

DATA SHEET

PH0689513

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 19 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

*Related Site*  
~~The Horace Greeley Heritage Landmarks in Chappaqua~~  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

*off NY 117*  
variously located on sites formerly part of the Greeley  
STREET & NUMBER Farm (now a major portion of central "downtown"  
Chappaqua.)

CITY, TOWN

Chappaqua

VICINITY OF

24th

STATE

New York

CODE

036

COUNTY

Westchester

CODE

119

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE (S)☐ OBJECT☒ Thematic  
Group

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED (1)☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED (3)☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☒ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME see continuation sheet

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Land Transfers Office and Surrogate's Office for West-  
chester

110 Grove Street

CITY, TOWN

White Plains

STATE

New York

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New York State Historic Resources Survey

DATE

Fall, 1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Field Services

CITY, TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED R.R. station  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### Group Theme: The Greeley Heritage Landmarks in Chappaqua

The four properties listed below were all closely associated with Horace Greeley or his family, and are situated on sites formerly part of the old Greeley farm in Chappaqua. While other buildings and outbuildings have since gone, due to fire or other causes, these four are still standing as physical reminders of the Greeley heritage in Chappaqua.

#### Greeley House (The Greeley family home, 1864 to 1873)

A typical nineteenth-century Westchester farmhouse, two stories high, rectangular, shingled, with a second-story veranda across the front. The original house was built around 1820 and added to in mid-century. Originally part of the old Haviland farm immediately adjoining the Greeley property, it was acquired by the Greeley family in 1864, together with a small plot of land (current address: 100 King Street).

#### Rehoboth (Originally the old concrete barn, designed and built by Horace Greeley, c. 1856, later converted into a residence)

One of the first reinforced concrete structures in the country, and, as far as is known, the first concrete barn. The design of the barn was also news at the time, featuring three levels, each with its own entrance door. The top floor was for hay, the middle for cattle, and the ground level for manure. The design was later adopted by many modern dairies.

In 1892, it was converted into a residence by Greeley's daughter, Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin, and her husband. Neo-Gothic in style, it was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, who was responsible for plans for the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City (current address is 33 Aldridge Road).

#### The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin (and adjacent Greeley Grove)

Built by Greeley's daughter Gabrielle and her husband, the Reverend Dr. Frank Montrose Clendenin, as a memorial to their daughter Muriel who died young. It is a close copy of an English church of the same name built about 1400 in Monken Hadley, Middlesex, England. It was built immediately north and west of the majestic grove of evergreens which Greeley himself planted as a windbreak on his farm around 1856.

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(The thirty-five trees now stand 150 feet tall.) Constructed of fieldstone from the Greeley Farm, the church is an architectural gem in the Gothic style, and contains an antique window over 500 years old, a gift from the sister church in England in 1906, (current address: 191 South Greeley Avenue).

The Chappaqua Railroad Station (and Depot Plaza)

The coming of the railroad to Chappaqua in 1846 so stimulated the town's growth that, by 1902, it had outgrown the original depot north of King Street. New sites were considered and Horace Greeley's daughter, Gabrielle, offered as a gift over two and one-half acres of land from the Greeley farm property, to be used as a site for the station and for a depot plaza (with the proviso that it be kept in perpetuity as a park ). Greeley's daughter also gave land for an approach road to be named Woodburn Avenue in honor of Horace Greeley's mother. Her offer was accepted and a new station was built of grey fieldstone, with a clay-tile roof, and a picturesque porte-cochere on the east side, overlooking an attractively landscaped depot plaza.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD                               | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE         | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499   | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE  | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY                       | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799   | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                          | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899   | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-       | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)           |
|                                      |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

## SPECIFIC DATES

1820, 1856, 1901, 1904

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Horace Greeley, Morgan O'Brien

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The largest group of properties associated with Horace Greeley (noted editor and politician) and his family is located in Chappaqua, New York on former Greeley farmland. The properties consist of the Greeley House, Rehoboth (Greeley Barn), the Church of St. Mary, Greeley Grove, the Chappaqua Railroad Depot and Plaza. The early nineteenth-century farm house at 100 King Street was purchased by Horace Greeley for his wife in 1864. The innovative concrete barn (Rehoboth) was designed and built by Horace Greeley in 1856. An early twentieth-century Gothic Revival church was built for Greeley's daughter Gabrielle next to a pine grove windbreak, planted by Horace Greeley. Gabrielle also gave two and one-half acres of Greeley farmland to the town of New Castle, in 1902 for a railroad station and surrounding plaza. The Horace Greeley Heritage Landmarks recall the family's prominent presence in Chappaqua and Westchester County. The various properties associated with the Greeley family recall Chappaqua's nineteenth and twentieth-century development.

When Horace Greeley decided to buy a farm and build a house in Chappaqua he had several motives. One was to establish an experimental working farm where he could test the most advanced scientific farming theories, a subject in which he was deeply interested. (His pioneering articles on this subject had made the weekly farm edition of the Tribune the most widely read agricultural paper in the country.) Secondly, he wanted a quiet, healthful country home for his family. Thirdly, he wanted a peaceful weekend retreat from his busy life as owner and editor of America's largest newspaper, active political crusader, and nationwide lecturer.

Yet, busy as his life was, he found time all during his twenty years in Chappaqua (1853 until his death in 1873) to take a very active interest in the life and welfare of the community, as did his daughter Gabrielle who lived here in Rehoboth until her death at the age of eighty, in 1937.

Consequently, the Greeley heritage is still a vital element in the Chappaqua scene. One of the two main shopping streets bears the Greeley name, as do nine local shops and the local high school. A twenty-four page illustrated booklet entitled, The Chappaqua Life of Horace Greeley - A history of his farm, his family and his houses,

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published by the Chappaqua Historical Society, sells well year after year..Students write themes on the subject every term. Researchers frequently consult the extensive collection of Greeleyana in the Society's museum. A statue of Greeley faces the railroad depot. And-- while many landmarks of the Greeley Farm period have disappeared -- we are fortunate that the four listed for nomination are still here, a constant reminder of the very real and enduring Greeley heritage in Chappaqua.

Greeley House on the corner of King Street and Senter Street (formerly the entrance road to the Greeley Farm), was actually the family's second Chappaqua home. Mary Greeley had been frightened by a threatened attack on their first house ("The House in the Woods") by a drunken mob of anti-Abolitionists angered by Greeley's campaign against slavery. After the isolation and damp darkness of the earlier house, she welcomed the central location and sunniness of the King Street house, although Horace Greeley still preferred the solitude of the first house where he kept his library and did his writing. A sketch of the house in Greeley's autobiography shows that it looked very much the same in his day as now. Today, it is used as a gift shop in the heart of town.

Rehoboth and Concrete Barn

While Greeley constantly used his farm for pioneering experiments in a variety of fields --irrigation, fertilization, tree conservation, and many others --the one of which he was proudest was the concrete dairy barn he designed and built around 1856. It was one of the first concrete structures in the country, and this, together with its revolutionary, labor-saving, three-level design made it a unique landmark which attracted sightseers from many miles around. In his autobiography Recollections of a Busy Life, Greeley said, "I calculate that this barn will be abidingly useful long after I shall have been utterly forgotten."

In 1891, his daughter Gabrielle and her husband, the Reverend Dr. Frank Montrose Clendenin, had the barn converted into a residence in the Neo-Gothic style then so popular in the Hudson River Valley and northern Westchester areas. Gabrielle had inherited her father's keen interest in Chappaqua's community life, and Rehoboth's ballroom size living room with its huge fireplace and massive ceiling beams soon became a focal point for community gatherings of all sorts, ranging from political discussions to lectures and concerts.

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Rehoboth is still in use as a residence today, and its excellent state of preservation suggests that this enduring concrete landmark will long continue to be, as Greeley said, "abidingly useful."

Church and Greeley Grove

Like the concrete barn, the Greeley Grove is an enduring example of Greeley's pioneering ideas on farming. Always an enthusiastic crusader for woodland conservation and tree planting in farm areas, he personally planted this large grove of evergreens as a windbreak on his farm, as well as for its decorative effect. In fact, in his autobiography, he refers to it as "at least in winter, the pleasantest object on the farm." Planted in 1856, the grove had grown to such impressive size by 1872 that Greeley used it as the site for a huge political reception (the much publicized "Picnic in the Grove"), when he was running for the presidency against Ulysses S. Grant.

By the early 1900's, the grove was such a majestic sight that Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin and her husband chose it as the setting for the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, the chapel they built as a memorial to their daughter Muriel. A close copy of a Gothic church in England (c. 1400), it, together with its Greeley Grove settings, is a beautiful addition to the Greeley heritage in Chappaqua.

(The Railroad Station and Depot Plaza)

The front lawn of the church slopes down to South Greeley Avenue -- formerly just country land on the Greeley farm and now one of Chappaqua's two main streets. Just a short way north on South Greeley is the entrance road to the depot plaza and railroad station.

Ever since the railroad came to Chappaqua in 1846, a new era had come to Chappaqua which permitted farm produce to move directly to New York, instead of being hauled by wagon to Ossining on the Hudson and transported downriver by boat. The railroad also brought more and more New York business and professional men, following the lead of Chappaqua's first commuter, Horace Greeley.

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By 1902, the town had outgrown its first depot on the New York Central and Hudson line, built just north of King Street. New sites were considered, and among them was a plot of land south of King Street, part of the original Greeley farm. This two and two-thirds acre parcel was offered as a gift by Gabrielle Greeley Clendenin, part to the railroad for a depot site, and part to the town for a depot plaza to be permanently maintained as a public park. Her offer was accepted and the new station was built on this site.

In a speech at the dedication of the station the Reverend Dr. Clendenin said it had always been the desire of his father-in-law, Horace Greeley, to have the station on his lands, and that in presenting the park to the public and cooperating in the construction of the station, he and his wife "had only given force to the wishes of Mrs. Clendenin's father."<sup>1</sup>

As a result of this gift of land, two important things happened to Chappaqua. First, the center of what was to be the town's business district became focussed in the area near the station extending southward from King Street, and secondly, in the midst of the bustle of downtown Chappaqua there evolved a pleasant and unique area of open green space, thanks primarily to the lawns and trees of the Depot Plaza. An oasis of green in the heart of town, it is a fitting part of the enduring Greeley heritage in Chappaqua.

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<sup>1</sup>New York Tribune, "Chappaqua Gala Day," June 16, 1902.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8.8

QUADRANGLE NAME Ossining

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,8 6,0,30,4,0 4,55,6,92,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 6,0,32,5,0 4,55,6,60,0

E                        

G                        

A. Greeley House, 2.28 acres  
B. Chappaqua R.R. Station, 1.74 acres  
C. Rehoboth, 1.80 acres  
D. Church of St. Mary, 4.0 acres

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

B 1,8 6,02,7,6,0 45,5,6,79,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 1,8 6,0,30,0,0 4,55,6,54,0

F                        

H                        

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Item #23 continuation sheets attached to Individual Inventory Forms

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ed. by Austin N. O'Brien  
Program Assistant

Walter James Gruber and Dorothy Whitney Gruber

ORGANIZATION

NYS Parks and Rec., Div. for Historic Preservation

DATE

10/14/78

STREET & NUMBER

Agency Bldg. #1, Empire State Plaza

TELEPHONE

518-474-0479

CITY OR TOWN

Albany

STATE

New York

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL XXX

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

DATE

10/24/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-19-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4-11-79



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- Van Deusen, Glyndon G. Horace Greeley, Nineteenth Century Crusader. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953.

MAGAZINES, BROCHURES, SPEECHES

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- Quinby, A.J., "Memories of Horace Greeley," ed. by Russell Haight. Chappaqua, 1911. (Copy in the Chappaqua Historical Society Museum).
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NEWSPAPERS

New Castle Tribune, "Completion of Plans, Depot Plaza," April 21, 1927.  
New Castle Tribune, "Opening Restored Greeley House," September 13, 1940.  
New Castle Tribune, "Sale Stahl Property, Rehoboth House," May 21, 1954.  
New York Sun, "New Station for Chappaqua," August 15, 1901.  
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Patent Trader, "Greeley Statue" (by Helen Bang-Jensen), September 11, 1971.

MAPS

Beers Atlas Map of New Castle, 1875, 1876, 1877.  
Estate of Mary Y.C. Greeley, Chappaqua, March 1, 1883. County map 403.  
Lands Gabrielle G. Clendenin, New Castle, May 15, 1894. Survey by  
T. Harrington.  
Parcel #95, owned F.C. Greeley Stahl, New Castle, November 1, 1951.  
Assessment map.

INTERVIEWS (1974)

Mrs. M. Samuel Harris  
Mrs. David B. Robbins  
Mr. and Mrs. William Schmelke  
Mrs. Amos Struble