



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name White, John and Chauncey, House

other names/site number John White Homestead

2. Location

street & number 854 White Road

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town West Sweden

state New York code NY county Monroe code 055 zip code 14420

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

Robert J. Purpoint DBHPO 11/20/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Joe Edison H. Beall 1.15.14
Signature of the Keeper 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.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
5	1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

AGRICULTURE/barn

AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

DOMESTIC/residence

DOMESTIC/hotel

DOMESTIC/other dependencies

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate; Colonial Revival

foundation: masonry

walls: brick

wood (bow window)

roof: wood

other: _____

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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Built around the core of an early nineteenth century house, the John and Chauncey White House is an excellent example of a settlement era residence that was expanded and remodeled in the mid-nineteenth century to reflect the taste and prosperity of the owner. The property was a 240 acre working farm that was sold out of the family in 1987, except for the five acre plot on which the house stands. The surrounding area is still an active agricultural area in western Monroe County between the hamlet of Sweden Center and the village of Brockport to the northeast. The house is currently operated as a bed and breakfast and not as a farm. The main feature of the property is the house, which is a large L-shaped, two and one-half story brick residence set behind a large lawn and a semi-circular driveway. The main façade of the house has a single height Colonial Revival porch across the front with paired fluted columns and a decorative cornice, added around 1900. The entire residence has mid-nineteenth century Italianate style details such as an overhanging roof with decorative brackets, large one-over-one windows with decorative lintels and shutters, and a large bow window with tall two-over-two windows set into nearly floor to ceiling decorative moldings. The interior features ornate plaster cove moldings in the entrance, plaster ceiling medallions in the parlors, an ornately decorated ceiling in the dining room, hand-grained doors and white Italian marble fireplace mantles in the parlors. The northwest section of the house includes servants' quarters accessible from the kitchen. Of particular note are the hand painted murals in the dining room and Victorian era stenciling on the walls. One bedroom features a mural in an alcove. All of the murals depict native wildlife and are the work of local artist David Bruce (1833-1903). The remainder of the property includes an early nineteenth century barn, a stone smoke house, a wooden building that was both a milk house and an ice house, and an early twentieth century garage. None of these buildings are currently used for agriculture and are contributing due to their age and association with the house. Other structures on the property include a 1953 Quonset hut, the remains of a ca. 1940 concrete block milk house and the foundations of another early nineteenth century barn, all noncontributing due to age or lack of integrity.

Narrative Description

The John and Chauncey White House is a large two story, L-shaped brick residence executed with a cross gabled roof with a decorative peak over the main entrance. Best described as "picturesque," the house achieved its current configuration in the mid-nineteenth century, based on the Italianate details seen in the roof, windows and doors. Later, a Colonial Revival era porch was added to the façade. The house sits in the south side of the property behind a circular driveway and has slate sidewalks leading to the residence. Although the function of the property has changed from farming to a bed and breakfast, it still retains its rural setting and is surrounded by other active farms. Today, the remaining five acres include the brick house with an attached wooden woodshed, a small wooden detached garage, a mid-twentieth century Quonset hut, a combination milk and ice house, a stone smoke house, a pre-Civil War thrashing barn and the stone foundation from another barn that was destroyed by fire. The grounds include the remnant of an apple

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orchard, flower gardens and a few mature trees. A carriage block/step and an iron post for tethering horses are on the west side of the house.

Exterior of House

The extant house is an L-shaped building that consists of an early nineteenth century portion to the east and a large mid-nineteenth century addition on the west. The house faces south and is an asymmetrical, cross gabled two-story residence constructed of brick with a fieldstone foundation faced with limestone from the water table down to grade. The east end of the façade has two tall windows placed close to one another on both floors. The west end of the façade is recessed and has two tall windows, placed farther apart on both floors. First floor windows are taller than the second story windows and rest directly on the limestone water table. Upper windows have masonry sills. The first and second floor windows are topped by decorative lintels that appear to be a molded masonry product of a raised arch with a quatrefoil design. The front edges of the lintels have a raised ogee. An attic window sits in the center of the roof peak and also has a masonry pedimented lintel. Most of the windows have functional wooden shutters and S-shaped iron shutter dogs. The roof is enhanced by wide overhanging eaves with substantial decorative brackets.

The center of the first floor has an asymmetrical single-height porch with Colonial Revival style details, indicating its period of construction. Ornamentation on the porch includes dentils and fluted columns with egg-and-dart decoration at the top of the capitals. When viewed from the south road, the porch appears to have paired columns. Two matching columns are located at the midpoint of the front of the porch and another column is placed at each corner and adjacent to the building. The porch roof has a wide cornice with dentils along the eaves. Relatively low railings with square balusters are between the columns. Within the open porch is a double door placed asymmetrically on the left and a bay window on the right. The doors have large central panels of beveled glass and ornate handles and hinges. The doors are within the foot print of the older portion of the house and the corner of that structure is still visible to the west of the doors as the newer construction is recessed that point. The bay window is three sided with windows filling most of each side. These windows are without shutters and have two raised panels beneath each. Clapboard covers the walls of the bay window.

The west side of the house has two additional entrances highlighted by two entry porches, one for the west parlor and one for a hallway to the kitchen. Both have simple round columns at each of the four corners and railings at the sides similar to those on the front porch. A historic photo shows these porches once had ornate square Italianate columns. Windows are evenly placed in the foundation and are protected by vertical bars. Except for the foundation, windows match those seen in the façade. A one and one-half story woodshed adjoins the north end of this portion of the house. Its gable end is at approximately the midpoint of the second story of the brick house. The woodshed has vertical wood siding, two windows and a simple plank door on the west side, which sits well back of the surface of the brick house. The north end of the woodshed has lines delineating the location of a demolished outhouse. There are four windows similar to the rest of the house in the brick portion of the north end, one in the first story, two in the second story to the west of the woodshed roof and a smaller window in the gable.

Starting at the back or east side of the woodshed, this section of the house has one window and a plank door. To the south (left) of this is the L-portion of the brick house, which has a single story, full length porch with Eastlake style posts.

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This is a 1993 replacement of an earlier, narrower porch. Four windows can be seen in the wall of the house under the porch roof. These windows are similar to the windows on the main façade, except that they lack shutters. The three windows in the second floor have shutters. Two doors of wood frames with large glass center lights are protected by non-historic metal storm doors. One of the doors leads to the kitchen and the other into the dining room. The windows on the second floor are arranged over three windows in the dining room area on the first floor.

The oldest portion of the house extends from where the porch and north wall connect with each other. This is essentially the rear side of the original house and has a window overlooking the porch roof and another narrow window without shutters to the east on the first level. The east elevation of this part of the house has two windows similar to the rest of the house on the north (right) side, one on each level. A window in the peak of the gable matches the gable window on the façade (south elevation). The original brick chimney can be seen behind the glass of this window. The chimney extends above the roof and has a recessed panel design.

Interior of House

Following the L-shape of the house, the main entrance opens into the wide hall with a large formal parlor to the east, another parlor to the west and a smaller parlor area in the bay window area between the entry hall and the east parlor. The front double doors are similar to the east porch entrance doors (wide wood frame with a large center glass panel) and most likely date from the same period as the porch. A curved staircase to the second floor is directly across from the double door entrance. A narrow wood railing is on the right side of the stair with turned and fluted balusters and a heavy newel post that mimics the turned designs of the balustrade. Stair treads are stained wood and risers are painted white. The exposed side of the riser has a pair of quatrefoil designs just under the tread, recalling the design in the exterior window lintels.

To the right (east) of the entry hall is the small sitting area or center parlor that can be closed off by double pocket doors, which in turn, lead to the large east parlor through another set of double pocket doors. The far north end of the center parlor connects to another room, which is a bathroom. In the northeast corner of the bathroom is a door leading to a narrow storage room. The entrance hall, center and west parlors, bathroom and storage room have ceilings measured at eight feet seven-inches. The windows and pocket doors in this part of the building are quite elaborate, featuring projecting crowns with center brackets and triple curved moldings. The trim is wider on the top and bottom and reduces slightly with graceful arcs about one-quarter of the way from the top and bottom of the frame.

To the left (west) of the entrance hall is the west parlor, also entered through double pocket doors, which are hand grained on both sides. The entry hall side of the pocket doors to the center parlor is also hand grained. The pocket doors in the center and east parlors are painted. All these doors have four recessed panels and ceramic door knobs. All parlors have wood floors, wide baseboard moldings, plaster walls and ornate plaster ceiling medallions. The west parlor also has an ornate crown molding and the windows and doors are framed with wide square-edge moldings. Recessed panels sit beneath the windows.

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Both the east and west parlors have white marble fireplaces with a rounded arch opening to the fire box, enclosed by ornate cast iron grills. A small shield shaped cartouche is centered in the fireplace above the fireboxes. This marble is known locally as "canal marble," since it could be easily and inexpensively shipped via the Erie Canal to Brockport, a short distance to the north. The floor directly in front of the fireplace is decorated with encaustic tile.

The parlor door to the west side south-end porch has four brightly colored flashed-glass lights featuring hand-painted flowers in the center of each pane. The north wall of the west parlor has two doors, one on either side of the fireplace. The one to the west is solid with recessed panels and leads to a small study, now used as a sitting room. In the door to the east, the top two panels are of etched glass with a repeating design of octagons around a floral motif. This door leads to the dining room. It has metal door knobs and ornate door hinges of acorn shaped finials on the hinge pins. The ceiling height of the west parlor and the rooms to its north is nine feet ten inches.

The dining room is remarkable both for its large size and for its profusely painted wall and ceiling decoration. An elaborate plaster medallion is centered in the ellipse. The walls are topped by crown moldings matching that of the west parlors. Woodwork also matches the west parlor. The walls feature horizontal and vertical stenciling of oak leaves framing panels of murals of animals and nature scenes. These were painted by local artist David Bruce, sometime in the late nineteenth century. The north wall has birds on branches intertwined with ivy and grasses. The other walls repeat this theme on the upper portion, introducing a squirrel in the branches on the south wall. On the lower portions of the walls are beautifully detailed murals of an owl on a tree branch; passenger pigeons; a fox hunting near a lake with geese; a song bird with a nest of eggs; and herons wading at the edge of a lake. The south wall mural is a scene of Native Americans on horseback hunting buffalos in a western environment. The ceiling features a painted elliptical area banded by small intertwining flowers and foliage. This decorative paint work was discovered beneath layers of pale yellow paint which was painstakingly removed. The damaged stenciling was redone, but a small section was left untouched to authenticate the design.

The north wall of the dining room has three doors, one connecting to the kitchen. The center door now opens to the back of the refrigerator in the kitchen; however marks wall and woodwork indicate that shelving previously filled the space and it may have been a pass through from the kitchen. Another door to the east of this space door opens to reveal a closet that functioned as a butler's pantry with shelves and locking drawers. The east wall has two tall windows and a door with a large central glass pane leading to the east porch between the windows. The south wall has a door to the west parlor and the west wall has a door to the small study.

Beyond the dining room is the kitchen at the north end of this part of the house. It has built-in wooden cabinets on the north and south and beaded wainscoting on the walls. The kitchen can also be entered from the west side of the house from a door and connecting hallway. Another door in the east wall opens onto the east porch. An enclosed staircase is on the west side of the kitchen and leads to the second floor servants' quarters. The south wall has a doorway from the dining room. A north door next to the enclosed staircase opens into a large pantry outfitted with shelving and cabinets and a window on the north wall. Another door in the north wall of the kitchen enters into the woodshed. The woodshed also has a pump connected to a cistern and a cast iron sink.

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The staircase from the kitchen provides access to servant's quarters and west bedrooms on the second floor, which consists of three rooms, a hall way and a wide landing at the top of the stairs from the kitchen. Within the landing is a small closet that held a pump to fill a lead lined holding tank in the adjacent room for supplying water to the second floor sinks in the west and back bedroom. The north wall of the stairwell has original stippled paintwork.

At the end of the hall to the servant's quarters are two bedrooms in the west section of the house. The front west bedroom has cornices and woodwork similar to those found in the west parlor. In an arched alcove in the east wall, an ornate gilded porcelain sink sits in a marble counter surrounded by a marble backsplash above a wooden cabinet with raised panel design. On the wall above the sink is a David Bruce mural of a water scene, featuring water lilies in the foreground, cattails in the background and flying birds overhead. The east wall also has a small closet. A door in the north wall leads to a bathroom that was added in the early 1940s. Walking back into the hall and facing north there is a small office on the right which includes the stairway to the attic. The door to the servants' quarters is directly ahead and another bedroom to the left, which features a marble sink and vanity top on a beadboard cabinet. The attic is unfinished and contains the original wood shingled roof of the older house.

The main stair in the entry hall connects to a wide hall in the east or older part of the house and with this being the less public section of the house, decoration becomes less ornate. The doors in this part of the house are wood paneled and some have evidence of faux graining. The west end of the wide hall has a door that closes off the main stair. This door is wood paneled with two clear vertical lights separated by a wide vertical mullion. To the right (north) of the door is a flight of two steps entering a narrower hallway which leads into the west and north ends of the house. This narrow hallway has wide, painted baseboards, original wood floors and a beadboard clad section covering where the rounded south corner connects with the wall. A smaller curved corner is found at the top of the flight of two steps.

The hall in this east section has three doors on the south side. The one nearest the stairs leads into the front center bedroom and the door in the middle leads into a storage closet. The other door leads into the front east bedroom which includes a now in-filled fireplace on the east wall with a wooden mantel piece with an early nineteenth century classical profile. The floor of the front east bedroom is hand-grained, wide wood boards. Both rooms feature original wide baseboards, lathe and plaster walls, square edged window moldings and wood doors. A door on the east wall of the wide hall opens into a bathroom, added in the 1990s by subdividing a larger room to create both this bathroom and another one entered from the front east bedroom.

Barn, contributing, ca. 1830 and 1903

A barn complex sits in the northwest corner of the property. At one time, three barns formed a U-shape with the opening facing east, but only the west barn is still standing. Built in the early nineteenth century, it is a three-bay English style threshing barn of hand-hewn construction with dropped tie beams, an end gabled roof and a stone foundation. An earthen ramp rises to the two large doors that face west into the prevailing wind. A twin set of doors on the east side open to allow a clear path for threshing of the grain. These are the only openings in the barn, aside from an entrance at the lower level.

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A 1903 date was found in the cement floor of the timber frame addition to the north. This addition includes a square indoor silo, a mow and milking stanchions. The timbers were circular sawn with mortise and tenon joinery. The north and south barns are now gone, but the stone foundation of the north barn remains. An earthen ramp is centered on the exterior north side of the foundation. The final building in the complex is South of the west barn sits a small structure of concrete block, now without a roof, that was built in the 1940s as a milk house. This is noncontributing due to deterioration.

Smokehouse, contributing, ca. 1840

Northeast of the house is a stone smokehouse with a front gabled roof and green vertical board door. It is constructed of fieldstone with cut limestone quoins with a lime mortar made with coarse sand of crushed Medina sandstone. Walls are eighteen inches thick. Inside, the brick fire pit extends across the north wall. There are remnants of a slate floor. Pulleys, which were used for hanging the meat being smoked, still hang from the ceiling.

Milk and Ice House, contributing, ca. 1890

To the west of the smokehouse is a single story wooden structure that was a combination milk and ice house. There is a hollow interior dividing wall that is one-foot thick. The front (south) half of the building was the milk house. The interior walls are of tongue and groove lumber. There are remnants of water pipes penetrating the floor. There is a door on the south side and a window on the east side. A second door on the west side leads out to a concrete pit measuring 39 inches wide and seven and one-half feet long, used for cooling milk cans. The back half of the building was an ice house. The double walls, now with some of the interior boards removed, were mostly likely filled with sawdust for insulation. This section is entered by a door on the east side. There is a window on the north side. Both sections have concrete floors.

Garage, contributing, ca. 1915

To the west of the house is a wooden garage with an asphalt shingled front gabled roof. The floor is poured concrete. The building stands eight foot tall at the eaves. There are two sliding doors on the east side, one sliding to the interior, one sliding to the exterior. There is a single window on the north, west and south sides.

Quonset hut, noncontributing, ca. 1953

The flat ribbed galvanized steel Quonset hut sits northwest of the house on the stone foundation previously occupied by a carriage barn that was destroyed by fire after a lightning strike in June of 1953. The hut is constructed with laminated wooden ribs which support purlins spaced every two feet upon which the sheet metal rests. The south end has a double sliding door with a window on either side.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

Ca. 1828-1919

Significant Dates

Ca. 1828, 1851, 1880, 1919

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Period of Significance (justification)

The period begins with the date John White received the deed to the property (1828) and ends with the death of Alfred White (1919), who made the last changes to the farm residence.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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

The John and Chauncey White House is significant under Criterion C in the area architecture as an early nineteenth century farmhouse that was greatly expanded and updated according to the latest fashion in the mid-nineteenth century. Originally built for John White in the early nineteenth century, the house was doubled in size thirty years later to accommodate son Chauncey and his family and his elderly parents, and to include a separate quarters for servants. This reflected the growing prosperity of the Whites as large landholders and successful farmers in the town of Sweden and their growing prestige in the community, especially that of Chauncey White, who became a town supervisor in 1859. It was around that time that the house was expanded and remodeled with ornate Italianate style features. Alfred M. White, John White's grandson later added a Colonial Revival style porch across the façade. Over the years, important farm buildings were lost to fire, but the house survived and remained largely unchanged through additional generations of occupation by the White family. The house was sold out of the White family in 1992 to the current owner, whose current stewardship includes retaining much of the historic fabric, resulting in the house retaining a high degree of integrity.

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

Early Development of the Town of Sweden and the Family of John and Harriet White

Formed in 1813, the town of Sweden attracted easterners (mostly from New England) who began arriving as early as 1807. In 1821, the town was included in the newly formed Monroe County, which was described at that time as a sparsely settled "lake country." Being close to Lake Ontario, Rochester quickly became the major commercial center for the sale of wheat grown in the region due to the presence of falls along the Genesee River. In 1823, the Erie Canal was built through the town of Sweden, linking it to Rochester. Brockport was the town's canal village, making it the point through which all shipments and passengers embarked or departed, and making shipping wheat and other grains to Rochester for processing easier and more economical. This led to rapid growth of the area, transforming it from a wilderness into an agricultural center. In 1825, more than half of the town was still forest. By 1850, this figure was reduced by 25 percent and in 1860, only twenty percent of the original forest remained. Cleared land was used for farming, with agriculture being the town's economic base well into the twentieth century. A 1918 report stated that over 90 percent of the land in Monroe County was used for agriculture.

John White (1784-1866) was one of the early settlers in the town, moving from Madison County with his brothers James and Chester in 1821. After securing land, he was joined by his wife Harriet and their sons Chauncey (1814-1880) and Alfred (1816-1835). A third son, Leverett S. White (1823-1908), was born to the couple shortly after the move west. John White quickly established a reputation as a leader in farming. According to an 1877 *History of Monroe County, New York*, he "did much to advance the improvements of the country, and was foremost in establishing the foundations of society upon a strong moral basis... Here, by his industry and good judgment, he became widely known as a successful farmer

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and a leading man in the community. He prepared and soon carved out one of the finest and most productive farms in the town, transformed a wilderness of forest into a garden, and by example and constant effort, did much to advance the best interests of society. After the consummation of a great work begun in hardship, he died August 21, 1866, mourned by many friends, a sincere Christian, and an honest man.”¹

According to the 1860 U.S. Census, John’s son, Chauncey was the head of the homestead property prior to his father’s death. Chauncey was described in the same 1877 county history as:

A man of strong convictions and high personal worth, none now living in the town, perhaps, has done more to improve the moral and religious character of its people, both by example and effort, and certainly but very few ever attained so high a place in their confidence and esteem. Unusually well favored with this world’s goods, both by inheritance and the rewards of his own industry, he has surrounded himself in his declining years, with every comfort and luxury he could desire, and has been enabled to do much, in a solid sense, to advance church and charitable interests. Careful and correct in his business matters, he is liberal in his dealings, and to his debtors very indulgent, as shown in the large number of loans he has made among his neighbors; the first instance has yet to occur where he has ever pressed the payment of an obligation when due, to another’s inconvenience. Mr. White succeeded to his father’s estate in Sweden, which has constantly improved under his industry and careful management, while he is now justly regarded as one of the most capable and successful farmers in the town. In politics he is a Republican, but not a rigid partisan. By the inherent traits of his character he would naturally gravitate to that political organization that was the most bitter foe to human slavery. He has twice been elected supervisor of the town, - in 1859-60. No place-hunter or office seeker, in any sense, he takes part in politics only from conviction and duty. At the outbreak of the great war of rebellion no man was more determined in his duty or patriotic in his efforts. With a liberal hand he contributed from his substance, and by every possible means in his power he labored to strengthen the arm of the government in its great life-struggle. In the numerous needs that sprang into existence during that terrible tempest of war, no appeal was made in vain, no effort unexpended, or duty left undone where it was in his power to aid, and he was ever the zealous patriot to his country and a friend to its defenders. Finally, in a community noted for high character and moral excellence, Mr. White has been foremost in every movement for reform and social improvement, or in any effort contributing to the welfare of his fellow man.²

On October 5, 1837, Chauncey married Cornelia Sutphen (1817-1911), the daughter of a neighboring farmer. She also became well known for her support to the community and church. Together they were among the wealthiest people in the area. Historic images show that the farm had extensive apple orchards and corn fields. Another historic image shows the barn complex he had built that included a dairying operation and a large carriage and horse barn to the west of the house.

Chauncey and Cornelia had no children. Their nephew, Alfred M. White (1845-1919), the son of Leverett, returned to New York in 1866 and lived with his uncle Chauncey, inheriting the farm in 1880. Alfred married Sara M. Holmes (1847-1936), and they had three children: Margaret Mills White Decker (1871-1936), Burton A. White (1873-1895) and John H. White Sr. (1875-1968). The 1900 Federal Census listed Alfred as a retired farmer and it is assumed that his son John (1875-1968) had taken over management of the farm by that time. Alfred’s obituary (1919) stated that he was educated in the Brockport schools, attended the Brockport Collegiate Institution and served on the town board of supervisors several times. He also served as village president, was a member of the board of the local State Normal School and a member of the Monroe County Agricultural Society. The obituary stated that Brockport and the town of Sweden lost “a man who was ever ready to promote the best interests of the village and town and whose services in that direction are not to be

¹ W. H. McIntosh, *History of Monroe County, New York* (Philadelphia, PA: Everts, Ensign & Everts, 1877), 164.

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considered lightly. He was widely read and few were the topics he could not discuss with intelligence and interest. Mr. White was a man of high character, an enviable reputation, and one whose gifts were turned to the higher and better things of life. All will regret his departure.”

His son, John H. White Sr., lived on the property the age of four until his death at the age of 92 (1968). He was married to Mabel F. Paine (1874-1971) for 70 years. He graduated from the Brockport Normal School in 1894, attended Cornell University, and took over managing the farm until 1966. John also continued the family tradition of public service as an elder of the Brockport Presbyterian Church, a member of the Brockport Grange, the Farm Bureau, the Guernsey Breeders Association and the Silsby Hose Company of the Brockport Fire Department. His wife, Mabel, also was active in community and church. Newspapers listed her as frequently hosting meetings of the Red Cross and also the Ladies Auxiliary of the church at the house.

In 1968, ownership of the house and farm passed John’s children John, Eloise and Dorothy. John Jr. became the principal steward of the farm, while not noted as a farmer, he was an important member of the community, following the example of earlier generations of the White family. He was known as Colonel John White Jr., being a graduate of West Point and having served in army administrative positions during World War II. In 1987, the former farmlands were sold with the except for five acres around the house, which contained the remaining former agricultural outbuildings.

Criterion C: Architecture

Due to changes made in the mid nineteenth century, the John and Chauncey White House is nearly impossible to date as to initial construction and early style. Obviously the oldest portion of the house was built after 1821 when John White moved to the town of Sweden, but the only clear evidence of early construction is the still extant roof of the original house contained within the attic of the remodeled house. The older roof indicates that the building had a side gabled roof, which is the only clear evidence of its early general appearance. Furthermore, definite documentation has yet to be uncovered as to the date of the expansion and remodeling that occurred sometime in the mid-nineteenth century. Current estimates place this expansion in the 1850s, around the time that Chauncey White took over managing the farm from his aging parents and expanded the farm through purchases of adjacent lands beginning in 1851. A Daughters of the American Revolution history of buildings in Monroe County referenced a rivalry between Asa Rowe and Frederick Root over who could build the largest house in the town of Sweden. Local lore has Chauncey White being part of this competition, which adds to the dating of the enlarged house in the 1850s.

The expanded house was clearly influenced by the Picturesque movement of the mid nineteenth century and as an educated family, the Whites would have been aware of the fashions, tastes and styles popularized by this movement. Picturesque buildings were inspired by a romanticized past and were a reaction to the formalized classical approach to architecture that had been prevalent in America for nearly 200 years. The Picturesque movement featured forms which were more natural and therefore more honest with an aesthetic that emphasized irregular forms, balance through

² Ibid.

White, John and Chauncey, House
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asymmetry and an emphasis on a building's materials. The most famous proponent of the movement in America was Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852). He stated in his popular book, *Cottage Residences* (1842) that his purpose was to "inspire...livelier perceptions of the BEAUTIFUL, in everything that relates to our houses and grounds," and that it was the first book published in America devoted to rural architecture.

In the preface to his 1850 book, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, he explained the first of three basic tenets of the Picturesque was that a good house was "a powerful means of civilization." He wrote that "when smiling lawns and tasteful cottages begin to embellish a country, we know that order and culture are established." Secondly, he saw the individual home had a great social value for a people and stated, "It is the solitude and freedom of the family home in the country which constantly preserves the purity of the nation and invigorates its intellectual powers." The third tenet was that "there is a moral influence in a country home --- when, among an educated, truthful and refined people, it is an echo of their character -- which is more powerful than any mere oral teachings of virtue and morality."³ Such sentiment would have fit very well with the White family. They were acknowledged by the community as examples of a moral and progressive way of life, emphasizing religion, public service and consideration for the betterment of their fellow man.

The expanded house exhibited many of the features of Downing's principles, including asymmetrical massing, bold brackets supporting the roof and elements of both Gothic Revival and Italianate exterior details. Chauncey White had the house expanded to over twice the size of the original building. The door of the house was left in its original location but a large three sided bay window was added to the first floor immediately to its right. Window openings in the older section were enlarged and some windows were moved to create pairs of windows to make it more symmetrical with the newer addition. A new roof was added with a peak over the entrance and bay window portion, which evened out the roofline between the old and new portions of the house. The entire roof had an overhang with decorative roof brackets, a feature of the Italianate style, promoted by Downing. All windows were given decorative lintels with quatrefoil designs except for small windows in the gables that were given triangular lintels mimicking the slope of the gable.

For consistency, the new west wing had a stone foundation similar to the older portion. The new west addition was recessed with two bays on the façade and extending for five bays, with two additional entrances and east elevations. The centerpiece of the new addition was a grand, formal dining room, with stenciling and decorative murals. Additional murals were included in upstairs bedrooms in the west addition. All the murals were painted by David Bruce (1833-1903), a local artist, born in Scotland, who lived for a while in England before moving to the Brockport/Clarkson area in the late 1870's. Bruce was best known as a taxidermist and was credited as being the first taxidermist to display animals in cases depicting their natural environment. His extensive field work and great artistic ability allowed him to create backgrounds of great detail and beauty. While living in the area, he spent his winters as an interior decorator and painted many murals in private homes and in St. Luke's Church, as well as backgrounds for theatrical presentations. Local newspapers noted his skill and notoriety as the premier decorator in the vicinity. Most of the locally painted murals in private homes have been lost, making the murals in the John White Homestead important surviving examples of his work.

White, John and Chauncey, House

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Conclusion

The John and Chauncey White House was owned by five generations of the White family who were prevalent in the town of Sweden as farmers and community leaders. As the family prospered the farm was enlarged to include threshing barns, a carriage barn, milk houses, smoke house and eventually a dairy barn. The house was also enlarged to accommodate the growing families and reflect the family's growing prosperity and prominence in society. When the house was sold out of the family in 1992, only five acres remained of the original farm property. Still situated on five acres, the house is being operated as a bed and breakfast with the servant's quarters being the owner's residence and the remainder of the house has been restored to allow guests to experience the elegance of White family. The Town of Sweden Landmark Advisory Committee recognized the current owners for their efforts at restoration and careful maintenance of the house, designating the property as a local historic landmark on March 11, 2003.

³ A. J. Downing, *The Architecture of Country Houses* (New York: D. Appleton & co., 1850), xix-xx.

White, John and Chauncey, House
Name of Property

Monroe County, NY
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Andrews, William G. Images of America: Around Brockport. Charleston, SC: Arcadia publishing, 2002.

Downing, Andrew Jackson. *The Architecture of Country Houses*. New York: Dover Publications, 1969, being a reprint of the 1850 original.

_____. *Victorian Cottage Residences*. New York: Dover Publications, 1981, being a reprint of the 1873 edition of the 1842 original.

Elwell, A. B. *History of Brockport With Vicinity Happenings 1826 – 1956 Also Biographies Of Prominent Brockport Men Of The Past*. self published, 1956.

McIntosh, W. H. *The History of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 1877.

Peck, William F. *Landmarks of Monroe County, New York*. Boston, MA: The Boston History Co., Boston, 1895.

Smith, Jonathan Mark. *Brockport, New York: A Narrative of That Place (and the Place of This Narrative*. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilming International, 1991.

Town of Sweden. *Town of Sweden Sesqui-centennial Celebration, 1814-1964*. Commemorative Booklet Committee, 1964.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to The Styles. Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Newspapers and Pamphlets:

The Hon. E. K. Hart Collection Circa 1885, David Bruce – Taxidermist, pamphlet published by the Cobblestone Museum, Childs, NY.

Archival Records in the possession of the Town of Sweden Clerk, Brockport, NY, the County Clerk of Monroe, Rochester, NY, the Historian of Genesee County, NY and the Holland Land Company Museum, Batavia, NY.

The Holley Standard, May 30, 1879, August 15, 1879, January 7, 1886, November 7, 1901 and June 18, 1953 issues, Holley, NY.

The Daily Standard, January 27, 1879 and January 29, 1880 issues, Syracuse, NY.

Republic-Democrat, June 24, 1926 and May 23, 1968 issues, Brockport, NY.

White, John and Chauncey, House
Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Town of Sweden Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±5.01 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>257408</u> Easting	<u>4784833</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

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

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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property is the remaining five acres of a 245 acre farm owned by the White family, which operated as a farm from 1821 until 1968. In 1987, members of the family sold 240 acres of the property, retaining the immediate five acres that included the house and associated outbuildings. They continued to occupy the house until 1992, when it and the remaining five acres were sold to the current owners. The house and remaining property are being nominated for its history as a residence since it has not functioned as a farm since 1968 and the site has been developed for non-agricultural commercial purposes.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Erin Anheier
organization preservation consultant date September 2013
street & number 4690 Bennetts Corners Rd. telephone NA
city or town Holley state NY zip code 14470
e-mail erinanheier@aol.com

White, John and Chauncey, House
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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: John White Homestead

City or Vicinity: Sweden Center

County: Monroe

State: New York

Photographer: Erin Anheier

Date Photographed: 10 March 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0025. Property viewed from White Road, looking north.
- 0002 of 0025. South elevation (façade) of house, looking north.
- 0003 of 0025. Detail view of south east end of porch and house.
- 0004 of 0025. East elevations, view looking west.
- 0005 of 0025. North elevations, view looking south.
- 0006 of 0025. West elevation, view looking east.
- 0007 of 0025. West and south elevations, view looking northeast.
- 0008 of 0025. Quonset Hut and garage, view looking northeast.
- 0009 of 0025. South and east sides of garage.
- 0010 of 0025. Remnants of barn complex, view looking south.
- 0011 of 0025. South side of barn complex showing remnants of ca. 1940 milk house on left (west).
- 0012 of 0025. Ice house and smoke house, view looking northeast.
- 0013 of 0025. Interior view of foyer curved staircase.
- 0014 of 0025. Interior view of south end of center parlor.
- 0015 of 0025. Looking into east parlor from center parlor.
- 0016 of 0025. Looking into center and east parlors from west parlor.
- 0017 of 0025. Fireplace in west parlor.
- 0018 of 0025. Interior view of dining room, looking southeast.
- 0019 of 0025. North end of kitchen.
- 0020 of 0025. Second floor hall, showing curved portion of wall.
- 0021 of 0025. Fireplace in 2nd floor east bedroom
- 0022 of 0025. West bedroom showing mural.
- 0023 of 0025. View of original roof in east end attic.
- 0024 of 0025. View of end wall of original house showing brick lintel.
- 0025 of 0025. Chauncey S. White, around the time of the house expansion.

White, John and Chauncey, House
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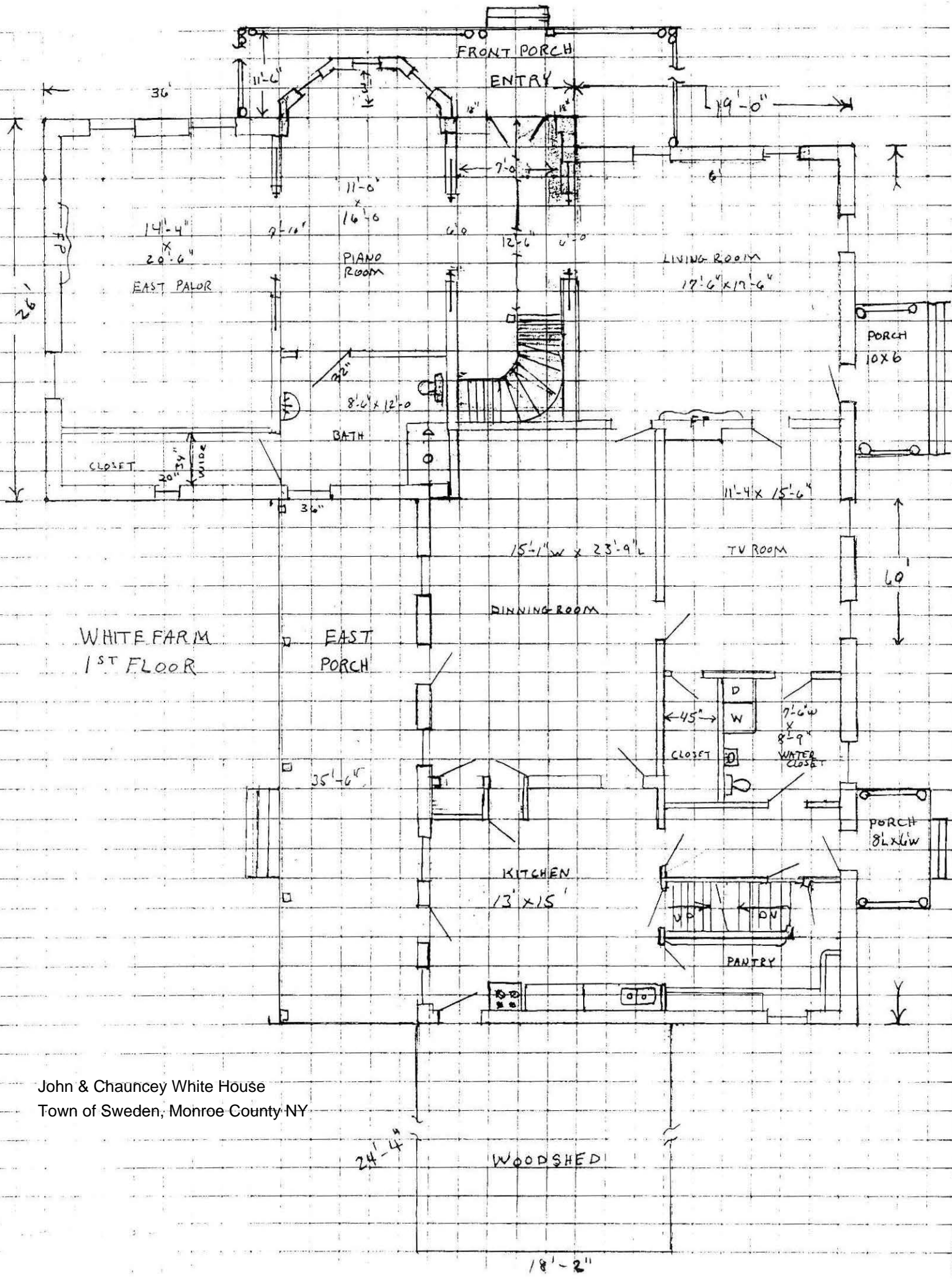
Property Owner:

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

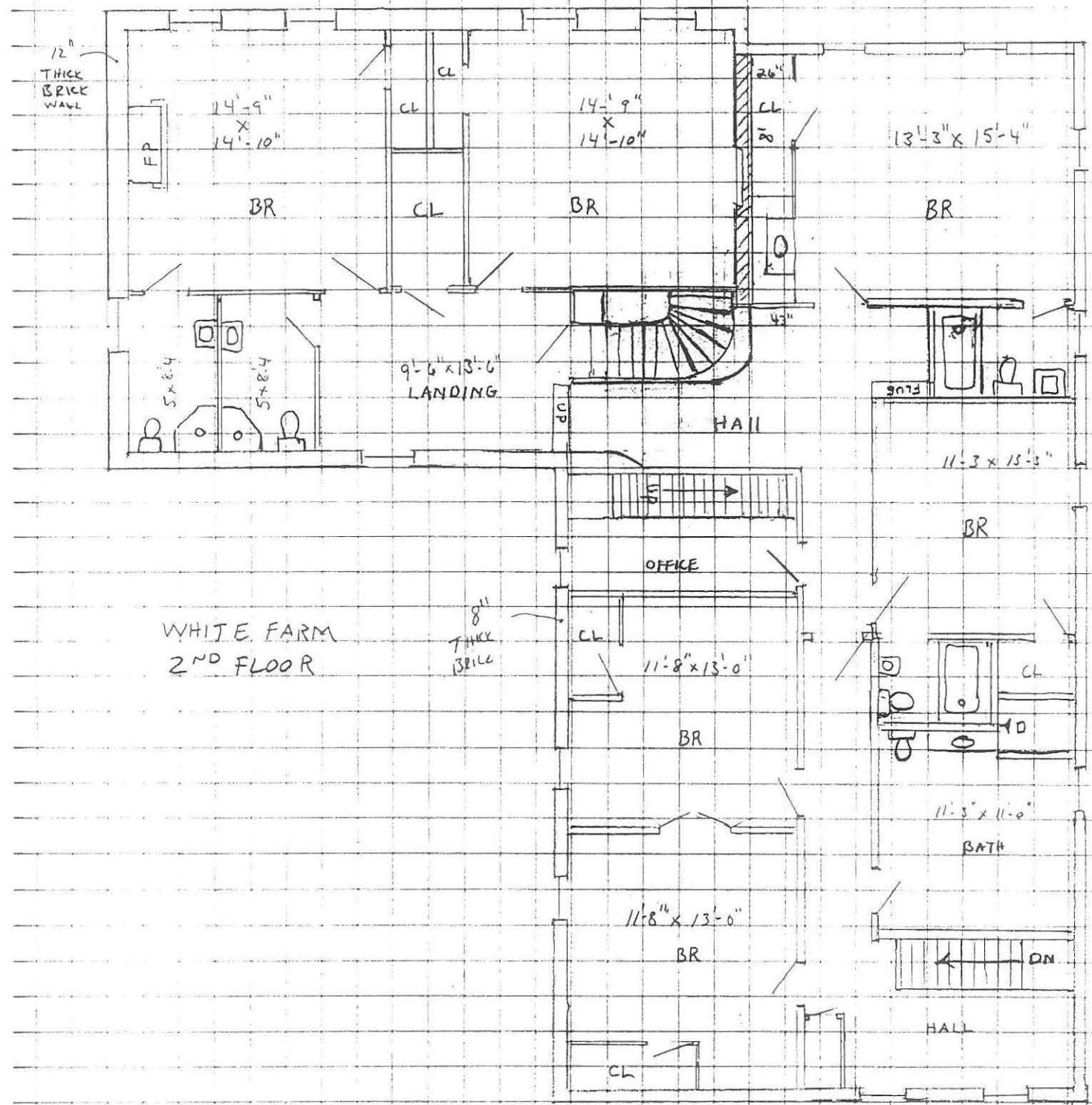
name Christine Hunt
street & number 854 White Road telephone N/A
city or town Brockport state NY zip code 14420

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.

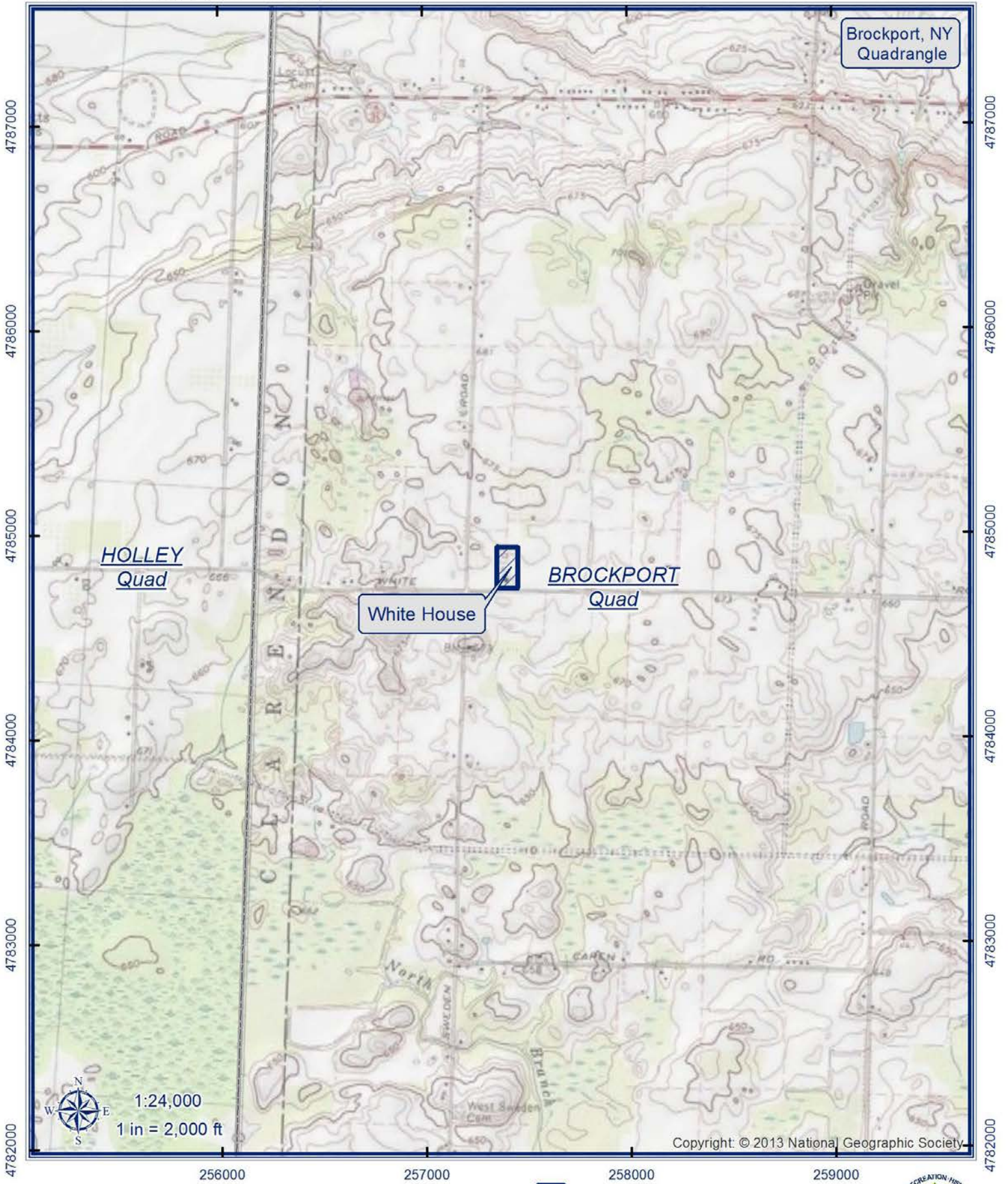


John & Chauncey White House
 Town of Sweden, Monroe County NY



WHITE FARM
2ND FLOOR

John & Chauncey White House
Town of Sweden, Monroe County NY



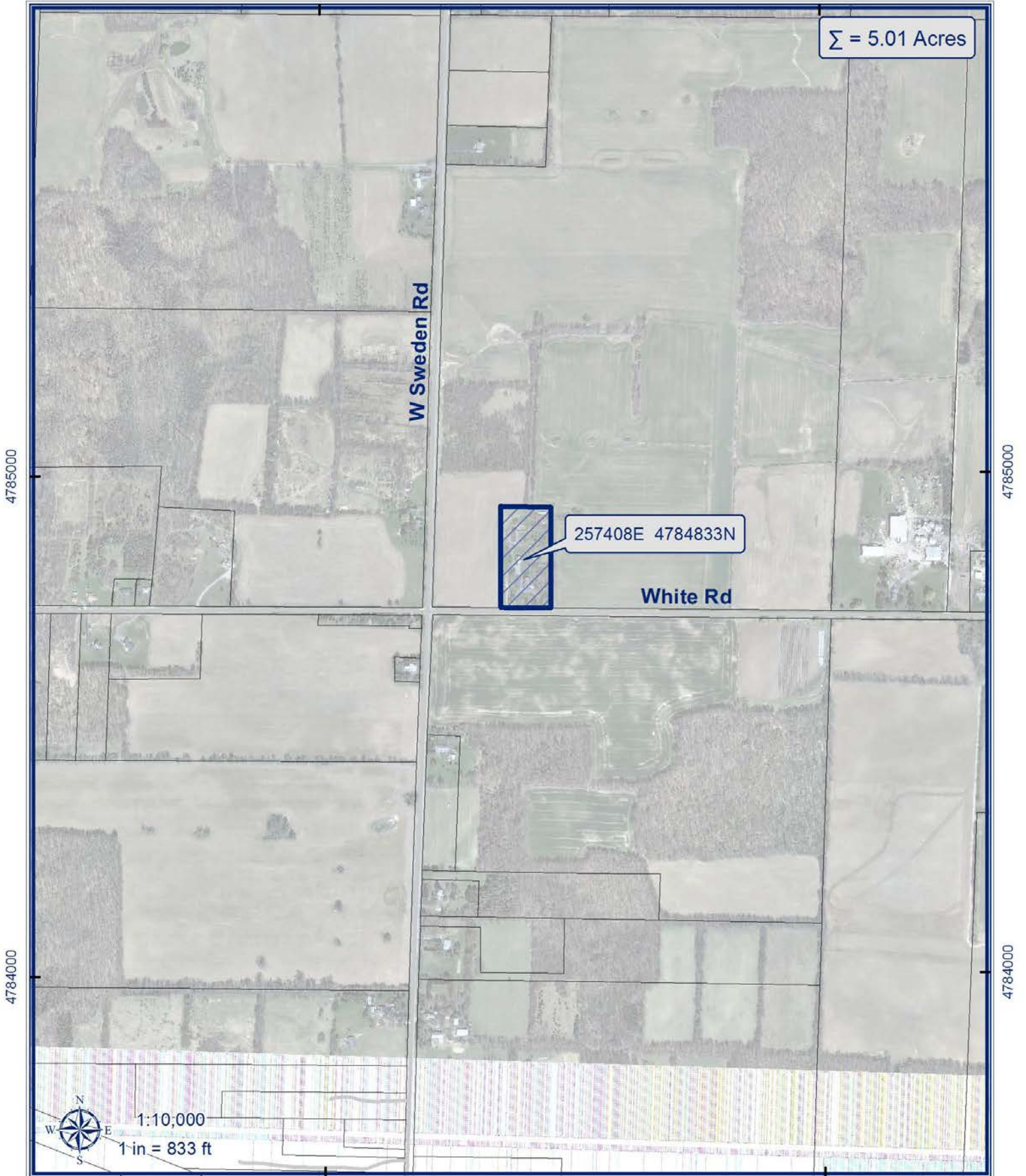
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter



- White House
- USGS quad index

Tax Parcel Data:
Monroe Co, RPS
www.monroecounty.gov





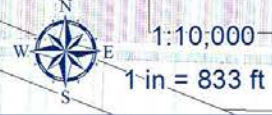
Σ = 5.01 Acres



257408E 4784833N

W Sweden Rd

White Rd



257000 258000

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



Tax Parcel Data:
Monroe Co, RPS
www.monroecounty.gov







WHITE PALM
Bed & Breakfast
854















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: White, John and Chauncey, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 11/29/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001091

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1-15-14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

21 November 2013

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

Re: National Register Nomination

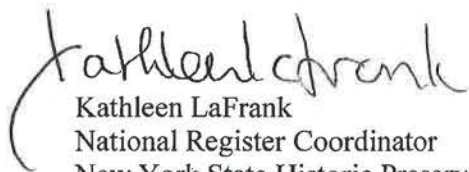
Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose seven National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register: All are submitted on discs:

John and Chauncey White House, Monroe County
Leon Grange #795, Cattaraugus County
Riverside Cemetery, Tioga County
James Keith House and Brown-Morey-Davis Farm, Herkimer County
Textile Factory Buildings in Troy, New York, 1880-1920, Multiple Property Cover
Document – and one individual nomination under this cover:
Searle, Gardner and Company Cuff and Collar Factory, Rensselaer County
Irvington Historic District, Westchester County

I have also enclosed 45 notarized objections to the Irvington nomination. This is a relatively small percentage of the 316 property owners in the district. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:


Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office

STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

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

I, Christine Hunt, am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)

854 White Rd. Brockport, NY 14420

(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

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

Christine Hunt

March 9th, 2012

(signature and date)

854 White Rd.

Brockport, NY 14420

(mailing address)

