

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name STEVENS HILL FARM

other names/site number STEVENS FARM

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 4082 GRAPEVILLE ROAD

city or town GREENVILLE

state NEW YORK code NY county GREENE code 039 zip code 12083

not for publication

vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide X local
Rep. David Mackay Date 9/19/2018
Signature of certifying official/Title
DSHPV
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
X entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____
Alex Obernolte Date of Action 11/9/18
Signature of the Keeper

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5. Classification

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

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding; agricultural field

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: ASPHALT, METAL

other: GLASS, BRICK

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Stevens Hill Farm is located a short distance east of the hamlet of Greenville in the Town of Greenville, Greene County, New York, and is situated on a prominent rise of land known by the name Stevens Hill. This vernacular Hudson Valley farmstead, located northeast of the Catskill Mountains in northern Greene County near its border with Albany County, consists of five principal historic-era features. Principal among these is the house, originally built ca. 1800 and modified during the cited period of significance (ca. 1800-ca. 1950). It exhibits physical features expressive of the Greek Revival style along with those representative of other eras and design modes. Foremost among the secondary resources is the main barn complex, the core component of which is a timber-framed three-bay English barn, to which extensions were subsequently added so as to form an L-shaped construct creating an east and south-facing barnyard. There is additionally a light-frame carriage barn/garage; a small light-frame shed; and a building which now serves as a small outbuilding, the eastern portion of which was by traditional accounts the house's original ca. 1800 kitchen ell, removed and replaced a century later by a more commodious iteration. The nominated dwelling was erected as a story-and-a-half gable ended construct with rear kitchen ell but was reworked in the Greek Revival style near the mid-nineteenth century point by the Stevens family—the house had been built, or was otherwise owned previously, by the Reed family—and was yet more substantially altered ca. 1900, at which time the present rear ell was added. The interior of the house retains any number of historic spatial and finish features which speak to a variety of periods and the continuing prosperity of the farm under the management of the Stevens family, which lived there and improved the adjoining lands during the course of multiple generations, beginning in the 1820s and extending to recent times. Many of these features, such as the principal staircase, are expressive of the mid-century Greek Revival-style updating; others, such as the fielded panel doors and associated casings in the front hallway and the mantel in the dining room, date to an earlier period in the house's history, while those in the ell are representative of contemporary Late Victorian era tastes. The nominated property, the core of the historic-era farmstead which was improved by the Stevens farm during the course of their occupancy, particularly during the period ca. 1850-1900, remains with its principal architectural features intact; there are no non-contributing resources included within the boundary, which consists of approximately 18 acres of historically associated land, the remaining historic acreage having been in large measure sold off and developed.

Narrative Description

Setting & Location

The nominated property, the Stevens Hill Farm, straddles Grapeville Road (County Route 26A), east of State Route 32 and the hamlet of Greenville in northern Greene County, New York. The portion of the property which contains the house and outbuildings is situated north of Grapeville Road and west of that road's intersection with Turon Road; the balance of the property, which contains no built features and instead consists entirely of

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undeveloped former farm land, is located to the south of the road and is bounded on its southern border by a short road spur which connects State Route 81 with Grapeville Road. A crushed stone driveway with teardrop-shaped turnaround provides vehicular access to the house and outbuildings from Grapeville Road; it passes in front of and then to the west of the house, which is oriented with its principal elevation facing southwards though tending slightly to the east. Of the various historic buildings which the property contains the dwelling is located closest to the road, with the main barn being situated to the north of and behind the house, just beyond the unpaved turnaround. Two smaller outbuildings, a shed and a carriage barn/garage, are located on the western edge of the driveway and are directly accessible from it; a third outbuilding, part of which once served as the house's original kitchen ell, is located to the east of it, a short distance from the main barn. A total of 15.29 acres of land are located within the nomination boundary, which straddles Grapeville Road.

Moving eastward out of the hamlet of Greenville, Grapeville Road begins to rise steadily in a pronounced manner before flattening out in the vicinity of the nominated property, and it is this physical characteristic which presumably lent this location its given name, Stevens Hill. The property's landscape in the vicinity of the house and outbuildings is characterized by generally open flat expanses framed by dense stands of deciduous and coniferous trees; a number of mature maple trees are present between the road and the house, the perimeter of which is embellished with decorative plantings. A long and handsomely crafted stone wall approaching nearly 500' in length serves as a part of the property's northern boundary, and there is a second wall of this type, though much shorter, located near the barn complex's southeast corner. South of the Grapeville Road the landscape opens up in the form of fields framed by woods and hills, beyond which loom the distinctive raised landforms of the Blackhead Range of the northern Catskill Mountains. The overall character of the larger setting inclusive of the nominated property is largely agrarian in sentiment, though not without some level of modern residential development, and different in character from the nearby hamlet, which features more concentrated physical development.

Resource List

The following is an annotated list of the five buildings contained within the boundary of the Stevens Hill Farm; all of these resources are considered contributing to the nomination and fall within the cited period of significance, ca. 1800- ca. 1950. There are additionally two sections of stone wall which constitute contributing structures, and thus the nomination has seven contributing features.

Reed-Stevens House, ca. 1800/ca. 1850/ ca. 1900/ ca. 1950 (1 contributing building)

The dwelling consists of two sections, the gable-roofed main block, which is a story-and-a-half timber frame building with a southward facing five-bay façade with center entrance and end-gable configuration; and a one-and-one-half story light frame ell that extends northward from it and which was built to replace an earlier kitchen wing.

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The main section was built ca. 1800, though by some accounts it includes a much earlier and smaller mid-eighteenth century dwelling which was aggrandized, a point which remains unconfirmed. The ell was added ca. 1900 to replace an earlier and smaller one. These two sections were positioned so as to form an irregular and roughly L-shaped footprint, with the west elevation of the ell projecting forward from the west gable end of the main block; a porch with enclosed sleeping room above marks that intersection. There is additionally a small shed-roofed bump out that extends from the rear of the main block at its northeast corner.

The façade of the main block in large measure presents a Greek Revival-style appearance, the result of a ca. 1850 stylistic reworking of the dwelling following its purchase by the Stevens family. The main entrance is shielded beneath a hip-roofed wood porch of Picturesque inspiration, which has lattice-like posts with sinuous jig-sawn foliate embellishment and an open-work frieze. The windows which flank the center entrance, two to either side at first-story level, feature two different treatments. Those to the west of the door are hung with six-over-six wood sash while those to the east have two-over-two wood. All have plain wood casings spanned by simple drip caps and corresponding storm windows. Arranged above these in the vertical plane (as well as in the center bay above the door) are five smaller three-light casement windows which are incorporated into the deep frieze, which is located immediately below a boxed wood cornice. The foundation on the façade features large rectangular-shaped stone laid in courses. The entrance door is a vertical six-panel type, with a glazed and paneled storm door in front, and it is flanked by narrow full-length sidelights which rise from floor level, above which is aligned a moulded wood ogee-form cornice. Stone steps approach the wood-floored porch from grade. The exterior of the house is clad with wood clapboard and the main roof and that of the porch are covered with asphalt architectural shingles which mimic the irregular effect of a wood shingle roof. Slender brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge, set slightly in from the east and west gable ends.

The east gable end of the main block is two bays deep with two windows located at both first and half-story level. A bulkhead door is located beneath the northernmost bay and provides at-grade access to the basement. Cornice returns terminate the frieze and boxed cornice of the façade, as is the case on the opposite west gable elevation. Centered within the gable field is a rectangular-shaped vent with wood louvers in a sunburst pattern, a motif which is repeated on the opposite west elevation.

The rear, or north, elevation of the main block is partially obscured by the ell and additionally by the small bump out at the northeast corner, the latter which has a steeply pitched shed roof, a small window center on its north wall, and a distinctive chip-carved cornice. Between the bump out and the east elevation of the rear ell is a door which provides access to the main block; it is flanked by windows which are fitted with two-over-two wood sash. There is additionally a window fitted with six-over-six wood sash corresponding with the upper level, it being offset in

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relation to the fenestration below. The deep frieze is carried around the rear elevation of the main block to where it engages the ell but the cornice is not; it is instead terminated a short distance beyond the cornice return, presumably since it was not visible from the principal thoroughfare.

The east-facing elevation of the ell exhibits asymmetrical fenestration, which, at first-story level, consists of three windows fitted with two-over-two wood sash with corresponding storm windows and a smaller window of more recent age. The three larger windows have wood casings with moulded crowns, and the same treatment was used for the two casement windows that are located above the first two first-story windows moving south to north. Fenestration on the ell's north-facing gable includes a door at first-story level, located adjacent to the northeast corner, to the west of which is a four-light casement window, and two windows fitted with two-over-two wood sash which correspond with the half-story. There is additionally a louvered vent positioned just below the gable's apex. The ell has corner boards and wood fascia with boxed and moulded cornice above. A brick chimney rises from the ridge of the ell approximately halfway between the main block and north gable end.

The house's west elevation consists of the gable end of the main block and the side wall of the ell. Roughly half of the main block's gable end is obscured behind a screened-in porch which marks the intersection of the two blocks and which has an enclosed sleeping porch above, communicating with both the main block and ell internally. There are two six-over-six wood sash windows located at first-story level, one contained within the porch area, and one at second-story level; a second window at this level was later converted into a door leading to the sleeping room. The flat-roofed porch is sustained by wood Tuscan-order columns with *entasis*, behind which is the armature to which screening was affixed. The sleeping room above the porch is a small flat-roofed enclosure which is lighted by window bands. Five windows correspond with the ell, three at first-story level—one of which is in an angled bay within the porch—and two at half-story level, four of which are fitted with two-over-two sash. There is additionally a short section of wall adjacent to the angled window bay which constitutes the south elevation of the ell; it has a south-facing glazed and paneled door of a Queen Anne-style type.

As with the exterior of the house, the interior maintains a high level of physical integrity to the historic period and represents, in its spatial features and finishes, a number of distinctive stylistic periods and the building's physical evolution. These include remaining finishes from the original ca. 1800 building campaign, which reflect Federal-style aesthetics; the ca. 1850 reworking, with features expressive of the Greek Revival style; and elements which post-date the Civil War and which are generally characteristic of the Late Victorian era. The existing ell was built ca. 1900 and replaced a smaller existing wing, presumably original to the ca. 1800 construct, which was moved to a nearby location at the time the new ell was constructed (see "Former Kitchen Ell & Greenhouse").

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The main block's floor plan is two rooms deep. The front half of the plan at first-floor level consists of a wide center hall with an open-stringer staircase aligning a portion of the east partition wall. On the east side of the plan, in the southeast corner, is a roughly square-shaped room which served as a parlor, while on the west side of the plan the front and rear rooms have direct communication and lack a corresponding partition. The central room in the rear portion of the plan is given over to a dining room, with smaller spaces to the immediate east, including a pantry which corresponds with the rear bump out at the northeast corner. As for the ell, it contains a kitchen, a room which now serves as a den, in addition to a bathroom and mudroom corresponding with a door on the rear elevation. Upstairs, the main block features four bedrooms symmetrically disposed east and west of the hallway, which on this floor is a full through passage, running the depth from front to back; a range of closets located between the front and rear rooms provides storage space. The upper floor of the ell has an additional bedroom, a room which presently serves as an office, two bathrooms, and a staircase which leads to the room adjacent to the kitchen below. The upper sleeping room, above the west porch, is accessed from the northwest bed room of the main block and can additionally be accessed from the southwest room of the ell.

Among the house's notable interior spaces is the main block's dining room, which contrasts flat plaster-on-lath wall and ceiling finish (the walls are presently wall papered) with hardwood strip flooring laid in a parquet pattern and vertical six-panel doors with white porcelain knobs and back-banded flat ogee trim; the doors and architraves feature faux-grain painting in what would appear to be imitation of quarter-sawn oak. Centered against the east wall is a seemingly anachronistic feature, a Federal-style wood mantel piece, faux-grained to match the remaining grained woodwork; it is not positioned so as to relate to a functioning fireplace and instead appears to have been moved to this location strictly for aesthetic purposes. The southeast room, a formal parlor, has window casings dating to the ca. 1850 campaign and an expressed corner post which is boxed and beaded, and which with those in the hallway (now located behind shelving) indicates the house was erected with a four-bent frame. The window on the east wall features flat ogee trim that forms a full surround which is bisected below window level by a wood sill. There are additionally simple beaded baseboards.

Other noteworthy spaces include the main block's entrance hall, the principal point of access to the dwelling historically. The open stringer staircase, which rises from north to south, features a turned newel post which, along with the balusters—which are turned at their bottom and delicately tapered as they rise to meet the handrail—comport with a ca. 1850 date and the modifications undertaken at that time. Nevertheless, the doors into the two front rooms from the hall are of a four-panel type (the opposite side is five-paneled) with fielded panels, and are finished with back-banded architraves. These, like the dining room mantel, represent the original ca. 1800 building campaign. Also of note is the wood mantelpiece in the first-floor west room, which exhibits Greek Revival-style characteristics. Interior doors include those of four, five and six-paneled configuration. The majority of the doors

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are of a vertical six-panel type with hardware generally consisting of rim locks with brown or white porcelain knobs, and many hung on two-finger lift hinges. There is additionally a door of this general type with glazed upper panels, located in the northwest corner of the upstairs hallway; it functions to bring borrowed light into the adjacent cross hall, which also has access to the attic by means of an enclosed staircase. Some of the upstairs rim locks have patent dates from the mid-1860s, suggesting that, if in fact original, they were not part of the ca. 1850 remodeling. In some areas of the house original wide plank flooring has been replaced with narrow strip flooring such as in the dining room and first floor and upstairs hallways.

The kitchen in the ell features typical finishes for that section's ca. 1900 date of construction and the Late Victorian era. The walls are covered with narrow vertical softwood bead-board, deeply varnished, and doorways are fitted with vertical six-panel doors which are trimmed with architraves with roundel corner blocks. Against the south wall there remains the original kitchen cabinetry, consisting of drawers with white porcelain knobs, above which are beaded-board cupboards with original cast-iron hinges and slide latches. The room to the west of the kitchen also features finishes typical of this era, with wood trim matching that in the kitchen along with a Queen Anne-style door which leads to the porch.

The upstairs bathroom in the ell was refurbished in 1923 as per Stevens family sources, and it has features which reflect Art Deco influence, among them cut-glass door knobs with distinctively styled escutcheon plates with cut glass knobs, a beveled door mirror, and green and black ceramic tile.

Both the basement and attic are unfinished. The roof framing of the main block was rebuilt at some point, given it was constructed with sawn dimensional lumber; the gable end framing is nevertheless intact and indicates that the original roof pitch was maintained at the time of reconstruction. Insulation presently obscures other aspects of the frame, namely the top plates and their intersection with the rafters. In the basement the framing consists of square hewn timbers and partially hewn log timbers. Below the staircase to the basement is a stone base that may have functioned at one time as a fireplace support during an earlier spatial configuration. Other evidence of an earlier spatial configuration includes a floor patch in the northeast bedroom, which suggests a former stair portal that was later closed off, perhaps when the existing stair was constructed.

Main Barn Complex, ca. 1850/ca. 1870/ca. 1900 (contributing building)

This large L-plan barn complex is located immediately north of the house, and it consists of a central main section—the earliest, built in characteristic English barn fashion—from which extends, to the south, a long shed extension incorporating reused timbers and, to the east, a second gable-roofed section the south wall of which is

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recessed from that of the adjacent core section. All sections and their corresponding frames are sheathed with wood clapboard and have metal shingle roofs.

The main section was erected above a low rubble stone foundation and has an earthen ramp on its south elevation which accesses the barn's central drive floor by means of a pair of large track-mounted sliding batten doors; east of these doors is a small square-shaped aperture fitted with a batten door. A glazed cupola, square in plan with an intersecting gable roof and squat two-over-two wood windows, is centered on the roof ridge but offset in its relationship to the doors; it provided for natural light and ventilation. The shed ell is long and narrow. On its east elevation there are three open bays, their shape dictated by the vertical posts and angled braces of the frame, near where this section and the main section engage (a human door provides for access to the main barn from the open bays), in addition to three loft doors above and a single glazed window and a batten door located near the southeast corner. On the south gable elevation there is a large sliding door corresponding with grade level, above which is a loft door and above that a glazed nine-light casement situated just below the gable's peak. Fenestration on the ell's west elevation is asymmetrical and consists of two windows fitted with six-over-six sash and a sliding door corresponding with the lower level, and two loft doors above. As for the east section, its south elevation has two doors and two windows corresponding with the lower area and a larger hay door corresponding with the loft.

The main section's interior layout reflects a standard English barn configuration, with four principal bents defining a characteristic three-bay floor plan, in this instance given over to a central drive floor with one of the outer bays given over to a hay mow and the opposite one to stables with a hay loft above. Framing members consist of sawn hemlock and the joinery was cut on the standardized square rule; studding accommodates the exterior sheathing. The absence of a ridge-mounted hay track and the manner in which the posts which support the purlins were not designed to accommodate one—there are lateral ties between these posts which on earlier buildings were typically cut out, or which were omitted when tracks were an integral design feature—is suggestive of a pre-1860 date of construction, at which time such tracks came into increasing usage, as is the use of studding and clapboard and not vertical board sheathing. The framing in the shed ell that extends to the south of the core section is also of standardized square-rule construction and any number of framing components show clear evidence of having been reused from an earlier construct in the form of empty mortises which don't comport with the existing framing. The rafters are of a circular-sawn dimensional type. The east addition includes, on the southeast side of the plan, wood stanchions.

Carriage Barn/Garage, ca. 1900 (contributing building)

This outbuilding is located northwest of the house and can be accessed by means of the driveway which enters the property from Grapeville Road and which splits into a tight loop at the rear of the dwelling. It is a self-contained

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gable roof building, erected above a rectangular plan and oriented with one of its gables facing southwards to serve as the principal elevation. Large bays with paired track-mounted sliding batten doors accommodate access to the open interior on both the south and north gables. On the principal south elevation these are flanked by windows with six-over-six sash, and identical windows are also positioned above so as to bring natural light into the loft. The rear doors are flanked by taller windows fitted with nine-over-nine wood sash, presumably reused from an earlier application. The frame, which is of a platform type composed of sawn hemlock dimensional lumber, is sheathed on the exterior with wood clapboard; metal shingles cover the roof. The building presently sits on a concrete pad.

Shed ca. 1900 (contributing building)

This small light-frame building is located immediately southwest of the carriage barn/garage and was erected above a square plan. It has a medium-pitched gable roof and was oriented with its principal gable-front elevation facing eastwards. This building's dimensional lumber frame is clad with wood novelty siding, and the roof is covered with metal shingles. Two track-mounted sliding doors provide access to the interior on the principal elevation, and there are two windows fitted with six-over-six wood sash on the south elevation.

Former Kitchen Ell & Greenhouse, ca. 1800/ca. 1940 (contributing building)

This building consists of two distinctive gable-roofed sections, the easternmost of which was the house's original kitchen ell prior to being replaced by the current, much larger ell; at the time the new ell was added, ca. 1900, it was by traditional family accounts moved onto its present foundation by rolling it on logs. The original ell is a rectangular-shaped construct to which was added, on its west gable elevation, a narrower section with saltbox-profiled roof and a glazed shed-roofed greenhouse, both sections being aligned along a continuous roof ridge. The four 12-over-12 wood windows corresponding with the former ell on the south elevation are presumed to reflect original ca. 1800 conditions; a door is present on the west wall of the ell immediately adjacent to the southwest corner, on the short return of that wall before it engages the newer section. The greenhouse has a band of four windows on its south wall and one each on its east and west sides. A batten door and window fitted with six-over-six sash forms the principal entrance from the west elevation of the newer section. The north elevation of the ell is blind while the adjacent section has paired six-over-six windows next to which is a batten door. The interior of the ell was reworked ca. 1940 with a stone fireplace with cast-iron cooking crane and brick-laid hearth; it was constructed so as to convey an early vernacular aesthetic as the space was used for a time for the display of antiques. A batten door hung on HL hinges provides communication between the ell and the adjacent section.

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Stone Walls (contributing structures)

There are two sections of stone wall. The longest is located along the north wall and is conspicuous for the quality of its construction; the other frames the barnyard on its east side. Both were built using local stone which appears generally undressed, rectangular-shaped units.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca. 1800- ca. 1940

Significant Dates

ca. 1800; ca. 1850; ca. 1900; ca. 1923

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The cited period of significance for this NRHP nomination, ca. 1800- ca. 1950, begins with the presumed construction date of the house and terminates with the last significant modification made to it during the Stevens family's tenure, that being the construction of the sleeping porch. All of the buildings and features cited in this documentation were erected and modified during the cited period of significance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Stevens Hill Farm is an architecturally and historically significant resource located in the Town of Greenville, a short distance east of the hamlet of the same name in Greene County, New York. The nominated property enjoys direct associations with the Stevens family, which came to settle in this part of the Hudson Valley in the 1790s and initiated a long association with the nominated property in the 1820s, an association which has only recently ceased with the transfer of the property to new owners. The family's Greene County pioneers, Reuben and Mary W. Stevens, came to New York from their native Connecticut, where the family's direct English ancestor, John Stevens, had first settled in the mid-seventeenth century. In 1827 the Stevens family purchased the nominated farm from the Reed family, including the existing dwelling, which had been constructed ca. 1800, and the pre-Stevens history of which remains unclear. The Stevens family subsequently built a sizeable barn complex and other outbuildings to support their agricultural endeavors, which centered for a time on general farming and fruit horticulture. Near the turn of the twentieth century the family expanded the existing house by removing an older kitchen ell and replacing it with the more sizable wing that remains today; the older ell remains on the property, having been moved to a nearby location. The house, with its layering of features expressive of multiple periods and styles, of which the Greek Revival style figures most prominently, serves as testament to the Stevens family and their successful cultivation of this land and their considerable success in other business endeavors. Most notable among the house's occupants was Capt. James Stevens (1834-1916), representative of the family's fifth generation to reside in Greene County and a figure who rose to considerable prominence in local and county business, civic, religious and political, affairs. Stevens served the Union cause during the Civil War, as did his brother Samuel, who died during that conflict in 1864. Following his service during the war, James Stevens served a term as Greenville town supervisor and additionally served two terms as the clerk of the Greene County board of supervisors. A well-respected member of the local community and a stalwart member of the Greenville Presbyterian Church, Stevens was additionally a prominent insurance agent whose son, Orrin C. III, followed his father into this business prior to his untimely death in 1925. The Stevens Hill Farm is being nominated to the NRHP in association with Criterion A, in the area of Social History, for its direct association with the Stevens family, which was central in the affairs of the Greenville community in the nineteenth and twentieth century, and of which Capt. James Stevens was a principal figure. It is additionally being nominated in association with NRHP Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as a largely intact Hudson Valley farmstead core which evolved in large measure during the period ca. 1850- ca. 1900. The property retains its central features, the Greek Revival-style dwelling and main barn complex, in addition to a number of ancillary features, all of which survive with outstanding physical integrity to the historic period.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

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Historical Context

The Town of Greenville is located in northern Greene County near that county's boundary with Albany County, and was formed as a township in March 1803, along with the Town of Cairo. The lands which came to be included within these two newly established towns had earlier been contained within the Town of Coxsackie, which was settled by European-Americans in the seventeenth century, established as a tax district in 1772 and which was subsequently established as a town in 1788. Among the early land patents in this region were the Coeymans and Prevost grants, the former which at one time covered roughly half of what would become the town. Farming was the preeminent early pursuit in this region of Greene County, centering at an early date on the cultivation of cereal grains and hay, and was augmented by modest industrial enterprises which relied on the town's various sources of hydraulic power. As such, early industry in the town developed on the many watercourses which traversed this area northeast of the Catskill Mountains, among them the Basic, the west branch of the Potick, and the Jan-der-Bakker, along with a number of smaller associated tributaries. Grist and saw mills, the backbone of the area's early settlement and development, were established along these various watercourses, as was an early woolen mill constructed by the King brothers and in operation by 1802. Tanneries followed soon thereafter, though on somewhat limited terms and prior to the exhaustion of available stands of hemlock, the bark of which was essential to the tanning process. The production for sale of wood shingles and barrel staves was pursued vigorously for a time locally, as both products found willing and ready markets nearby in Catskill and Coxsackie.

The hamlet of Greenville, the principal population center within the eponymously named town, developed alongside the course of a postal route established ca. 1802 which linked Coxsackie, to the southwest on the Hudson River, with Westerlo to the north, in Albany County, and it evolved during the nineteenth century as a mercantile and business center for the outlying agricultural area, situated as it was at a prominent overland crossroads location. The first commercial operation in the Greenville hamlet, a store, was established as early as 1802 and other characteristic services were established soon thereafter as necessity demanded.¹ Horatio Spafford, in his 1824 state gazetteer, described Greenville at that time as "a Post-Township of Greene County, 17 miles NW. of Catskill, and 27 from Albany..."

It is watered by some branches of Catskill Creek. The surface is broken and hilly, but the soil is productive, and excellent for grazing. There are several turnpikes, and numerous common roads. The inhabitants are principally farmers, and their clothing is the product of the household wheel and loom. The dairy of this country has a high reputation, and its agriculture is very respectable and improving.²

¹ *History of Greene County, New York* (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1884), 289-301.

² Horatio Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* (Albany, N.Y.: B.D. Packard, 1824), 210-11.

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Spafford further noted the town's geographic position relative to the turnpikes which connected it with Athens, Cossackie and Catskill, an important consideration at an early date for sustaining its commercial and agricultural interests, and for encouraging additional settlement and development. By the mid-1820s an estimated 14,953 acres of town land had been brought under successful cultivation, while the town's industry counted three grist mills, 10 saw mills, three fulling machines and three carding machines—nearly 4,600 head of sheep were kept in the town at that date, a figure which would decline moving further into the nineteenth century—in addition to four asheries which produced pot and pearl-ash from the burning and refinement of hardwood trees.³ Greenville's growth during the nineteenth century was seemingly modest by most standards of measure, in part accounted for by its relative isolation from post-turnpike era transportation improvements, namely canals and railroads. By the 1880s the hamlet of Greenville, which the Stevens family shared many connections with, though they lived outside of it, had a small population numbering about 350 inhabitants, three churches, an academy and a district school, in addition to a stagecoach hotel and other mercantile and service enterprises. An observer at that time noted the following about the outward character of the hamlet: "Considerable public spirit has been manifested by the citizens in fencing, near the center of the village, their park, which contains a fine pond of water, constructed at public expense, and also in laying sidewalks in front of many of their residences."⁴

The Stevens family, which took up residence on the nominated farm in the 1820s but which had come to Greenville prior to 1800, traces its American origins to its arrival in southern New England in the mid-seventeenth century. In 1641 Englishman John Stevens arrived in Stamford, Connecticut, and the Greene County branch of the family which came to reside on the nominated farm traces its common roots to this New England forbear.⁵ In 1793 Reuben Stevens (1739-1804) and his wife, Mary Williams Stevens (1742-1832), migrated from the family's native Connecticut to Greenville to settle on a tract of land owned subsequently in the later nineteenth century by Lyman Sanford. Reuben Stevens and his wife thereby assumed the role of pioneers in establishing a new branch of that family in a part of Greene County which was only then emerging from a frontier state. As noted in the 1884 county history, when Reuben Stevens came to Greene County he decided to forgo securing land offered for purchase along the Catskill Creek at a cost of \$2.50 per acre, being concerned with its fertility for agricultural endeavors. He instead "pushed on" and came to buy partly improved land in what would become Greenville, and there he remained until his death a few years into the nineteenth century. His eldest son and namesake, Reuben Stevens Jr.,

³ Ibid., 211.

⁴ *History of Greene County*, 289-301.

⁵ A slightly different account was offered in *History of Greene County*, which instead cites Thomas Stevens as the common English ancestor, "who came to this country in the latter part of the 17th century."

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was born in 1761 in Connecticut and came to serve the American cause during the Revolution.⁶ Other children of the couple included James Stevens, who was born in Connecticut in 1771 and who died in Greenville in 1857. Reuben Stevens Jr's son and the grandson of the pioneer, Samuel Stevens, was, like his father and grandfather before, him engaged in farming. Samuel Stevens died of typhus fever when only 32 years of age in 1813. He had three children with his wife, Sally Jones Stevens, whose family had resided along the New York-Connecticut border, those being Smith (b. 1806), Orrin Cedesmon (1809-1891), and Esther Ann (b. 1812). Left a widow as a young woman, Sally Stevens married a second time and lived to be 84 years of age, and she remained throughout her life an ardent Baptist.⁷

Orrin Cedesmon Stevens lived his entire life in Greenville and figured prominently in the life of the community. He served as town supervisor in 1854 and justice of the peace between 1856 and 1864; as noted in one source, he was closely identified with the educational interests of the town and was a long-time trustee of the Greenville Presbyterian Church. In 1832 he wed Mary Ann Smith, who like the Stevenses was also descended from early New England settlers. Among their seven children was the eldest, James Stevens, born in 1834, who would rise to prominence later in the century as a pillar of the Greenville community and as a successful farmer and fire insurance agent. Also born to Stevens and his wife, Mary (d. 1884), were Samuel, born in 1836, who was killed during the Civil War in June 1864 in Petersburg, Virginia; Ambrose Spencer, born in 1843, who lost his life on the Hudson River when but a young man with the burning of the New York & Hudson line steamboat, *Berkshire*, sadly also in 1864; and Orrin C., born in 1851, who in later years retired in Middleburg, Schoharie County, New York.⁸ A historic marker located near the nominated house, proudly erected by Stevens family descendants, indicates that the nominated property was acquired by James Stevens from E. Reed in 1827. It would thus appear that the nominated property had been purchased by James Stevens (1771-1857), son of Reuben Stevens Jr., and not the James Stevens who was born in 1834 and came to reside there later in the century. The pre-Stevens history of the farm, and its connection to the Reed family, remains largely unknown at this juncture. The 1820 federal census documented two members of the Reed family as residing in the Town of Greenville, Eliakim and Abijah Reed. Eliakim Reed was noted in one source as a prominent businessman in Coxsackie in the early years of the nineteenth century.⁹

Map and census data confirms that, during the middle decades of the nineteenth century, there were two Stevens family households in this immediate vicinity, the nominated one, purchased in the 1820s, and another which was

⁶ Ibid., 313-14.

⁷ *Biographical Review Volume XXXIII: Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Greene, Schoharie and Schenectady Counties, New York* (Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1899), 97-98; 101.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Eliakim Reed Ford, *Ford Genealogy: Being an Account of the Fords Who Were Early Settlers in New England* (Oneonta: 1916), 93-94.

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likely that first settled by the pioneer Reuben Stevens in 1793. By 1880, there was only one Stevens household, the nominated one, which was by that time resided in by James Stevens, son of Orrin C. and Mary Ann Stevens. In 1855 the household of Orrin C. Stevens was portrayed in the New York State census. Stevens, then 46 years of age, was actively farming with assistance from his son James, the oldest of five children who at that time ranged in age from 21 to three years old. The household additionally included three non-related individuals, Sally Budd, 27, and her two young sons, George and Hughes, all three natives of Greene County. A value of \$500 was ascribed to Orrin C. Stevens's frame house at that time. Residing one house away was the son of the pioneer Reuben Stevens, James Stevens, then 83 years of age, who was living with his wife, Anna, and who noted his residency in that town as spanning 60 years. Between these two Stevens residences was located the house of the Sanford family. A decade later, at the time of the 1865 state census, the elder and younger Stevenses were still co-residing in the same dwelling and were engaged in farming, though the household had by that time diminished in size to include only five immediate family members. The house was by this time valued at \$800. Occupying the adjacent house was the third son of Orrin C. Stevens, Daniel Stevens (b. 1837), then 26, who was residing with his wife, Elizabeth, and young son Herbert; their house was valued at \$600.¹⁰ Daniel Stevens subsequently came to reside in Syracuse, Nebraska, where he practiced medicine.

By 1875 James Stevens and his wife, Elizabeth Sherrill Stevens, were residing in a separate but adjacent dwelling from that of his father, Orrin C. Stevens, and mother, Mary Ann Stevens. One of these houses was likely the same as resided in by Daniel Stevens and his wife and young child a decade prior. James Stevens and Elizabeth Sherrill had wed in Greenville in 1866; born there in 1844, Elizabeth was the daughter of Ezra Sherrill, a well-known local farmer. The couple had two children: a daughter, Lucena, born in 1868, and a son, Orrin C. III, born in 1872, both of whom were depicted in the household at the time the 1875 state census was recorded, along with a seasonal farm laborer, John Griffen. Their house was valued at \$700, while that of Stevens's parents was assessed at a considerably higher value of \$2,500. The map included in the 1867 county atlas suggests that the parents were residing in the nominated house, while James Stevens, his wife and young family were living in a nearby dwelling.¹¹ In 1880 James Stevens was residing in a household with his wife and two children, though the adjacent Stevens household was no longer present, it presumably having been sold; it appears that James Stevens was by this time residing in the nominated house.¹² One of the family's immediate neighbors was Lyman Sanford, a fact which would seem to confirm that the family's pioneer, Reuben Stevens, had in fact settled nearby when he came from Connecticut, given the later nineteenth century reference to the pioneer homestead being owned at the time—in

¹⁰New York State census data, 1855 and 1865.

¹¹F.W. Beers, *Atlas of Greene County, New York* (New York, N.Y.: F.W. Beers, A.B. Ellis and C.C. Soule, 1867).

¹²New York State census data, 1875; federal census data 1880.

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1884— by Lyman Sanford. It thus appears that the land Reuben Stevens had first settled in the 1790s was by that time owned by the Sanfords, while James Stevens came to live on land which had been purchased by the family later, in the 1820s. As for the name Stevens Hill, it appears in newspaper accounts as early as the 1890s.¹³

James Stevens received his education in the common district schools of Greenville and later at the nearby Greenville Academy, located near the family's farm, in the hamlet. As noted in a later nineteenth century biographical account, "throughout his active life [James Stevens] has devoted more or less time to agricultural pursuits, and for 40 years he also did a large amount of land surveying."¹⁴ Although general farming and fruit growing formed Stevens's principal livelihood during the early part of his adult life, in 1880 James Stevens initiated his association with the insurance industry, having been elected that year as the secretary and treasurer of a Greenville-based fire insurance company, the Village Fire Insurance Association of Greenville, precursor to the later Pioneer Co-operative Fire Insurance Company.¹⁵ James Stevens did well for himself in this new and profitable business venture, growing that company until its business came to at one time embrace over \$2,000,000 of insurance business. That same year Stevens received his appointment as the general agent of four additional regional fire insurance companies, and later he organized the Greene County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, serving as the organization's secretary, treasurer, and general agent; that company transacted business in Greene County as well as in Albany, Columbia, Delaware, and Schoharie counties.¹⁶ In 1895 Stevens was described as the company's "indefatigable Secretary and Treasurer," and the business was deemed to be flourishing.¹⁷

In 1895 Stevens was identified as "doing the most extensive insurance business in Greene County, and [he] deserves all the patronage he receives."¹⁸ He nevertheless continued to dedicate a portion of his productive energies to farming, as indicated by a sizeable harvest of pears noted in a local newspaper in 1895.¹⁹ Regardless, most period newspaper accounts from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century noted him as a insurance agent and, as a popular and well-known Greenville figure, his activities were oft chronicled in the social pages. *The Recorder of Catskill* noted that Stevens had recently been in touch, the paper having made note of his seventy-eighth birthday.

¹³A number of newspaper accounts from that time indicated that Stevens Hill was a popular sledding place for children. *The Local* (Greenville, N.Y.), 22 March 1894; *The Recorder* (Catskill, N.Y.), 4 December 1925.

¹⁴*Biographical Review Volume XXXIII*.

¹⁵In the New York State censuses of 1892 and 1905 Stevens identified himself as an insurance agent; *Windham Journal* (Windham, N.Y.), 11 August 1910.

¹⁶*Biographical Review Volume XXXIII*

¹⁷"Flourishing," *Windham Journal*, 21 November 1895.

¹⁸*The Greenville Local*, 16 May 1895.

¹⁹*The Recorder*, 6 September 1895.

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“It is a pleasure to note that our friend, who is by long odds the most popular man in Greene County, is physically and mentally alert and active in spite of his seventy-eight years.”²⁰

James Stevens had served the Union cause during the Civil War, but unlike his younger brother, Samuel, he survived and returned home from the conflict to resume his life afterwards. It was his military service during the war that earned him his sometime nickname, “Captain Jim,” or “Capt. James Stevens.”²¹ Stevens’s military service during the war included serving as second lieutenant in the 20th New York Militia and later as captain of Company H, 86th Regiment, N.G. Apparently proud of his military service, for many years he was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, formed the year after the conflict ended as a fraternal organization of Union veterans. In addition to his agricultural and business acumen, James Stevens was also a successful local politician, having been elected as the Greenville town supervisor in 1874 and later to the position of clerk of the county board of supervisors, in 1881 and 1882. James Stevens was additionally a Freemason, having first been affiliated, beginning in March 1858, with the Cascade Lodge, F. & A. M., of nearby Oak Hill; in 1864 he was a charter member of James M. Austin Lodge, No. 557, of Greenville, and during his association with Freemasonry he served in a number of high profile positions.²² His death in 1916, at the age of 83, was noted in a number of local and regional newspapers, among them *The Recorder* of Catskill, which indicated the following: “Our village has suffered a great loss in the death of James Stevens... He had been identified with every public improvement, and his purse was always open to advance the interest of the town or any worthy resident thereof.”²³ Elizabeth Sherrill Stevens outlived her husband and died in 1931, at which time she was noted in a local newspaper account as “the oldest inhabitant of our village...”²⁴

James and Elizabeth Stevens’s only son, Orrin C. Stevens III, followed his father’s successful path into the insurance business. As noted in his obituary following his untimely death in 1925 following unsuccessful surgery, “When a young man Mr. Stevens became associated with his father, the late James Stevens, in the insurance business, the former always living in the same town in which he was born and where his death occurred.” Stevens III served capably as the secretary and treasurer of the Pioneer Cooperative Fire Insurance Company, the Catskill Mountain Fire Insurance Company and the Greene County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and he additionally was a director with the Catskill National Bank.²⁵ As with his father, Orrin was a trusted, admired and respected figure within the Greenville community; “His death was not only a severe blow to his family and the community in

²⁰*The Recorder*, n.d.

²¹*Dear Old Greene County* (Catskill, 1915), 458-59.

²²*Biographical Review Volume XXXIII*

²³Obituary, *The Recorder* (Catskill, N.Y.), 17 March 1916.

²⁴Obituary, *Catskill Recorder*, 31 July 1931.

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which he lived for so many years, but to the business interests with which he was identified.”²⁶ A third generation of the family was also associated with this business interest, as James C. Stevens served as vice president of the company for 20 years, prior to retiring that position in 1949.²⁷ He was additionally involved with the Greene County Historical Society, serving for a time as its president; he was also affiliated with the James M. Austin Lodge of Masons and later served as the deputy grand master of the Ulster-Greene Masonic District.²⁸

The Stevens family maintained ownership of the farm until recent times; the present owners purchased the property from a direct descendant, Orrin C. Stevens, in 2016. During the latter part of the twentieth century much of the earlier Stevens acreage was sold off, leaving the nominated property as the historic core and the one undeveloped, contiguous expanse of the historic farmstead purchased by the Stevens family in 1827.

Architectural Context

The dwelling which served as the Steven family’s residence during three quarters of the nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century is representative of a familiar historic house form in the Hudson Valley region, being of a story-and-a-half frame type with gable roof. Dwellings of the story-and-a-half type have their origins in the traditional houses built by Northern Europeans in the greater Hudson Valley region, namely its early Dutch, Palatine German and French Huguenot settlers, the half story being a prevailing attribute of the H-bent framing methods used and in that regard distinctive from the one and two-story houses and framing types associated with traditional New England domestic architecture. By the early nineteenth century this house form was well established and in common usage throughout the region, and by that time was typified by a center hall configuration and one and one-half room deep plans with end-wall fireplaces. However, examples built on center chimney plans in more characteristic New England fashion were not unknown in areas where New World Dutch and New England cultures overlapped at an early date, thus giving rise to hybrid vernacular forms like the so-called “knee wall Cape.” Frames of this type continued to be erected with closely spaced bents in the New World Dutch manner into the nineteenth century, while in other examples the same basic form was achieved using four widely spaced bents configured in a more typically New England manner; the Stevens house appears to have been erected in the latter manner, with a four-bent frame. Early nineteenth century examples of the type were sometimes built above a self-contained rectangular plan without an attached ell, with one of the end-wall hearths serving as the cooking fireplace. Rear kitchen ells were an early nineteenth century development in New York State and adjacent

²⁵“Prominent Greene Co., Citizen Dies,” *The Windham Journal*, 30 July 1925.

²⁶Obituary, *The Times-Union* (Albany, N.Y.), 30 July 1925.

²⁷“James C. Stevens Honored by Pioneer,” *Greene County Examiner-Recorder* (Catskill, N.Y.), 17 February 1949.

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New England, and it is presumed that the ell that was later removed from the dwelling was an original feature, and if not, an early modification.²⁹

It is worth noting that the existing first-floor plan of the main block in some ways echoes traditional New England house plans of the Connecticut River Valley type, with rooms configured in relation to a central chimney mass typically with three fireplaces at first-floor level, the rear of which most often served as a cooking hearth. However, it further bears noting that examples of this plan type from the early nineteenth century have been observed in New York, though built without a corresponding central chimney mass, thereby indicating the persistence of this basic spatial arrangement after center chimney arrangements had fallen from favor. The basement contains the remains of a central mortared stone base of unknown function, possibly the base of a hearth support, though it lacks framing for a rear fireplace at the center of the north side of the plan. It is thus possible that prior to renovations the house had a center-chimney plan with fireplaces serving the two front rooms but not the rear center one, with this mass being brought down to the base to allow for the introduction of a new staircase with the heating function given over to stoves corresponding with end-wall chimneys. Thus with its four-bent frame the house may have originally been a “knee wall Cape,” in most regards a New England-type house though built with a story-and-a-half frame. There is also clear evidence, in the form of a floor patch, that vertical circulation was at one time all or otherwise partially effected by means of a stair positioned in the northeast part of the plan.

The house was renovated a number of times during the course of its history, as need and circumstances dictated, and as such it now presents as a composite image representing a number of periods and stylistic influences. The exterior presents in large measure as a Greek Revival period construct, the result of an updating likely undertaken a half-century following its original date of construction, around 1850. The deep unadorned wood frieze punctuated by casement windows— “frieze band windows”—the prominent boxed cornices, cornice returns and triangular vents in the gable fields speak to this period, as does the principal entrance, with its full-height sidelights. It was also presumably around this time that the larger windows of the dwelling were rehung with six-over-six sash; the original ell, removed ca. 1900, retains twelve-over-twelve wood windows which would be more characteristic of a ca. 1800 construction date. The porch which covers the entrance represents the Picturesque taste fostered in the antebellum period by the writings of A.J. Downing and others; it is presumed to post-date the ca. 1850 renovations. As for the wood porch which engages the west gable elevation, it would appear to be a ca. 1900 Colonial Revival-

²⁸“Co. Historical Society Elects New Officials,” *Greene County Record-Examiner*, 8 June 1939; “Greenville Lodges Pick Officers,” *The Knickerbocker News* (Albany, N.Y.), 23 December 1940; “James Stevens Appointed Masons’ Deputy Grand Master,” *The Kingston Daily Freeman* (Kingston, N.Y.), 23 May 1955.

²⁹Thomas C. Hubka, “The New England Farmhouse Ell: Fact and Symbol of Nineteenth Century Farm Improvement,” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, vol. 2 (Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1986).

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style modification and is likely contemporary with the construction of the new ell at that time; the enclosed sleeping porch above dates to ca. 1950.

Inside the house, a variety of periods and tastes are also evident as portrayed in existing features, with the earliest finish work being of a distinctive Federal-style type, among them the mantel piece which was incorporated into the reworked dining room, with its elaborate faux-grain painted woodwork. This is presumably among the surviving features from the house's original ca. 1800 construction date, though it appears to have been moved to this location for strictly decorative purposes and perhaps sentimental ones as well. There are also fielded four-panel doors and moulded architraves which date to the earlier period and which were retained during subsequent historic renovations. Much of the remaining existing wood door and window trim, with its simple and flattened ogee-profiles, dates to ca. 1850 and the Greek Revival period, as it would seem the wood mantelpiece in the main block's west room, with its trabeated form and broadly rendered rectilinear detail. Also from this period is the principal staircase, of an open-stringer type, the turnings of the newel post and balusters exhibiting profiles characteristic of this period. The kitchen, which was a central feature of the new ca. 1900 ell, is characteristic in its physical traits of the Late Victorian era, given its profusion of deeply varnished narrow beaded-board wood wall finish; a service stair, located behind the kitchen on the north side of the plan, provided a second means of vertical circulation outside of main block, an important consideration in a household where either domestic help or seasonal farm hands might reside. A Queen Anne-style door leads from the ell onto the porch.

The main barn at the Stevens Hill Farm remains a noteworthy expression of regional vernacular architecture, expanded and modified over time to meet the spatial and functional demands of ever-evolving agricultural practices during the nineteenth century. In this instance the barn sustained a diversified common agriculture inclusive of the raising of cereal grains, butter production and fruit horticulture. The earliest section is a characteristic example of English or three-bay barn, a type which was initially conceived for the processing and storage of grain, the storage of hay, and to provide shelter for draft animals; it is a ground barn, having no excavation for usable space beneath. The English barn is a form intimately tied to the early grain-based economy of this region and its settlement by New Englanders, an Old World form which was adapted and reshaped by American conditions, not unlike the New World Dutch barn. The sawn hemlock framing components, standardized square-rule joinery and the use of integral studding to receive clapboard sheathing indicates that the barn was in all likelihood erected after the property's acquisition by the Stevens family, perhaps ca. 1850, given that the upper portions of the framing were not constructed so as to accommodate a ridge-mounted hay track, a useful feature which came into common usage around this time. As built the barn consisted of a central drive floor which accommodated animal-drawn vehicular access, flanked to one side by a generous haw mow and to the other side by stables with a hay loft above. A loft set

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on poles and spanning the two upper bents was one manner in which to provide additional storage space. The extension which projects southward from that core section of the barn, and which includes open east-facing bays corresponding with the working barnyard, is also of standardized square-rule construction, but evident are any number of reused timbers, suggesting they were salvaged from an earlier, reused construct, perhaps on the farm itself. An additional section was also added to the east gable end of the main core section, thereby completing this building's physical development. One of these additions, probably the east one, appears to have been added in the years immediately before 1900, as suggested by a news item dating to 1896 which indicated "Capt. James Stevens expects to enlarge his barn next spring..."³⁰

Around 1870, at which time Orrin C. Stevens and his son James were farming jointly, they kept a limited number of livestock with a total of five milk cows for butter production, in addition to three pigs presumably for family consumption; their arable land was dedicated to Indian corn, buckwheat, Irish potatoes, and hay, and they additionally dedicated a part of their land to a fruit orchard. A decade later, by which time James Stevens was farming alone, he was cultivating buckwheat, Indian corn, oats and potatoes on his tilled land, while his three-acre apple orchard consisted of 60 bearing trees from which he produced 136 bushels.³¹ Even as James Stevens focused increasingly on his work as an insurance agent, during the 1880s, he continued to farm and tend an orchard consisting of apple and pear trees.

Conclusion

The Stevens Hill Farm is a locally significant historic and architectural resource which speaks effectively to the occupancy of these lands by the Stevens family over the course of multiple generations beginning in the 1820s and extending into the twenty-first century. Prominent among the many family members who resided there historically was Orrin C. Stevens (1809-1891) and his eldest son, Capt. James Stevens (1834-1916), a Union veteran of the Civil War—a conflict which claimed his brother Samuel's life in 1864—a successful farmer and insurance agent, and an acknowledged leader in Greenville's civic, political, business and spiritual communities. The nominated house and outbuildings remain as testament to the occupancy of these lands by the Stevens family and as local representations of prevailing local and regional vernacular building traditions.

³⁰*The Local* (Greenville, N.Y.), 16 January 1896.

³¹Federal non-population census data, 1870 and 1880.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.22 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>581093</u>	<u>4696475</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>580875</u>	<u>4696145</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>581080</u>	<u>4696382</u>	5	<u>18</u>	<u>580809</u>	<u>4696331</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>18</u>	<u>581068</u>	<u>4696178</u>	6	<u>18</u>	<u>580811</u>	<u>4696486</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed mapping, which is entitled "Stevens Hill Farm, Greenville, Greene Co., NY." Maps were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1: 12,000 and 1: 4,000.

Boundary Justification

The NRHP boundary for Stevens Hill Farm has been drawn to reflect the considerable subdivision and development of adjoining farmland and woods that were at one time associated with the nominated farm during the cited period of significance, ca. 1800- ca. 1940. Thus the nominated boundary, consisting of 18.22 acres of historically associated land, consists of the farmstead core, located on the north side of County Route 26, and an undeveloped expanse of farmland and woods to the south of County Route 26, these being the remaining portions of the historic farm which represent a cohesive and contiguous entity. All of this land is historically associated with the nominated farm during the cited period of significance and represents the remaining core acreage of the farm owned by the Stevens family and the Reed family prior to 1827. No additional or "buffer" lands are included within the boundary as depicted.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date May 2018
street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 268-2167
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Photographs by William E. Krattinger, December 2017 and July 2018; and Kobie Jackson (May 2018)
TIFF file format; original digital files at NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Waterford, N.Y., 12188

- 001 EXTERIOR, house, perspective view looking to northeast showing south and west elevations
- 002 EXTERIOR, house, view south showing ell and north elevation of main block with bump-out
- 003 EXTERIOR, house, detail view of main entrance door
- 004 EXTERIOR, house, detail view of front porch
- 005 INTERIOR, house, view of main staircase, first floor
- 006 INTERIOR, house, view of stair landing in hall, upper floor
- 007 INTERIOR, house, dining room
- 008 INTERIOR, house, detail of faux-grained door
- 009 INTERIOR, house, window architrave, southeast room first floor
- 010 INTERIOR, house, view showing door from ell to porch, first floor
- 011 INTERIOR, kitchen, ell

STEVENS HILL FARM

GREENE COUNTY, N.Y.

Name of Property

County and State

- 012 EXTERIOR, main barn complex, view looking south towards core section (with cupola)
- 013 EXTERIOR, main barn complex, view north to east section
- 014 EXTERIOR, view south towards house from barnyard
- 015 EXTERIOR, view to northeast towards west section of main barn complex
- 016 INTERIOR, main barn complex, core section showing timber framing
- 017 EXTERIOR, stone wall, east side of main barn complex
- 018 EXTERIOR, original ell, view looking to northeast
- 019 INTERIOR, original ell, view showing fireplace
- 020 EXTERIOR, small shed, view looking west; carriage barn to right

Property Owner:

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

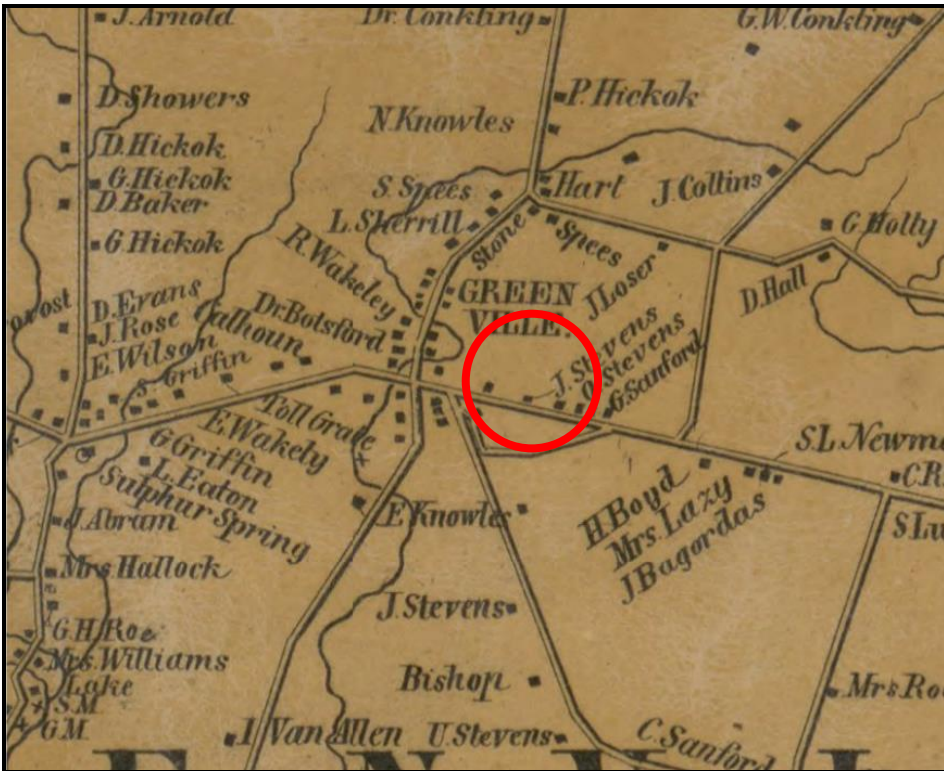
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.460 et seq.).

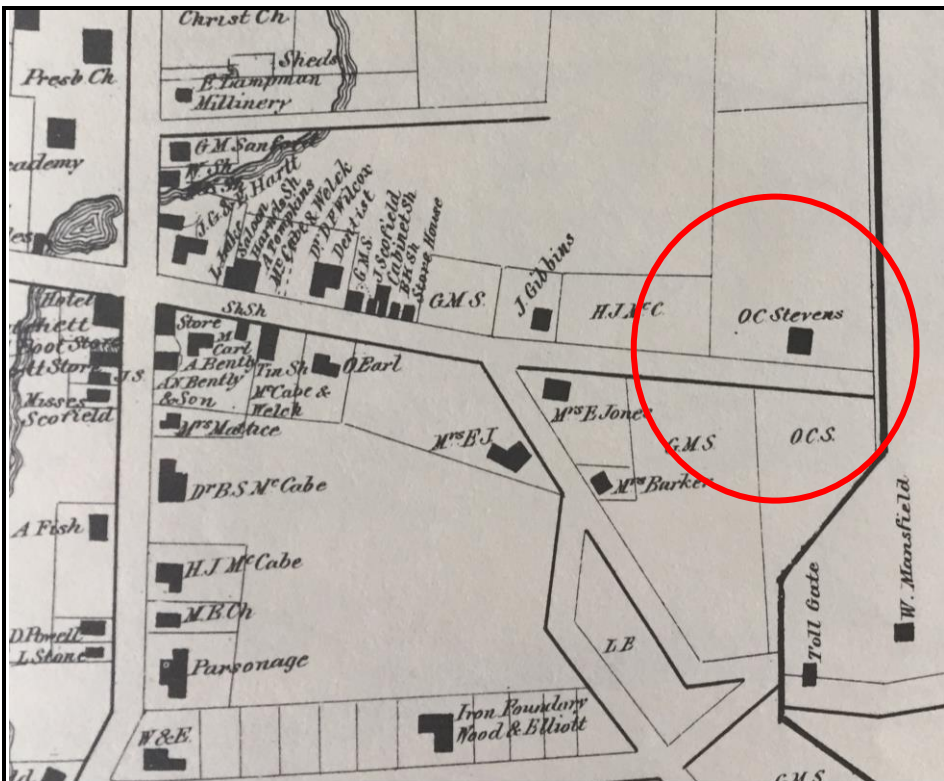
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to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

STEVENS HILL FARM
Name of Property

GREENE COUNTY, N.Y.
County and State



ABOVE, 1856 Geil map of Greene County, subject property depicted as “J. Stevens” with adjacent property shown under the ownership of “O. Stevens.” BELOW, Beers map, 1867 showing farm as owned by Orrin C. Stevens.



STEVENS HILL FARM

Name of Property

GREENE COUNTY, N.Y.

County and State



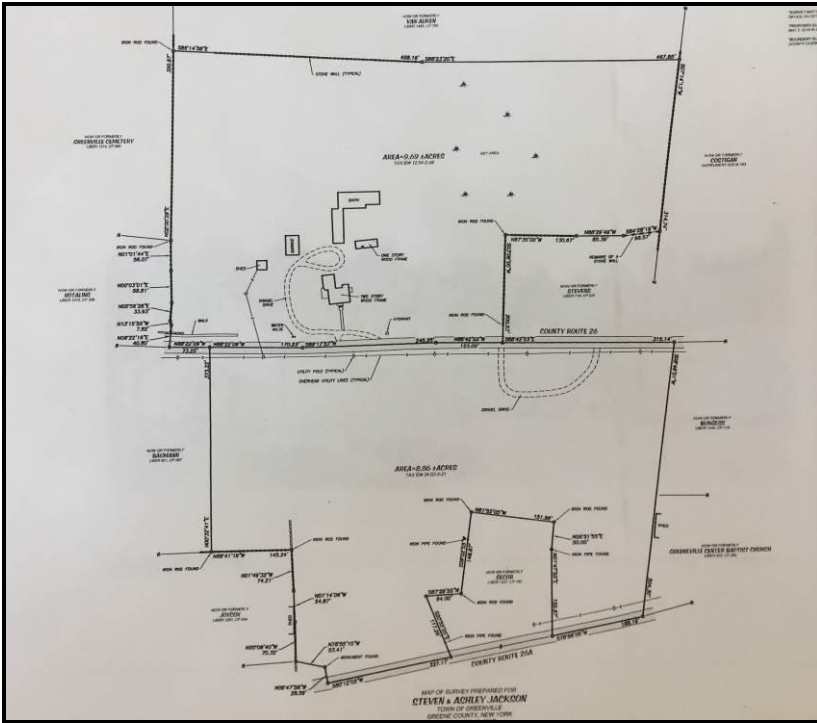
ABOVE, Orrin C. Stevens (1809-1891), father of Captain James Stevens.

STEVENS HILL FARM

Name of Property

GREENE COUNTY, N.Y.

County and State



ABOVE & BELOW, Site plan and aerial view of subject property

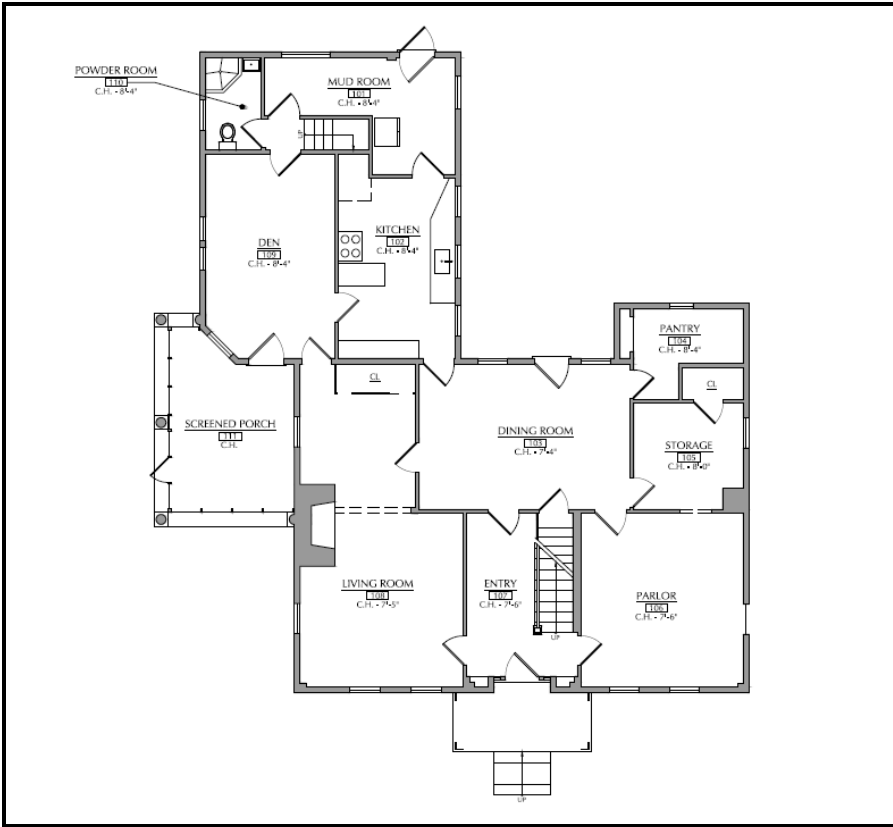


STEVENS HILL FARM

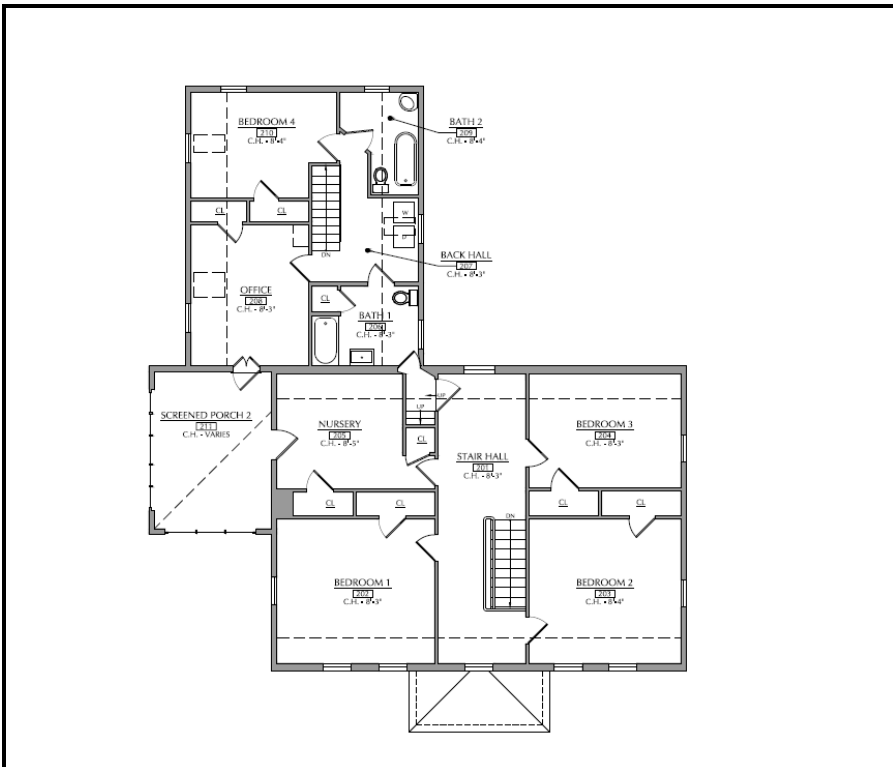
Name of Property

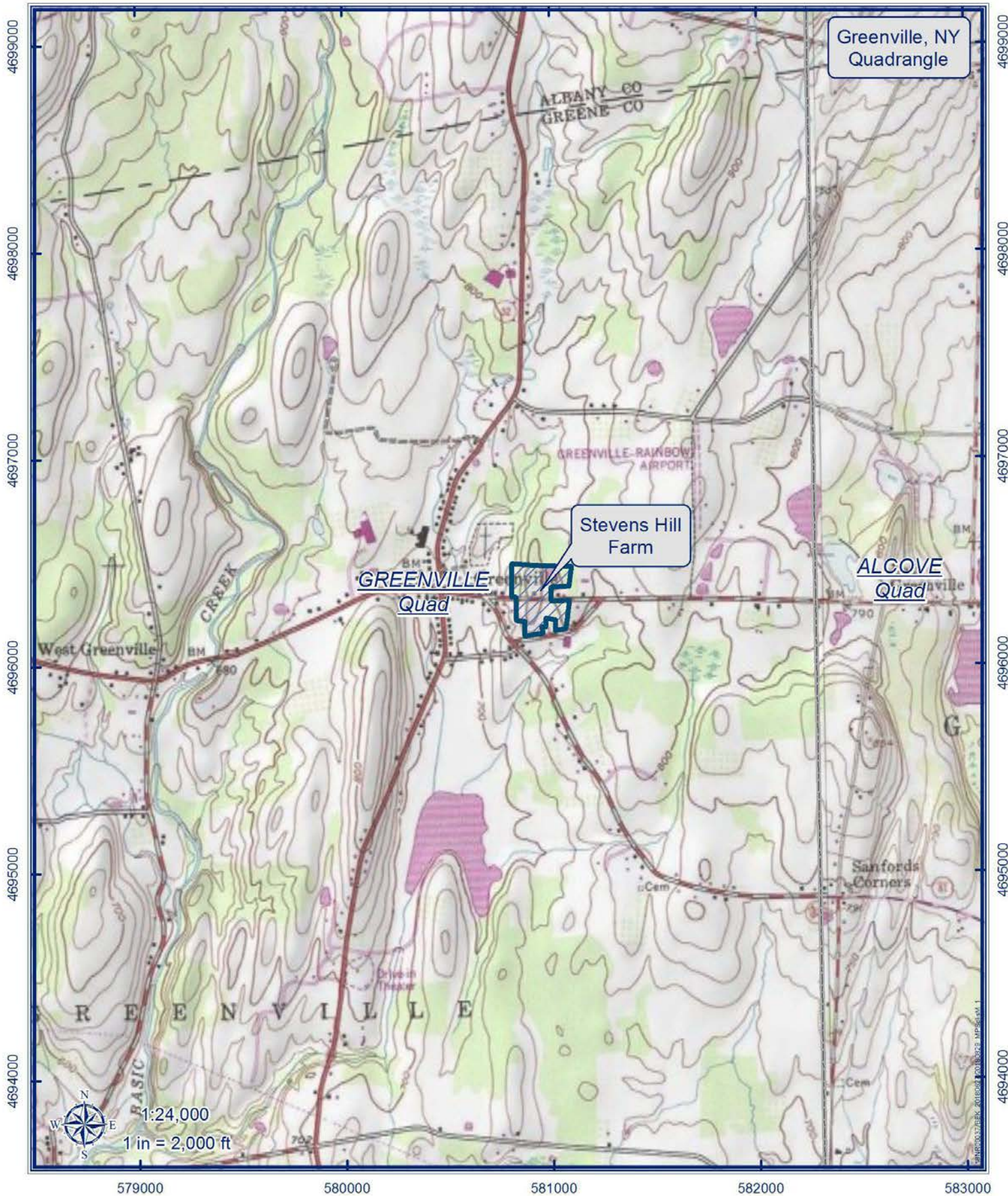
GREENE COUNTY, N.Y.

County and State



ABOVE & BELOW, First and second-floor plans

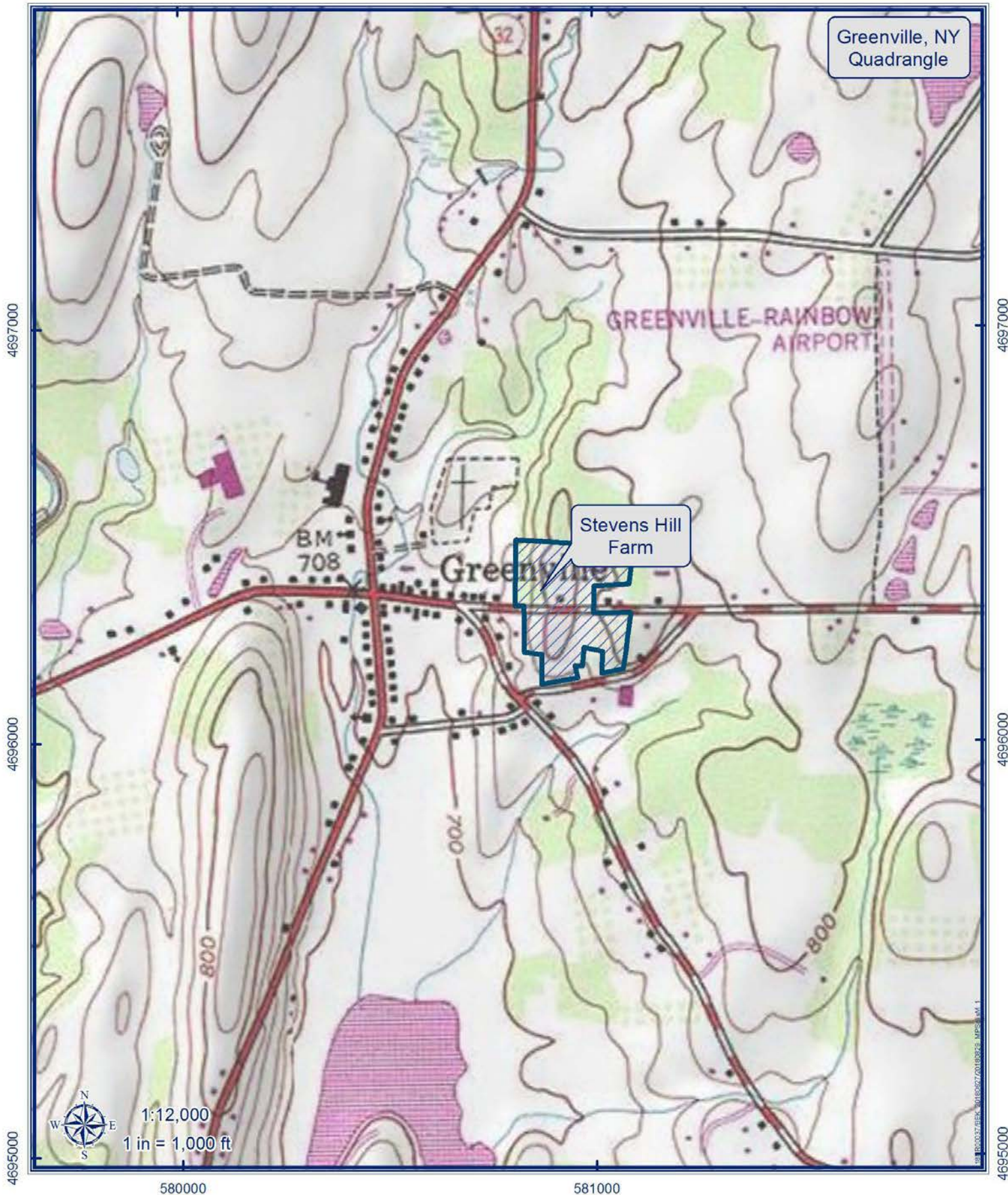




Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

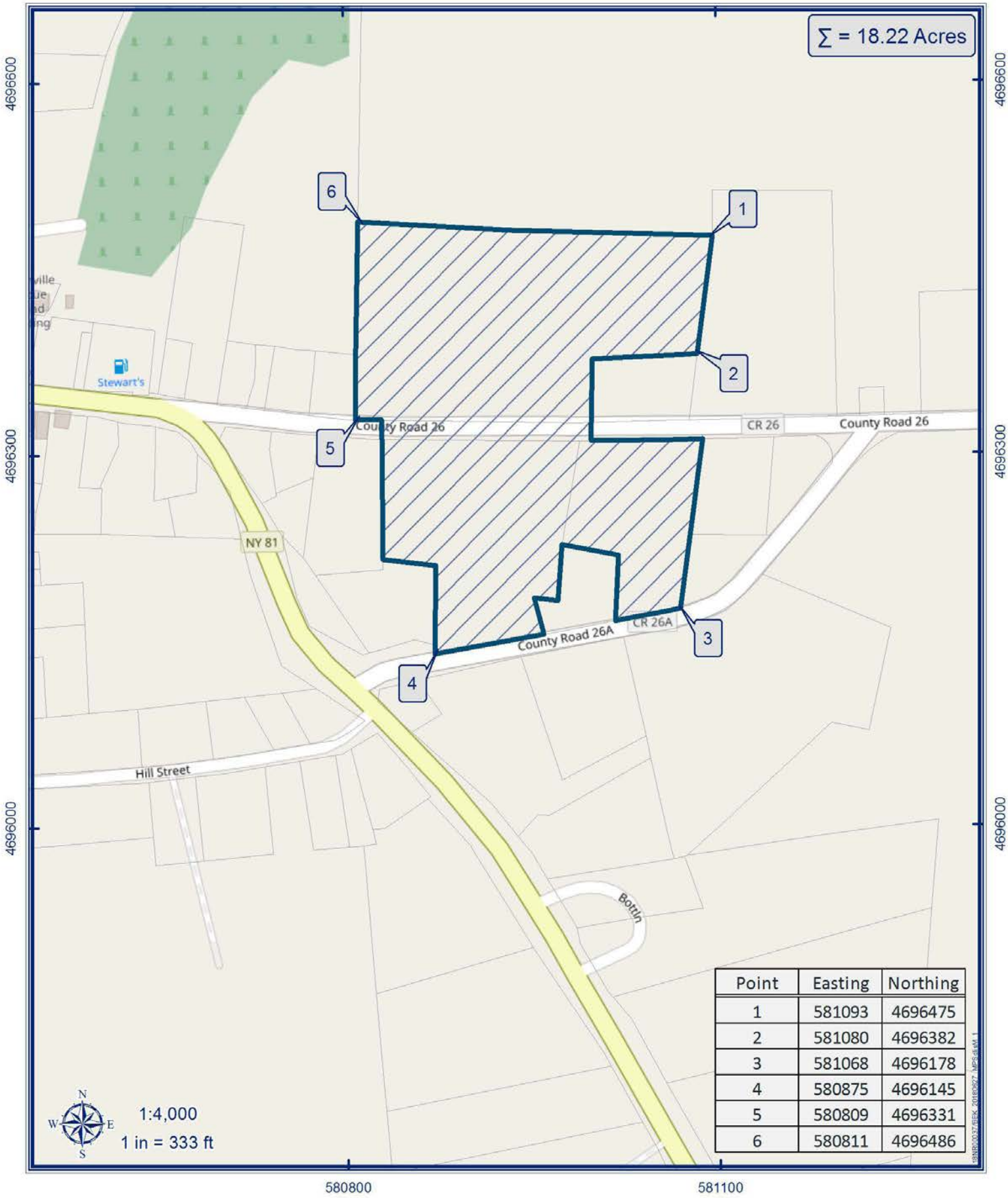


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

$\Sigma = 18.22$ Acres



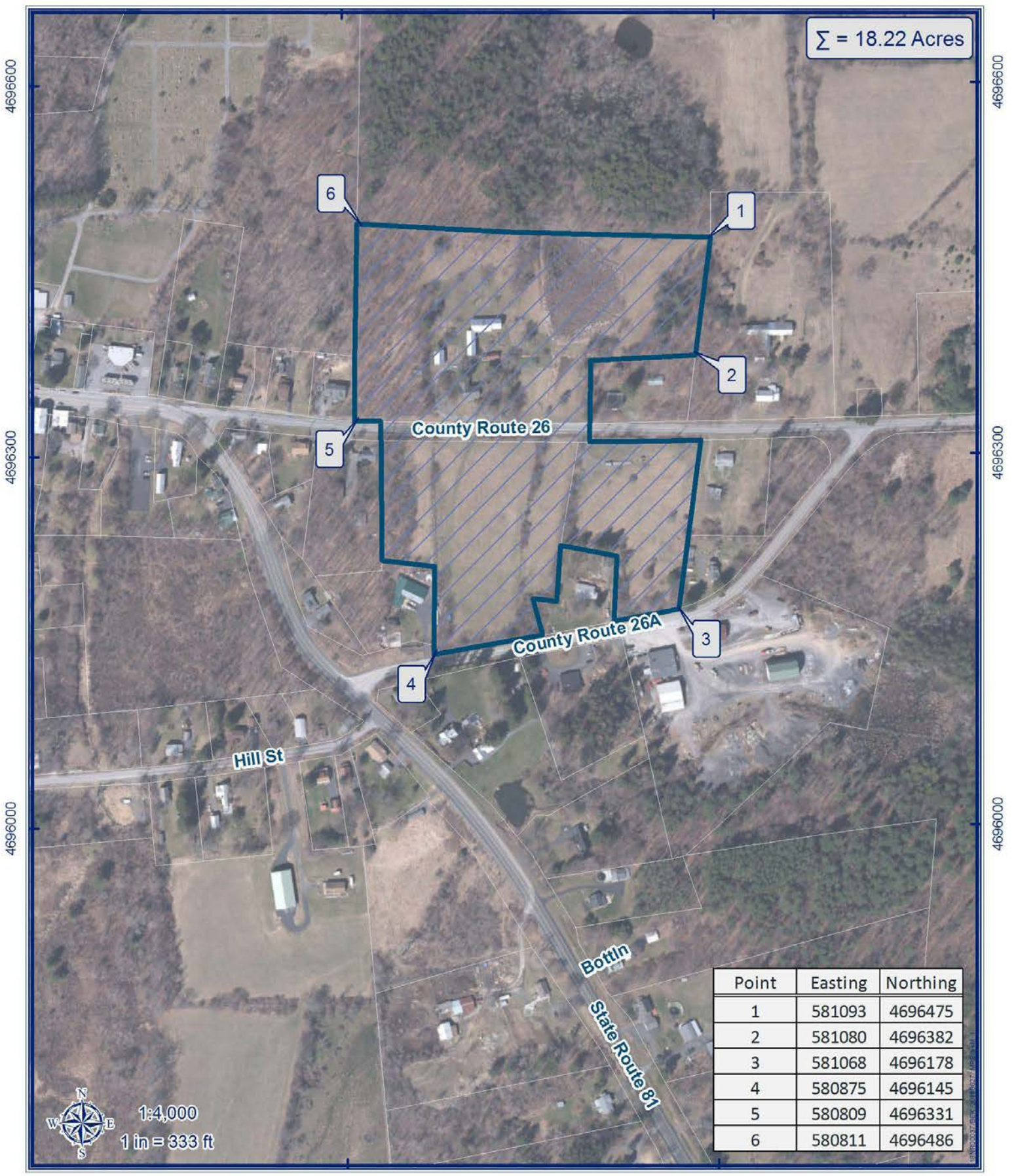
Point	Easting	Northing
1	581093	4696475
2	581080	4696382
3	581068	4696178
4	580875	4696145
5	580809	4696331
6	580811	4696486

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



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

$\Sigma = 18.22$ Acres



Point	Easting	Northing
1	581093	4696475
2	581080	4696382
3	581068	4696178
4	580875	4696145
5	580809	4696331
6	580811	4696486

1:4,000
1 in = 333 ft

580800 581100

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



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation







4
0
8
2





































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/2/2018 Date of Pending List: 10/25/2018 Date of 16th Day: 11/9/2018 Date of 45th Day: 11/16/2018 Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2018

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/9/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



28 September 2018

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Stevens Hill Farm, Greene County
Valley Falls Historic District, Rensselaer County (164 owners; 2 objections)

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office