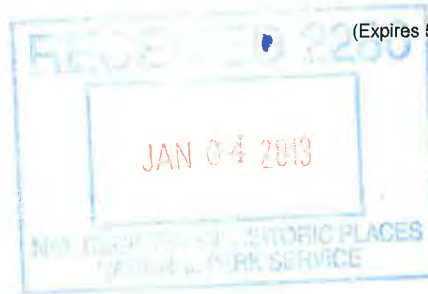


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



25

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 AIKEN, JOHN J., HOUSE
other names/site number AIKEN-SILVERNAIL HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 6805 Poverty Hill Road not for publication
city or town Ellicottville N/A vicinity
state New York code NY county Cattaraugus code 009 zip code 14731

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Rudolph P. Pappas DSHPO 12/26/12
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 E. Olson H. Beall 2.20.13
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.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	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.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival

foundation: stone
walls: wood
roof: asphalt
other: _____

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.)

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Summary Paragraph

Ellicottville is a popular tourist and skiing destination, resulting in the construction of many new chalets, townhouses and other buildings in the area. The Town of Ellicottville is located in rural Western New York, in Cattaraugus County. This region of the state is also known as the Southern tier and is characterized by a varied topography including rolling hills (oriented in a north-south direction) and deep valleys with some plains used for agriculture. This area has always been sparsely settled and developed throughout its documented history.

Despite some more recent developments in the general area, the setting of the Aiken House is largely intact, retaining much of the rural character it had in the nineteenth century. The Aiken House is located north of the village and the Ellicottville Historic District (NR listed 1991) and shares some commonalities with the Greek Revival houses of the district. The Aiken House is a modest Greek Revival style house located at 6805 Poverty Hill Road in the Town of Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, New York. Located just north of the Village of Ellicottville, the building is located on the west side of the street on what is now an approximately three acre parcel. The house was modestly designed in the popular Greek Revival vocabulary built around 1837 using the heavy timber mortise-and-tenon construction method set on a stone foundation, with narrow wood clapboard sheathing. A creek runs to the west of the house, directly to its rear. The remains of a possibly historic barn or shed are located north-west of the main house, but are significantly altered and deteriorated and are non-contributing. Also located just south of the Aiken House is a small, open wood shed which is also non-contributing.

Narrative Description

Exterior

Generally oriented facing east toward Poverty Hill Road, the Aiken House contains a main unit, a wing on the north elevation, and an addition on the west elevation of the wing, forming a rambling sort of L-plan. The main unit of the house is a two-story, three-bay front-gabled block oriented west-east facing the street, with a perpendicular one and one-half story hipped roof ell that connects on the building's north elevation. The foundation that is visible on this front elevation contains two massive, ashlar limestone blocks, resting on the stacked-stone foundation beneath. This main block features a slightly recessed off-center entry porch flanked by simple pilasters and entablature, with an original Greek Revival door surround with sidelights and multi-light transom. The windows are six-over-six wood framed double-hung sash windows with wood storm windows which appear original and contain panes of historic, rippled and seeded glass. While moldings surrounding the windows are modest, the Aiken House features a broad, prominent frieze band with cornice returns at the eaves, a hallmark of the Greek Revival style. The west (rear) elevation of the main block contains irregular fenestration including a rear entry door at the north-west corner and two intact typical windows on the lower

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level, with two irregularly spaced windows on the upper level. The wide frieze and cornice returns mimic those on the front façade. Here, the wood clapboard is intact but concealed behind asbestos shingle.

At the north side of the main block, a one and one-half story side gable wing or "ell" is attached. This ell on its primary east elevation features a centered entry door with slightly eared door surround flanked by two six-over-six wood frame double-hung windows. The foundation of the ell is of stacked stone construction, and the wood clapboard sheathing is slightly wider than that of the main block. A prominent frieze band runs at the eaves of the ell, containing three small attic windows on the east elevation, and terminating with cornice returns on the gabled north elevation. The north elevation of the ell features one typical six-over-six windows on the lower level, and two slightly smaller four-over-four wood sash double-hung windows on the upper level.

Attached to the ell at its wide side is another single story wing that projects to the rear of the property. This wing, which connects the historic house to what may have been a contemporary small outbuilding with a stone foundation, clapboard sheathing and Green Revival frieze and cornice returns, appears to not be original to the configuration of the house, but of potential early twentieth century origins. This wing has a stacked stone foundation in parts, which has been reinforced with some concrete, indicating it may have originally been a portion of the historic house. It may have once served as a covered porch providing sheltered access between the main house and the small outbuilding as was common in early houses. This wing is now sheathed with modern plywood and wallboard material on the north side, with asphalt roll sheathing on the south elevation. The north side of the one-story wing contains an entry with a repurposed historic door, a modern window and features a shed roof porch with large knee-brace type brackets. At the far west end of this one-story wing the historic gabled outbuilding is visible, with a large garage door on a metal track located on the north side. A crude shed roofed lean-to structure has been added to the west end of the wing and is in poor condition.

Interior- Basement and First Floor

Despite some alteration and modernization over the more than 175 years of its existence, the interior of the Aiken House is largely intact and retains the majority of its original historic woodwork, doors, trim and detailing. Complementing the exterior, the interior details are also modest and simple in their materials and forms.

The basement of the Aiken House consists of a crawl space beneath the main block and a useable basement under the ell, accessed via a small stair. Both spaces feature an earth floor with the rubble foundation walls visible. The crawl space under the main block features two prominent stone piers that likely supported the massive chimney and fireplace above them. Likewise, in the basement under the ell, a brick pier is located which likely supported a fireplace in that portion of the house (since removed). A crawl space is also visible (but not accessible) beneath the one-story wing portion and it appears to share a continuous stacked stone

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foundation with the ell. The joists and cross-bracing of the floor above are visible in the basement; of note are the massive ax-hewn beams that run around the perimeter as sill plates, supporting the structure of the house above. Another of these massive beams runs west-east through the approximate midpoint of the basement, supporting the floor joists which are fit into the beam. These beams appear to have been cut from large, old-growth trees once common in Western New York, typical of early construction in the region. Joists are connected to this main beam by interlocking mortise-and-tenon joinery and no nails are visible.

On the interior, the floors throughout the house are wood plank, generally wide cut planks ranging from approximately eight-inches to fourteen-inches in width. Unlike the heavy beams of the basement, which retain ax and hand-tool marks, these floor boards appear to have been machine cut, indicating a saw mill was available in the area. Walls are typically plaster on lath, and where the plaster is deteriorated, the rough hand-split irregular lath, fit together like a jigsaw puzzle, is visible, typical of the relatively early nineteenth century construction era of the Aiken House. Many of the walls have since been wallpapered or covered with modern wallboard, likely in the second half of the twentieth century. A simple, wide baseboard is common throughout the house, and the majority of interior doors are wood mortise-and-tenon six-panel doors, some with historic hardware. In some instances, simple turned doorstops are also present. Many windows feature simple, eared surrounds, typical of Greek Revival architecture of the era. Ceilings are generally flat plaster.

The main block of the Aiken house features a single-loaded main hall with stair, with rooms off of this hall to the south. The small entry hall and stair are entered into from the main entry door, and the stair is located at the south side of the hall. The stair retains its original turned balustrade and S-curved newel post. While each baluster of the stair is of the same basic design, each one varies slightly, indicating it was likely turned by hand. Visible on the interior in the stair hall is the entry door surround which showcases the intact sidelights with panels and transom, and paneled front entry door. Although painted blue in some areas, portions of the trim surrounding the front entry door retain the original faux-painted wood grain.

A large front room, likely originally a parlor, is located at the south-east end of the main block. While it has some modern finishes laid overtop the historic plaster walls and wide floor boards, it retains the original eared Greek Revival door and window surrounds, with a decorative wood panel beneath the windows, simple baseboard and trim. The front parlor has a comparatively ornate fireplace surround and firebox on the west wall of the space. The mantle, surround and hearth (now covered by carpet and broken in several places) appear to be carved from slabs of variegated slate. The cast iron firebox may be a later addition to the house, as its ornate Gothic Revival styling was more popular in the mid- to late-nineteenth century. It features a recessed unrecognizable figure set into a slightly recessed niche that is surrounded by Gothic pointed arches, quatrefoils and a shield motif.

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Other rooms located in the main block of the house include two additional rooms whose historic use is unclear but have since been known as the library and the workshop. Like the main front parlor, these rooms contain the wide plank wood floor, simple door and window surrounds with panels under the windows and plaster on lath walls and ceilings. Some areas of the plaster are missing, revealing the rough, split lath beneath. Square-head wire cut nails are visible in some places, again indicating the relatively early construction date for the house.

The ground floor of the adjacent ell contains three rooms; a living room, kitchen and a small front room. These rooms are similarly detailed and finished as the rooms in the main block, featuring wood plank floors (here, the planks are slightly narrower), plaster on lath walls and ceiling (now covered with non-historic wall paper and board) and simple wood baseboard and trim. Here, the door and window surrounds are similar to those in the main block, but lack the eared detail. The window on the east (front) wall of the small front room features the same panel beneath the window unit as those found in the main block. On the west side of the living room space is a stair leading to the basement space below and, above it, a stair leading to the second story above. The doors to the upper level and to the basement feature the same faux-wood grain paint treatment and white mineral clay doorknobs as found elsewhere in the house. A chimney was once present located between the living room and the kitchen, and while the actual mantle and surround have since been removed and covered over, the deterioration of the wall reveals remnants of the brick chimney walls. The area serving as the kitchen features mid-twentieth century cabinetry in poor condition, as well as numerous different wall board materials on the walls and ceiling, and the floor is covered with a modern wall-to-wall carpet. Some portions of the historic wide baseboard remain, but the space retains few historic materials.

The small connector wing to the west of the ell contains a modern bathroom, a utility room and a storage room. These rooms contain no notable historic features or architecture, although some of the doors appear to be historic but have been reused from elsewhere or reinstalled. The interior of the small attached barn, connected to the connector wing via an odd-sized door in the storage room, has a dirt and gravel floor. Its walls reveal the heavy wood timber construction that is typical of the main block and ell portions of the Aiken House. The open ceiling reveals the heavy wood joists and lack of a ridge board that typifies the construction methods of the main house.

Interior-Second Floor

The second floor of the main block is accessed via the main stair in the entry stair hall. Mirroring the plan of the first floor below, this second floor plan also features a single-loaded corridor, with two primary rooms located to the south of the hall. The large front (southeast) room likely served as the main bedroom for the

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Aikens, and features wide wood plank flooring, covered with modern carpet, with wide base trim and modern wallboard on the walls and ceiling. However, all of the original eared Greek Revival door and window surrounds remain intact. Because of the relatively low height of the tall windows in the room, the sill is at the baseboard level. Perhaps the most prominent element in the room is an intact stone fireplace, similar to that in the first floor parlor below, centered on the west wall of the master bedroom and flanked by two small, narrow closets. Like the fireplace on the ground floor, this appears to be carved of a variegated slate with an intact hearthstone, surround and mantle. This fireplace also features a cast iron firebox, here of a Classical Revival type style with a paneled appearance with central Ionic columns. Located off of the master bedroom is a small room that may have served as a closet or dressing room, or possibly as a very small nursery. Original to the layout of the house, this small space features the same flooring, plaster walls and ceiling and wide baseboard as other rooms, and contains a face-mounted board once used for hooks.

On the second story of the main block are two very shallow closets, measuring roughly two-feet in depth, in the master bedroom, flanking the ornate fireplace. Inside the closet to the south end, on the northern wall, is an opening to the attic space inside the gable. This opening reveals a very small wood ladder with dovetail joints, built alongside the brick chimney. The opening is extremely small, difficult for an average modern adult to fit through, and is unusually hidden in the side of the small closet. While now missing, it appears that there may have once been a panel or wood door that covered the opening, as wood trim frames the opening. There is no attic story present above the ell, as this space is integrated into the second floor to maximize headroom on that level.

To the west of the master bedroom is another room that also likely served as a bedroom. This room features the same wide wood plank floor, plaster walls and ceiling with wide baseboard molding, and eared Greek Revival door and window surrounds. The wall in the far south-west corner of the room has been partially opened up due to a previous insect infestation, revealing the heavy wood framing of the walls.

A door in the stair hall of the main block connects via two steps down into the upper story of the ell, which is also accessible via the stair located in the living room below. Like the main block, the upper floor of the ell is also a single-loaded corridor with the small rooms located along the east and north walls and the hall along the west. Because this is the upper portion of the one and one-half story ell, the ceiling is vaulted to the rafters. This creates a space that is approximately seven-feet in height towards the center of the ell, angling down to roughly four-feet in ceiling height near the exterior windows on the west and east facades. There is no attic space above. While the historic use of the three rooms on the upper floor of the ell is unclear, for the purpose of this nomination they are noted as serving as bedrooms, their most recent use. All three bedrooms and the hall itself contain many non-historic materials such as wallboard, wallpaper and carpet added, in most cases,

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overtop the existing historic wood floors and plaster. Perhaps the most unusual feature in the upper floor of the ell is the curved wall which accommodates the entry door from the main block, set at the central axis of the ell, as the door connects to the off-axis hallway. The curve also serves to maximize the space contained inside center east bedroom. This curved wall appears to be original to the layout of the upper floor as it features curved baseboard along the inside and outside walls. In north-east corner the bedroom, a historic closet with paneled door is present, as is historic baseboard and door and window moldings. The smallest of the rooms is the north-west corner bedroom, which features similar elements such as baseboard trim and modern carpet and wallboard.

While detailing is overall minimal and modest, as might be expected in the 1830s rural Southern Tier region and in the home of a minister, the most unique element of the interior finishing is the faux-painted wood grain pattern. Based on the crazing of the varnish layer, lying overtop the paint, this faux-painting appears to be historic and likely original to the 1830s. While white painted trim would have been common to Greek Revival houses of the early 1800s, the use of the faux wood grain pattern in a rich, warm honey color, resembling possibly cherry or mahogany wood, over what appears to be common pine wood is a clear attempt to make the wood trim appear richer and more expensive. The faux-painting is finely rendered, and very closely mimics the appearance of actual wood grain. One interior door features a unique star-burst type grain pattern on its center rail, mimicking a sort of fancy burl pattern found on expensive hardwoods. It can be found on the interior surfaces of the entry door and surround, the staircase balustrade and newel posts, several interior doors and elsewhere, indicating that possibly most if not all original interior wood work on the first floor was finished with the faux-painting. Further intensive paint analysis could reveal if this paint treatment was indeed original; certainly it is historic.

Hardware found on the many doors of the Aiken House is also historic and of interest in the otherwise plainly ornamented building. The front entry door features a simple historic beveled case rim lock. The secondary entry door in the east wall of the ell also features a similar rim lock mechanism which also appears to have been painted, perhaps historically, with a thick wood-colored paint. Other knobs in the house are white porcelain or brown variegated mineral clay knobs with a simple metal rosette and escutcheon, typical of those from the early to mid-1800s. While some hardware has been replaced or broken, it appears that many of the doorknobs, locks and other pieces are original to the house which correlates to the fact that the vast majority of doors in the building also appears to be original historic elements.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

CA. 1837

Significant Dates

CA. 1837

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance reflects the initial construction of the house and its brief occupation by Rev. Aiken.

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.)

Located at 6805 Poverty Hill Road in the town of Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, New York, the John J. Aiken House meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places for its architecture. Constructed ca. 1837 for Reverend John J. Aiken, the building is an excellent example of an early, mortise-and-tenon constructed Greek Revival house from the early-to-mid nineteenth century era of development around Ellicottville. Rev. Aiken was locally significant as a prominent religious and business leader with strong ties to the Western New York community. The vernacular Greek Revival house reflected his initial success as a businessman and the respect he earned as a missionary. Rev. Aiken chose the Greek Revival style for his property, which was the dominant trend in residential architecture in the early nineteenth century. Associated with the culture and values of ancient Roman and Greek architecture, the design of the house indicated the attempt to showcase the growing cultural and architectural sophistication of the Ellicottville community in the 1830s, rising beyond the hard-scrabble pioneer cabins of early settlers. Modestly ornamented and embellished, the mortise-and-tenon constructed house demonstrated the attempt to show this level of refinement in spite of a lack of locally available highly-skilled artisans and high quality materials and finishes. Inexpensive, available woods were accented with faux-painting to elevate them to resemble hardwoods, while doors and windows featured simple eared surrounds. While the decorative elements were modest, the house displayed key characteristic features of the Greek Revival, including an articulated front entry door with pilasters and entablature, a prominent frieze band at the eaves and a front-gabled block with side wing massing.

Originally established as a center of the Holland Land Company operations around the turn of the nineteenth century, Ellicottville was a growing center of business and trade in rural Cattaraugus County in the early 1800s. Rev. John J. Aiken, Presbyterian minister and an agent with the American Bible Society, moved to this area in the 1830s, and had a house built for him on what is now known as Poverty Hill Road around 1837. Rev. Aiken was a prominent and active religious figure in Cattaraugus County and throughout Western New York, selling and distributing bibles in the region and founding bible study organizations in the region and in Western Pennsylvania. In the 1850s and 60s, he became a prominent investor and business leader in the community, helping to fund the Great Valley-Ellicottville Plank Road project for many years.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1792 the Holland Land Company, a group of Dutch investors, purchased a massive tract of approximately 3.6 million acres of land in Western New York with assistance from banker Robert Morris. At the time, the

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region was unsettled wilderness on the edge of the western frontier and home to the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois. In 1799 the Holland Land Company moved to survey the entire tract in order to divide it into lots suitable for settlement. In order to sell these lots to the many new travelers and settlers arriving in Western New York in the early years of the 1800s, the Holland Land Company established several land offices in various locations within their territory where settlers could come to identify lots they wished to purchase and handle the financial transactions. The early settlements at Buffalo and Batavia were the first areas to house land offices, each laid out between 1801 and 1804. Another office was established in Mayfield near Lake Erie in 1805, but access to the Southern Tier still proved difficult and land sales in the area stagnated.

In 1812, the Holland Land Company established the Chautauqua Turnpike between their offices in Geneseo and Mayfield as a way to encourage settlement in this area of the state. This route served as a primary access point for many travelers and settlers, bringing increased sales and attention to the Cattaraugus County region. Because of the success of the Chautauqua Turnpike, the Holland Land Company established a land office in Ellicottville in 1818, run by agent David Goodwin.¹ Named for Joseph Ellicott, the Holland Land Company's chief surveyor and land agent, the village of Ellicottville was established as a bi-laterally symmetrical grid of streets around a central rectangular square. From this planned core of the village other streets radiated, following the topography of the area, linking to farms and houses in the surrounding area.² As host to an active land office and with easy access via the busy Chautauqua Turnpike, the village of Ellicottville would have served as the nucleus for settlement from an early era, attracting residents as well as businesses and shops. It was designated as the county seat in 1817 shortly after Cattaraugus County, created in 1808, assumed governmental and judicial status.³

The Town of Ellicottville was formed from neighboring Ischua (now known as Franklinville) in 1820, and at the time included the area of Ashford. When the Town of Ashford was formed in 1824, the town lost some of its original land. The town took its name from the pre-established village of Ellicottville, which was incorporated on April 1, 1837.⁴ As settlement grew in the town of Ellicottville, new businesses and industries were established such as the saw mill established by Orrin Pitcher along Great Valley Creek in 1821, located about two miles from the village of Ellicottville. This saw mill provided valuable lumber for settlers in the region, and likely would have been the source of materials used to build the Aiken House around 1837. A tannery was built by Artemas

¹ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *National Register of Historic Places: Ellicottville Historic District*, by Neil Larson (Albany: New York State Historic Preservation Office, 1991), 8-2 - 8-3. Also, William Adams, *Historical Gazetteer and Biographical Memorial of Cattaraugus County, N.Y.* (Syracuse, N.Y.: Lyman, Horton, 1893), 571.

² History of Cattaraugus Co. 248-249.

³ *National Register of Historic Places: Ellicottville Historic District*, 8-3.

⁴ Adams, 573-574.

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Blair in 1832, providing leather goods and products to the community. In 1832, a grist mill was established by Ozro Thomas and Deacon Gardner, located just south of the village.⁵

Gradually, the area attracted new residents, which led to the need for schools and churches. The first school was established in Orrin Pitcher's house in the summer of 1818 when Eunice Carpenter began teaching students in the front room. In 1820, the first official school building was erected. Pitcher's house was also used by Rev. John Spencer from the Connecticut Missionary Society to hold Congregational services for a small group of worshipers in 1818. The Baptist church established the first organized religious group in the town of Ellicottville when meetings were held beginning in 1824 and was incorporated in 1829. St. John's Episcopal Church was organized in 1829, constructing their first house of worship in 1838. The First Presbyterian Church of Ellicottville was established in 1829, building their first church structure in 1838. The First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1845, and their first church was constructed in 1850-51.⁶ That these and other religious groups were established in the town of Ellicottville in the early 1800s is a strong indication that, despite a relatively small population, religious practice was of great significance to the lives of the early residents of the community.⁷

It was in this climate that Rev. John J. Aiken located to Ellicottville around 1837 when it was becoming a prosperous, growing community in the rural Southern Tier region. The architecture of his house reflected the economic and social conditions evident at the time. Houses of the 1830s and 1840s reflect settlers desire to use popular architectural styles as a way to prove their level of economic and social sophistication, building fashionable houses that were a step beyond the crude, simple log shelters that provided the basic necessities of only a few decades prior. Like several other houses in Ellicottville, Rev. Aiken's house was designed in a modest, vernacular Greek Revival style. The relatively minimal detailing and ornament of the house reflect that, while the desire and knowledge of fashionable architectural trends may have been there, the remoteness of the Southern Tier still limited the availability of the high-end materials and skilled craftsman needed to create a more lavish work.

Aiken's House was a modestly styled Greek Revival house, constructed at the height of the style's popularity. America architects Charles Bullfinch in Boston and Benjamin Latrobe in Philadelphia first introduced and refined the style for the American architectural scene. The War of 1812 and Greece as the birthplace of democracy turned builders and architects away from Britain as a source of inspiration and the British Adam

⁵ Everts, 254.

⁶ Adams, 577-579.

⁷ Everts, 257-258.

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style began to fall out of favor as the emphasis shifted towards Grecian models.⁸ The style was disseminated largely through the publication of design guides and pattern books, enabling carpenters, joiners and builders to be responsible for much of the nation's early residential design and construction. Popular books, such as Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and *The Builder's Guide* (1838) and Minard LaFever's *The Modern Builder's Guide* (1833) and *The Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835), provided useful, clearly defined guides for local craftsman and builders who translated the style from high-style civic buildings and houses to the more affordable and modest styles that became widely disseminated through the growing and expanding nation, including Western New York.

Considered the first national domestic architectural style, the Greek Revival was first employed in large public buildings, such as the Bank of the United States located Philadelphia, designed by William Strickland in 1818. Its peak of popularity in the United States was between the 1830s and 1850s, coinciding with a boom in population and westward expansion after the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 aided in the style's proliferation as craftsmen and laborers traveled from the cultural and artistic centers such as New York City to Western New York. After 1825, the Greek Revival style was frequently employed in house construction. The order, rationality and symmetry, as well as the association with the logic and wisdom of ancient Greece and Rome, was used as a symbol of America's triumph over the chaotic wilderness.

With numerous practitioners came variations of the Greek Revival style, based on factors including the builder's ability, wealth of the home owner and the availability of materials and skilled craftsmen. In spite of variations, most buildings shared common characteristics such as a low-pitched gabled or hipped roof, use of free standing columns and/or pilasters; elaborate door surrounds generally featuring a narrow transom and sidelights, and an emphasized cornice with wide, broad molding resembling a classical entablature.

Within the broad range of styles, most residences fell into six subtypes based on porch and roof configurations. About twenty percent fell into the "entry porch less than full height, or absent" category, while other types were the "full-height entry porch," "full-façade porch," "front-gabled roof," "townhouse" or the "gable front and wing." The Aiken House was built following the "gable front and wing" variant, having a main front-gabled portion and a side wing. In Western New York, the "one-story entry porch and/or a front-gabled massing with wing" was quite popular, but because of the climate in Ellicottville, having a large open front

⁸ This section is drawn from Howard Major, *The Domestic Architecture of the Early American Republic, the Greek Revival* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1926). Also, Virginia McAlester and A. Lee McAlester, "Romantic Houses: The Greek Revival," in *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984).

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porch was not practical, since it became a place for snow and ice to accumulate. A smaller recessed entry porch (like that on the Aiken House) was sufficient for ample shelter from the elements and accented the entrance through pilasters and broad cornice molding that mimics a more monumental entablature. The broad molding at the eaves emphasizes the appearance of a Greek entablature, and the front-gable mass of the main block suggests a temple-front. On the interior, the proliferation of eared door and window surrounds is a typical feature of the Greek Revival.

At the time the house was constructed, Ellicottville was the center of a rural economy, still isolated from Buffalo and other more populated trade and commercial centers by the lack of passable roads. Builders had a steady supply of large timbers for the house's framing, often harvested from clearing of the property. Built in a region with few highly-skilled craftsmen and with little access to high-end materials, the details of the Aiken House reflected the adaptation of the style and by the application of a few simple elements, the impression of a fashionable Greek Revival house could be obtained. The stone fireplace surrounds in the house were the more decorative elements in the house, and faux-graining of moldings, trim and doors demonstrated the desire to improve simple materials, and make them seem more elegant.

The Rev. John J. Aiken was a prominent local minister, Bible salesman, and businessman in the Cattaraugus County region during the early nineteenth century. He had his house on Poverty Hill Road just outside of the village built by an unknown, local builder for himself and his wife, Polly. Originally a Congregationalist and later a Presbyterian, Rev. Aiken was served a few terms as a Presbyterian pastor, but was primarily an independent preacher and speaker. He was also a local businessman, investing in the Great Valley-Plank Road Company in 1850.

Aiken was born in New York State around 1812 or 1815, but where Aiken lived and grew up, and how he spent the early portion of his life is unknown. The earliest record of Aiken emerges in 1835 when on February 19th he purchased 143 acres in Lot 55 of Township 4, Range 6 from the Holland Land Company for lands just north of the Village of Ellicottville in Cattaraugus County, NY.⁹ During that same year, Aiken married his wife, the former Polly Welch.¹⁰ J. Aiken served as a Bible salesman or agent for the American Bible Society, and having made his land purchase in Ellicottville. The society reported 1837 that "It is expected that he will continue in the Society's service during the coming year, in central and western parts of New-York."¹¹ This statement supports a construction date for the house on Poverty Hill Road of around 1837, with Aiken

⁹ Holland Land Company records.

¹⁰ Rev. John J. Aiken to Rev. J.C. Brigham, March 5, 1849, American Bible Society Archives, New York City.

¹¹ Quoted from 21st Annual Report of the American Bible Society, page 42.

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relocating to Cattaraugus County in 1838. According to the 22nd *Report of the American Bible Society*, Aiken covered the central and western portion of New York State for the society, which included the counties of Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus.

Founded in 1816, the non-denominational American Bible Society printed and distributed Bibles as well as provided religious education throughout the country in the early nineteenth century. As an agent for the American Bible Society, Aiken sold and distributed Bibles, and held bible study classes. In 1837, he was working on Staten Island and in Monmouth County, New Jersey.¹² At this time, Aiken was referred to as a licentiate, indicating he was studying religion at the time and quickly earned a Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree.¹³

At home in Cattaraugus County, Rev. Aiken continued as an agent for the American Bible Society and was active in establishing local Bible groups and organizations in Western and Central New York. In October of 1839, the *Cattaraugus Republican* reported on a Bible meeting having been held in Ellicottville by the "friends of the American Bible Society," which included Rev. John J. Aiken, with the aim of distributing the Bible as the "textbook of society."¹⁴ He traveled extensively throughout the Southern Tier, continuing the agent for the American Bible Society in Broome, Otsego, Steuben, Allegheny, Genesee, Monroe, and Cattaraugus counties.¹⁵ In December of 1841, Rev. Aiken was one of the founders of the Wyoming County Bible Society, which was active in promoting and spreading the word of the Bible in the county.¹⁶ Between 1840 and 1842, Aiken also served as the minister for the First Presbyterian Church of Olean, south of Ellicottville.¹⁷

Aiken's travels often took him as far away as Pittsburgh in Western Pennsylvania, and he apparently spent much of his time in Olean. The time spent away from his family wore heavily on Rev. Aiken. In a letter sent from Olean dated June 23, 1845, Rev. Aiken asked the American Bible Society to assign him at least in part to Western New York. "Why can I not have Central New York or Eastern NY this year? Or some one of the Eastern States?" he wrote, asking not to be assigned to Southern Ohio or Illinois as these areas would have

¹² Quoted from 21st Annual Report of the American Bible Society, page 42.

¹³ 22nd Annual Report, page 956.

¹⁴ "The Bible Meeting," *The Cattaraugus Republican*, October 9, 1839. Also, "Bible Meeting," *The Cattaraugus Republican*, October 9, 1839.

¹⁵ Daniel Fanshaw, *Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the American Bible Society, Presented XIV May, MDCCCXL.: With an Appendix, Containing the Addresses at the Anniversary, and Extracts of Correspondence, Together with a List of Auxiliary Societies, Life Directors, and Members.* (New-York:: Printed by Daniel Fanshaw, No. 115 Nassau-Street., 1840), 38.

¹⁶ "Wyoming County Bible Society," *Northern Christian Advocate* (Auburn, NY), 1845, <http://fultonhistory.com/newspaper%202/Auburn%20NY%20Christian%20Advocate/Auburn%20NY%20Christian%20Advocate%201845%20-%201849%20-%201849%20-%201849%20pdf/Newspaper%20Auburn%20NY%20Christian%20Advocate%201845%20-%201849%20-%201849%20-%201849%20pdf>.

¹⁷ Franklin Ellis and E. A. Nash, *History of Cattaraugus County, New York.* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1879), 153.

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taken him far from his family.¹⁸ Assigned the territory of Western Pennsylvania in August of 1845, Rev. Aiken relocated to Pittsburgh shortly after his appointment and was joined by his family in late September of 1845.¹⁹ However, by February of 1847, Rev. Aiken reported that, due to her poor health, his wife spent about half her time in Pittsburgh and half in Cattaraugus County.²⁰ In another emotional letter to Rev. J.C. Brigham of the American Bible Society dated March 5, 1849, Aiken lamented the great amount of travel and the hardships of separation contributed to his wife's poor health. Following the death of another agent, who died while traveling far from his family, Rev. Aiken weighed his commitment to distributing the bible against that of being with his family, declaring that he felt "like abandoning the cause & going home." He wrote:

Indeed it is very hard to be separated, almost constantly from one's family. I have been married 14 years, & with the exception of the 3 years which I spent mostly in preaching at Olean, I have been very little with my family. I sometimes seriously question whether this is right? My heart is bound up both in my wife & the Bible cause & I sincerely wish to do justice to both.²¹

While he continued his support the cause of the American Bible Society, the stress of the separation was apparently too great and he chose to be with his family. By 1850, he was living once again in Ellicottville.

As he settled into life in Ellicottville, Rev. Aiken became more active in the local and regional religious and business community. He became a Mason, and served as the Master of the Ellicottville Lodge No. 307 in 1854-55.²² During these same two years, Rev. Aiken served as the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Ellicottville.²³ He began to emerge as a prominent business leader in Ellicottville in the 1850s and 1860s. In 1850, Aiken purchased ninety-nine shares of stock in the Ellicottville-Great Valley Plank Road Company, established with the task of creating a plank road connecting these two nearby communities to expedite and improve transportation. His wife Polly purchased an additional ten shares and by 1852, dividends on their investments saw a profit of about \$250. Aiken eventually took a leadership role with the company, serving as its president and superintendant between 1857 and 1862. Success eluded the company and in the final years of the Ellicottville-Great Valley Plank Road Company, Aiken himself was financially supporting the failing company.²⁴

¹⁸ Rev. John J. Aiken to Rev. J.C. Brigham, June 23, 1845, American Bible Society Archives, New York City.

¹⁹ According to the 1840 census records for Aiken in Ellicottville, his family consisted of his wife, Polly, and someone who may possibly a 5-10 year old daughter. Aiken makes no mention of his daughter in his letters, and she does not show up on the 1850 census when the family returned to Ellicottville.

²⁰ Rev. John J. Aiken to Rev. J.C. Brigham, February 22, 1847, American Bible Society Archives, New York City.

²¹ Transcribed from: Rev. John J. Aiken to Rev. J.C. Brigham, March 5, 1849, American Bible Society Archives, New York City.

²² John W. Leonard, K.T., *A Masonic Register Containing a List of All the Lodges, Chapters, Councils and Encampments, with the Membership of Each, in the State of New York* (New York: Jno. W. Leonard &, 1855), 220,
<http://books.google.com/books?id=rkUZAAAAAYAAJ&dq=%22Aiken%22%20Ellicottville&pg=PP5#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

²³ "Installation of New Pastor Packs Presbyterian Church," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), February 6, 1952.

²⁴ "The Ellicottville-Great Valley Plank Road of '50," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), June 12, 1935. Also, "Before the War: Bits of Early Ellicottville History," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), May 19, 1915.

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In 1859, Rev. Charles Jerome of the Presbyterian Church in Ellicottville pressed charges against Rev. Aiken that included dishonesty, adultery, and lewdness. A group from the Buffalo Presbytery assembled in Ellicottville to hear the case. Unable to produce witnesses to support his claims (many dating back twenty years), Jerome withdrew the charges after it was determined the statute of limitations had expired. Aiken later countersued Jerome for libel, but more importantly, the episode revealed the amount of respect Aiken had in the community.²⁵ In a letter dated May 1859 from the local clergy, they declared that "This proceeding has in no wise [sic] impaired our confidence in him as a man, as a Christian [sic], or as a minister of the gospel, and in its results we see only a further evidence of the certain manner in which Providence overcomes the wicked designs of evil men."²⁶

At the time of the lawsuit and his growing business ventures, Aiken purchased a house on Elizabeth Street (extant but not NR listed) in the Village of Ellicottville to serve as the primary residence of himself and his wife, but kept ownership of the Poverty Hill Road property.²⁷ Due to his frequent travel as a Bible agent, Aiken most likely he rented it out for use as a farm after he purchased the village property. The farm house shows up on the 1860 farm schedule for the first time, containing 50 acres of cultivated land and 170 acres of unimproved land, indicating that any farming done was still on a relatively small scale. Unlike other neighboring farms that produced tons of various agricultural products, Aiken's farm produced a mere 100 bushels of potatoes, 100 pounds of butter, and five tons of hay. At the time, the entire property was valued at \$4,000 and contained a barn at the time for horses and cows.²⁸

In 1861, the ill health of his wife once again forced Rev. Aiken to relocate, leaving Ellicottville to seek a more favorable climate.²⁹ They returned on occasion to spend a few months in the village, but in the local papers indicated that Aiken was selling both his village and farm properties. They settled in Owatonna, Minnesota where Aiken once again worked as a minister and an agent for the American Bible Society before becoming a lawyer.³⁰ In 1866, the Ellicottville newspapers reported that Rev. Aiken had been appointed by the governor of Minnesota as County Judge of Steele County.³¹ Rev. Aiken lived in Owatonna, Minnesota for about fifteen years before he passed away on January 4, 1879 from a "paralysis of the heart." Rev. Aiken was remembered as "warm hearted, genial gentleman, and his demise is to be regretted."³²

²⁵ Rev. John J. Aiken, "Letter to the Editor," *American Union* (Ellicottville, NY), July 15, 1859.

²⁶ Quoted from P. P. Kidder et al., "To the Public - An Original Letter May 12, 1859," *American Union* (Ellicottville, NY), July 15, 1859.

²⁷ "During the War: Bits of Early Ellicottville History," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), October 18, 1918. Also, *Historic Ellicottville*. Ellicottville: Holimont, 2006. <http://www.ellicottvilleny.com/images/upload/file/Walking%20Tour%20Brochure.pdf>.

²⁸ "Productions in Agriculture in Ellicottville, in the county of Cattaraugus, in the Post Office Ellicottville, July 1860" Nonpopulation Census Schedules for New York, 1850-1880. Microfilm. New York State Library, Documents and Digital Collections, Albany. Online from Ancestry.com.

²⁹ John A. Moffitt, "Before the War: Bits of Early Ellicottville History," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), February 2, 1916.

³⁰ "Statistics - Minnesota," *The Congregational Quarterly* IX, no. 1 (January 1867): 91.

³¹ John A. Moffitt, "During the War: Bits of Early Ellicottville History," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), December 27, 1916.

³² "Brevities," *The Cattaraugus Republican*, January 23, 1879.

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Following the sale of the Aiken properties in 1865, the house on Poverty Hill Road had a series of owners with the Harson Family owning it for several years from 1870 to 1911. Ms. Mary V. Harson (born 1847) purchased the property around 1870, who lived in the house with her son Erastus and five other family members. The property was used for small scale farming, primarily serving as a small dairy operation and apple orchard. The property was inherited by her daughter Mary who continued the farm operations until 1911 when she sold it and moved to Franklinville to live with her brother.³³ It was purchased by the Ludwich family who continued the farm operations until 1925 when the property was purchased by George Brewer, a retired worker from the Borden Condensary in Randolph. Brewer operated a small dairy and lived in the house with his wife Ruth, plus their children Myra, Willard, Edson, daughter Marian and her son George, plus a godson named Bruce Campbell. In 1947, the Brewers sold the property to Leslie B. Fox who owned it property until 1971. Based on the colors and interior finishes, that appear to date to the 1950s or 1960s, it would appear that it was Fox who may have made many of the updates to the interior of the house, although alterations such as electrification likely were made by the Brewer family in the 1920s or 30s to bring the house up to more modern standards of living.

In 1971 the property was purchased by George and Janice Hinman. George Hinman was an industrial forester, working for the firm of Fitzpatrick and Weller in Ellicottville. He later served on the Town Board from 1984 until his death in 2005.³⁴ The Hinmans owned the property for several decades, and granted a lease to the Envirogas, Inc. Company in 1981, for oil and natural gas extraction. After George Hinman's death in 2005, the property was vacant until it was purchased by its current owners, Clay and Melanie Silvernail. Interested in the history and architecture of the small building, the Silvernails are currently undertaking the restoration and rehabilitation of the property.

³³ "Personal Notes," *The Post* (Ellicottville, NY), April 5, 1911.

³⁴ "Obituary - George Hinman Sr.," *TimesObserver.com*, October 14, 2005, accessed September 25, 2012

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"Productions in Agriculture in Ellicottville, in the county of Cattaraugus, in the Post Office Ellicottville, July 1860"
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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: CBCA Architecture PC (Buffalo, NY)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ±2.91 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u>	<u>196748</u>	<u>4689476</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	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 boundary is the same as during the period of significance.

Aiken, John J., House
Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, NY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Walkowski, Architectural Historian
organization Clinton Brown Company Architecture, PC date December 2012
street & number 617 Main Street Suite M303 telephone 716-852-2020
city or town Buffalo state NY zip code 14203
e-mail jwalkowski@clintonbrowncompany.com

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: Aiken, John J., House

City or Vicinity: Town of Ellicottville

County: Cattaraugus County State: New York

Photographer: Jennifer Walkowski

Date Photographed: October 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0013. Aiken House, primary east façade looking west.
- 0002 of 0013. Aiken House, view of house and property, looking south.
- 0003 of 0013. Aiken House, view of house and property, looking north.
- 0004 of 0013. Aiken House, primary east façade, entry door detail.
- 0005 of 0013. Aiken House, basement, detail of mortise-and-tenon construction.
- 0006 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, front parlor looking north.

Aiken, John J., House
Name of Property

Cattaraugus County, NY
County and State

- 0007 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, front parlor fireplace.
- 0008 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, newel post detail.
- 0009 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, historic door.
- 0010 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, historic door detail of faux-painting.
- 0011 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, historic hardware detail.
- 0012 of 0013. Aiken House, first floor, door in ell to stair.
- 0013 of 0013. Aiken House, second floor, main block, master bedroom looking northeast.

Property Owner:

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

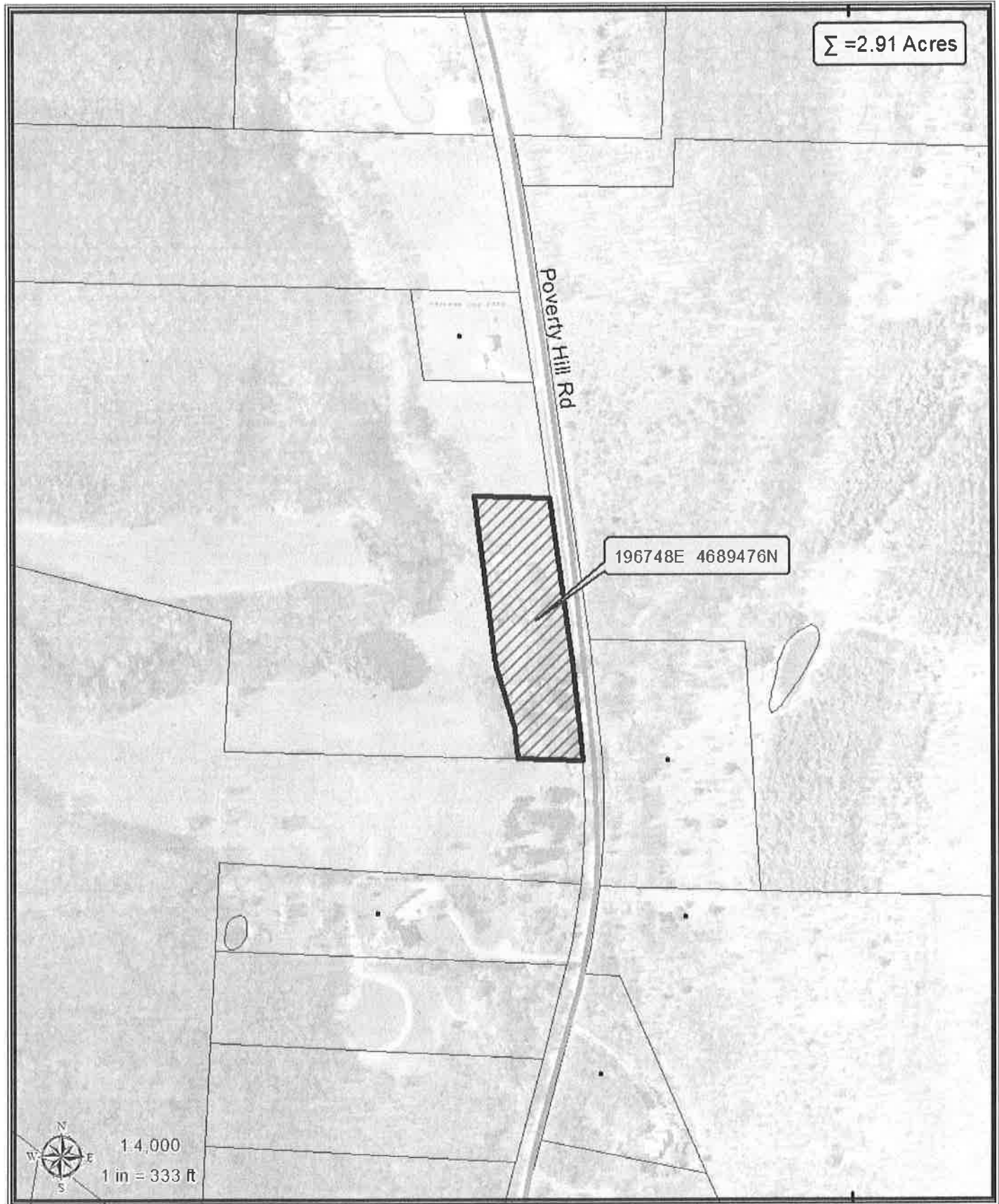
name John Richard Mitchell Trust (Melanie Mitchell Silvernail, Trustee)
street & number 6753 Poverty Hill Rd telephone N/A
city or town Ellicottville state NY zip code 14731

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.

Aiken, John J., House
Ellicottville, Cattaraugus Co., NY

6805 Poverty Hill Road
Ellicottville, NY 14731



197000

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



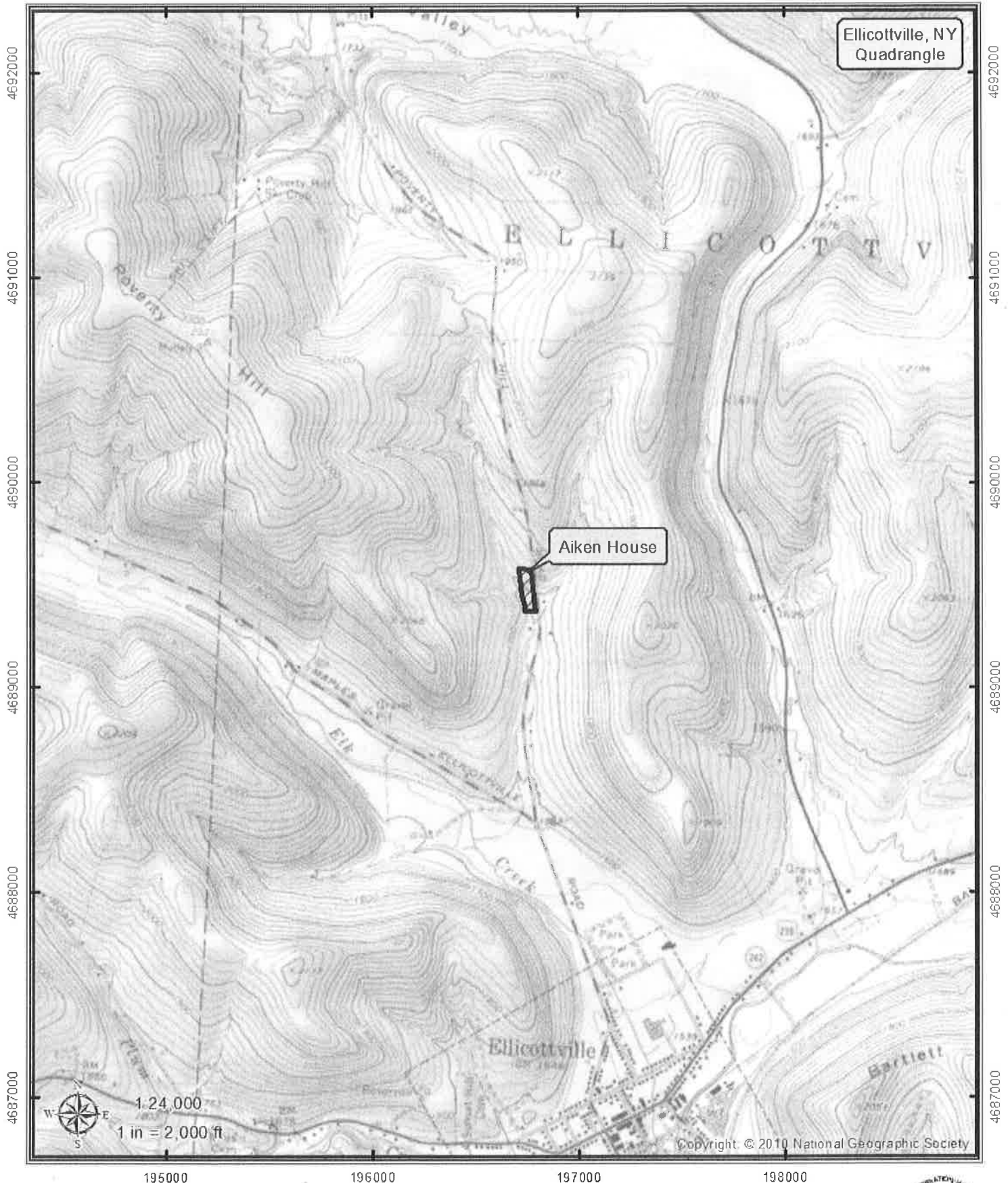
 Aiken House

Tax Parcel Data
Catt. Co. RPS
<http://maps.cattco.org/website>



Aiken, John J., House
Ellicottville, Cattaraugus Co., NY

6805 Poverty Hill Road
Ellicottville, NY 14731



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



 Aiken House





AIKEN-SILVERMAN HOUSE
CATTARAUGUS CO., NY
PHOTO 1 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012



AIKEN - SILVERNAK HOUSE
CATTARAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 2 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012



AIKEN - SILVERMINE HOUSE
CATARAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 3 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012



AIKEN - SILVERMAIL HOUSE
CATTAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 4 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012



AIKEN - SILVERNAIL HOUSE
CATTARAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 5 of 13
OCTOBER 2012



Aiken - SILVERNAIL HOUSE

CATTARAUGUS Co., NY

PHOTO 6 OF 13

OCTOBER 2012



111
12-10-2012

AILLEN - SILVERNAIL HOUSE
CATARAUGUS CO., NY
PHOTO 7 of 13
OCTOBER 2012



Allen - Silvermill House

CATTARAUGUS CO., NY

PHOTO 8 OF 13

OCTOBER 2012



Allen-Silverman House

CATTARAUGUS Co., NY

PHOTO 9 of 13

OCTOBER 2012



ALLEN - SILVERMAN HOUSE
CATTAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 10 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012



ALLEN - SILVERMAIL HOUSE

CATTARAUGUS Co., NY

PHOTO 11 OF 13

OCTOBER 2012



AIKEN - SILVERNAIL HOUSE

CATTARAUGUS CO., NY

PHOTO 12 OF 13

OCTOBER 2012



~~Allen~~ - SILVERNAIL HOUSE
CATARAUGUS Co., NY
PHOTO 13 OF 13
OCTOBER 2012

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Aiken, John J., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Cattaraugus

DATE RECEIVED: 1/04/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000025

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 2.20.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

303 Court Street, Little Valley, New York 14755

(716) 938-2312 Fax (716) 938-2779
Web Page: <http://www.cattco.org>

December 18, 2012

Board Officers

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Chairman

Paul D. Mager
Vice Chairman

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Michael Zaprowski
Assistant Secretary

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James Valent

Virginia Bartos
Division for Historic Preservation
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

RE: Aiken, John J., House
6805 Poverty Hill Rd, Ellicottville, NY 14731
Cattaraugus County

Dear Ms. Bartos:

The Cattaraugus County Planning Board voted unanimously at its December 13, 2012 meeting to support the nomination of the John J. Aiken House, 6805 Poverty Hill Road, Ellicottville, NY 14731 in Cattaraugus County to the National and State Historic Registers.

Should you have any questions concerning their support, please feel free to contact me at 716-938-2369 or by email at prbishop@cattco.org.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Bishop
Senior Planner

PRB:mep





Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

26 December 2012

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

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose the following three National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

State Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Oswego County
Morris Village Historic District, Otsego County
John J. Aiken House, Cattaraugus County

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. 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, Melanie Mitchell Silvernail, am the owner of the property at
(print or type owner name)

6805 Poverty Hill Road, Town of Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County, New York 14731
(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.

John Richard Mitchell Trust
JRM, Trustee
(signature and date)

6753 Poverty Hill Rd.
Ellicottville, NY 14731

(mailing address)