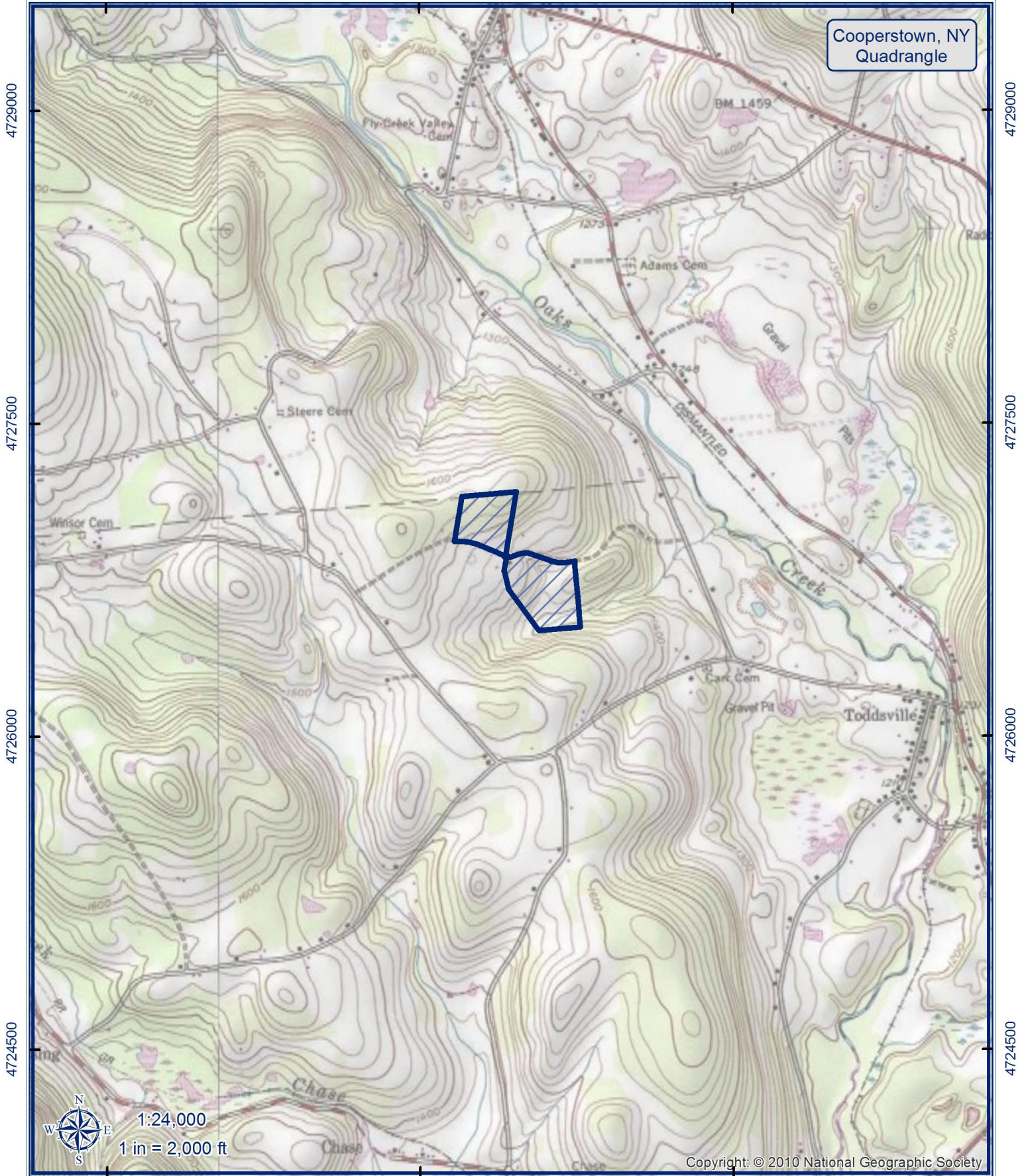
1. façade, looking north
2. side (east) and rear (north) elevations)
3. interior, kitchen with hearth
4. interior, kitchen, detail of plank walls
5. interior, parlor
6. contributing farm building
7. Mathewson Family Cemetery
8. David Mathewson's gravemarker
9. Mathewson children's gravemarker

See continuation sheet

Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse & Mathewson Family Cemetery
Town of Hartwick, Otsego County, NY

204 Bice Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Cooperstown, NY
Quadrangle



Copyright: © 2010 National Geographic Society

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

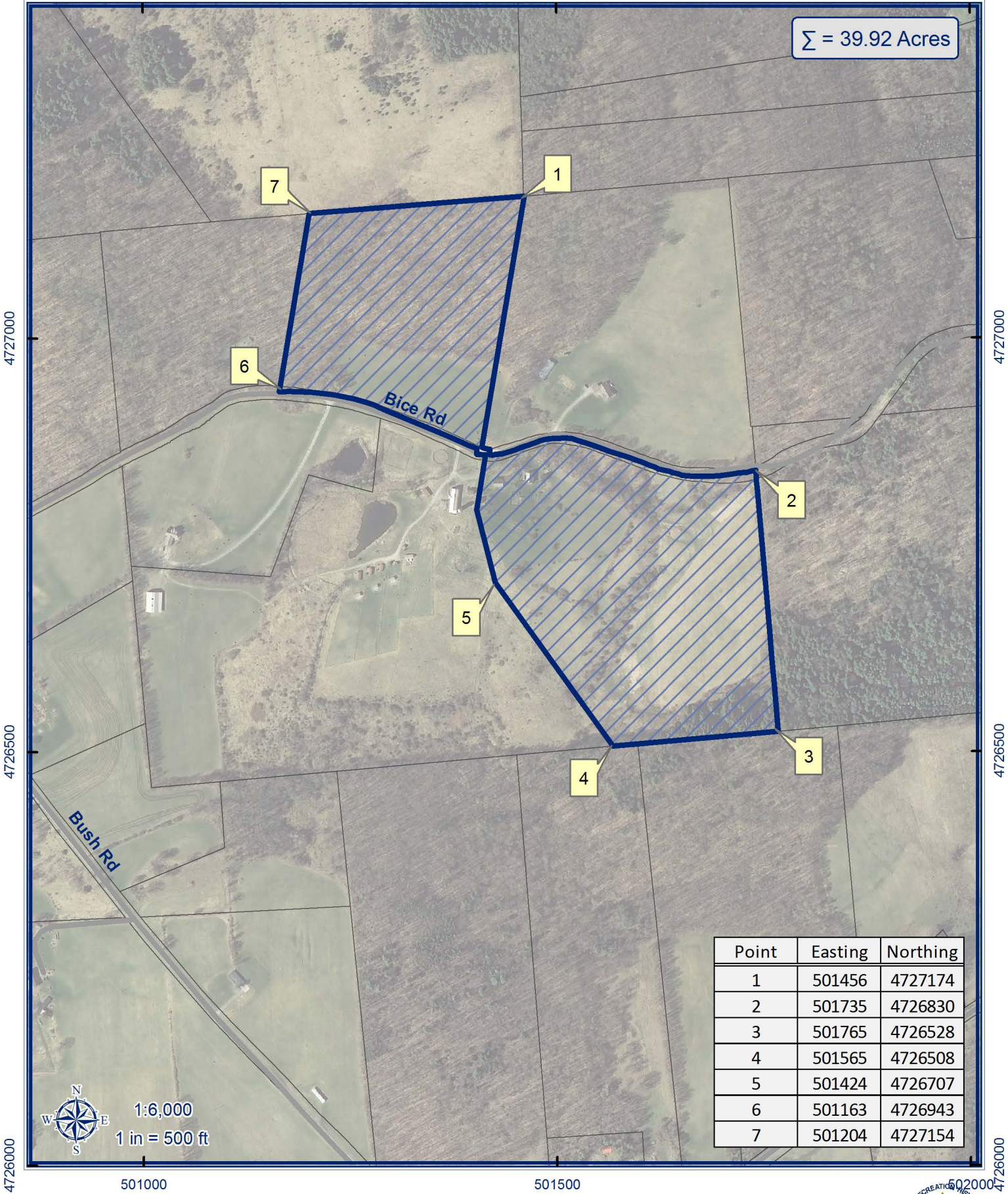


 Farmhouse & Cemetery

Tax Parcel Data:
Otsego Co. RPS
<http://imo.otsegocounty.com>



$\Sigma = 39.92$ Acres



Point	Easting	Northing
1	501456	4727174
2	501735	4726830
3	501765	4726528
4	501565	4726508
5	501424	4726707
6	501163	4726943
7	501204	4727154

1:6,000
 1 in = 500 ft

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



Farmhouse & Cemetery

Tax Parcel Data:
 Otsego Co. RPS
<http://imo.otsegocounty.com>

















UNIDENTIFIED

1861 - 1921

STONE

MARKER



RODA
MATHIEU
D. 1860
D. 1860



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mathewson--Bice Farmhouse and Mathewson Family Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Otsego

DATE RECEIVED: 4/12/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/06/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/21/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/29/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000331

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 5-28-13 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.



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



29 March 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 four National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register. Two of these are submitted on disc. They are:

H.A. Meldrum Company Building, Erie County
Mathewson-Bice Farmhouse and Mathewson Family Cemetery

The other two are submitted on paper. They are:

Lagrange District School No. 3., Dutchess County
Keith & Branch Ford Motors Factory & Showroom

Hopefully, as everyone catches up, we will soon be submitting everything on disc. 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