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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 BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE  
other names/site number Amos Brown House; Baker House

### 2. Location

street & number 382 CRESCENT AVENUE  not for publication  
city or town HIGHLAND  vicinity  
state NEW YORK code NY county ULSTER code 111 zip code 12528

### 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

Ruth A. Purpat DBAPO 4/23/14  
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):

Jon Eason H. Beall 6.17.14  
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.)

<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	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	<b>Total</b>

**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.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival (ca. 1835 work)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival (porch)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD CLAPBOARD

roof: ASPHALT

other: GLASS, METAL

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**Narrative Description**

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Brown-Ellis House is located in the Clintondale area of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, New York. This wood frame house consists of the original ca. 1800 one-and-one-half story main block and a wing added subsequently, both of timber-frame construction and having gable roofs aligned with parallel roof ridges. Physical evidence indicates the original section of the house had a side entrance, pile-and-a-half plan with basement kitchen; both the front and rear room at first-story level were outfitted with fireplaces. The rear one was of a small corner type as evidenced by the construction of the basement hearth support. This section was built with closely spaced H-bents in a characteristic New World Dutch framing system. The later wing may have been built in order to relocate the kitchen from the basement; while possibly contemporary with Greek Revival-style updates rendered in the original section, it may have been added previously. It was built in a different manner from the main section, employing a braced frame with dropped plates that, along with the principal tie beams, support the floor joists of the upper level; this system is dissimilar from the H-bent system in which all ceiling beams correspond with, and are framed into, front and rear posts. The wing included a large front room and smaller rear room shielded beneath a lean-to roof, the front room having a large fireplace on the east wall, later removed. While the two sections remain interpretable individually and collectively, changes have nevertheless been rendered to both that should be noted. In the case of the main block, a large shed-roofed dormer was added to the rear pitch of the gable roof, while a shed-roofed dormer on the wing was expanded and subsumed beneath the south pitch of the gable roof, a change which accounts for the wing's unusual saltbox profile when viewed from the side. There is additionally a small shed-roofed addition located at the northwest corner of the main block; this was erected during the period of significance, ca. 1800- ca. 1910. The porch, which extends forward from the main block, may well be original to the house but reworked ca. 1910. The interior retains modest finishes representative of various periods of development, all of which are expressive of the relatively modest circumstances of the dwelling's occupants during the house's physical development and period of significance. The property includes 2.83 acres of land and, in addition to the house, a non-contributing automobile garage.

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**Narrative Description**

*Setting & Location*

The nominated property is located on the north side of Crescent Avenue, or County Route 111, an east-west route that largely parallels the course of U.S. Route 44—the latter situated to the south—in the Clintondale area of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County. The house and garage are reached via an unpaved driveway that extends in a north-northeasterly direction at a sharp bend in Crescent Avenue. A small pond is located immediately east of the house, within the boundary, and, to the west, is a modern house associated with an adjacent property. This part of Plattekill is defined by the hilly character of the local terrain and extensive apple orchards interspersed with wood lots. The house was oriented to face south as might be expected, tending slightly to the southwest. The original section is the westernmost portion, to which was added the wing, both sections having parallel roof ridges. The freestanding garage is situated to the south of the house. In front of the house, to the immediate south, is a grassy lawn which is bisected by a walkway approaching the front porch of the main block; two mature deciduous trees flank this walkway, which passes through a stone retaining wall (contributing structure) aligned in front of the house. Behind the house rises a dense cluster of large conifers.

*Brown-Ellis House*

The original, western section of the house was erected ca. 1800 and built on a roughly square-shaped plan. It is a story-and-a-half dwelling with an end gable roof of moderate pitch and, in addition to the east wing, has a small pent-roofed bump-out on the west elevation. The south-facing façade is three bays wide with a side

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entrance, the door and two windows being situated beneath a porch with pent roof; the roof pitch is shallow than that of the main roof. The porch roof is sustained by four, evenly spaced Tuscan columns which do not extend to floor level but which are instead supported on a shingle-clad knee wall which is terminated by an ogee-form cornice. Flooring on the porch consists of narrow tongue-and-groove wood boards. The entrance features an eight-paneled door flanked by three-quarter length sidelights, each of which is divided into four units. The door and sidelights are framed by moulded wood architraves with square corner blocks, with panels being present below the sidelights. The two windows are fitted with one-over-one sash and have simple surrounds. The exterior walls are fitted with clapboard while the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An open gutter aligns the porch and has an associated downspout that is connected to a wood stave barrel, a treatment repeated on the rear of the wing. The foundation is mortared stone, as is that of the wing.

The west elevation of main block has a small window that brings light into the basement through the raised stone foundation; a window at first story level, corresponding with the large front room and fitted with one-over-one sash; and, at half-story level, two windows hung with two-over-one wood sash. The three larger windows have plain wood casings and drip caps. The shed-roofed bump-out at the northwest corner was built above a stone foundation; it has a glazed and paneled door on its south side and a narrow window fitted with two-over-two sash on the west side. A brick chimney, relatively recent in age, rises from the roof ridge of the main section and serves to conceal a pair of class-A chimneys.

The rear, or north elevation, of the original section is clad with novelty siding, as are the three walls of the bump-out. At first story level are a single and one double window unit, a pattern repeated on the dormer. These windows are fitted with one-over-one sash and have simple casings with drip caps. A bulkhead door provides access to the basement.

The front, south facing elevation of the wing has a door and paired window at first story level, the latter being fitted with two windows, each with two-over-two wood sash. The door is of a glazed and paneled type and, along with the windows, has a simple casing with drip cap. There are additionally two windows corresponding with the upper story and what was originally a dormer but which has since been subsumed in its entirety within the larger roof. These are fitted with six-over-two sash. Against the east wall of the main block, where it engages with the set-back wing, is a small casement window fitted with a six-light unit; it brings natural light into the hall of the upper story of the main block. As for the east wall of the wing, it has two windows fitted with two-over-two wood sash toward the front wall, in addition to a smaller casement unit near the rear wall; there is additionally a window near the roof peak, added when the dormer was expanded within the larger roofline. The rear wall of the wing has a single window and a modern sliding door that provides for communication with the present kitchen.

The interior retains both spatial and finish features expressive of original conditions and subsequent historic and non-historic period alterations. The main entrance, from the front porch, leads into the hall of the original section. Against the east wall is an open-stringer staircase with steep rises and plain treads; evident on the treads is the location of balusters from a handrail, since removed. This staircase may have been reworked from an earlier boxed stair and does not appear original to the present position. There is a door providing access to a run of stairs leading down to the basement opposite the entrance, as well as, on the side, a narrow hand-planed closet door. The floors in the hallway and adjacent rooms are laid with wide tongue-and-groove pine plank. Apertures connect the hallway with the front parlor and the front room of the wing. The latter opening is fitted with a five-panel door with flat, Greek Revival-style moulding and has a moulded and beaded architrave; it is hung on butt hinges and retains a rim lock. At the rear of the hall, a four-panel door provides access to the rooms on the north side of the plan; an opening in the rear wall of the parlor does the same. The ceiling beams spanning the parlor, rough-hewn, were originally concealed beneath a

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plaster ceiling but have since been exposed. The original fireplace mass, located against the west wall and servicing fireboxes in the front and rear rooms, has been removed. It is not yet known when this alteration was made. The original basement hearth, partially enclosed, still remains largely in place.

The first floor of the wing is equally modest, with very simple finishes including plain door and window casings and narrow-width pine flooring. The ceiling beams and joists, laid flat and displaying clear evidence of an earlier plaster ceiling, have also been exposed in this part of the house, and a good section of the framing is visible from the rear room looking forward. The frame was built using square rule framing principles—unlike the earlier scribe-rule joinery of the main section—with three bents and a system of ceiling beams sustained by dropped plates. The rear room, like the front, shows evidence of having been plastered. The windows, window casings and flooring appear to reflect later nineteenth century changes. In the crawl space beneath the wing remain a stone cistern, in the northeast corner, and against the east wall a roughly 7'-6" wide stone hearth support, indicating the position of a fireplace above.

Upstairs both the rooms and finish treatments are again exceptionally modest. The staircase in the hall of original section provides access to the upper rooms in both sections. A simple handrail, consisting of squared newel posts and balusters, partially encloses the stair well. Against the south wall is closet space contained behind hand-planed and beaded-board doors; to the west are aligned small bed chambers. The small casement window visible on the east wall of the main section brings light into this hall. The chambers are accessed via board-and-batten doors with rim locks and plain casings with beaded interior edges. Inside these rooms are built-out closets formed of beaded-board. The floors upstairs are, like those below, laid with wide-plank flooring; the flooring in the room contained in the upper level of the wing, by comparison, has wide board flooring but of a more standardized width. A bathroom is located at the rear of the original section, immediately opposite where the stair emerges.

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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. 1800- ca. 1910

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1800; ca. 1835; ca. 1910

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**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 of significance, ca. 1800- ca. 1910, encapsulates the original building campaign and all subsequent modifications to the original house which are deemed significant to the house's physical development in an architectural context.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

Erected ca. 1800 and expanded with a small wing subsequently, the Brown-Ellis House is an architecturally significant example of vernacular domestic architecture in the Clintondale area of the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County, New York. The original section of the house, a modest story-and-a-half building with gable roof, provides insights into the nature of domestic architecture in the mid-Hudson Valley at the dawn of the nineteenth century. This earlier portion of the dwelling was built in the characteristic New World Dutch manner for frame houses, with closely spaced H-bents, which in turn defined the building's story-and-a-half form. The plan of the original section included a basement kitchen, while the first floor included a larger front and smaller rear room, both heated with fireplaces and occupying the bulk of the plan. These features, along with the three-bay façade with side entrance, recall the domestic architecture of English-settled areas of the Hudson Valley. As a whole, the original section of the house embodies distinctive elements of the region's two principal vernacular building traditions. To this original dwelling was added a frame addition with finished front and rear rooms and, additionally, a bed chamber upstairs. This new wing may well correspond with Greek Revival-style upgrades made to the original dwelling ca. 1835, principal of which is the entrance treatment, with its moulded architraves, corner-blocks and eight-paneled door; it is also possible, however, that it predates this phase. The earliest history of the house is unclear, with one source suggesting it had been built for a member of the Baker family in 1790; however, that attribution appears inaccurate based on other documentary sources.<sup>1</sup> The house's earliest occupants were by all indications members of the Brown and Mott families; the 1810 census noted Amos L. Brown as a co-head of household along with Jerusha Mott, the mother of his wife, Sally Mott Brown. The property was subsequently owned, in the period ca. 1828-1872, by the Ellis family, which undertook the Greek Revival-style updating and possibly also the addition of the wing. The Brown-Ellis House is being nominated at the local significance level in association with Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as an interpretable example of vernacular domestic architecture in the Town of Plattekill, Ulster County. It offers important information relative to the complexion of middling class housing in Ulster County at the dawn of the nineteenth century and documents the pervasive influence of New World Dutch timber framing traditions in the mid-Hudson Valley during a period of cultural transformation.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

*Historic Context*

The Clintondale area of Plattekill, an Ulster County township formed from the adjacent Town of Marlborough in March 1800, was first settled in the pre-Revolutionary War period. Both towns were contained within those lands conveyed by patent at an early date by the Province of New York to Captain John Evans—a patent soon thereafter nullified—and on a tract subsequently obtained by Richard Durham, in 1752, consisting of 2,000 acres. Plattekill was, as noted in a 1908 history, “a town of homesteads; nearly all the farms and houses are owned by their occupants and have been built from the cultivation of the soil.”<sup>2</sup> The town, along with adjacent areas of southeastern Ulster County, became well-known for the cultivation of fruit, notably apples and grapes, during the course of the nineteenth century. The nearest hamlet to the nominated property, Clintondale, was settled around 1750 and for a time was known as Quaker Street, given the presence of a significant number of Friends in that area; the first grist mill was established there around the time of the Revolution. As further noted in the 1908 account, “It is mostly the middle class that

<sup>1</sup> The nominated house was identified in the 1968 “Survey of Buildings in Historic Ulster County,” sponsored by the Junior League of Kingston, as having been built in 1790 for the original owner “Baker.” The 1894 History of the Village of Clintondale by P.N. Mitchell notes that Sebastian Baker built a house in this general location at that date. However, other evidence, including a 1797 map of what was then the Town of Marlborough and drawn by Dr. Benjamin Ely, suggests the house was built after that date and was misidentified in 1968.

<sup>2</sup> A.T. Clearwater, ed., *The History of Ulster County, New York* (Kingston: W.J. Van Deusen, 1907), 333.

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populates the town; the steady, moral thinking class; industrious and prosperous, unsoiled by wealth and not unnerved by poverty.”<sup>3</sup>

Culturally, this part of southeastern Ulster County shared strong affiliations with Newburgh, the region’s principal Hudson River market place, where an early Palatine presence was superseded in the pre-Revolutionary period by people of English and Scots-Irish extraction. Marlborough, from which Plattekill was formed, was settled in large measure by settlers from Westchester County and Long Island and had a significant Quaker population at an early date.<sup>4</sup> As such, it had an early ethnic identity distinctive from the earlier Dutch and Huguenot settlements in Ulster County at Kingston, Saugerties and New Paltz, though it was nevertheless located in close communication with those areas. As noted by an early historian of the area, the population of early Plattekill was “supported by ordinary farm crops on stony land.”<sup>5</sup>

Amos L. Brown and his wife, Sally Mott Brown, are the first firmly identified residents of the nominated house, along with their family and Sally Brown’s mother, Jerusha Mott. Jerusha Nash Mott (b. ca. 1737; m. ca. 1758) was the widow of William Mott, who was baptized at the First Presbyterian Church in Huntington, Suffolk County in June 1736. Immediately prior to the Revolution, Mott, a veteran of the French & Indian War who also served in the Revolution, removed from Norwalk, Connecticut, to the Southern Precinct of Dutchess County; he died in 1786. Among William and Jerusha Mott’s children was Sally, who married Amos Brown. Thomas Mott, one of four Motts to appear in the 1799 tax assessment for Marlborough, was the only one of these four taxed for both a house and real estate at that date. Although Amos Brown does not appear on this tax list, four families of that surname— those of Jonathan, Jr., Obadiah, Charles, and Isaac—do. Members of the Brown family had arrived in this area from Peekskill, Westchester County at the close of the Revolution and settled in “the Patent” in the south part of the town.<sup>6</sup>

Amos Brown is not listed on the 1802 Plattekill tax assessment, which did include Isaac, Benjamin and Jacob Brown; of the Mott family, Thomas and Jerusha were taxed. By the time of the 1803 assessment Jerusha Mott was the only member of the Mott family still residing in Plattekill. She was listed as owning land only, and not a dwelling place; her real estate was valued at \$197, along with \$10 in personal estate, for which she was taxed 21 cents and three pence. By the time of the 1810 Federal census both Amos Brown and Jerusha Mott are shown as the heads of a single household—both names are shown on the same line. The household at that time included four males, three being children under the age of 10, and three women—presumably Jerusha, Sally, and a daughter of Amos and Sally Brown. By the time of the 1820 census, Amos Brown’s household was shown with six males and four females; Jerusha Mott was presumably deceased, given the age ranges of the house’s occupants. In 1828 Amos L. Brown and wife, Sally, sold to David Ellis (b. 1815) of New Paltz approximately 51 acres of land, excepting a ½ acre parcel previously conveyed to another party. In 1840 Ellis was shown as a resident of Plattekill residing next to Joseph Ellis, perhaps his brother. David Ellis made additional land purchases in 1844, 1845, 1846 and 1850. By the latter date his farm consisted of 60 acres of improved and 20 acres of unimproved land; on that land he raised Indian corn, rye, oats and hay, in addition to producing 550 pounds of butter. Ellis, who was appointed Clintondale’s postmaster in 1857, continued to add land in the 1850s and the early part of the 1860s; an 1862 transaction indicates the presence of a tenant house on the property. Ellis died in 1867. At the time of

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> C.M. Woolsey, *History of the Town of Marlborough, Ulster County, New York* (Albany: J.B. Lyon, 1908), 81; H.G. Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* (1824), 417.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 82.

<sup>6</sup> Sylvia Hasenkopf, “Amos Brown Homestead Timeline,” North River Research. This work synthesizes various research about the nominated property, including deeds, census data, and other documentary sources.



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the 1870 census the head of household was noted as John Van Ostrand, husband of Ellis's daughter, Hannah; also residing there were Isaac Ellis and the widow Mary J. Ellis.<sup>7</sup>

In 1872 the property, known by that time as the David Ellis farm, passed out of the hands of the Ellis family when it was purchased by Solomon P. Thorn, who is shown as the owner of the property on the 1875 F.W. Beer's map of Plattekill included in the Ulster County atlas. By the late 1870s Isaac C. Ransom, a farmer and former Brooklyn resident, owned this property, where he raised field crops and also cultivated fruit; a large mortgage remained from an earlier period. In 1900 the property was owed by Sebastian Baker. The last owner within the cited period of significance appears to have been Moses P. Teas, a farmer, who married Elvena Baker, daughter of Sebastian Baker, in 1907.<sup>8</sup>

*Architectural Context*

The original portion of the nominated house, built ca. 1800, exhibits characteristics which associate it with longstanding New World Dutch building and domestic traditions in Ulster County and the mid-Hudson Valley, in addition to features expressive of English influence. As such, it portrays how these two distinctive vernacular traditions in the mid-Hudson Valley existed alongside one another, sometimes merging to create hybrid forms. The first-phase house, modest in scale and layout, represents the experiences of occupants of relatively modest means and as such is valuable for the information it provides relative to lesser-known and understood domestic typologies. The subsequent expansion and upgrades, which included the introduction of Greek Revival-style features ca. 1835, were nevertheless also modest in scope. This was not a high-style house but instead one expressive of the experiences of ordinary Plattekill residents, many of whom toiled as farmers on small parcels of land.

The story-and-a-half form of the original section was dictated by the house's H-bent timber frame, a legacy of the settlement of this region of the Hudson Valley by Dutch and other Northern European ethnic groups and the timber framing tradition introduced there by them. In this so-called New World Dutch system, a frame was erected with a series of closely spaced "bents," two vertical posts into which were framed a horizontal anchor beam. These H-shaped bents formed a knee wall above tie-beam level which defined a half-story, the ceiling height established by the collar ties of a common rafter system. In earlier examples the ceiling beams of the bents were typically planed smooth so as to be left exposed and, though structural, were nevertheless part of the aesthetics of the principal first-floor spaces of New World Dutch houses; examples of the exposed beam type continued to be built in some areas into the early nineteenth century. In examples such as the Brown house, the ceiling beams, rough hewn, were not originally exposed and were instead concealed under plaster and lath; the latter was later removed to expose the beams. Nevertheless, the structural principles of the H-bent system remained largely unchanged. Its use in the instance of the Brown-Ellis house likely resulted from the experiences of the carpenter responsible for erecting the frame, whose training was in this particular tradition. This building system was pervasive in influence and continued to be employed well into the nineteenth century; the architect William Ranlett illustrated just such a system in his 1855 book, *The Architect*, an indication of its merits and persistence.<sup>9</sup>

While the framing of the original section is closely related to New World Dutch precedents, the side entrance in concert with three-bay façade, among other features, portrays the influence of English domestic preferences established in the region by settlers not of Dutch or other Northern European cultural

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> William Ranlett, *The Architect* (New York: Dewitt & Davenport, 1855), plate 37, volume 2.

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background. An early regional example of English building traditions is the Samuel Halleck house in nearby Milton, the main block of which—two stories, gable ended, and erected above a side entrance plan—offered a distinctive contrast to the story-and-a-half stone and frame houses representative of the New World Dutch tradition in Ulster County. The three-bay, side entrance arrangement of bays on the façade recalls early English architecture in the Hudson Valley and appeared in adjacent Orange County by the mid-eighteenth century; the Bull stone house in Hamptonburgh, ca. 1722, is a particularly early manifestation of the type. By the early nineteenth century, during which time the Brown house was built, the three-bay façade and pile-and-a-half plan were emerging as standardized features of the region’s domestic architecture; this plan, employed for both three and five-bay houses, is closely associated with the architecture of the Federal period.

It is possible that the wing was added following the acquisition of the property by the Ellis family, perhaps to relocate the kitchen from its earlier, and less convenient, position in the basement of the main block. However, it is similarly conceivable that it was added earlier, and could possibly have accounted for the 1810 census reference to co-heads of household, with Brown and his wife occupying one section and Jerusha Mott the other section. Physical evidence confirms there was a large hearth support at one time located against the east wall. The framing of the south-facing wall into two larger and one smaller bay confirms the present side-entrance configuration as original, and the rear wall plate, dividing the front section and rear lean-to, was built so as to be raised above the level of the front wall plate, thereby creating additional headroom in the half-story. A survey of remaining architecture in nearby Clintondale confirms that other examples of this general typology remain, which could prove useful for comparative analysis.

The changes rendered to the house ca. 1835, while modest, nevertheless relate to the Greek Revival style and show the desire of the owners at that time, the Ellis family, to modernize their dwelling in a manner consistent with prevailing architectural trends.

In summation, the Brown-Ellis house remains an interpretable early nineteenth century vernacular house in Plattekill, the original block constructed in a manner consistent with regional New World Dutch framing traditions but which is otherwise expressive of English influence. It portrays the process of homogenization that was then underway in the vernacular landscape of Ulster County, as regional, ethnic-based architectural traditions were being reshaped by a larger trends tied to national themes. The exterior of the main block, with its simple, self contained gable-roof form, unadorned cornice and full-width front porch—which, though reworked ca. 1910, was likely an original feature and one conspicuous on many early Ulster County houses— speaks largely to practical considerations and the modest circumstances of its first erectors.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

N/A

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

Clearwater, A.T. ed., *The History of Ulster County, New York*. Kingston: W.J. Van Deusen, 1907.

Hasenkopf, Sylvia. "Amos Brown Homestead Timeline," North River Research, 2012.

Ranlett, William. *The Architect*. New York: Dewitt & Davenport, 1855.

"Survey of Buildings in Historic Ulster County," 1968. Junior League of Kingston.

Spafford, H.G. *A Gazetteer of the State of New York*. 1824.

Woolsey, C.M. *History of the Town of Marlborough, Ulster County, New York*. Albany: J.B. Lyon, 1908.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.83 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>579857</u>	<u>4617280</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The boundary is shown on the two enclosed maps, which were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000 and 1: 6,000.

**BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE**

**ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Name of Property

County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The land included within the nomination boundary, 2.83 acres, is historically associated with the property and the cited period of significance, ca. 1800- ca. 1910.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William E. Krattinger & Sylvia Hasenkopf, researcher

organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation

date January 2014

street & number PO Box 189

telephone (518) 237-8643

city or town Waterford

state NY

zip code 12188

e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Photographs:**

PHOTOGRAPHS: TIFF format, November 2013

PHOTOGRAPHER: William E. Krattinger

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL DIGITAL FILES: NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford NY, 12188

0001 EXTERIOR, view looking roughly eastward, showing west and south elevations of main block

0002 EXTERIOR, view looking eastward showing west elevation of main block

0003 EXTERIOR, view looking westward showing east elevation of wing

0004 INTERIOR, main block, view looking southward showing now-exposed ceiling beams of H-bents

0005 INTERIOR, wing, view southward showing framing

0006 INTERIOR, basement of main block, view showing lintel of basement fireplace and angled support for corner fireplace

0007 INTERIOR, main block, view from hallway looking towards southwest bed chamber

**Property Owner:**

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

name Saren Goldner

street & number Same as nomination address

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_

zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE**

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Name of Property

**ULSTER COUNTY, NEW  
YORK**

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County and State

**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.).

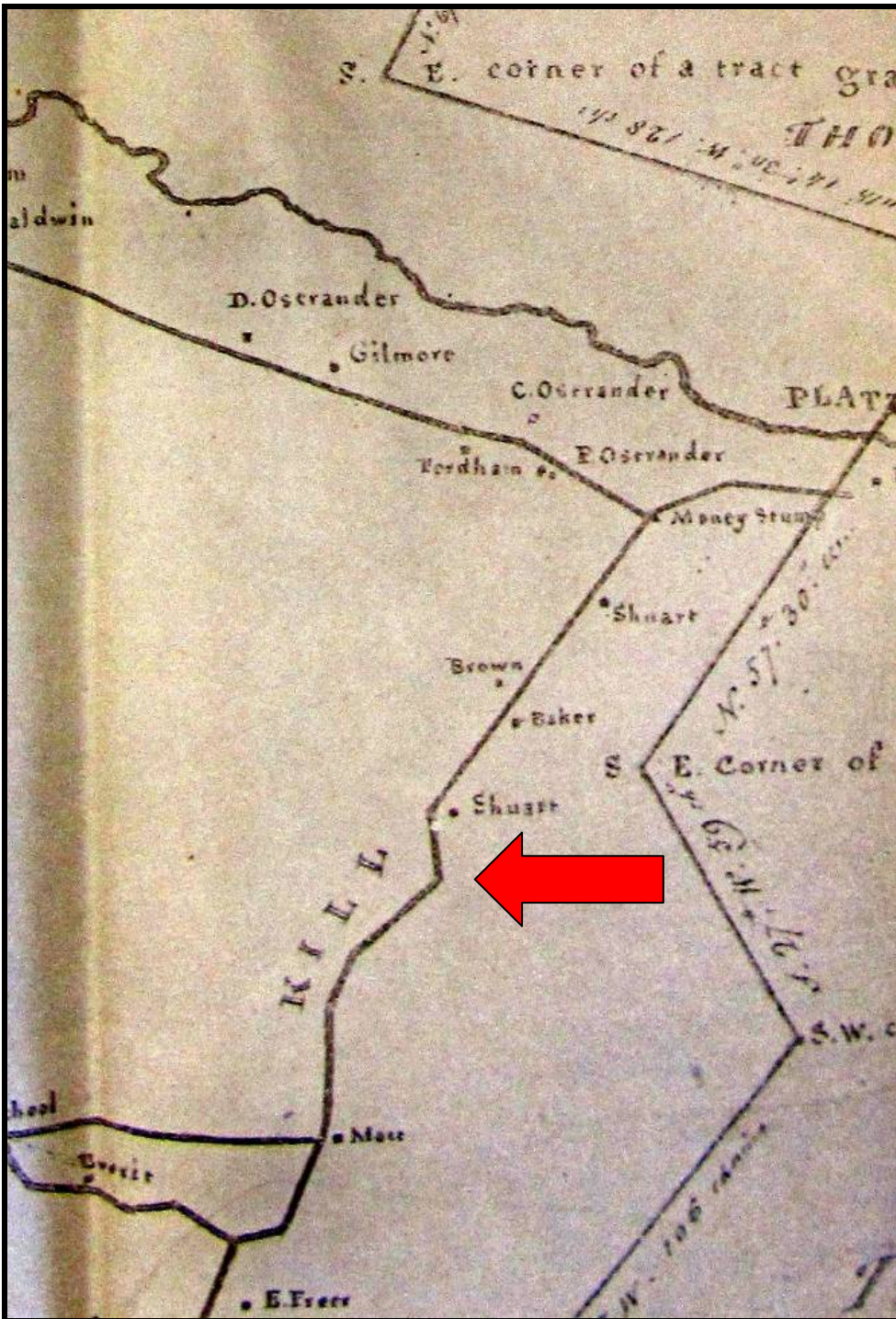
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

**BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE**

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1797 Benjamin Ely Map of what was then Marlborough (inclusive of the present town of Plattekill) showing, with red arrow, location where house is presently located; note nearby Baker house, perhaps accounting for 1968 misattribution, as well as a nearby Brown family house.



**BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE**

**ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Name of Property

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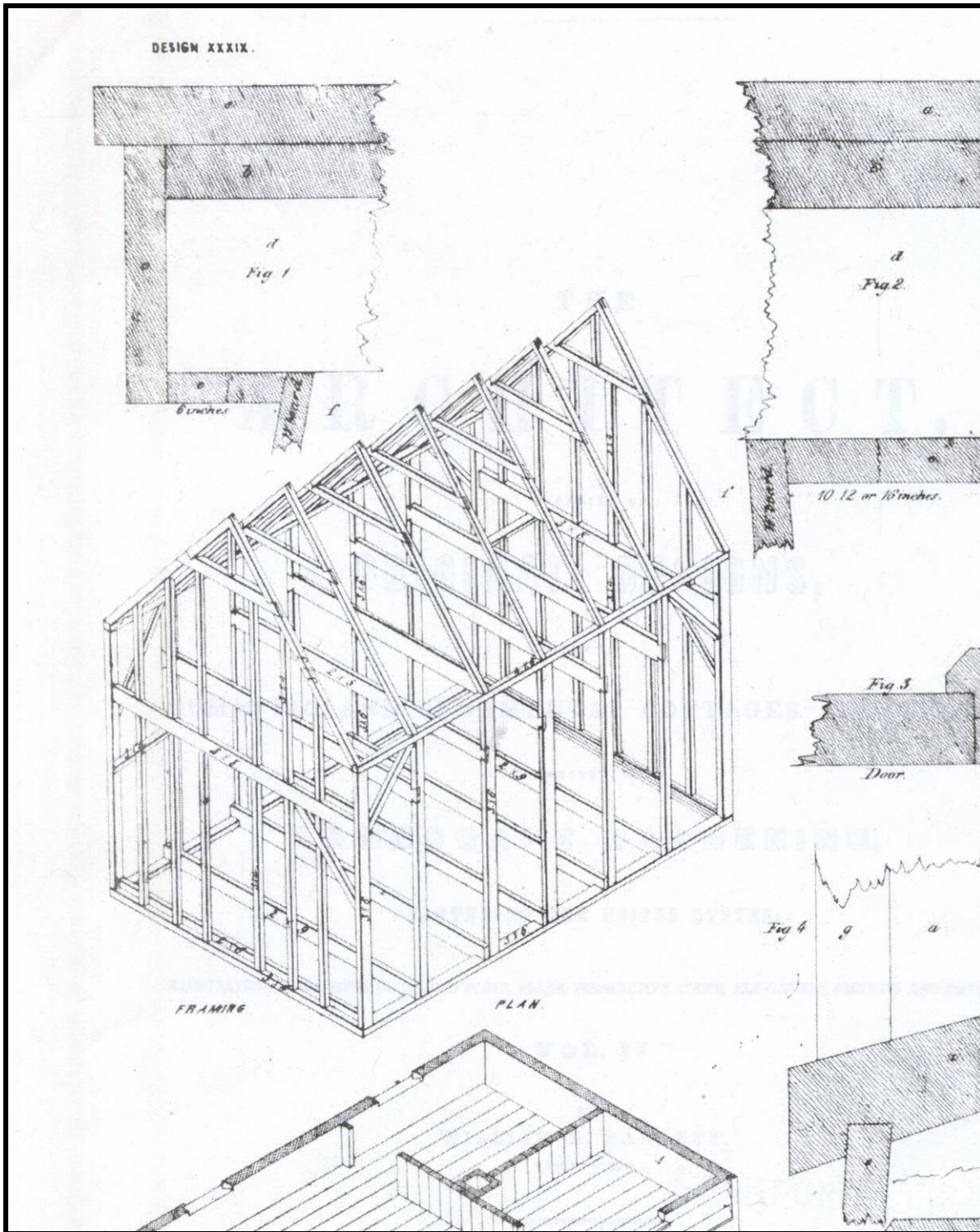


Plate from William Ranlett, *The Architect* (1855) depicting what is essentially a New World Dutch framing system

**BROWN-ELLIS HOUSE**

**ULSTER COUNTY, NEW  
YORK**

Name of Property

County and State



ABOVE & BELOW, two nearby examples (Clintondale) which relate to Brown-Ellis house wing; both examples have raised rear plates in concert with lean-tos and are of similar scale and configuration to the wing of the nominated dwelling.







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



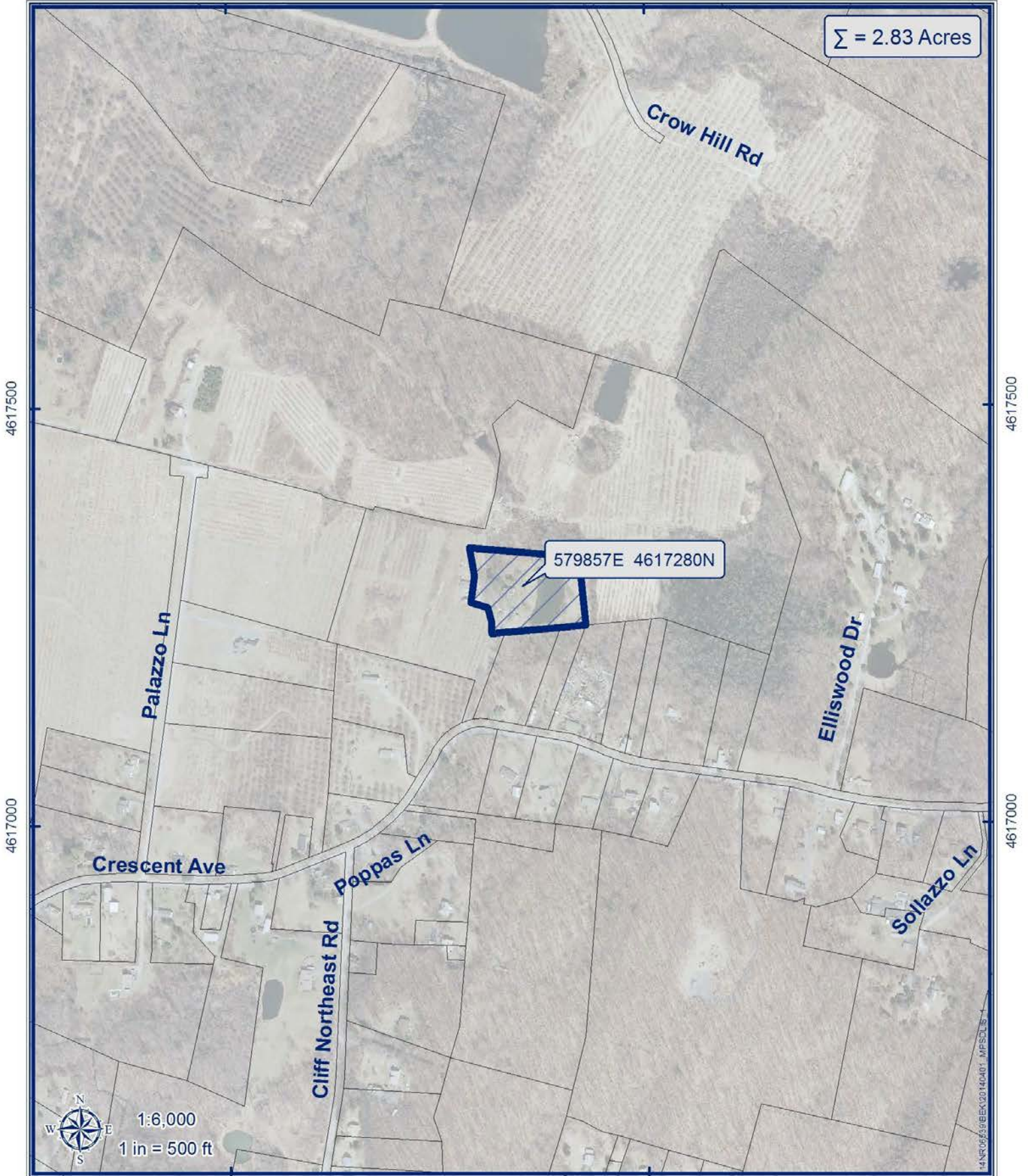
 Brown-Ellis House

Tax Parcel Data:  
Ulster Co, RPS  
gis.co.ulster.ny.us





$\Sigma = 2.83$  Acres



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



 Brown-Ellis House

Tax Parcel Data:  
Ulster Co, RPS  
[gis.co.ulster.ny.us](http://gis.co.ulster.ny.us)























CHEVROLET

CLINTONVILLE  
SUPPLY CO.  
100 W. 1ST ST.  
CLINTONVILLE, N.C. 28723

CLINTONVILLE  
SUPPLY CO.

CLINTONVILLE  
SUPPLY CO.









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brown--Ellis House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Ulster

DATE RECEIVED: 5/01/14      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/17/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000316

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    6-17-14 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

24 April 2014

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

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

Brown-Ellis House, Ulster County

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