

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

historic name Normanskill Farm

other names/site number Stevens Farm; Normanskill Farm Dairy

related MPDF N/A

2. Location

street & number 5 Mill Rd

city or town Albany

state New York code 001 county Albany code NY zip code 12209

not for publication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

Michael P. Lynch Deputy SHPO 2/23/2017
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/5/2019
Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" 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	
8	0	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	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

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Single dwelling

Multiple dwelling

Agriculture: storage; animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Single dwelling

Government office

Landscape: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Late 19th and early 20th century revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone; concrete

walls: Wood; brick

roof: Slate; asphalt shingle; metal; wood shingle

other:

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Narrative Description

Narrative Description Summary Paragraph

The Normanskill Farm is located in the extreme southwestern section of the City of Albany, Albany County, New York; however, up until 1978 when the city annexed this land, it was located in the Town of Bethlehem and thus is historically associated with that town's historic and physical development. The nominated farm and its associated acreage are located in a distinctively rural setting alongside the course of the Normanskill Creek. This watercourse, which runs over a shallow riffle in this section and historically offered itself as a good mill seat, drains an area extending west into Schoharie County and the Helderberg Hills before emptying into the Hudson River about a mile east of the Normanskill Farm property. The buildings which compose the Normanskill Farm are arranged in two groups. The Main House, Tenant House, and the larger agricultural buildings—the Hay Barn, Main Barn, Turkey Coop, and Sheep Barn—stand on a high bluff above the north bank of Normanskill Creek and the concrete-arch bridge (recently closed to vehicular traffic) which once conveyed the former Delaware Turnpike over the creek. Two additional buildings included in this nomination stand west of the farm drive, between the creek and the road paralleling the watercourse. Also included within the boundary is one previously NRHP-listed resource, a Whipple truss bridge which is located east of the core of the farm (SRHP 1980; NRHP 1971) and which spans a ravine associated with a modest seasonal watercourse. This nomination boundary was drawn to include the most intact portion of the original approximately 200-acre farm and includes all extant historic buildings and structures. See boundary justification for detailed explanation.

Narrative Description

Location, Setting & Site Orientation

The nominated property is located off of and west of Normanskill Drive, west of Delaware Avenue (NY Route 443), north of Mill Road, north and east of the Normanskill Creek—the course of which turns sharply northward a short distance to west— and south of the I-87 travel corridor. East of the property, in the vicinity of Golder Street and Normanskill Drive, are located modest houses of varying ages, most of which face the old Delaware Turnpike alignment on both banks of the creek. The turnpike itself is bypassed by Delaware Avenue, which straightened the route of the old toll road and which now flies over the ravine on a high concrete bridge built in 1929. The nominated acreage is bounded on the west by a recently established right-of-way, beyond which the property is managed by the city as a dog park and community garden site.

The majority of the nominated buildings are located on a bluff which rises above the Normanskill Creek. They are approached by a narrow farm drive which curves in a northerly route up from Mill Road, which aligns the creek. This access road passes east of the Tenant house, Hay Barn, and Turkey Coop and then turns east to pass in front of the Main Barn and behind the Main House. A building called the Sheep Barn stands farther east on the north side of the farm drive, which continues to the iron Whipple truss bridge, which is located further to the east. The bridge crosses a narrow ravine cut by a seasonal stream at the eastern end of the developed area of the former farm; this watercourse empties into the Normanskill creek. The Whipple truss bridge once carried the Delaware Turnpike over the Normanskill, but it was moved to its present location to make way for a new highway bridge in the late 1800s. It now provides access to the property via Mill Road, the steep switchback road that forms part of the parcel boundary. A second group of two more buildings—the Farm Shop and Pig House—align with the road along the north bank of the creek. Both are oriented north to the road rather than to the creek.

At present, the Main Barn is used to stable the seven horses kept by the mounted unit of the Albany Police Department, which also uses the rear ell of the Main House as office space. The front part of the house is the caretaker's quarters. The police also use the Sheep Barn as office space. The Farm Shop houses a forge used by a local group of blacksmiths and also classroom space for school groups. Other buildings offer storage space.

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Building Descriptions

The buildings on the property feature signs with building names and dates, most of the latter being approximate. These dates appear to be based mainly on appearance and seem generally accurate when compared with historic documentation.

Main House (built ca.1806; extensively remodeled ca.1852 in Greek Revival style; even more extensively remodeled ca.1900, contributing building)

The Main House is an L-plan building formed of a two-story, hip-roofed brick main block with a lower flat-roofed rear ell (probably gable-roofed when constructed) of the same material. The ell's east wall continues on the same axis as that of the main block; its west wall is set back one bay from the main block wall. A breezeway (a twentieth-century addition) featuring a gabled roof and wood lattice screening on its east side extends north about sixty feet from the center entrance in the ell to a two-story, side-gabled wood shed. The wood shed features a segmentally arched opening in the south wall of its west bay that was used for wood storage. The east bay features a three-hole privy on the exterior wall. Rough plank steps access the unfinished upper story, which spans the entire length of the building and is used for storage.

The form and siting of the house indicate that it was originally oriented south overlooking the Normanskill Creek below the bluff. It probably featured a strongly symmetrical five-bay fenestration with full-height windows featuring six-over-six sash in the first story and three-quarter-height openings featuring three-over-three sash upstairs. Much of this plan is intact with window openings featuring dressed stone lintels and sills. There were probably louvered blinds flanking all openings, but these were replaced with fixed-panel shutters abutting the jambs of the openings. Full-height windows, now below grade, are located in the basement wall of this façade, indicating that when built, the house stood much more proudly above the surrounding landscape.

The house was remodeled and augmented, possibly in phases, ca.1900–20. These alterations reoriented the front façade to the east side of house. To provide the illusion of symmetry spanning the main block and ell, the walls of the ell were augmented with brick parapets above the earlier cornice. This also provided additional headroom in the second story of the ell when it was remodeled.

A new main entrance with a soldiered brick elliptical arch was centered on the east wall of the house. This features neoclassical details including leaded sidelights and arched transom. A hip-roofed open veranda supported by slender, widely spaced, fluted Tuscan columns spans the entire east front and wraps the southeast corner of the house to overlap the earlier center entrance. A porte-cochère with its frontal-gable roof cut into the north half of the east face of the main block's hipped roof, projects from the veranda over the newer, east center entrance. An enclosed porch with paired six-light casements caps the porte-cochère.

The old main (south) entrance was recessed in a newly built shallow brick extension spanning the western three bays of the main block. The new veranda curved gently around the south entrance and ends there, its curved portion glazed to create a sun porch. This may have been an innovation dating to the 1920s. The fenestration in the south façade of the main block is altered with a variety of openings and sash. The latticed half-windows in the upper-story west end seem characteristic of the ca.1900 period, but the ribbon of three windows set under a steel header in the first floor west end may be later. The "picture" window composed of a large single light flanked by narrow double-hung one-over-one sash centered under the pediment added above the brick projection is characteristic of the 1950s or 1960s.

The fenestration was also altered on the west elevations of both the main block and ell. Two parlor windows, each featuring three vertically stacked single lights, extend to the floor of the southwest parlor; both are cut into the brick watertable of the main block. Both openings feature the stone lintels of the original design, indicating that

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these opening were simply lengthened. The windows at the north end of the main block on both the first and second stories were doubled and feature recent one-over-one sash. Both of these openings feature stone lintels and sills. Where the rear ell jogs at the northwest corner, a single-story, shed-roofed enclosed porch built of brick and featuring stone lintels and sills opens westward. A wide opening composed of a window with double-hung one-over-one wood sash flanked by narrow windows with two-over-two sash adjoins the door. An exterior basement stair with poured concrete walls descends under the main block near the northwest corner of the main block.

The rear wall of the ell retains most of its early fenestration with evenly spaced windows, period wood sash (six-over-six on first floor; three-over-three on second floor), and a single-width center entrance. The gable roof of the breezeway protects the doorway.

The interior plan of the first story of the main block exemplifies its ca.1900-20 remodeling, which was designed for entertaining on a fairly grand scale. The new main (east) entrance opens into a large Queen Anne stair hall filling the northeast corner of the main block. The wide staircase with spindled railings ascends in two unequal runs separated by a wide landing two-thirds of the way to the second floor. A large fireplace with a marble surround and neoclassical mantelpiece is centered on the south wall of the room and flanked by doors entering a small room, probably designed as a library, in the southeast corner of the main block and the larger parlor filling the southwest corner of the house.

The library features an Italianate fireplace with a round-arched marble surround, which was probably retained from an earlier remodeling in the later 1800s. The parlor incorporates the south entrance to the glazed, curved porch and a Colonial Revival fireplace featuring a rough brick surround and Georgian Revival mantel. The stair hall and parlor feature heavy Georgian Revival crown moldings; the southeast room has a deep frieze with neoclassical wreaths probably added to update the mid-Victorian appearance of this room. Windows and doorways dating to the construction period feature wide, rather plain Greek Revival taste trim featuring a single face and a flattened ogee molding. This contrasts with the narrow board oak floors laid in a variety of parquet and plain patterns typical of the early 1900s. The doors all date to that remodeling.

The kitchen, located in the northwest corner of the main block, was remodeled in the mid-1900s. A door in its east wall opens onto a service stair running up the interior wall adjoining the elegant formal stair of the northeast hallway.

The second floor appears to retain the simple plan characteristic of the chamber floor of a mid-nineteenth-century dwelling and retains typically interconnected rooms and minimal passages. Two bathrooms added in the first quarter of the 1900s were inserted in the south half of the floor plan. A lavatory with tile finishes and fixtures, all dating to the 1920s or 1930s, is tucked under the upper run of the main staircase. On the second floor, the floors retain wider boards typical of the construction period. The doors almost all feature four panels, beaded and flush on one side and recessed without moldings on the other. Door casings and those window casings dating to the construction period retain the plain, bold flattened ogee trim found in other parts of the house.

The main block rests on a well-built, full-height stone basement with large rooms in the four corners. These are connected by doorways with four-panel doors like those found on the second story of the house. On the south wall, full-height windows with six-over-six wood sash and trim matching those of the older windows in the upper floors show that once the grade surrounding the house was considerably lower than today. This would have afforded the house a more dominant presence unlike its present somewhat low-slung appearance.

The rear ell is entered by a door centered on the rear wall and also through a door in the enclosed brick porch on the west side, which opens into a second kitchen with an old, disused pass-through to the kitchen in the main block. The rear door enters a passage running north-south with beadboard wainscoting. The hall ends at a large built-in cupboard with paired four-panel doors above three drawers. The narrow stair with a double wind wraps around and over the cupboard. Short passages run east into a dining room and west into the kitchen. In the

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dining room, a chair rail caps wide beadboard wainscot. Glazed corner cupboards with round-arched upper lights are tucked into both eastern corners. The kitchen, no longer used for food preparation, retains some kitchen cupboards dating to the mid-1900s.

Upstairs, small bedchambers with angled entrances are set in the four corners of the ell. A narrow east-west passage connects these to the staircase. A bathroom with a ca.1930 tub and sanitary tile of the same period is centered on the north side of the passage. It features a steel-walled shower stall tucked into its southeast corner. Throughout, the windows retain the plain, bold Greek Revival moldings found throughout much of the house, but the doors and casings are characteristic of the 1880s or 1890s with six panels in two rows of three and feature brown ceramic knobs mounted on mortise locks. The floors are narrow oak boards. The ceilings are hidden by recently added acoustic tile.

Hay Barn (built ca.1875 [1892 according to sign on barn]); contributing building)

The Hay Barn stands in a shallow, grassy ravine at the west edge of the group of historic buildings. It is a very large, gable-roofed, four-bay building constructed using heavy circular sawn timbers which were mortised and tenoned together. It rests on a high poured concrete foundation with slightly battered walls, and its ridgeline runs north-south. The concrete displays evidence of several pours, but the material shows no sign of failure. The main block and both entrances retain slate roofs and deep eaves with exposed rafter tails and narrow raking frieze boards. The wide wood siding is milled to resemble two narrow clapboards. A large cupola ventilator with a cross-gabled roof and paired arched windows with eight-light sash is centered on the ridgeline of the main roof. The barn features gable-roofed ramp entrances in the second bay from the south end of both the east and west gable walls. These open onto the main floor adjoining the mows in the north and south bays. Sliding doors open to the basement area underneath the main floor, which spans the two middle bays of the barn. Windows with plain casings and six-over-six wood sash, some in paired openings, are set at infrequent but generally regular intervals in the mows and the basement.

The frame of the main block is composed of circular sawn timbers. It features dropped crossbeams braced to the posts and purlins tying the posts on the exterior walls. The bents feature purlin posts carrying purlin plates on which the sawn rafters lie. Studs are inserted to allow horizontal siding to be nailed up.

The east entrance to the main floor of the mow is an enclosed frontal-gable frame porch set on recently rebuilt cinder block foundation faced with brick. A window with six-over-six wood sash like nearly all of those in the building faces north from the foundation adjoining the basement of the main block. The foundation is banked into the steep slope rising east of the hay barn, and the paired beadboard doors (with a pedestrian door opening outward in the right leaf) open at the level of main floor. A six-over-six wood double-hung window fills the peak above the doors.

The west entrance to the main floor of the mow is reached via a sloped earthen bank bounded by poured concrete retaining walls. The enclosed frontal-gable entrance is similar in proportions and construction to the east entrance, but the west entrance porch is about half as deep as the east one. The frame walls extend downwards from the entrance floor to the top edge of the main block foundation. The walls enclose a space supported by heavy wood joists, some of them replaced with steel I-beams.

Both mow entrances are let into the framing of the barn's main roof. The heavy rafters with bird's-mouth ends resting on the top plate are exposed below the gabled roofs of the entrances. The four-bay structure of the hay barn is divided into several compartments. The mow entrances open into the southern one of the two center bays and are at the same level as the main floor spanning both center bays. A low plank wall runs east-west along each side of the floor, setting the floor off from the mows in the end bays, which run from roof peak to several feet below the top edge of the concrete foundation. The mows are divided into two sections by a heavy lattice of planks attached to heavy timbers mortised into the center posts of the frame. In the north mow, a large wooden

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paddle resting on a log that swivels east and west allowed the hay carried by the harpoon running on the hay track to be tipped into one side of the mow or the other. This paddle arrangement is gone in the south mow.

The space below the main floor of the mow is entered via sliding doors in the second bay from the north end of the barn. On the east side, the sliding doors are one story below the grade of the mow entrance. On the west side, the doors are reached from a secondary ramp adjoining the north side of the main ramp, one story below the level of the main floor and a half-story above the ground. The support structure for the main ramp supports this ramp as well.

Main Barn (built ca.1912 [1920 according to sign on barn] with later hen-house wing; contributing building)

The Main Barn stands on level ground at the north edge of the historic building group. It is a large gambrel-roofed frame basement barn built using sawn lumber secured with metal fasteners. Its ridgeline runs north-south. A somewhat later three-story, gambrel-roofed, six-room henhouse addition, its ridgeline running east-west, partially overlaps its northeast corner and forms a slightly jogged L-plan with the north half of the hen house. This makes a shallow alcove at the northeast corner of the Main Barn. The circular poured concrete base of an old silo is located in that corner outside the north center entrance of the Main Barn. A narrow shed-roofed wing, its front wall flush with the front façade of the barn, abuts more than half of the west eave wall of the main barn. A second concrete silo base is located in the corner formed by the west wing with the main barn. The lower part of a concrete block silo stands on the level ground about 100 feet west of the barn.

The entire barn, including both the large west wing and the henhouse, is clad in horizontal wood siding, each board milled to resemble two narrow clapboards and is similar to that of the hay barn. Both the main block and the henhouse feature corner and water table boards above the low poured concrete foundation; there are no frieze boards below the deep eaves of the gambrel roofs. Large doors hinged on the bottom edge are located in each peak and the track along which the hay harpoon once ran projects beyond the ends of the ridgeline. The roofing has recently been replaced with light gray asphalt shingles laid in a regular, but alternating, pattern.

The Main Barn features regular period fenestration using widely spaced windows with wood six-over-six sash in nearly all openings on both eave walls. The west wing of the Main Barn is entered through paired wooden doors with glazed six-light upper panels and capped by a shallow pent roof. The wing has windows like those in the rest of the barn. The doors in the main barn have diagonally laid up beadboard panels. Those in first floor openings, at either end of the main aisle, appear to be later replacements designed to match the originals, as they lack the chamfered stiles and rails of the period doors opening to the mow floor above. Additional windows flank the paired sliding doors centered on the front (south) wall and the side-hinged single door opening onto the mow floor above.

The henhouse features two sets of quadruple windows, also with six-over-six wood sash, in all three stories on the south wall of the henhouse. The sets on the first story flank a center side-hinged door, which opens onto a staircase accessing all three floors. A small six-light window in the third story opens between the two ribbons of windows on that floor. There are no windows in the west end or north wall of the henhouse. Two large round tin ventilators rest on its ridgeline, each centered above the quadrupled sets of windows in the east and west halves of its front (south) façade.

The first floor of the Main Barn was originally designed to house two rows of stanchions for forty dairy cows tail-to-tail across a wide center aisle. The gutter that once caught manure has more recently been filled with concrete, but its outline survives. When built, the barn had a clear center span supported on heavy sawn crossbeams. The joists of sistered and single 2 x 10 lumber run the length of the barn and are reinforced with crossed trusses. The underside of the mow floor lies on the joists, and the entire ceiling and walls are whitewashed. The more recent alteration to a horse stable, necessary for the building's contemporary use in association with Albany's mounted police, resulted in the construction of wood stalls with wood floors. There are seven large box stalls with shoulder

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height board walls and sliding doors at the north end of the barn. Nine more slip stalls, now disused, are located in the central section of the barn. The south part of the main barn is now used for storage. What appears to have been a grain room in the southeast corner of the barn is entered through a door. A separate room in the southwest corner of the main block of the barn features walls lined with cinder blocks; this appears to have been a milk room. It is now used for tack. A passage cut in the east wall to access the henhouse incorporates two large pens with early twentieth century iron pipe railings and gates. These appear to be calving pens.

The mow is accessed by a board ladder nailed to the interior of the east wall between the second and third windows. The mow is divided into nearly equally sized north and south sections by a board wall running east-west. The gambrel roof is supported by a truss system built using dimensional lumber that affords an unobstructed span rising more than 20 feet to the ridge. The track used to load loose hay in the barn remains in place. Chutes cut in the floor were designed to drop loose hay to the stanchion area below. The floor is now loaded with square bales, but the chutes are still used to supply the present horse stalls. When the roof was replaced, the old deck boards were replaced with plywood.

The six-room henhouse wing is accessed from inside the main barn through a door in the east wall that opens onto a passage that enters the west hen room on the first floor. A central stairwell with single flights of steps to the second and third stories ascends through the center of the building. The east hen room on the first floor is located on the far side of the stairwell. The other four hen rooms flank the central stair on the east and west.

The hen rooms have low ceilings and some retain laying boxes on the back (north) and side walls. They have plank ceilings, but the wall studs are exposed. The walls and ceilings are whitewashed. The boxed wood ventilator shafts pass vertically through the second and third stories. They are lit by the quadruple windows in the south wall.

Sheep Barn (built ca.1880 [according to sign] with ca.1910 front addition; contributing building)

The Sheep Barn stands north of the drive and east of the Main Barn, about midway between the barn and Whipple truss bridge over the ravine. It was built in two sections: a small, one-story, frontal-gable frame building with a small addition to its rear wall adjoins a larger, side-gabled building attached to its front wall to form a T-plan. A prominent gabled dormer is centered on the front section above four pairs of doors, each with four beadboard panels separated by chamfered rails and stiles. The doors are mounted on sliding hardware and span the entire front façade except for the novelty-sided tympanum of the dormer. Each gable wall of the front section features two windows with plain board casings and six-over-six wood sash. The roof has exposed rafter tails and is clad in slate. The building is clad mainly in wood novelty siding.

The interior of the front section appears to have been designed as a garage and is a single room with a clear span. Doors like those spanning the front façade used to open into the rear section, but the refinishing of the latter area as an office has covered that opening. The very plain, utilitarian office finishes date to the 1970s or 1980s. The small addition to the rear wall is an unfinished space.

Turkey Coop (built 1920 [according to sign]; contributing building)

The turkey coop is located west of the house and east of the Hay Barn. Its steeply banked poured concrete foundation provides a level site for the building at the very edge of the plateau, just west of the drive that ascends to the house and large barns on the property.

The coop is a small frontal-gable building, its ridgeline oriented east-west. It is neatly clad in wood novelty siding trimmed with corner boards. The deep-eaved roof has asphalt shingles. The front façade features a wide center door of vertically laid up boards battened on the interior. The door is flanked by single windows with plain board casings and six-over-six wood sash. A shallow ledge with three small arched openings surmounts the door. The south wall features paired windows matching the single ones on the front façade in trim and sash. The four

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openings, which afford a brightly lit interior, span nearly the entire wall. A door opens into the rear (west) of the foundation. The interior is a single room with planked floor and ceiling.

Pig House (built ca.1930 [according to the sign]; contributing building)

The Pig House stands at the far southwestern corner of the historic building group and adjoins the south side of the access road paralleling the creek. It is west of the Farm Shop and southwest of the Hay Barn, which stands on the opposite side of creek road. The building is presently used for storage.

The Pig House is a nearly square plan, one-story frame building with a low-pitched, frontal-gable roof. It is clad in wood clapboards with corner boards and rests on a concrete foundation nearly at grade. It has an asphalt shingle roof with shallow eaves and no frieze boards. The eaves are partially enclosed by a simple soffit. It features a center entrance with a single side-hinged door. Hopper windows located on either side of the door feature single six-light wood sash. Similar windows are centered in each of the eave walls. Two more are located in the rear, or south, gable wall opposite those in the front wall. There are two pig chutes on the west eave wall.

The building was lightly framed with dimensional lumber. The building is open to the rafters and both the ceiling joists and the studs are exposed. The interior space is organized into a wide center aisle on the same axis as the roofline. On the west side, the pigpens are largely intact with waist-height board walls enclosing two compartments, although the gates are gone. On the east side, the lower portion of the studs have been cut and now rest on a sill laid on top of a foundation made of three courses of concrete blocks. This appears to be a repair, possibly due to rot in the east pens. The clapboards in this area appear to be lifted slightly, and there are no pig chutes in this eave wall.

Farm Shop (assembled ca.1930 from two older buildings [date from signage, which refers to this as the "Blacksmith's Shop"]; contributing building)

The Farm Shop stands near the western end of the historic building group, with only the Pig House about 100' west of it. The Farm Shop is composed of two frame buildings now combined into a single two-story structure of consistent height and sharing a frontal-gable roof axis. To achieve a single gable roof, the two older buildings rest on concrete foundations of different heights and ages. The site slopes steadily toward the creek, and the building stands on a banked foundation to accommodate the terrain.

The one-and-a-half-story north section of the Farm Shop—approximately half of the overall building—rests on a banked (from north to south) concrete block foundation about a half-story higher than the block foundation carrying the south section. The recently replaced asphalt shingle roof is supported by widely spaced rafters with exposed tails in the north section and more closely spaced rafters in the south section. The north and south sections are both clad in wide wood clapboards with a shallow cove on the upper edge, but these differ subtly from each other and are not laid continuously from front to back on the eave walls. The front, or north, section features corner boards at all four corners; the south section has corner boards at its south corners only. A small brick chimney is nearly centered on the ridgeline. This provided a flue for the forge set against the back wall of the north part of the building, which houses a still-used blacksmith's shop.

The fenestration differs in the two parts of the building. The south end has three evenly spaced windows on its eave walls. These light the first floor of the building and feature six-over-six double-hung wood sash in plain board casings. On the east side a narrow wood door opens to an open exterior staircase with simple plank treads descending to grade level. A single window in the peak of the rear wall lights the upper story of the building. The first floor of the north section features a pair of 24-light (4 high x 6 wide, horizontally oriented) fixed metal frame windows on each eave wall. Most of the first floor front, or north, elevation is taken up by the main entrance through paired sliding doors made of vertically laid up narrow beaded boards. These extend to ground level and, the track projects about a foot beyond both eave walls. The upper story is lit by two recently replaced one-over-

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one wood sash flanking a loading door of similar construction to the main doors below. A louvered wood vent is centered in the peak. There are no frieze boards below the eaves on either section of the building.

The Farm Shop is entered through the large paired sliding doors in the north gable wall. The building is divided into two compartments. The brick forge is centered on the back (south) wall of the shop area in the northern compartment. The south side of the rear wall of the shop area is clad on its south side—once the exterior of the building forming the north half of the present structure—with wood novelty siding similar to that on the exterior of this part of the shop. A wide doorway at the west end of the south wall is closed using a sliding door of vertically laid beadboard that extends from floor to ceiling and is mounted using hardware typical of the turn of the twentieth century. The door appears to have never been painted, but the novelty siding on which it is mounted retains evidence of paint. The walls of both compartments are covered in unpainted boards nailed horizontally to the studs.

The upper story of the shop, or north part of the building, features two bays constructed using heavy posts, at least two of them hewn, and up-and-down sawn braces. Widely spaced up-and-down sawn common rafters support the roof. No posts obstruct the interior space. The posts supporting the roof project partly into the first floor, where they are cut off and rest on later stud framing.

The south section of the Farm Shop rests on a higher concrete block foundation, which appears to be of newer material than the north part. This section of the shop is more lightly built than the north part. It appears to have been built as part of a larger building as it lacks a fourth wall adjoining the north part of the shop. The first floor area is a single large room with a flight of stairs running up the rear wall to the southwest corner. Evidence of nob-and-tube wiring remains on some of the joists that support the floor of the second story. The second floor of this section is also a single room open to the rafters, which are closely set and nailed into a ridgepole. A row of wooden bins labeled with various pieces of machinery, such as “tractor,” is stacked on part of the rear wall. A wide door is cut in the wall between the north and south buildings.

Tenant house (built ca.1836 [1830 according to sign on building]; contributing building)

The side-gabled frame Tenant house stands on a steeply banked foundation just west of the access drive to Main House and the large barns on the bluff overlooking the north bank of the Normanskill Creek. It overlooks the creek road and is nearly opposite the blacksmith's shop located on the south side of that road.

The front elevation of the two-and-a-half-story house faces south over the creek. On this side, the stone foundation, now parged with concrete, is a half-story above grade. The land rises steeply to the rear (north), and the second story is entered at grade through an open shed-roofed porch (probably replaces earlier porch) spanning that wall of the house. The porch has a banked poured concrete foundation and dimensional lumber posts and railings. The east and west sides of the mortared fieldstone foundation are not parged. The side-gabled roof clad in asphalt shingles was recently replaced and features a closed soffit typical of present day construction on the fairly deep eaves. The front (south), east, and north sides are clad in fairly wide wood clapboards. The west gable wall is clad instead in wood novelty siding similar to that on the Farm Shop. The house retains wood corner boards, but any cornice detail was lost when the roof was replaced after a fire in 1978. An interior brick chimney is located near the east gable end of the house; the brick back of its hearth is exposed on the exterior of the building. A narrow brick chimney, its outer course of brick projecting beyond the siding, is centered on the west gable wall of the house.

The Tenant house retains regular, nearly symmetrical fenestration characteristic of its construction period. The five-bay front façade features a center entrance flanked by narrow sidelights composed of three vertically arranged panes set above a plain panel. The wooden door with three vertically oriented oblong panels surmounted by a six-light window in the upper third is a later replacement. In the main block of the house, except for the paired four-over-four windows above the center entrance in the front façade and the one-over-one wood replacement windows

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in each peak (replaced at the same time as the roof), all windows retain six-over-six wood sash in plain board casings with narrow dripcaps. On the east gable wall, there are no windows in the fieldstone wall of the first floor. On the west gable wall, there are two windows. There are two later dormer windows on the north roof face.

The building is divided into three living units, one in the first story and two in the second story. The first-story one is accessed through the door centered on the south, or front, façade. The interior has been gutted except for the shallow Rumford-type hearth on the east wall. The upper story and a half is bisected into two equal units. Each is entered through its own door at either end of the back (north) porch.

The east unit appears to retain much of its period plan with the door entering a kitchen located in the northeast corner of the building. A bathroom was later built into the northwest corner. The four-over-four window in the front elevation lights a narrow staircase ascending the party wall to the upper story where there are two rooms under the eaves. This unit retains much of its plain Greek Revival trim scheme on window and door casings, although the ceilings are clad in pressed metal. The plaster is damaged, and mill lath is exposed underneath. The floors are fairly wide, roughly prepared boards.

The west unit's plan differs slightly from the east one, apparently due to changes made in the late 1800s when the door and window casings were replaced with ones featuring "bull's-eye" corners and heavily ribbed trim. The door from the porch opens onto a narrow hall, and thence to the kitchen and downstairs room. Like the east unit, this one features late nineteenth century pressed metal ceilings and damaged plaster over mill lath.

There are also two non-contributing structures: an open shelter for horses in pasture behind sheep barn (built ca.1990, non-contributing) and a hoop house (built ca.2010, non-contributing) west of the Main Barn.

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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.

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

ca.1800-1954

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1800-1954

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

STEVENS, CHARLES

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Normanskill Farm retains buildings and associated features exemplifying periods of its development from the early 1800s, when the lease was acquired by Abraham Hun, through the mid-1900s, when Jennie Beasom Stevens died. It is significant under NRHP Criterion A, in the area of Agriculture, for its embodiment of agricultural building patterns in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; under Criterion B for its association with Charles P. Stevens, a locally significant pioneer in the dairy processing industry; and under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, for its collection of buildings, which are representative and characteristic of the time when they were constructed and later altered to meet changing agricultural conditions and architectural tastes. The buildings and the immediate landscape are further significant as examples of how such a property was successfully managed within the economic and social environment of various periods. The nominated property, which presently encompasses about 45 acres, is located on the bank of the Normanskill creek within the historic compass of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, which was acquired by Killiaen Van Rensselaer in 1630. Mill seats were soon identified on the watercourse, and mills were sited in this ravine, which became known as Upper Hollow. The earliest lessees of the water right and associated farmlands were Albert Andriessen Bradt, de Norrman (the Norman), and his descendants. By the early 1800s, probably in 1806, Abraham Hun, an agent of the manor, acquired the lease. He managed the property from his house in Albany and built a summer residence in the hollow overlooking the bridge built by the Albany & Delaware Turnpike Company to span the creek. Hun's construction of a country house established a pattern for the Normanskill Farm property as a gentleman's country seat *cum* working farm that was perpetuated throughout the historic period by various owners. These subsequent owners included a leading physician, judges and lawyers, industrialists, a successful commodities farmer, and, at last, the owner of one the largest independent milk dealers and processors in the Capital District. The nomination includes four large buildings—the Main House (ca.1806/ca.1852/ca.1900); a Tenement house (ca.1830) which may have first been built for mill workers; the Hay Barn (ca.1875), which was erected to store prodigious amounts of hay; and the Main Barn (ca.1912), erected as a state-of-the-art dairy barn. There are four additional smaller buildings—a Sheep Barn, Turkey Coop, Pig House, and Farm Shop—in a landscape with features retained and altered throughout the historic period.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historic Context

Rensselaerswyck era (ca.1630–1805)

The area encompassed by the Normanskill Farm is located about a mile upstream from where the eponymous creek empties into the Hudson River. The property lay within the Manor of Rensselaerswyck deeded to Killiaen van Rensselaer in 1630, which spanned both banks of the Hudson River and extended inland for some distance. It encompassed parts of present day Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties. Settlement and clearance for agriculture and industry were the primary duties of patroons, as large landholders like Rensselaer were called in New Netherland. Parcels within the tract were leased to individuals, who in turn leased subdivisions to other individuals. Leases were generally long term, often spanning two or three generations, and very binding. Rents were levied in wheat, among the most desired commodities of late medieval and early modern European trade. In addition to farmers, the manor leased water rights for mills, which offered important services—mainly grinding grain and sawing lumber—to local people.

A Norwegian by the name of Albert Andriessen Bradt, de Norrman (ca.1607–7 June 1686), who sailed from Fredrikstad in Ostfold, Norway, in 1637, was among the earliest lessees in Rensselaerswyck. He allegedly ran a mill and was a tobacco planter, and his moniker soon came to denote the Normanskill creek. After dissolving his partnership to run his first mill, he allegedly ran two sawmills at Lower Hollow (now known as Kenwood), a short distance downstream from the Normanskill Farm site, which was denoted Upper Hollow. In addition to land

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records of the manor, Albert appeared with some frequency in court records because he was censured for mistreatment of his family and others.¹

Despite his foul and abusive temperament, the “Norman” fathered at least eight children with his first wife, Annatje Barents Van Rolmers/Rottmer (1608-1661). They married on 11 April 1632 in Oude Kerke, Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. Annatje may have been Norwegian like Albert or possibly German. Their two eldest children sailed with them to New Netherland, and a third child was born at sea. Their fourth child, a daughter called Engeltje (1637-1683), married Teunis Cornelisse Slingerland (1617-1703), the progenitor of the Slingerland family in New Netherland. He purchased nearly 10,000 acres from Indians residing east of the Helderberg hills, now in the towns of New Scotland and Bethlehem in 1658.²

Albert Bradt’s sixth child, a son called Berent Albertsen (1642-1706), succeeded his father to the lease for the Normanskill water right.³ Based on later documents, it appears that this right was at Upper Hollow. Five years later in 1677, a man with the surname Slingerland, “the son of a farmer upstream,” acquired the right.⁴ This may have been Berent’s brother-in-law or a nephew, a son of Teunis and his sister Engeltje.⁵ The “Map of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck” surveyed in 1767 by Jno. Bleeker shows the banks of the Normanskill still sparsely settled. The mill site at Upper Hollow was drawn with three houses on the east bank alongside a highway running to Albany. The building group is keyed as the “The Norman Kills People.”⁶ This label is unlike any other in the rural areas of Rensselaerswyck. Perhaps it denotes a hamlet centered on a productive mill run by people with an unusual community identity.

The water right remained valuable for at least another century. It is mentioned in deeds and at least one lease through the 1850s. When Abraham Hun (1768-1812), an agent of the Patroon Stephen Van Rensselear, acquired the lease for what was at that time a 352.6-acre property, the patroon excluded the right, presumably because another man retained it.⁷ Hun graduated from Columbia College, studied law, and partnered with Rensselaer Westerlo (1776-1851), half brother of the Patroon.⁸ His lease noted the property was surveyed in 1806, which may date his acquisition. It afforded a handsome country property *cum* farm. Further, it commanded a view of the newly chartered Albany and Delaware Turnpike, of which Hun was a director, possibly as a representative of the patroon.

Abraham allegedly built a “summer residence...on the brow of the hill” there.⁹ Perhaps the heavy stone basement of the present brick house with its spacious rooms, regular fenestration, and large cooking hearth formed the foundation of that residence. Abraham’s wife, Elizabeth, died in 1813, only a year after her husband. Her

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Andriessen_Bradt. This entry relies on a variety of what appear to be sound secondary sources.

² <https://www.geni.com/people/Teunis-Slingerland/6000000002665646153>. This source relies heavily on primary sources and cross-referenced secondary sources.

³ Dates from: <https://www.geni.com/people/Andries-Albertse-Bradt/6000000000954540975>

⁴ Joel Munsell, *Annals of Albany*, “Names of Settlers in Rensselaerswyck,” Entry for 1630, p.65. Munsell describes Bradt as a Swede, but other sources that seem more reliable assert that he was Norwegian. “Noorman” is Dutch for , after all, Dutch for Norwegian. The Wikipedia entry about him (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Andriessen_Bradt) provides two sources, both published in the early 1900s, offering genealogical information.

⁵ A map prepared in 1998 by Christopher Albright using manor land records shows a 205-acre parcel labeled “Widow Slingerland” that encompasses a parcel of similar boundaries to those of the present property with a house and sawmill. It adjoined the Cherry Hill Farm to the northeast, lands of Hitchen Holland (about 154 acres) to the east, the Whitehall Farm to the northwest, and Samuel Skillen (166 acres, 30 December 1805) to the west. Albright does not provide a date, but the widow may have been the daughter-in-law of Teunis and Engltje. The map is available at the Albany County Hall of Records; in May 2106, it hung in the entrance foyer.

⁶ https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/56/Rensselaerswyck_Map_Bleeker.png.

⁷ *Book of Deeds* 110/page 294. (Albany, New York: Albany County Office of County Clerk). Unless otherwise specified all subsequent deed references are found in Albany County. Format will be ##/##. Barnard Van Rensselaer has proved entirely elusive.

⁸ www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html.

⁹ www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html.

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brother, Judge Leonard Gansevoort, and his wife, Maria Van Rensselaer, reared the two Hun children, Elizabeth (1804–1834) and Thomas (1808–1896).¹⁰ The siblings acquired the lease on the parcel, of which the present Normanskill property is a part, from the patroon in 1831.

Albany & Delaware Turnpike (ca.1805–1870)G

Good transportation routes preoccupied the commercial and land speculation interests of the new republic. Improved travel enhanced the value and expansion of agriculture and industry and encouraged settlement. The state legislature began granting charters to turnpike companies just before the turn of the nineteenth century. Numerous such charters allowed for both the improvement of existing roads and the opening of new routes during the first decade of the 1800s. While many came to very little, others became important corridors connecting the opening back country with ports on the Hudson River, especially at Albany and Catskill on the west bank.

The Albany & Delaware Turnpike Company was chartered on 2 March 1805 and capitalized with 6,000 shares of stock sold at \$25 each. It was planned to run 75 miles to “Bristol” in Delaware County. This may refer to the Amos Bristol tavern (NR listed) located in the Town of Meredith on the Catskill, or Susquehanna, Turnpike, which was chartered a few years earlier. It connected Catskill with the Susquehanna River at Otego in Otsego County. The meeting of these routes would have offered a tripod of good roads connecting three of the state’s important water routes. Samuel Lansing, Abraham Hun, and Isaac Needer of Albany and Hollis More, Asa Starkweather, Hugh Orr, and Stephen Judd were the directors of the turnpike company board.¹¹ Much of the eastern 20 miles or so of the Albany and Delaware was adopted by New York State in the early 1900s and is now designated NY 443. In the City of Albany it is called Delaware Avenue. Within the Capital District suburbs, the route remains an important connector.

Parts of the Albany and Delaware Turnpike route were macadamized, but like many charter roads thrown over the hilly landscape of the Catskills and Helderberg, it was of uneven quality. Many sections were poorly graded.¹² By the 1860s, freight was shifting to railroads, and turnpike revenues frequently fell below the cost of maintenance. The Albany & Susquehanna Railroad (A&SRR) was chartered in 1851 and built gradually. The 1866 Beers *Atlas of Albany County* shows that the A&SRR bypassed the steep ravine of Upper Hollow, taking a lower grade through Lower Hollow instead. While this may have diminished some kinds of businesses at Upper Hollow, the hamlet was still less than five miles from Albany’s rapidly growing downtown markets on a very direct town highway.

The turnpike company appears to have abandoned the road through Upper Hollow between 1866 and 1868. The 1865 census listed Andrew Fisher, age 59, as gatekeeper living in a frame house valued at \$200 with his wife, Mary, 40, and two young children.¹³ The toll house was labeled a year later in the 1866 atlas. When the bridge was carried away by a spring freshet in 1868, however, it was the town of Bethlehem that replaced the span with an early example of a two-lane iron bridge.¹⁴ This indicates that the crossing was important enough to local trade for the town to replace the span with a very good bridge.

¹⁰www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html. Based on correlation with primary sources, this entry has some chronological flaws, but the information seems generally correct.

¹¹George Rogers Howell and Jonathan Tenney, *Bicentennial History of Albany: History of the County of Albany, N.Y., from 1609–1886* (New York: W.W. Munsell, 1886): 790. They state that Otego, on the Susquehanna River in Otsego County (established 1791), was the terminus of the Albany and Delaware. This was well over 75 miles.

¹²Howell and Tenney, 790.

¹³*Census of the State of New York for 1865*, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem. Residence 278/Household (HH) 315.

¹⁴Richard S. Allen, “Whipple Cast and Wrought Iron Bowstring Truss Bridge, 1867, Albany (HAER NY-4),” *Smithsonian Studies in History and Technology* (1972): 2 (in pdf referenced below).

(<http://cdn.loc.gov/master/npn/habshaer/ny/ny0000/ny0017/data/ny0017data.pdf>)

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Historical records and physical evidence offer an incomplete picture of how the property labeled "the Normans Kill People" in 1767 was used and developed during the first half of the nineteenth century. Through the 1860s, the water right on the creek was valuable and used, although Stephen Van Rensselaer divided it off from the 1806 lease to Abraham Hun.¹⁵ The surrounding land was surely cultivated, although no details of its operation save the rent of 52.9 bushels of "good clean merchantable winter wheat and four fat hens, to be delivered at the new mansion house of Stephen Van Rensselaer in Watervliet" have been uncovered.¹⁶ The farm, with its romantic setting adjacent to a ravine and babbling stream—even if partially impounded for potentially noisy mills—may have offered a rural retreat *cum* farm in the pattern modeled on English country estates and adopted by successful men in America's growing cities. Tenant laborers overseen by a manager surely carried out much of the work producing an array of income-producing commodities, mainly grains and grass, as well as foodstuffs for its city dwelling leaseholder and those on the farm.

On 15 September 1831, Thomas and Elizabeth Hun, the children and heirs of Abraham, petitioned the Surrogate's Court of Albany County to assign Thomas, by then 23 years old, as executor of his father's estate. The surviving originally appointed executors renounced their responsibilities, and Thomas assumed the executorship.¹⁷ Within the month, on 24 October, Thomas executed a new lease on the Normanskill property with the patroon. He and his sister, older by four years and already the widow of Barnard Van Rensselaer, may have enjoyed the Normanskill property during the early 1830s and possibly earlier when the property was under guardianship. Normanskill may have offered Elizabeth a safe haven against the cholera epidemic that swept through the City of Albany during the summer and early fall of 1832. Thomas, however, was a physician, and he worked in the hospital opened to fight the fearsome disease. Earlier, he had graduated from Union College in 1826 and apprenticed with an Albany physician before entering the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1827.¹⁸ American practitioners like Thomas Hun were acutely aware of the great advantages offered by European universities in the study of medicine. When his sister died two years later, on 25 June 1834, Thomas sailed for France in late November.¹⁹ He returned for a time before sailing again in July 1835 for a longer period, reputedly not coming home to stay until 1839.²⁰ Apparently in preparation to sublet part of the property, Abraham Rosenkranz was retained in 1834 to survey a parcel of nearly 100 acres (97.35) off of the Normanskill property. This encompassed the site of the brick house and the lower ravine and adjoined the water right still held by Van Rensselaer.²¹

¹⁵ 110/121. This deed recapitulates most of the 1806 description; it is unclear whether the reservation was earlier still.

¹⁶ 110/294.

¹⁷ Papers filed in Albany County Surrogate's Court under Wills, Abraham Hun. While other papers survive, his will does not appear to be preserved.

¹⁸ www.schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html.

¹⁹ (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR3-Y6X8> : 15 April 2015), Thomas Hun, 1834; citing NARA microfilm publication M237 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm.

²⁰ (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q295-N1F2> : 14 March 2016), Thomas Hun, 24 Jul 1835; citing Passport Application, United States, source certificate #, Passport Applications, 1795-1905., 3, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,432,503. AND "United States Passport Applications, 1795-1925," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q295-JMCQ> : 14 March 2016), Thomas Hun, 03 Aug 1835; citing Passport Application, United States, source certificate #, Passport Applications, 1795-1905., 3, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 1,432,503. On his second outbound voyage, he sailed without a passport and retroactively requested one! Biographical entry at www.Schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html provides his return date.

²¹ 54/110. The Hun family biography at www.Schenectadyhistory.org states that Thomas remodeled the house his father built at Normanskill in 1852, but the 1836 deed clearly shows that that section of the property where the brick house stands was sold off. The 1854 Gould "Map of Albany County" shows the Gothic Revival summer house Hun built, which survives greatly altered in the midst of a post-war subdivision between Delaware Avenue and Normanskill Drive.

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It appears that Thomas Hun appointed a lawyer, James Lamoureux, who was also an Albany judge and possibly a Normanskill neighbor, to manage his affairs whilst he was abroad. Thus, Lamoureux was named party of the first part when the lease for the 97.35-acre parcel was at length sold to Ambrose Spencer (1765–1847), another, more influential Albany judge and politician for \$4,380 on 1 April 1836.²² Spencer had come from Connecticut to Albany in late 1700s. He served as chief justice of the New York Supreme Court from 1819 to 1823. A year later he was mayor of Albany, and in 1829–31, he represented the Tenth District in the House of Representatives. Spencer married Laura Canfield, and they had children, John (1788–1855), Abby (1789–1849) and Ambrose (1795–1814). The latter died in 1814 after the Battle of Lundy's Lane and was buried at Sacketts Harbor.²³ John had a career in public life perhaps more eminent than his father's and also served as the chief justice of the New York Supreme Court as well as secretary of war and secretary of the treasury at the federal level. Abby married John Townsend (1783–26 August 1854), a prominent and wealthy iron manufacturer in Albany, who served three times as mayor, the last time in 1832, when cholera first struck the city.²⁴

The deed to Ambrose Spencer was subject to the lease from Stephen Van Rensselaer to Abraham Hun's heirs. The date of transfer would have allowed a farm manager to set crops and agree on other decisions with the new owner at the beginning of the growing season. It is unknown whether Spencer used the Normanskill property as a rural retreat or simply an income-bearing farm. Based on the appearance and technology of the three-unit tenant house, it may date to Spencer's ownership. When he died in 1847 in Lyons, Wayne County, New York, his body was returned to Albany and buried in the Albany Rural Cemetery.²⁵

Spencer's last will and testament conveyed the Normanskill parcel to his granddaughter, Laura S.[pencer] T.[ownsend] Walsh (16 April 1811–15 September 1863), apparently via a trust kept by her father, John Townsend. She was the daughter of Spencer's daughter, Abby, who died in 1849 of cholera—just two years after her father's death. John Townsend held the property in trust with Laura's husband, John S.[tevenson] Walsh (1795–1857), who became sole guardian of the trust when his father-in-law died in 1852.²⁶

The 1850 census recorded John S. Walsh, farmer aged 54, and Lorra [sic], 38, already residing at Normanskill with their children, Lorrey [sic] T., 15; Abby S., 10; Dudley, 9, and five Irish servants—Richard Ryan, laborer, 20; John Worthington, 15; Hanna McBain, 38; Margaret Freeley, 25; and Ann Smith, 15. John owned \$12,000 in real estate.²⁷ The Walshes appear to have been the first owners or leaseholders of the Normanskill Farm property to live there rather than in Albany, and it is unclear why. John Stevenson Walsh was the son of Irish immigrant and Albany merchant Dudley Walsh (1756–1816). He attended Yale in 1813 and studied law but never practiced. When he and Laura Townsend married, he was 36 years old to her 20. When he died, he was allegedly “engaged in the hardware business,” likely in the Townsend family business.²⁸ These details may indicate that John Walsh did not provide for his family in a manner matching the circumstances to which his wife was born, and that her relations were trying to ensure her comfort.

John Townsend's will was probated on 11 September 1854, less than a month after he died.²⁹ A highly detailed inventory records a very long and detailed list of personal property in his office, at his large brick house in Albany, and at “the Farm.” The farm inventory surely records the Normanskill property, as Townsend appears not to have owned any other farms, and the inventory is a good match for the agricultural schedule filed the following

²² 54/110.

²³ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=105100631>

²⁴ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Townsend_\(mayor\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Townsend_(mayor)).

²⁵ <http://albanyruralcemetery.org/search-arc/> (use search value: Ambrose Spencer).

²⁶ 173/420. The will is referenced in the deed. If the will was filed in Albany County, it appears to have been lost.

²⁷ *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*. Albany County, New York, Town of Bethlehem, Population Schedule. HH 561/685.

²⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=79797273>.

²⁹ Surrogate records, Will of John Townsend, 11 September 1854. *Book of Wills 15/199*. (Albany, New York: Albany County Surrogate's Court)

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year by John Walsh.³⁰ The inventory shows that Townsend was financing most, probably all, of the farm operation at Normanskill. Produce, livestock, implements, and the contents of a house—probably not the brick house recorded in 1855—totaled \$2,414.

The property produced characteristic grain crops (350 bushels of oats and 600 bushels of corn on the ear) and grass (30 tons hay) and supported a variety of bovines, including a bull, 7 milk cows, young stock, and some pigs of various ages. Beyond this, the inventory indicates a sizable and successful market garden and poultry operation, both potentially profitable businesses at the outskirts of cities. The inventory shows that Townsend had underwritten the farm overseen by his son-in-law. In September 1854, Rutabaga (100 bu.), carrots (105 bu.), potatoes (550 bu.), turnips (15 bu.), parsnips (7 bu.), oyster plants (a.k.a. salsify, 6 bu.), beets (3 bu.), 600 heads celery, and 600 heads cabbage were all still in the ground. Six barrels of apples and 9 barrels of onions were stored in the house. Implements included 20 hot bed covers, 24 starting boxes, and 44 starting pots as well as a garden engine for watering and a cultivator. The two Irish gardeners, John Ryan, 25, and Thomas Kennedy, 26, living under the Walshes' roof surely worked on this part of the farm. The livestock list included 200 chickens, 65 ducks, and 21 turkeys—evidence of a poultry business. In 1855, John S. Walsh valued the farm, composed of 167 acres, of which 155 were improved, at \$18,800.

The inventory of the “house” at the farm is minimal and most furnishings are described as “old” with very low values. These include two bedsteads and some bedding, a table, a painted settee, a dozen chairs, and a lounge. The list of dairy implements, including milk pans, butter bowl, milk pails, milk cans, and a strainer indicate that this building housed a butter making operation. This house, apparently gone unless it is the tenant house, was probably worker housing that predated the Townsend purchase.³¹ The lack of a more elegantly, or even completely furnished house in the inventory probably indicates that the Walshes already lived in the brick house they built on the older Federal stone foundation and owned separately from Townsend. This dwelling was valued at \$4,500 a year later in the 1855 census. The “lots” of “old sash and doors,” “old lumber,” “old timber,” and “old cedar posts,” listed with the garden implements and tools might be the salvage from demolishing the older house, possibly a framed one, that stood previously on the stone foundation. This would date the brick Greek Revival house to ca.1850, a date more consistent with the brick work and the surviving evidence showing how the house probably appeared when built.

The larger context of the property in Upper Hollow and some details of the Normanskill Farm are offered in the 1854 Gould “Map of Albany County.” The turnpike descended to the creek on a straight course and rounded a corner to descend to the ravine, where it turned sharply again to cross the bridge. From the latter bend a drive continued along the north (east) bank of the creek. Two unlabeled buildings stood between this drive and the creek. Based on earlier deeds, this is the mill property based on the reserved water right, which was purchased by William T. Congdon in 1850 from Philip Van Rensselaer.³² Congdon's house stood between the mill drive and a second drive nearly parallel drive. A building in the position of the tenant house stood at the north end of the second drive. On the east side of the second drive, two or three houses were labeled J.S. Walsh. On the far side of the creek, there were three more houses, a saw and grist mill, a carding mill, and the district school. Dr. T.[homas] Hun's country residence stood on flat land overlooking the east bank of the ravine.³³

³⁰In 1855, Walsh reported for the state census in the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, plowing 20 acres in 1854, but listed planting more than 40 acres in oats, rye, buckwheat, corn, and potatoes the following spring. Thirty acres of meadow produced 25 tons of hay. This is a low figure for the time when an acre generally produced a ton. The farm milked 6 cows for 625 pounds of butter, a slightly high figure.

³¹Published maps (Gould, 1854, and Beers, 1866) indicate there were at least two additional houses on the bluff in the 1850s and 1860s.

³²110/121.

³³www.Schenectadyhistory.org/families/hmgfm/hun.html. The biographer wrote that Thomas Hun “reconstructed” his father's summer residence on the Normanskill property in 1852, but the deeds do not support this statement. Hun bought 17.18 acres adjoining the west side of the turnpike east of the ravine in 1851 (113/85) for \$1,000 from James Lamoureux, the lawyer who appears to

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The 1855 census listed additional households in the neighborhood that are difficult to tie directly to the map. Sanford Bennett, who almost certainly lived in the mill tenement house later, was recorded four households away from the Walshes and may already have lived there.³⁴ Among other households in the immediate vicinity were a teamster and a milk peddler, both occupations probably related to Upper Hollow's proximity to Albany on a good road.

When John S. Walsh died on 13 January 1857, Laura S.T. Walsh, with both earlier trustees of her property (her father and her husband) deceased, could now conduct business in her own right.³⁵ She sold the Normanskill farm to Elizabeth M. Brooks in two transactions on 27 December 1861 for a total of \$12,500.³⁶ Additional deed "quieting" was completed in 1862 amongst the Townsend heirs, but the configuration achieved in the two deeds was retained with only one small 17-acre addition through the remainder of the historic period and beyond.³⁷ Laura S.T. Walsh herself followed her husband to the grave on 15 September 1863.³⁸

To date, no previous connection between Laura S.T. Walsh and Elizabeth M. Brooks has been established, but the unusual circumstance of a widow selling to woman married to farmer in the adjacent town suggests they knew each other. The 1850 and 1855 censuses located Elizabeth (b.1823) living with her husband Peter V.W. Brooks (b.1811) in the adjacent town of New Scotland, Albany County. Peter listed his occupation as farmer. In the latter record, the farm schedule shows a middling farm managed in the diversified pattern of the time. They had four children, three sons and a daughter. In both years, Abraham, Peter's father, lived with them.³⁹ When they were censused in 1865 in Upper Hollow, Abraham, then 80, still lived with them as well as two sons, William, 18, and James E., 12, and an Irish servant, Ellen DeGraff, 21. Their house, described as frame, was valued at \$2,500. The construction material may be an error, or possibly that house is gone.⁴⁰ No one was recorded living in a brick house in the Upper Hollow neighborhood in 1865. Unoccupied houses were sometimes noted in the census, but it appears no one lived in the brick house that year. The neighborhood included two tenants listed as farmers living in modest frame houses, including Irishman Thomas Burns and Canadian Edward Daniel.⁴¹ William Congdon still lived in Upper Hollow and still listed himself as a miller. The residence adjoining him—probably the tenant house—accommodated the households of Sanford Bennett, 40, a storekeeper; and Stephen Congdon, 30, a miller.⁴²

have handled Hun's affairs 17 years before when Hun went abroad. If this purchase was at arm's length, its price indicates it had no house or a poor one. This may be where the 1852 building activity occurred. In 1855, Hun was censused in the 5th Ward in Albany living in a brick house valued at \$10,000 and heading a household including his wife, Lydia N. (Reynolds), 38; four sons; his father-in-law and lawyer Marcus T. Reynolds; and five Irish servants. (Household 97).

³⁴Census of the State of New York for 1855, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, 2nd election district, Population schedule, HH 286/312. Upper Hollow households appear to range on both sides of Bennett, but it is unclear how far in either direction. The entire neighborhood probably encompassed no more than 20 households.

³⁵Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *Biographical Notices of Graduates of Yale College* (New Haven, Connecticut, 1913): 13. (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=79797273>)

³⁶173/418 and 173/420. The sale of larger 97.35-acre parcel was also recorded in Laura S.T. Walsh's last will and testament filed in Albany County Surrogate's Court.

³⁷173/422 and 173/481.

³⁸("Find A Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV25-HP3J> : 11 July 2016), Laura Spencer Townsend Walsh, 1863; Burial, Menands, Albany, New York, United States of America, Albany Rural Cemetery; citing record ID 79797287, *Find a Grave*, <http://www.findagrave.com>).

³⁹*Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*, Albany County, Town of New Scotland, Population schedule: HH 474 (corrected in margin)/484.

⁴⁰Census of the State of New York for 1855, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, 2nd election district, Population schedule: HH 280/317.

⁴¹Census of the State of New York for 1855, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, 2nd election district, Population schedule: HH 273/310 and 277/314.

⁴²Census of the State of New York for 1855, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, 2nd election district, Population schedule: HH 271/307, 272/308, and 272/309.

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The 1866 Bethlehem plate of the Beers *Atlas of Albany County* shows four houses on the bluff as did the 1854 map; an additional building stands north of the westernmost building. This and the western three in the row are labeled P.V.W. Brooks (even though he did not hold the deed!). These buildings include the brick house, the still-standing tenant house, and two additional houses. The sawmill and William Congdon's house are shown between the creek drive and the stream. A hotel, the tollgate, the schoolhouse, a gristmill, and a handful of houses cluster at the bridge crossing.

The 1875 census illustrates how Peter V.W. Brooks intensified production at the Normanskill farm in his two decades of management (the 1870 census was careful to note that Elizabeth owned the assets of \$20,000 real estate and \$14,575 personal estate).⁴³ In 1875, the farm was valued at \$14,600 and recorded \$2,500 in gross receipts during the previous year. Grain production—oats (500 bushels), winter rye (400 bushels), corn (150 bushels), and buckwheat (28 bushels)—was of great importance. Five hundred pounds of butter, \$40 of poultry in 1874, 1,300 pounds of pork, and possibly much of the 200 bushels of apples were probably sold within the Albany region. The 5 milk cows and 5 horses were pastured on 10 acres, a standard formula of the period. Hay production increased fivefold over 1855, to 125 tons cut from 77 acres of meadow. Given the small milking herd of five and five horses used to provide motive power, it is evident that nearly all of the hay was produced for the hay market that fueled the many horses literally moving the larger economy of the time.

Brooks valued his outbuildings at \$2,500, an unusually large figure for such a property except for its outsized hay production. The present Hay Barn would have been a very up-to-date building in 1875 (less so even by 1880), but it would have accommodated most of the farm's operations. Sections in the deep basement appear to have been designed for modest numbers of stock, and the enormous mows loaded from both sides and into four compartments would have stored most or all of the farm's production. Elizabeth Brooks appears to have had the means to build such a barn, and it seems at least possible that this building dates to this period rather than later on as has been suggested. The barn would have allowed Brooks to time the market by storing the hay and shipping it when prices were high. Other compartments in the lower section of the barn might have offered grain storage, or there may have been separate grain storage including a corncrib to meet that grain's air circulation requirements. If so, above-ground evidence is gone.

Farming at this increased intensity demanded additional labor. Of the Brooks household, all of the men—father Peter, 64; sons William, 26, and James E., 22; were farmers. Laborer John Chambers, 15, lived with them.⁴⁴ The federal census recorded in 1880 listed all Brooks family members of five years before in 1875, but William had married. He and his wife, Emma J., had an infant daughter and an adoptive daughter, Libbie, 12. A servant, Sarah Van Dyke, 18, and laborer, William Beaty, 24, lived with them. A second laborer lived in Peter's household.⁴⁵ The two generations were listed adjacent, but nothing indicates whether they all lived in one building, but the brick house would easily have accommodated all of them. Based on style and materials, the Brooks family may have made a few changes to the house during their tenure; additional alterations might have been removed or hidden during a full-scale remodeling around the turn of the twentieth century. In the main block, the high-style Italianate library located in the southeast corner of the first floor of the main block seems to date to this period. It features a carved stone and varnished wood shelving wraps the walls. A deep bas-relief frieze of Georgian taste wreaths above the shelving appears to be the only nod to later taste. In the ell, trim and wainscot in the upstairs rooms seem in keeping with this period.

⁴³Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Population schedule: HH 302/337.

⁴⁴Census of State of New York for 1875, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Population schedule, 2nd election district: HH 264/313 and associated agricultural schedule.

⁴⁵"United States Census, 1880," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MZCB-JTN> : 14 July 2016), Elizabeth Brooks in household of P V W Brooks, Bethlehem, Albany, New York, United States; citing enumeration district ED 64, sheet 655A, NARA microfilm publication T9 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 0808; FHL microfilm 1,254,808.

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By 1886, Upper Hollow was commonly known as Normansville. Howell and Tenney in their bicentennial history of Albany County related a long and varied milling history on both banks of the Normanskill in the neighborhood, but concluded that little such activity continued save on the opposite bank from the farm. There an old grist mill—burned, rebuilt, and retrofitted—manufactured up to two tons of straw paper a day. On the farm side, a large icehouse able to accommodate 3,000 tons cut from the adjoining millpond dominated that bank, just below where Congdon's mill had been.⁴⁶ A ca.1900 photograph shows the icehouse and also the iron bridge before it was replaced with the elegant concrete arch one that crosses the Normanskill creek today.⁴⁷ An 1891 map of Normansville P.O. offers a schematic two-dimensional view of the area. It shows Mrs. P.V.W. Brooks owning 150 acres of land and two houses on the north bank. Dr. T.[homas] Hun still owned a summer residence farther east on the old turnpike, now called Delaware Avenue.⁴⁸ He died five years later in 1896 and was buried in Albany Rural Cemetery, as were all of the previous owners and lessees of the Normanskill property going back to Abraham Hun.

Elizabeth M. Brooks apparently died in 1892. Based on guardianship papers filed by her daughter-in-law Emma J. Brooks, she devised her estate valued at \$5,000 to the infant granddaughter, also named Elizabeth M. Brooks, recorded in the 1880 census. Emma was unable to raise the bond to act as her daughter's guardian, and so William S. Dyer, with whom it seems little Elizabeth resided in Albany, was appointed instead.⁴⁹ On 27 January 1894, executors William O. Stillman and Jacob L. Ten Eyck sold the Normanskill Farm property in two parcels for \$15,000 to Jennie B.[easom] Stevens, wife of Charles P. Stevens. They already lived in Bethlehem, but the deed noted they formerly resided in Howes Cave, Schoharie County, New York.

Stevens Farm, or Normanskill Farm Dairy (1894–1954)

Charles Phelps Stevens (1863–1927) and Jennie Beasom Stevens (1869–1954) were newlyweds when they bought the Normanskill farm property from Elizabeth M. Brooks's estate in 1894. How they met, where they met, remains unknown, although they probably had known each other for eight years or more. Charles's sister Mary F. married Jennie's brother William R. Beasom before their first child was born in March 1885.⁵⁰ Charles and Jennie married on 14 June 1893 in New Hampshire, probably in Nashua, where she grew up the daughter of a wealthy banker.⁵¹

Charles P. Stevens was the son of Mark W. and Lucy Phelps Stevens. Both Charles's obituary and his marriage record in New Hampshire stated that he was from Sloansville, in Esperance in Schoharie County, New York. For most of his life, his father, Mark Stevens, was recorded in Esperance with various occupations. In 1860, before Charles was born, Mark listed himself as a nurseryman with \$1,500 real estate.⁵² Five years later, he described himself as a farmer living in a frame house valued at \$3,500. He apparently prospered, however, as he recorded \$5,000 in real estate and quite a lot of personal estate. This last figure is unclear, but it is certainly four figures, possibly as high as \$11,500.⁵³ Charles Stevens's obituary related that "he passed his boyhood" in Colorado.

⁴⁶Howell and Tenney, 781–2.

⁴⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normansville,_New_York

⁴⁸Map published by Watson & Company, "32 Section Portion of Albany County and City of Albany" (at New York Public Library; accessed via https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normansville,_New_York

⁴⁹Petition for Appointment of General Guardian for infant Elizabeth M. Brooks, 1 December 1892. (Albany, New York: Albany County Surrogate's Court)

⁵⁰New Hampshire Births and Christenings, 1714-1904," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FDJY-8LS> : 12 December 2014), Wm H Beasom in entry for Mary Beasom, 03 Sep 1885; citing Nashua, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, United States; FHL microfilm 2,156,167.

⁵¹"New Hampshire Marriages, 1720-1920," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FDLP-B28> : 31 December 2014), Charles P. Stevens and Jennie F. Beasom, 14 Jun 1893; citing reference 2:1D539F1; FHL microfilm 1,001,303.

⁵²*Eighth Census of the United States, 1860*, Schoharie County, Town of Esperance, Population schedule: HH 974/989.

⁵³*Census of the State of New York for 1865*, Schoharie County, Town of Esperance, Population schedule: HH 127/139.

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Perhaps his widowed father moved his children there for a time in the 1870s, but by 1880, Mark Stevens was a retired merchant living on Main Street with his second wife, Mary, and his two youngest children, Charles, 18, and Mary, 19.⁵⁴ Both still attended school, indicating an unusual degree of commitment to education in rural New York, where children often left school in early adolescence. About 1887, Charles is said to have moved to Albany.⁵⁵

When Charles and Jennie wed, they shared financial wellbeing and education beyond average levels of the time. Their choice of the well-managed Normanskill Farm property and their subsequent alterations to the house suggest that they planned to combine agricultural endeavor with sociability. They may have planned to continue much as the Brooks had managed the property. By the advent of the Progressive Era in the 1890s, eastern farmers had long relied on hay and oats (wheat had long since moved west) as part of the sustained national emphasis on production of the “great” commodities.⁵⁶ The economy, however, was shifting rapidly away from horsepower to coal-powered steam and gasoline, and demand for hay—the most valuable product of farms like Normanskill, with its enormous hay barn—fell precipitously during the mid-1890s.

The location of the Normanskill Farm property, however, offered flexibility. Charles and Jennie Stevens may have planned to continue managing the farm as the Brooks family had, but they soon shifted its production to fluid milk to meet the growing demand in the Albany market. The Normanskill property was on a good road into the densely settled residential districts of the city, and the Brooks family had made its lands highly productive. Further, the farm adjoined a commercial icehouse that offered the refrigeration required for fluid milk preservation. While the property included a very fine hay barn useful for winter feed, it was down to the Stevens family to construct additional buildings required for a modern fluid milk operation.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, fluid milk was a fairly recent addition to the American diet, especially for children. In 1864, in New York State, census figures showed that only 9 percent of milk reported was sold as fluid milk.⁵⁷ Most milk was turned into butter and cheese, which, when properly salted and packed, can last months, even years, at room temperature. Because of this, both were staples of global trade. Fluid milk, however, which developed a reputation as a suitable substitute for mother’s breast milk before 1900, was among the most highly perishable products—along with fruit, garden produce, potatoes, poultry, and eggs—to which Eastern farmers increasingly oriented their production at the turn of the century to remain economically viable.⁵⁸ Fluid milk farmers were aided by ice production and emerging mechanical refrigeration technologies. These made it possible to store and transport milk without spoilage.

Although infection was imperfectly understood in this era, consumers sensed there a link between contamination in milk and human disease. As the demand for fluid milk for childhood nutrition increased, the clamor for a safe supply rose in tandem. A complicated system of certification was overtaken by simple pasteurization to combat contamination and disease during this period.⁵⁹ While there were many farmers milking small herds at the periphery of the city who produced “country” milk that could meet urban demand in Albany, collection, pasteurization, and, increasingly bottling—which symbolized safety for consumers— all required a considerable cash outlay that was beyond their individual finances.

⁵⁴*Ninth Census of the United States, 1880*, Schoharie County, Town of Esperance, Hamlet of Sloansville, Population schedule: (p.1), HH 88/94.

⁵⁵“C.P. Stevens, Sr.’s, Funeral Monday,” *Albany Evening News* (23 December 1927): 1. Unless otherwise noted, newspaper articles found at fultonhistory.org using search string “Normanskill”.

⁵⁶Eric Brunger, *Changes in the New York State Dairying Industry, 1850–1900*. Dissertation written in fulfillment of requirements at Syracuse University, 1954: 1.

⁵⁷Melanie E. DuPuis, *Nature’s Perfect Food. How Milk Became America’s Drink* (New York and London: New York University Press, 2002): 158.

⁵⁸Eric Brunger, *Changes in the New York State Dairy Industry, 1850–1900* (Ph.D. dissertation, Syracuse University, 1954): 2.

⁵⁹Kendra Smith-Howard, *Pure and Modern Milk: An environmental history since 1900*. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University press, [2014]): 21.

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The Stevens farm at Normansville exemplified the emerging pattern of large, well-capitalized farms specializing in fluid milk production, packaging, and home delivery. Owners of these new dairies increasingly hired men to manage all farm operations including hay production, breeding, milking, cleaning, etc.⁶⁰ Capitalization also enabled farmers to improve bloodlines through breeding. In this period, Channel Islands breeds such as Guernseys, Jerseys, and Alderneys, with their tendency towards high butterfat production, were favored. The Normanskill herd were Guernseys.

Charles and Jennie Stevens moved to the Normanskill property soon after they bought it. Their first child, Charles P., was born in April 1894 and followed by William B., in March 1896. A daughter, Jane B., arrived in May 1899.⁶¹ The 1905 census recorded Mark W., 3; and infant Elizabeth. Jennie's widowed mother, 78, had joined the household by then.⁶² Frances B. was born in 1910, a few months after her maternal grandmother's death at Normansville of intestinal nephritis on 15 December 1909.⁶³

Of the earlier farm buildings, both those on the property in 1894 and those built by Stevens before 1912, information is scanty. The 1900 census recorded four households, three living in the same building, adjoining the Stevens household. The three families seem likely to have lived in the old three-unit tenant house. If there was another house for the fourth family, it is gone and no trace of it is evident. They might have lived in the back ell of the brick house.⁶⁴ Five years later, the state census recorded nearby households headed by three farmhands, a milk peddler, and a teamster. By 1910, all of the adjoining households were headed by men who rented their houses and worked for someone else. Their occupations included "in shop," "on farm," and "milk route."⁶⁵ Possibly all of them worked on the Normanskill Farm. Charles Stevens was in this census listed as an employer with a property free of mortgage. Perhaps he and Jennie used the latter's inheritance from her mother's death in 1909 to pay off the mortgage he reported holding in the two earlier censuses.

While little is known about Charles and Jennie's earliest agricultural efforts at Normansville, the architectural evidence shows that improving the house and adjoining land into a place for socializing and recreation was also important to the couple. When, in 1899, Delaware Avenue (the former turnpike) was adopted as a state road and realigned away from the earlier route (now Mill Road), they took steps to create an upper entrance to the property from the new road. The new state road alignment descended a switchback (now Normansville Drive) meant to ease the steep grade of the ravine.⁶⁶ The new entrance separated social visitors to the house from farm business, which accessed the outbuildings from Mill Road instead.

In 1900, as part of this project, Charles Stevens executed two deeds with their neighbor to the east, Amanda Lightbody.⁶⁷ The first deed acquired the ravine of the seasonal stream that lay between the new alignment and the east line of the Normanskill Farm property. This Stevens spanned with an iron Whipple truss bridge, which he allegedly acquired from a location in Schoharie County. This bridge is an unusual survivor of a type once used for highway and canal bridges. It was built in 1867 in Syracuse by Simon deGraff, and it may be that it was originally placed closer to its home and reused once before in Schoharie County. Such bridges are easily

⁶⁰Smith-Howard, 24.

⁶¹*Twelfth Census of the United States*, 1900, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Population schedule: HH 213/248.

⁶²*Census of the State of New York for 1905*, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Hamlet of Normanville.

⁶³*Thirteenth Census of the United States*, 1910, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Sheet 2, Delaware Avenue: House 38, HH 41.

Death certificate for Jane Beasom: "New Hampshire Death Records, 1654-1947," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FSVM-LHF> : 12 December 2014), Jane N. Beasom, 15 Dec 1909; citing Normansville, , New York, Bureau Vital Records and Health Statistics, Concord; FHL microfilm 2,070,932.

⁶⁴*Twelfth Census of the United States*, 1900, Albany County, Bethlehem, population schedule: HH 213/248 (Stevens), HH 242 through HH 245.

⁶⁵*Thirteenth Census of the United States*, 1910, Albany County, Town of Bethlehem, Sheet 2.

⁶⁶Allen, HAER No. NY-4: 2.

⁶⁷512/64 (conveys sliver of land west of the state road and east of the Normanskill farm) and 512/71 (conveys right to collect dirt from the grading of the new state road).

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disassembled into comparatively small component parts, which can be moved and reassembled.⁶⁸ Stevens, who came from Schoharie County, may have learned that the bridge was being replaced from friends there.

The second deed with Amanda Lightbody allowed Charles Stevens to remove as much dirt as he desired from the grading of the new state road alignment on Lightbody's land "for filling a portion of [his] property." Some portion of this may have been used to improve the site for new farm buildings, but it appears the greatest volume was used to level the grade of the formerly sloped lawn south of the brick house and bury entirely its banked stone basement.

The Main House, in its turn, was reoriented east to face the new house drive with a veranda supported by fluted columns spanning the front. A new entrance with an elaborate classically derived doorway featuring an elliptically arched fan light and sidelights was centered on the east side, which was partially altered to present a more consistent front. A porte-cochere—*de rigueur* for a house designed for entertaining at the time—projected over the new doorway.

These exterior changes probably also date the extensive remodeling of the interior in a blend combining features of the late Queen Anne and Georgian Revival tastes. The new entrance opened onto a large stair hall with a capacious hearth sharing a flue with the old Italianate hearth in the library. A "powder room" was tucked under the wide stair composed of two runs and trimmed with an elaborate spindled railing. The southwest corner of the house was filled by a large drawing room with varied finishes, some retained from earlier decorative schemes, but dominated by Georgian details, and a second large hearth. Oak floors of narrow boards typical of the period replaced or covered earlier ones. The lack of remodeling upstairs except for the insertion of bathrooms in the 1920s (based on fixtures and details) may indicate that the Stevens family did not host weekend parties where people slept over. The first floor of the ell was also renovated in this period with built-in cupboards and narrow beadboard wainscot.

These domestic renovations paralleled a number of transformative business decisions. By 1902, the Normanskill Farm owned a bottling plant on Lark Street in downtown Albany. That same year the company was listed as one of about 20 milk dealers in an Albany directory.⁶⁹ Much of its distribution system of wagons and horses was probably located downtown as well. Thus, the actual farm at Normansville produced little or maybe even none of the milk that the Normanskill Farm Dairy Company distributed throughout the city. Stevens was quickly becoming a buyer, processor, and distributor.

The Stevens family's attentions were surely turned to the home farm agricultural buildings when, in early December 1912, two "big barns" with their contents burned at the Normanskill Dairy at Normansville at a loss "to the extent of about \$10,000. About 35 head of stock were saved." The *Hudson Register* explained that the loss would "not affect the company's business because that part of the farm where the dairy is conducted was not burned."⁷⁰ This appears to have been because the bottling plant was located downtown, and the dairy purchased a large proportion of the milk it sold. Nevertheless, two barns valued at such a large figure were probably recently built and may have stood close enough to each other for the fire to jump. Given a tendency to concentrate farm operations to save time and space, these probably stood near the house, possibly on the site of the current dairy barn. They may also have been similar to it, with gambrel roofs and ground-level stanchions and stalls.

Based on architectural evidence, not long after the two barns on the home farm in the Normanskill ravine burned, the present gambrel-roofed barn was built. This building exemplified the most up-to-date thinking on dairy barns

⁶⁸Allen, HAER No. NY-4: 2-3.

⁶⁹*Albany Directory for years 1900, 1902ff. including Rensselaer, Bath-on-Hudson, etc.* Albany, New York: Sampson Murdock & Co. New York State Historical Association collection lacks the 1901 directory, and Normanskill is not listed in 1900.

⁷⁰*Hudson Register* (9 December 1912): 1.

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at the time.⁷¹ Ventilation and cleanliness were of the utmost importance, and so the two-row, tail-to-tail stanchion area was at grade with an easily cleaned concrete floor. The outline of a gutter, which would have had a manure cleaning system, has been filled in with concrete, but it once operated to remove manure quickly away from the cows to diminish contagion. Windows with six-over-six double-hung wood sash lined both eave walls and large doors mounted on sliding hardware were centered in each end wall. Calving pens, a milk room, and a grain room were incorporated into the ground floor plan.

The high gambrel-roofed mow supported by narrow trusses built with dimensional lumber created a curving shell that encloses a single wide-open space. This was loaded with loose hay from either end using a harpoon running along a track hung under the ridgeline. Chutes in the mow floor allowed the hay to be dropped to the stock area on the main level. Three silos were arranged on the north and west sides to provide feed close by. The new dairy barn was designed to hold 40 head. Later, only the company's breed stock lived on the home farm, but this barn may have been designed for this purpose from the beginning.⁷² It presented a handsome complement to the older Hay Barn with matching siding, trim, and windows.

Even with this setback, the Normanskill Farm Dairy Company was very successful, and Stevens began expanding into adjacent markets. The *Troy Daily Times* reported in February 1914 that it would lease the new building constructed on Corliss Avenue by the Greenwich Farm Products Company for three years for an annual rent of \$1,000. Stevens would, in addition, outfit the building within six weeks to have it in operation. The paper opined that, "The building is the finest in this section devoted to the milk business," and noted that, "For a good many years Mr. Stevens has been buying milk for the Albany market at the plant on the John Wilson farm on Prospect Street."⁷³

By the mid-1920s, the home farm had diversified and had returned under Stevens family management to the poultry trade. The addition of a large henhouse for egg production and a turkey coop for holiday sales may both have been innovations of sons Charles P., Jr., and Mark W., who had taken over daily management of the business because of their father's failing health.⁷⁴ The Stevenses' third son, William B., worked for Standard Oil and lived in Shanghai in this period. A six-room henhouse matching the gambrel-roofed form and trim details of the Main Barn was added to its east wall to form an L-plan. Two rooms flanked a central stair on all three stories. Each room was brightly lit by south-facing, quadrupled, double-hung, six-over-six wood sash. Later henhouses relied more on electricity to encourage hens to lay eggs; in this period, however, even large, prosperous farms often relied mainly on sunshine. A large tin ventilator rests over each trio of hen rooms to draw off the ammonia produced by poultry. In the passage between the henhouse and stanchion area, additional pens were added.

The turkey coop also dates to this era. These birds were raised for the seasonal trade at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The diminutive coop matches the decorative scheme of the other farm buildings with wood siding, plain board trim, and six-over-six wood sash. Like the henhouse, the south wall of the turkey coop was nearly entirely glazed to light the interior.

A boy documenting his fourteen-mile hike for Boy Scouts chronicled his walk out from Albany via Delaware Avenue in July 1926 and described Normanville in some detail. He was especially interested in the farm because the dairy delivered to his house. He described walking down the yellow brick road, now Normanskill Drive, and already "sticky and smelly" with tar repairs. In 1926, there was still a dam above the bridge, and boys were wading in the pond by a mill, but he did not mention the enormous icehouse. Was it already gone? He wrote there was

⁷¹In New York State, Jamesway published many plans and much prescriptive literature that was deeply influential throughout the Northeast. They also undertook remodeling old barns to meet new standards. There is no direct evidence that the Stevens family retained Jamesway, but the truss system of the mow and overall design are characteristic.

⁷²Thomas Gallagher, resident caretaker, interview 15 April 2016.

⁷³*Troy Daily Times* (13 February 1914): 20.

⁷⁴"C.P. Stevens, Sr.'s, Funeral Monday. President of Normanskill Dairy Co. dies in Coral Gables, Florida," *Albany Evening News* (23 December 1927): 1.

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“a private roadway back across a field to the buildings,” probably the upper drive over the Whipple truss bridge. The farm was “very clean and neat and well fenced in with American wire fencing. I could see two pastures with [unclear number] or 20 fat, sleek cows in each.”⁷⁵

Charles P. Stevens, the owner of this well-managed farm and a notable local pioneer in the production and delivery of country milk to city dwellers, died just before Christmas in 1927 in Coral Gables, Florida. At the time of his death, Stevens owned real estate on Jay Street, Swan Street, and Hudson Avenue in Albany and creameries at Berlin in Rensselaer County and Rensselaerville and South Berne in Albany County.⁷⁶ His body was returned to Albany for the funeral held the day after Christmas from the house on the farm. The obituary listed his affiliations as a 32nd degree member of the Albany Masons, a Knight Templar, and a Rotarian.⁷⁷ Although said to have been in failing health for about three years, and thus deferring management of the business to his sons, Charles and Jennie had taken a round-the-world voyage in 1924 and 1925, visiting Britain, Majorca, Egypt, China, and Japan among other places.⁷⁸ When the estate was probated in February 1928, it was valued at \$750,000.⁷⁹

The change in senior management combined with changes in the surrounding area affected both the Normanskill Farm property and Normanskill Farm Dairy Company. In 1929, the current high bridge carrying Delaware Avenue (NY 443) above the ravine bypassed the yellow brick state road. The hamlet and the farm, once an important regional thoroughfare, now became a tiny rural enclave set below the hubbub of the surrounding, rapidly growing city grid. The 1930 census suggests a place with a declining population. Of the six Stevens children, Mark, 28 and managing the farm, and Frances, 18, were the only ones living under their mother's roof. An older married couple, Clement and Bridget Dwyer, lived in the house as servants, probably in the rear ell.⁸⁰

In May 1932, Charles, the eldest son of Charles and Jennie's eldest son, died due to a gunshot wound in the temple.⁸¹ Frank Bloomfield was hired soon after, probably in 1933, as the farm foreman. The 1940 census located him and his wife and young son as one of three families living in the tenant house opposite the Hay Barn. The other apartments were occupied by Raymond Palmer, farm laborer; and John Deheus, farm caretaker. Jennie, Mark, and Frances still lived in the brick house.⁸² No servants were listed in the house or in the surrounding neighborhood, although Frank Bloomfield recollected years later that there was a chauffeur, gardener, butler, woman to clean and do wash, the housekeeper, and Bloomfield himself, who handled 250 head of cattle with 10 people working under him.⁸³

It appears that the array of servants and laborers varied, with probably a larger number early on. A great proportion of the herd Bloomfield managed may have been on a nearby farm, now the site of a Walmart.⁸⁴ It seems the home farm operation shrank over time in favor of other facilities including the downtown bottling plant, an ice cream plant on South Swan Street, and a downtown stables where horses and delivery wagons were kept. In 1929, this last, located at 245 Hudson Avenue, suffered a fire with a \$10,000 loss. Eighteen horses and twenty-five wagons were saved from the blaze.⁸⁵

⁷⁵Ralph Hill, “My Fourteen Mile Hike,” *Albany Times-Union* (31 July 1926).

⁷⁶Will of Charles P. Stevens. File no.12532. (Albany, New York: Albany County Surrogate's Court)

⁷⁷“C.P. Stevens, Sr.'s, Funeral Monday. President of Normanskill Dairy Co. dies in Coral Gables, Florida,” *Albany Evening News* (23 December 1927): 1.

⁷⁸Passenger lists and passport applications for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure found at familysearch.org.

⁷⁹“Three Quarters of a Million Estate,” *Troy Times* (2 February 1928).

⁸⁰*Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930*, City of Albany, Election District 4, Delaware Ave (City Line), HH 66.

⁸¹“Charles Phelps Stevens, Jr., [death notice],” *Albany Times Union* (7 May 1932): 1.

⁸²*Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940*, City of Albany, Ward 1, Normanskill Drive/Mill Rd: HH 637, 638, 639, and 640.

⁸³Grace O'Connor, “Albany grant may transform pasture to park.” *Albany Times-Union* (19 July 1980). Corning Papers 1981, Box 286. (Albany, New York: Albany County Hall of Records)

⁸⁴Tom Gallagher.

⁸⁵*Albany Times Union* (May 1929). The ice cream plant was opened to visiting schoolchildren in May 1939 according to the *Knickerbocker News* (9 May 1939).

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The success of the Normanskill Farm Dairy Company, with its numerous sites in the surrounding Capital District, allowed the original home farm to remain largely unchanged after about 1930. The last two buildings added to the property both stand between the Hay Barn and the north bank of the creek.

The Farm Shop incorporates one building and part of a second, with the latter greatly altered. It is now lit by metal casement windows typical of industrial buildings of the 1920s and 1930s. The shop incorporates a forge in the front portion; the rear portion retains bins labeled with parts for repairing machinery on the farm. The rear section is lightly built and may have been part of the icehouse operation on the millpond. The upper story of the front portion features some hewn lumber and might be a fragment of one of the mill buildings or an agricultural outbuilding.

The Pig House appears to have been built ca.1930 from new lumber. Its interior plan—with a center aisle flanked by pigpens opening onto outdoor runs—was typical. This building may date to the early years of Frank Bloomfield's management of the Normanskill Farm property. During the Depression, production of food at home rose in importance, and the pigs raised here may have fed tenants and owners alike.

The only other historic-period building remaining on the property is the Sheep Barn. The older rear section with handsome paired doors featuring chamfered rails and stiles is hidden by the later front part, which appears to be a car garage built in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The doors in the older section are typical of the last third of the nineteenth century, and this building may have been built during the Brooks tenure at Normanskill Farm.

Jennie Beasom Stevens died on 3 November 1954 in New York City. She was brought back to Albany and buried alongside her husband Charles and her son Charles.⁸⁶ In 1955, the Normanskill Farm Dairy Company gave up its horse-drawn delivery wagons—about which funny tales had appeared with some regularity in the Albany press—for gasoline-powered trucks. The Normanskill Farm Dairy Company continued to change with the times, albeit at its own measured pace.

Recent history (1955–present)

After Jennie's death, it appears that the Bloomfields became the sole occupants of the brick Main House at Normanskill Farm, where they lived until about 1980. Mark Stevens managed the dairy until he retired due to ill health, and his younger brother, William, took over. Ironically, it was the latter who died first on 3 June 1959. Like so many of the sons of successful turn-of-the century businessmen, William was educated in the Ivy League. He was a member of the Fort Orange Club and the Schuyler Meadows Country Club.⁸⁷

Mark Stevens returned to managing the company, which, during this period opened a growing number of Normanskill Dairy stores, precursors of the modern convenience store. By 1975, there were twenty-two in the Capital District, when they were sold to a new company called Flavor Fair established by one of the Normanskill vice presidents. At the same time, Crowley Foods of Binghamton acquired the production end of the company.⁸⁸ Two years later, in 1977, Mark Stevens died. Stewarts Ice Cream Company bought the Normanskill Dairy Stores from Weeks and Van Rowland of Flavor Fair.⁸⁹ These were the last Normanskill Farm Dairy Company entities.

In 1980, the City of Albany received a matching grant of \$140,000 from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service of the DOI to help purchase the Normanskill Farm property.⁹⁰ The Main Barn now houses the seven horses used by the Albany Police Department's mounted unit. A property caretaker, Tom Gallagher,

⁸⁶<http://albanyruralcemetery.org>.

⁸⁷*Albany Times Union* (4 June 1959).

⁸⁸*Horicon Newspapers* (20 February 1975): 6.

⁸⁹*Ballston Spa Journal* (1977).

⁹⁰"Albany awarded grant to acquire historic farm," *Knickerbocker News* (17 July 1980). Corning Papers 1981, Box 286 (Albany, New York: Albany County Hall of Records).

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lives in the main block of the Main House, while the Albany Police Department uses the rear ell, former wood shed, and Sheep Barn for various operations. A blacksmith's guild uses the forge in the Farm Shop, while the rear portion is used for school tours of the farm held in the spring. The Pig House and Hay Barn are used mainly for storage. The tenant house is vacant. Some poultry buildings and storage sheds have been removed, but the large main buildings survive.

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Continuation Sheet

Normanskill Farm
Albany, Albany County, New York

9. Major Bibliographical References

Public records

Burial records collected *via* findagrave.com and albanyruralcemetery.org.
City records collected at Albany County Hall of Records, Albany, New York.
Deeds collected at Albany County Office of County Clerk, Albany, New York.
New York State. *Census of State of New York* (1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, and 1915).
Surrogate records collected at Albany County Surrogate's Court, Albany, New York.
United States of America. *Census of the United States* (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940).

Maps

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Bleeker, John R. *A map of the manor Renselaerwick*, Surveyed and laid down ... by Jno. R. Bleeker, surveyor, 1767. Albany: Jonathan Sheppard Books, n.d..
Gould, Jay. Map of Albany County, New York: from actual surveys (New York?: [publisher unknown], 1854.
(<https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593645/>)
United States Geological Survey, Albany 15' quadrangles, 1893 (<http://docs.unh.edu/NY/alby93ne.jpg>) and 1927
(<http://docs.unh.edu/NY/alby27ne.jpg>).

Secondary sources

Brunger, Eric. *Changes in the New York State Dairying Industry, 1850–1900*. Dissertation written in fulfillment of requirements at Syracuse University, 1954
DuPuis, Melanie E. *Nature's Perfect Food. How Milk Became America's Drink*. New York and London: New York University Press, 2002.
Howell, George Rogers, and Jonathan Tenney. *Bicentennial History of Albany: History of the county of Albany N.Y. from 1609–1886*. Albany, New York: W.W. Munsell, 1886.
Munsell, Joel. *Annals of Albany*. Albany: Joel Munsell, 1869.
Smith-Howard, Kendra. *Pure and Modern Milk: An environmental history since 1900*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University press, [2014].

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 # NY-4
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 45.49 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>598505</u>	<u>4721478</u>	7	<u>18</u>	<u>598119</u>	<u>4720908</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>598733</u>	<u>4721327</u>	8	<u>18</u>	<u>598105</u>	<u>4720922</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>18</u>	<u>598642</u>	<u>4721137</u>	9	<u>18</u>	<u>598181</u>	<u>4721278</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>18</u>	<u>598417</u>	<u>4721039</u>	10	<u>18</u>	<u>598289</u>	<u>4721405</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>18</u>	<u>598392</u>	<u>4720983</u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
6	<u>18</u>	<u>598270</u>	<u>4720944</u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is depicted on the enclosed mapping, which was drawn at a scale of 1: 24,000, 1: 12,000 and 1,8000; all of the maps, 5 in total, are entitled "Normanskill Farm, City of Albany, Albany Co., NY."

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundary was drawn to include the eastern portion —consisting of a total of 45.49 acres— of what is a 200.9-acre parcel owned by the City of Albany and used as a park called Normanskill Farm. The current park boundary differs in several respects from that of the Normanskill Farm assembled by Charles P. and Jennie Beasom Stevens from 1894 to 1900. The nomination boundary uses historic period boundaries where they align with the current park boundary on the east and south sides, but it diverges from the current park boundary on the north and west sides. This is the result of factors that post-date the period of significance. The most important factor was the construction of I-87—the New York State Thruway—part of the interstate highway system, a large and intrusive feature constructed in this area ca.1970, which bisects the historic farm and now forms the northerly boundary of the park. A large drainage feature associated with I-87 is delineated on tax maps and forms a prominent visual feature running on an irregular, but generally south-southwest, course from I-87 to the Normanskill Creek and passes immediately west of the farm buildings. The western part of the park also includes land established as a right-of-way now owned by National Grid. The use and appearance of the land west of the I-87 drainage feature, while still mainly open, is not representative of agricultural activities during the period of significance. A portion of the park's land is mown for hay using modern contour harvesting methods that

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supersede the field divisions marked by fence and tree lines that would have characterized the historic period farm. Beyond that, between a wooded ravine and the power line right-of-way near the western boundary of the park property, there are a dog park, community garden allotments, and additional woodland. For these reasons, the I-87 right-of-way is adopted as the north boundary of the nomination, and the drainage feature is adopted as the west boundary. This nomination boundary provides an appropriate historic and visual context for the farm's buildings and features that is representative of the historic uses of the property, but excludes areas that lack a strong property or use relationship to the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jessie A. Ravageorganization Preservation Consultantdate 31 October 2016street & number 34 Delaware Sttelephone 607-547-9507city or town Cooperstownstate New York zip code 13326e-mail jravage@stny.rr.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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

Photographer Jessie Ravage, October 2016; original digital files at NYS DHP

- 0001: Entrance to site, looking west, showing early road into property and physical structure of the site. Creek at left edge of photograph. Building to left of road is Blacksmith's shop. Moving left to right from the road, buildings on bluff overlooking the creek and road are gable end of tenant house, roof of hay barn, main house, gable end of wood shed attached to house by breezeway, and gambrel roof of main barn.
- 0002: Main house, looking northeast, showing partially extended original front façade with Georgian Revival porch and mid-1900s fenestration alterations. Wood shed at rear dates to first construction period and features open bays and privy.
- 0003: Main house, looking northwest, showing reoriented front façade with Georgian Revival porte-cochere with enclosed porch above. Turkey coop visible at left edge of photograph; hen house addition on main barn visible beyond open porch.
- 0004: Main house, looking southeast, showing hipped roof on main block, later raised roof on back ell, and a small, enclosed porch in northwest corner of plan.
- 0005: Main barn, front (south) façade and henhouse wing forming L-plan on east side.
- 0006: Main barn, looking northwest, showing dairy wing and three-story henhouse forming wing from east side.
- 0007: Hay barn, looking northeast from road along creek, showing mow entrances on east and west eave walls and cupola.
- 0008: Hay barn looking west showing east mow entrance and turkey coop standing northeast of the barn.
- 0009: Turkey coop, looking northwest, showing south facing windows.
- 0010: View east on drive along the creek: pig house in foreground in front of blacksmith shop. Tenement opposite. Wood shed behind Main house visible at left on hill behind.

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- 0011: Tenant house, looking northeast from road towards front façade and west gable wall.
0012: Tenant house, looking southwest from bluff, showing eave wall with later dormers and east gable wall
0013: Blacksmith shop, looking west from bluff, showing east eave wall and north gable wall
0014: Sheep barn, looking northeast from farm drive. Police horse shelter behind.

Property Owner:

name City of Albany

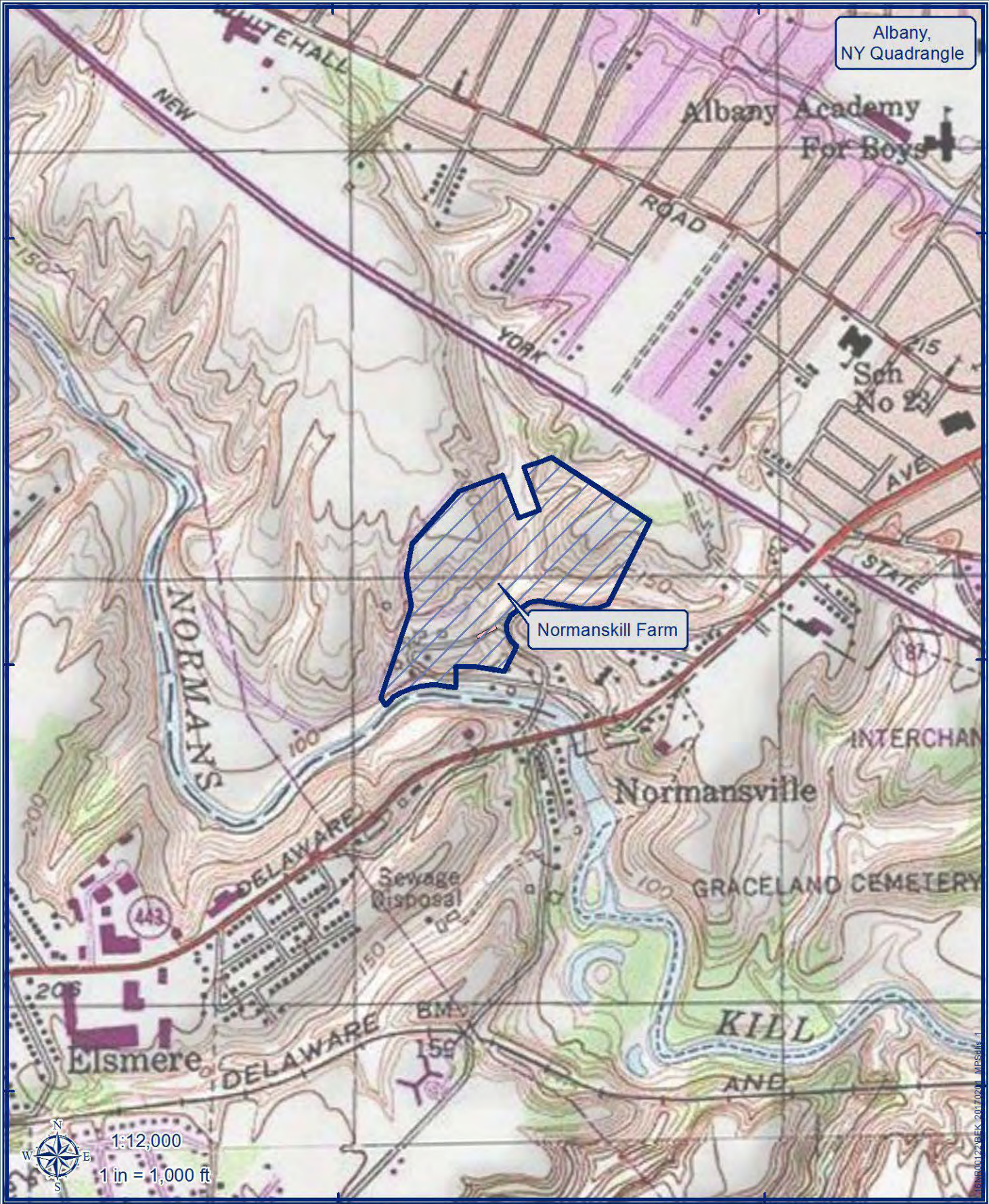
street & number _____ telephone _____

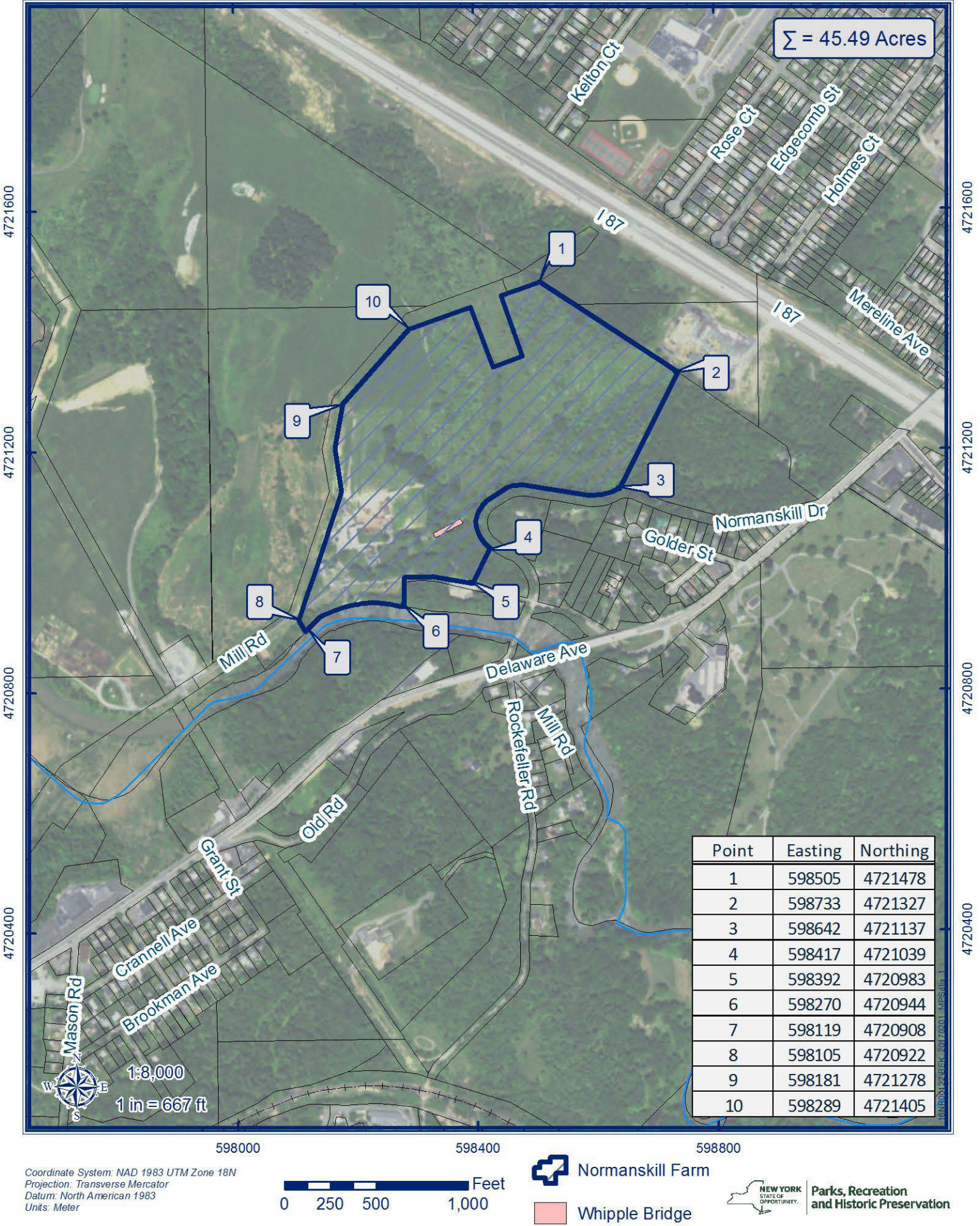
city or town Albany state NY zip code _____

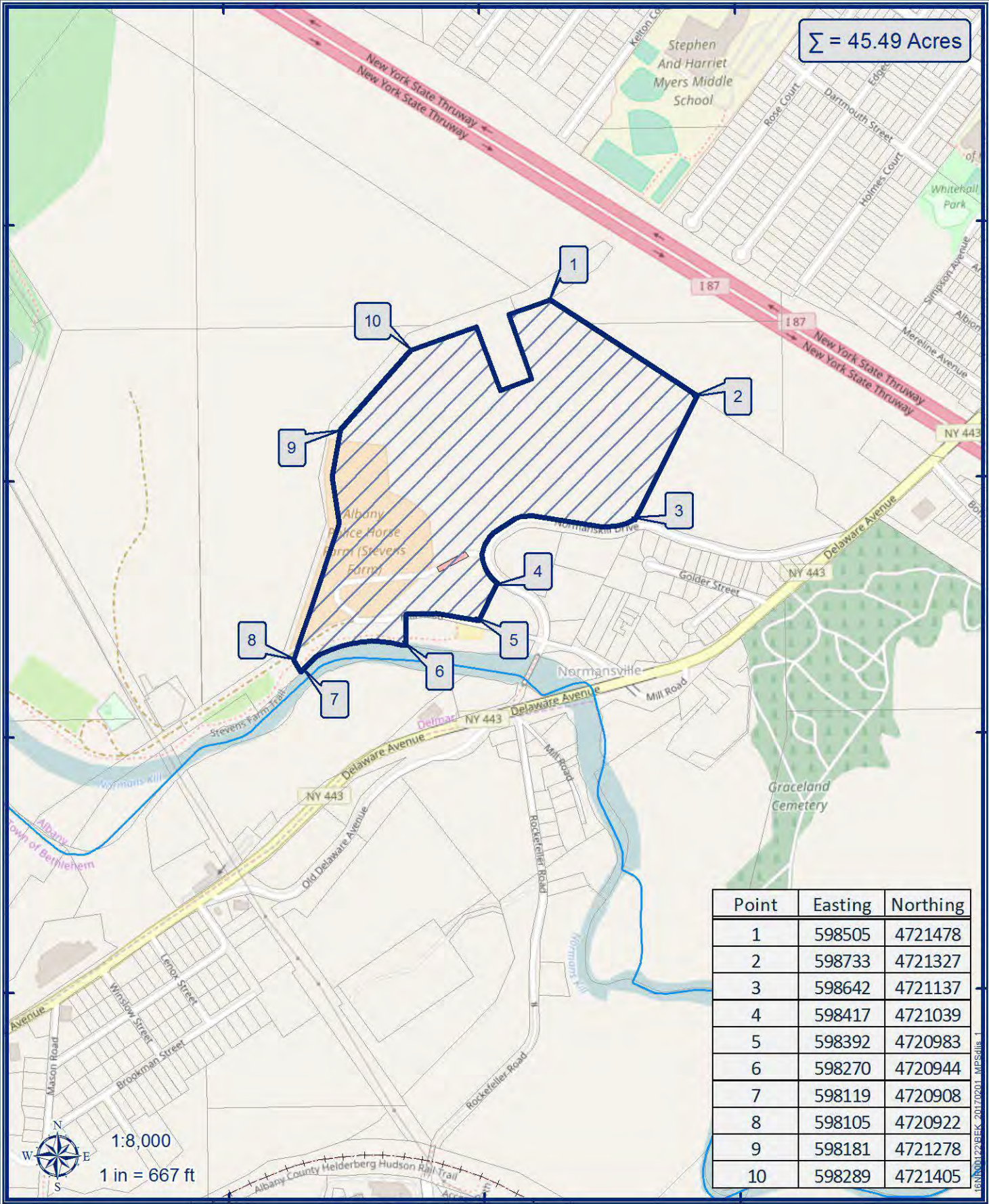
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.







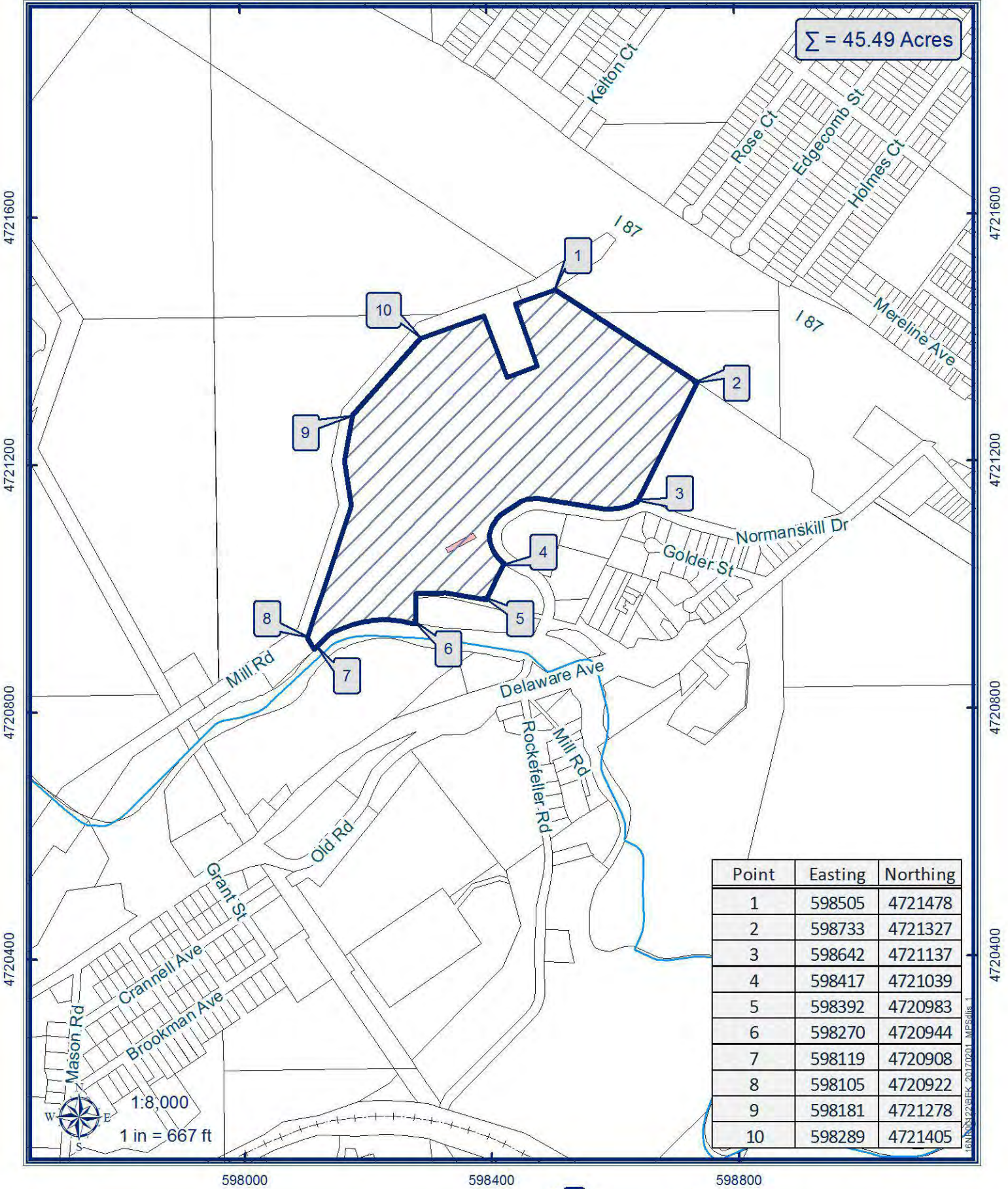


Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Meter




Normanskill Farm


Whipple Bridge

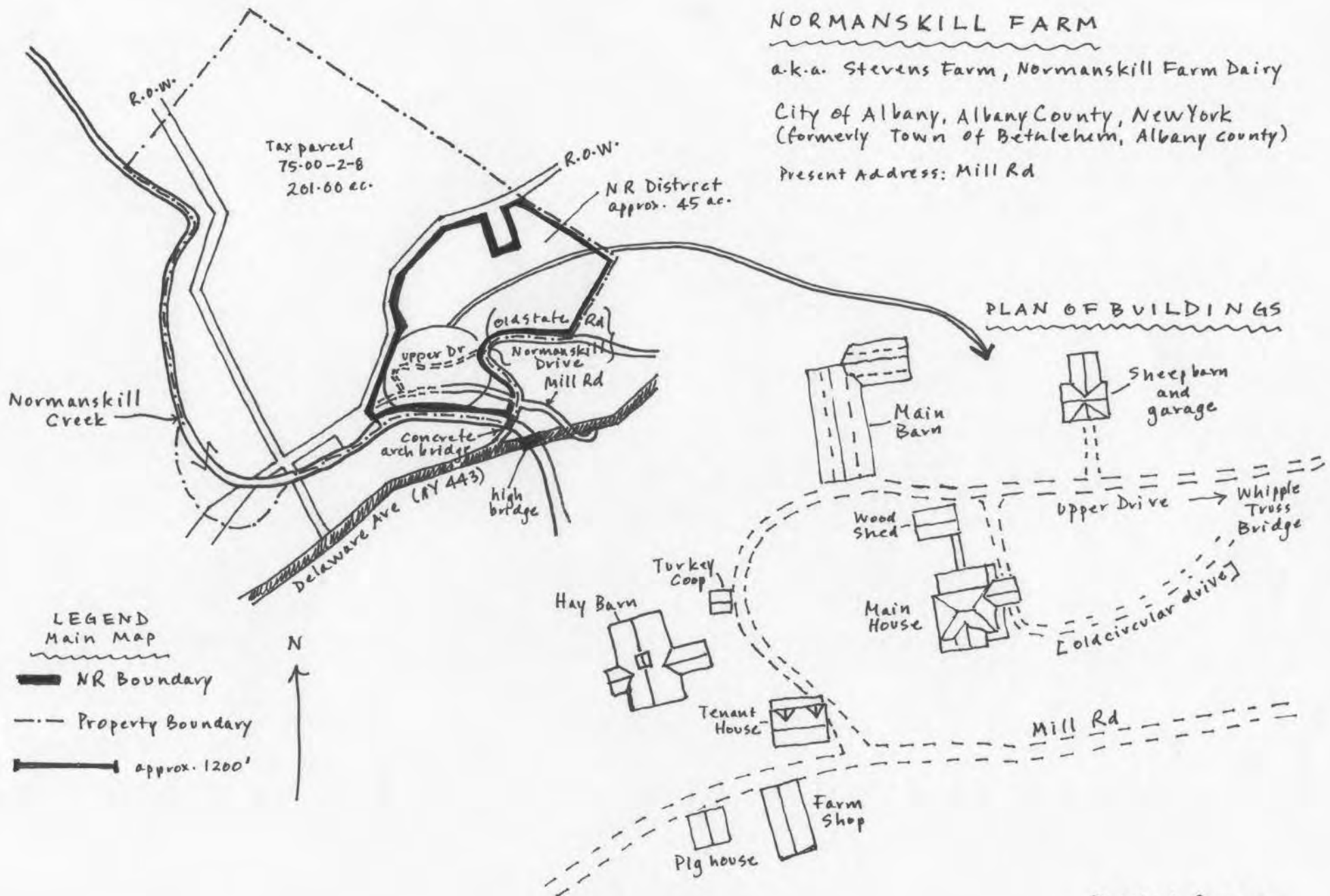


NORMANSKILL FARM

a.k.a. Stevens Farm, Normanskill Farm Dairy

City of Albany, Albany County, New York
(formerly Town of Bethlehem, Albany county)

Present Address: Mill Rd



Jessie A. Ravage
November 2016



DOGS MUST BE
ON A LEASH
AT ALL TIMES

WORMHILL FARM
FRIENDLY TO ALL
PEOPLE
Park
Here

PARKING



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Normanskill Farm

Multiple Name:

State & County: NEW YORK, Albany

Date Received: 3/8/2019 Date of Pending List: 3/21/2019 Date of 16th Day: 4/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 4/22/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100003625

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 4/5/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria A,B,C, agriculture and architecture

Reviewer  Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date 4/5/2019

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

ERIK KULLESEID
Acting Commissioner

28 February 2019

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Normanskill Farm, Albany County (1 owner, no objections)

Although this nomination was actually prepared and signed in 2017, its submission was delayed because we were unable to get an appropriate boundary justification and sketch map from the consultant. Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen LaFrank".

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office