

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAY 6 2016

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lemuel F. Vibber House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 302 Butternut Road  not for publication  
city or town Richfield Springs  vicinity  
state New York code NY county Otsego code 077 zip code 13439

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.  
Rush A. Perpoint DSHPO 4/28/16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Signature of the Keeper Elsa H. Beall Date of Action 6.21.16

**Lemuel F. Vibber House**

Name of Property

**Otsego County, New York**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-State

public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Lemuel F. Vibber House**

Name of Property

**Otsego County, New York**

County and State

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Settlement

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

C1810-1890

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

C1810

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

na

**Cultural Affiliation**

na

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Lemuel F. Vibber House**

Name of Property

**Otsego County, New York**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of property** Approximately 7

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 502166 4743249  
Zone Easting Northing  
2

3  
Zone Easting Northing  
4

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jessie A. Ravage Contact: Kathleen LaFrank, National Register Coordinator

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date February 2016

street & number 34 Delaware St telephone 607-547-9507

city or town Cooperstown state New York zip code 13326

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**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.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Lemuel F. Vibber House  
Richfield Springs Vicinity  
Otsego County, New York

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### SUMMARY

The Lemuel Fitch Vibber House is located on a long narrow 6.11-acre lot at 302 Butternut Road in the Town of Richfield.<sup>1</sup> The house—composed of main block built ca.1810 and an ell added ca.1890—is set back about 300' from the town highway and approached by a straight narrow drive over rising land to the northwest corner of the building. Sugar maple trees line the drive, and additional trees of the same species cloak much of the lot between the house and the highway. The trees appear to be mainly 60 or 70 years old; there are a few larger examples. This grove obstructs the sweeping vista taken in from the house over Canadarago Lake to the southwest and the surrounding countryside. The property includes a contributing neatly constructed smoke house built of local shale. A carved stone panel above the door reads “L.F.V./1833.” Its roof has been recently replaced. There is also a non-historic frame garage with a gabled roof and wood clapboard siding built in recent decades.

The main block of the Vibber House is a side-gabled, two-story, five-bay building constructed using heavy mortised and tenoned posts and beams. It stands on a roughly laid up high stone foundation enclosing a full-height basement. Full-height windows in the front and sides that show that the basement was designed to have greater exposure than it does now, but both intentional landscaping and a twentieth-century raised patio spanning the front façade have resulted in the inevitable piling of soil against the foundation over time. When built, the house stood more proudly on the slope above the surrounding area and was surely a notable landmark.

The roof pitch of the main block is fairly low, and the attic features two types of rafters. Twenty of them are heavy, hewn examples with unused mortises cut for collar ties strengthening a steeper pitched roof than the

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<sup>1</sup> *n.b.* There are at least three spellings of Vibber. These include Vebber, Veber, and Vibber. These were used interchangeably in public records and on gravestones. This document adopts “Vibber” as it is commonly used locally and is the one most easily found in census records. It should be noted, however, that family gravestones in Exeter and Richfield use “Veber,” and that when Lemuel’s brother William died, his surrogate documents use “Vebber.”

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current one. The hewn rafters have bird's-mouth ends where they rest on the top plate. Fourteen additional common pole rafters made of logs hewn only on the top face augment the older ones, and in some instances, a common rafter is notched and pinned and paired with a hewn one. There appears to be no pattern to how these alternate. At either end of the attic, the first two pairs of rafters each feature a rough "collar tie" fashioned of a heavy length of lumber simply pinned through the side faces of each rafter. These are not set in mortises.

No conclusive evidence of chimneys or mantels is discernible throughout the main block, although this evidence may yet be hidden. Neither hearth cradles nor chimney foundations are found in the basement, and the wide center hall has every appearance of being part of the original plan rather than a change post-dating the removal a large center chimney block. The roof deck features no patching to indicate holes covered after hearth chimneys were removed; some patches might match smaller stove chimneys. Although 1810 was very early to have heated a house entirely with stoves, Vibber's trade as the owner of a large metalworking shop might have influenced a choice to do so. Like the siting, scale, and stylishness of the house, these new appliances would have displayed his gentility and innovativeness. The only chimney at present is an exterior brick example centered on the north gable wall in the mid-1900s.

The full-height, gable-roofed, balloon-frame ell added ca.1890 is nearly centered on the back wall of the main block, and its proportions mimic those of the older section. The ell appears to rest on an early dry laid stone foundation, and it may simply reuse the foundation of the original service ell. There is no access to the crawlspace beneath, but this area might preserve information about the service portion during the early period of the house.

The exteriors of both the main block and the ell are clad in wood clapboards with corner boards. The first-story front of the main block features flush board siding typical of facades set below a porch or veranda in the later 1800s, although there is no visual evidence of a roof covering such an addition to this house. The corner boards on the main block are embellished with pronounced fillet beads; the corner boards on the ell are

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plain. The body of the main block is capped by a narrow frieze under the eaves and lightly built full returns on the gable ends. The ell features plain raking friezes of a depth typical of vernacular construction in the late 1800s.

The main block retains many details, some incomplete, of its comparatively simple, delicate Federal-era finishes. In addition to the wood clapboard siding, a plain water table board with drip cap is located at the bottom edge of the north gable wall (this was removed on the south wall; on the front, the flush board siding replaced it). Openings on the north gable wall retain plain board casings with drip caps on the first story; on the second story, the casings have no caps and simply meet the lower edge of the frieze. The style of the latter openings is matched throughout the second story. A delicate rope turning, now almost entirely obscured by paint, is applied above the rake in both gable ends. On the raking fascia of the north peak small triglyphs are also nearly obscured by paint; these may be present on the south peak as well. The north tympanum is clad in flushboard siding, possibly dating to the construction period. Very fine recurved brackets are evenly spaced on the fascia of the front eave and south gable walls. Changes dating to the late nineteenth century (ca.1870) include wood shingles with a ragged lower edge in the south tympanum and low-pitched pediments over the first-story casings on the front and south gable wall.

The slightly recessed, unusually wide center entrance of the original design was paneled in diagonally laid wide beadboard typical of the 1870s and 1880s. The current, unusually wide "Dutch" door displays a panel configuration typical of the late nineteenth century, with a glazed panel in the upper portion above a central horizontally oriented oblong one with three square panels below. The Dutch closure may be a mid-twentieth century change.

Two-over-two, double-hung wood sash with spring-loaded sash locks replaced all sash in the main block ca.1870. Ones in the first-story rear wall north of the ell and in the second story south of the ell were again replaced in the 1900s. The present paired windows in the center bay above the main entrance probably replaced

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an early decorative window configuration, possibly a tripartite example popular at the time. The nearby Derthick house has a well-preserved square Palladian window with Federal-style pilasters in this position. Louvered wood shutters flank openings on the front and side elevations of the main block. These appear to be twentieth-century examples; all are now screwed directly to the house and are no longer functional. Two older twelve-over-eight wood sash with later sash locks are placed in the first-story south and east elevations of the back ell; these may well have been used in the second story of the main block in the early period. An exterior brick chimney was applied to the north gable wall in the mid-1900s.

When built, the main block of the Vibber house featured a symmetrical “two-over-two” room plan on both floors. The upper story generally preserves this double-pile plan. The first-story plan, however, was altered ca.1870, when the partition walls between the small rooms front and back on either side of the hall were removed to create single large rooms on either side of the hall. Upstairs, the rooms retain most of the ca.1810 plaster laid on split lath on the exterior walls, as well as the plain board trim with narrow fillet bead edges. This includes the boards that box the main posts and window casings. Deteriorating plaster was removed from the corridor walls, which revealed split lath beneath, and the partition walls are gone.

On the first floor, new plaster walls were built over the original ones. The new walls (ca.1870), laid on split lath nailed to new studs nailed into the old walls, concealed the boxed posts of the frame and created depth for new window casings trimmed with characteristic heavy, rounded Italianate moldings and new two-over-two wood sash. A small section of the older walls is uncovered on the south wall. Roller printed wallpaper (ca.1850) was hung on the older plaster before the old walls were concealed. On the first floor, the ceilings have been removed; on the second floor, ceilings are generally intact. The narrow board oak floors on the first floor of the main block date to the 1930s or 1940s. The second story rooms retain random width pine plank floors that appear to date to the construction period; the corridor has later flooring.

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The wide corridor running through the center of the house provides a spacious entrance to the building and offers enough breadth to be treated as its own room rather than simply as a passage between rooms. Its walls have been stripped of all plaster on the first story, revealing that the old walls were simply encased in newer, thicker ones. In the 1890s, the north corridor wall was fitted with a parlor arch and pocket doors; the two original door casings, still with a fine layer of paint, are preserved within the wall on either side of the later arch. On the south side of the corridor, one of the single openings survives, but the wall has been partially cut away adjoining the one nearer the front door. This reveals the split lath used throughout the main block in the construction period. A highly intact Victorian-era (ca.1870) staircase runs up the south wall of the center hall from front to back and steps onto a landing in the southeast corner of the upstairs hall with the same dimensions as the first floor hall. The staircase features a heavy, lathe-turned newel post and a heavy handrail supported by slender spindles. Open mortises in the crossbeam facing the stairs were revealed when the trim was removed. These show that the present stairwell was cut through earlier joists that carried the upstairs hall floor.

The house retains at least six six-panel wood doors dating to the construction period although only one (northeast chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> story) appears to be in its original location. Four are used in the later paired openings at the rear of the hall on both stories, and a sixth is stored in the house. There are a few additional doors. In all cases, early hardware was replaced with ceramic doorknobs on rim locks (ca.1870) or glass knobs on ca.1930 mortise locks. Judicious paint removal and analysis may reveal information about older finishes and hardware.

A few additional changes to the floor plan and fenestration were made in the first half of the twentieth century. These include a bathroom in the small chamber in the southeast corner of the second story and the related change in its window to a shorter opening. Ground-level paired doors (probably 1930s or 1940s) replaced the window in the rear wall of the north parlor. This door was subsequently replaced with a large,

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fixed, multi-light window (ca.1965) protected by a small pent roof on the exterior. Also, a mid-twentieth century “colonial” taste fireplace was centered on the north wall of that room.

The back ell (built ca.1890) is a two-story balloon frame structure. It features generally regular period fenestration, but there is a variety of period and non-period sash, and some openings have been altered subsequently. The second story retains two-over-two double-hung wood sash (ca.1890) in plain board casings with drip caps in the north and south sides. Except for a paired set in the south wall, these are single openings. The openings in the second-story rear gable wall are shorter and feature recent one-over-one non-historic replacement sash. On the first story, the window below the paired set in the south wall is now a shallow bay window featuring a fixed multi-light sash capped by a pent roof. This window is very similar to the one in the rear wall of the first floor north room in the main block. The other window on the first-story south side features a reused twelve-over-eight double-hung wood sash. This is matched by another such window in the back wall next to the doorway, which features a Victorian-era door with two rows of three oblong panels, the upper row now glazed. A window with non-historic paired casements nearly abuts the northeast corner of the rear wall. A tripartite wood “picture” window (ca.1965) is centered on the first floor north side.

The internal divisions of the ell have been mainly stripped to the studs. On the first floor, a large kitchen occupied most of the plan. An entry hall and stair hall spanned the back, or east, end of the structure. Fragmentary beadboard wainscot wraps much of the north and south walls and what remains of the partition between the kitchen and the back hall. The exterior wall of the back hall is clad in horizontally laid up beadboard. The brick flue for the range adjoins the partition. Upstairs, there were north and south chambers. The north one opened onto the back stair hall; the south chamber adjoined a second smaller room in the southeast corner of the ell.

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### SUMMARY

The Lemuel F. Vibber House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C in the areas of settlement and architecture. Its builder was among several industrialists who established manufacturing concerns requiring raw materials found on the frontier in a neighborhood now located in the Town of Richfield, Otsego County. The house lay on the periphery of a place known as Federal Corner, which lay near the intersection of an old route from the Mohawk Valley to Canadarago Lake and the Third Great Western Turnpike, opened in 1808. Like other such early industrial hamlets, most above ground evidence of Federal Corner is gone because its economy failed by the early 1840s—more than 150 years ago. The Vibber House represents the early, but ephemeral, success of such locales, and is among the comparatively few surviving examples of its type in northern rural Otsego County, New York. It embodies the strongly symmetrical neoclassical design aesthetic adopted by New Englanders who migrated to central New York in the late 1700s and early 1800s and achieved early material success. The main block of the Vibber House retains integrity of design and materials in its historic massing, frame construction, fenestration, and floor plan. It retains integrity of workmanship in the small, generally vernacular, details of its Federal-style decorative scheme, including its full returns, bracketed roofline, clapboard siding, and the simple beaded edges of nearly all of its trim both inside and out. Some details, especially the window sash and casings and finishes on the first floor, were altered in a mid-Victorian-era (ca.1870) renovation of the house, which preserved the form and most of the original floor plan. A second renovation done ca.1890 replaced the back service ell, which illustrates common patterns of enlargement of that time. The stone smokehouse associated with the house and built in 1833 is an unusual survivor.

### Vibber family

Lemuel Fitch Vibber (1766–1848) is the eldest identified son of Thomas (1740–1811) and Mercy Fitch Vibber (1746–1825), who moved to the Town of Exeter, Otsego County, New York, from New London County,

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Connecticut, between 1790 and 1800. The Vibbers were among the thousands of people who emigrated from New England into central New York from the mid-1780s into the 1790s. Most sought farmland; some also practiced trades. Some were deeply aware of the opportunities fresh resources and new technologies might offer. So far, nothing is known of Thomas's antecedents, but Mercy Fitch was the daughter of Colonel Lemuel Fitch (1758–1821) and Bathsheba Pride (1759–1821), both born in New London County. Bathsheba was the daughter of Mary Stoddard (1734–1819) and Absalom Pride (1730–1802).<sup>1</sup> Like many New England outmigrants of the period, Lemuel Fitch, grandfather of Lemuel Fitch Vibber, moved at least twice from his birthplace during the 1780s and 1790s. He headed a household of two males older than 16 years, five males younger than 16, and four females in the town of Pawlet, Rutland County, Vermont, in 1790.<sup>2</sup> By 1800, he had moved again, this time to the Town of Richfield, Otsego County, New York, where he bought considerable acreage in Lot 16 in the Schuyler Patent in the western part of the town.<sup>3</sup> His property was near the route adopted by the Third Great Western Turnpike Road Company a few years later. In Richfield, Fitch was elected to the state assembly in 1808 and again in 1814–15. In 1813, he appeared with James L. Palmer, a physician and educator who resided in the Federal Corner area, at a meeting of county freeholders to petition the legislature for a county bank.<sup>4</sup> Lemuel and Bathsheba both have appealing white marble markers with Federal taste carving in

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<sup>1</sup> "Connecticut Deaths and Burials, 1772-1934," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F7JB-4HM> : accessed 11 March 2016), Absalom Pride, 02 Apr 1802; citing Preston, New London, Connecticut, reference 102; FHL microfilm 3,359.

<sup>2</sup> "United States Census, 1790", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH2M-P4M> : accessed 2 February 2016), Lemuel Fitch, 1790.

<sup>3</sup> "United States Census, 1800", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH5Y-YRZ> : accessed 2 February 2016), Lemuel Fitch, 1800. The land deeds are recorded at *Book A of Deeds/54* is for 539 acres bought from Anthony and Sarah Lisperard and E/318 from John and Phebe Pride. (Cooperstown, New York: Office of the County Clerk, Otsego County). All further deed references will take the form ###/### denoting book and page of deeds. Unless otherwise noted, deeds are recorded in Otsego County.

<sup>4</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 18 September 1813: 3.

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the Twilight Rest Cemetery, near the hamlet of Monticello in the western part of Richfield. Lucinda, probably their daughter, is buried nearby.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Vibber and his son, Lemuel F., were both in the 1787 poll list in the Town of Colchester, Connecticut, an inland town in New London County settled in the late 1600s, decades after development along Long Island Sound began.<sup>6</sup> The 1790 federal census located Thomas's household, composed of three males older than 16 years, two males under 16, and five females, still in New London County.<sup>7</sup> By 1800, however, Thomas Vebber [*sic*] headed a household in Exeter, Otsego County, New York, composed of two males 16–26 years, one male older than 45, and one female older than 45. The census in Exeter also recorded William Vebber, probably his son and Lemuel's younger brother.

Thomas and Mercy's eldest son, Lemuel Fitch Vibber, was surely named for his maternal grandfather, and he preserved the use of "Fitch" or, at the very least, the initial "F." throughout his life. In turn, it may be that his grandfather took a special interest in his namesake. In 1800, Lemuel Fitch Vibber—incorrectly recorded as Benjamin Bibber—headed a household composed of the three males under age 10, one male 16–26 years, one male 26–45 (Lemuel himself), one female under age 10, and one female 16–26 (wife Susanna, b.1775) in the Town of Otsego.<sup>8</sup> Vibber is identified by his neighbors, among them William Chamberlain (a misspelling of Freedom Chamberlin), John Dethick (also misspelled), James Palmer (the physician and educator mentioned above), Francis Henry, Peter Frevan (spelled many ways, including, most commonly, Freba), Abrm. Maby, Walter Waterman, John Douglass, George Frevan, John Henry, Richd. Towser, Conrad House, Joseph House,

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=fitch&GSiman=1&GScid=66517&GRid=22193866&>

<sup>6</sup> D. Hamilton Hurd, *History of New London County, Connecticut: with biographical sketches of many of its pioneers and prominent men* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1882): 387.

<sup>7</sup> "United States Census, 1790", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XHKV-Z1Z> : accessed 3 February 2016), Thomas Vibber, 1790.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=50072690> provides Susanna's dates under Susan Veber.

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Isaac House, John House, and William Averill.<sup>9</sup> These households formed the industrial neighborhood sometimes known as Federal Corner from about 1795 into the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The 1810 census located Lemuel F. Vibber, Esq., still in the Federal Corner neighborhood. His father, T. Veber, and brothers, J. Veber and W. Veber [*sic*], continued to reside in Exeter.<sup>10</sup> L. Fitch, Esq., was listed as a head of household in the Town of Otsego, although not in the same neighborhood as his grandson, based on surrounding names.<sup>11</sup> "Esquire" may have indicated membership in a fraternal order such as the Masons or Oddfellows; it does not appear that either was a lawyer, another implication of the suffix. A year later, in 1811, Thomas died; William died in 1812. Both are buried in the Rider Cemetery in Exeter, as is Mercy Fitch Veber [*sic*], who lived until 1825.<sup>12</sup> Nothing more has been uncovered about Lemuel Fitch Vibber's antecedents.

Lemuel Fitch Vibber's household in 1820 is consistent with that of 1800. It appears one more son was born after 1800, and he was listed as 16–18 years. Three males were listed age 16–26, and Lemuel himself was now older than 45. Susanna, who was younger than her husband, was aged 26–45. Two females age 10–16 and one more aged 16–26 rounded out the household. This census recorded two people in the household engaged in agriculture and two in industry. By 1830 only one male and two females other than Lemuel and his second wife, Lucy, lived in the household. The 1840 census located Vibber apparently still in the Federal Corner neighborhood heading a household of six persons. He was now between age 60 and 70.

Lemuel Fitch and Susanna Vibber's son, Lemuel (b.ca.1790), was listed in the 1820 and 1830 censuses a few entries away from his father's household in the Federal Corner area. In 1820, he was recorded working in

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<sup>9</sup> ("United States Census, 1800", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH5Y-KLQ> : accessed 2 February 2016), John Dethick, 1800.

<sup>10</sup> "United States Census, 1810", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH2Z-756> : accessed 3 February 2016), W Veber, 1810.

<sup>11</sup> "United States Census, 1810", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH2Z-747> : accessed 6 February 2016), L Fitch, 1810.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=47310813>. This links to Thomas Veber's grave information, which is linked to other family members. Lemuel F. Vibber was named executor for his brother's estate in Otsego County.

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industry and heading a household of two small children and a woman aged 16–26. Based on his neighbors' familiar surnames—Dow, Derthick, and Chamberlain—it appears he still lived there in 1850, working as a blacksmith. Lemuel was 60; his wife, Minerva, was 58. Three children, Jerome, 27, farmer; Louisa, 30; and Russell, 20, tailor, lived at home.<sup>13</sup> These appear to be children by an earlier marriage, possibly to a woman named Harmony, who was mentioned in an unusual deed executed in 1834.<sup>14</sup> By that instrument Lemuel Fitch Vibber and his second wife, Lucy, sold an 11-acre parcel to Timothy Babcock on condition that rents accrued on the parcel be given directly to Harmony and her children without regard to her coverture, which would normally have paid that money to her husband. The reason for this provision is unknown. Russell Vibber appears to have served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery, during the Civil War and to have later married a Canadian woman. They were recorded living in Utica, Oneida County, where he worked as a tailor, in 1875.<sup>15</sup>

After his first wife, Susanna, died in 1826, Lemuel Fitch Vibber married a woman named Lucy. An 1840 deed records her with Lemuel selling 90 acres, which encompassed the Federal-era house, to John W. Tunncliff.<sup>16</sup> About a year earlier, in June 1839, Lemuel had bought a small house lot on in the rapidly developing village of Richfield Springs (later chartered in 1861).<sup>17</sup> He and Lucy built a new house there.

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<sup>13</sup> "United States Census, 1850," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MC1W-DSL> : accessed 6 February 2016), Russell Vebber in household of Lemuel Vebber, Richfield, Otsego, New York, United States; citing family 1516, NARA microfilm publication M432 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>14</sup> 62/335.

<sup>15</sup> "United States Civil War Soldiers Index, 1861-1865," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FSMJ-J2K> : accessed 7 February 2016), Russell D. Vebber, Private, Company LB, 2nd Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery, Union; citing NARA microfilm publication M551 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 145; FHL microfilm 882,201. The 1875 census record is found at "New York State Census, 1875," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VNJ3-8HL> : accessed 7 February 2016), R D Vebber, Utica, Oneida, New York, United States; citing p. 49, line 41, State Library, Albany; FHL microfilm 1,435,185.

<sup>16</sup> 67/439.

<sup>17</sup> 75/275.

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Lemuel and Susanna are buried in the cemetery alongside the Church of Christ Uniting located nearby.<sup>18</sup> Lucy's gravesite is unknown; she may have remarried and be buried under a different name.

### Federal Corner(s)<sup>19</sup>

Federal Corner appears to have developed its reputation as a hamlet bypassed, and thus ruined, by the Third Great Western Turnpike more than half a century after it had largely disappeared from the landscape. W.T. Bailey mentioned it briefly in his book about Richfield Springs published in 1873. He printed a letter from W.L. Gould, grandson of Nathan Dow, who came from Connecticut to the Federal Corner area ca.1800. Gould provided details germane to the area's settlement history that he had gleaned from early land records. In 1754, Konrath Mattes received a letter patent from George II for 1,000 acres adjoining Young's Patent to the north and Schuyler's slightly later patent to the west.<sup>20</sup> Both patents were among several granted in a rush to patent the remaining land east of the Line of Property agreed upon in the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768. This line, which followed the Unadilla River in this region, set a western limit for British expansion beyond which speculators could not petition for letters of patent.

Based on later documents, Mattes (a.k.a. Mathys and Mathias) had divided his patent into 10 rectilinear lots by 1771; that year, he sold 133 acres (all of Lot 8 and part of Lot 6) to Deobald Zimmerman for 5 shillings.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=veber&GSfn=lemuel&GSmn=f&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=36&GScnty=2016&GScntry=4&GSob=n&GRid=50072165&df=all&>

<sup>19</sup> The only primary source reference calls the hamlet Federal Corner (not Corners), which was more typical nomenclature in the period.

<sup>20</sup> W.T. Bailey, *Richfield Springs and Vicinity. Historical Biographical, and Descriptive* (New York and Chicago: A. S. Barnes, 1874): 23.



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He also sold 266 acres in Lots 7 and 9 and the remainder of Lot 6 to Franz Freba for £80.<sup>21</sup> The discrepancy in value indicates that the Freba sale included improvements; perhaps Freba was already a tenant on the property.

Two years later, in 1773, Conrad Mathews [*sic*] of Canajoharie mortgaged the remaining 600 acres of his tract to Peter D. Schuyler for £160.<sup>22</sup> Based on previous sales, this acreage probably encompassed the southern lots (1 through 5) and Lot 10 of the Mathys Patent. It seems that Mathys defaulted on the mortgage, and a prominent Albany lawyer, Peter W.[aldron] Yates (1747–1826), had acquired part or all of the 600 acres in a sheriff's sale by 1794.<sup>23</sup> Yates was well connected in state matters and, although the son of a tradesman (some sources say a blacksmith), had amassed considerable wealth during the colonial and post-Revolutionary periods. His estate in 1799 was valued at \$20,790; in the City of Albany, only Philip Schuyler's estate was greater.<sup>24</sup> These details indicate that Waldron was in a position both to learn about and to invest in promising schemes.

While Schuyler was a descendant of the Albany Dutch patroons, Zimmerman, Freba, and Mattes were probably all of German descent. By the mid-1700s, second and third generation descendants of the "Palatine" Germans who occupied much of the Mohawk Valley west of Canajoharie were spreading onto the slopes rising above the river. In 1791, Freba acquired Zimmerman's land in the patent. In the early 1800s, he sold much or all of his holdings to two Connecticut Yankees, Nathan Dow and Walter Waterman; George Freba sold what remained in 1817.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Bailey, 24.

<sup>22</sup> A/42. (Fonda, New York: Office of the County Clerk, Montgomery County)

<sup>23</sup> C/185 (Otsego County). This deed mentions the sheriff's sale. The following website prepared by the New York State Museum provides some details of Yates's life. <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/bios/y/pwyates.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/bios/y/pwyates.html>. This website prepared by the New York State Museum provides some details of Yates's life.

<sup>25</sup> Bailey, 24. Most, or all, of these deeds are recorded in Otsego County at A/77; D/337; E/82; F/574; F/646.

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Before 1800, the state legislature began chartering turnpike companies. The First Great Western Turnpike, chartered in 1799, connected Albany and Cherry Valley. The second was chartered to Sherburne in Chenango County *via* Cooperstown soon after, and, in 1803, the third was chartered to run from Cherry Valley to Manlius, now in Onondaga County. Proximity to the route offered commercial possibilities along one of the few east-west thoroughfares across central New York. This promise appears to have encouraged, or possibly supported, existing industrial development in the vicinity dubbed Federal Corner that lay near its intersection with a long-used north-south route connecting the Mohawk Valley and Canadarago Lake via the Little Lakes (Weavers and Youngs) in southern Herkimer County.

A century later, in 1898, local historian and erstwhile schoolmaster, Henry A. Ward, recounted how the commercial lifeblood of a thriving industrial hamlet was severed when it was bypassed by the Third Great Western Turnpike in 1808–09. Ward's list of businesses—Averill's hotel, a store owned at various times by Ballard, Holcomb & Weber and Edward Cheeseman; John Williams's tannery; a school run by Dr. James L. Palmer; and a 12-forge blacksmith's shop and auger factory owned by Lemuel F. Vibber—provide names to search for in deeds, turnpike records, and newspapers of the period.<sup>26</sup>

Deeds and turnpike records show that the old north-south route from the Mohawk Valley to Canadarago Lake generally follows the alignment of the town highway called Butternut Road in Richfield. About a mile west of the Little Lakes, William Averill opened a tavern. A highway, sometimes called Patchin Road in deeds, met the old route about a half-mile southwest of the tavern and traveled generally westerly crossing the northern range of lots of the Mathys Patent—lands owned in the last quarter of the 1700s mainly by Franz Freba. On the stretch from Averill's tavern west along Butternut Road and onto Patchin Road (presumably named for early property owner Daniel Patchin (a.k.a. Patchen)) and others—nearly all New Englanders, who can be traced in

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<sup>26</sup> Henry A. Ward, *Annals of Richfield* (Utica, New York: Press of Fierstine Printing House, 1898): 22-3.

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deeds—established themselves and appear consecutively in the 1800, 1810, and 1820 censuses.<sup>27</sup> Lemuel F. Vibber was among these. In April 1798, Vibber paid Amos Jones £420 for his first parcel, the north half of Lot 1 (55 acres) in the Mathys Tract.<sup>28</sup> Nothing is known of Jones except that he later bought shares in the turnpike company, but precursor deeds for Vibber's parcel show that Peter W. Yates held the deed for all of Lot 1 in the Mathys Tract for some time before Amos Jones sold the north half to Vibber.

Only a year before Vibber's purchase John Derthick bought the south half of Lot 1 for just £60 pounds. The price Vibber paid surely indicates that the north half included improvements well beyond a simple house and possibly agricultural outbuildings and cleared land. Perhaps the 12-forge shop was already built. Industry in the early 1800s was tightly bound to its energy supplies—waterpower or fuel or both. Areas closer to Albany and in the Mohawk Valley, where Euro-American settlement was long established, were largely cleared of timber needed to make charcoal for working iron. Otsego County, still mainly undeveloped, offered this resource.<sup>29</sup> A tannery, an industry requiring tanbark, another frontier raw material, is said to have been owned by John Williams in Federal Corner. The proposed turnpike would have enhanced the profitability of such industries by providing a better route for moving valuable raw materials to workshops and manufactured goods to market.

While deeds can be used to draw an ownership map of the properties adjoining Butternut and Patchin roads, additional documentary evidence for the hamlet of Federal Corner, such as newspaper records, business

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<sup>27</sup> "Historical sites in area of town of Richfield: American Revolution bicentennial, 1776-1976." Richfield Springs, N.Y.: Ganowauges Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, [1976]. For the national bicentennial in 1976 the Ganowauges Chapter of the DAR in Richfield mapped the town. Research done by Marjorie J. Estigo was drawn by cartographer Edward Barron, who drew "Patchin Road" connecting Butternut Road with the hamlet that later became Richfield Springs. This work appears to have been supported by sound deed research rather than relying on hearsay.

<sup>28</sup> C/185.

<sup>29</sup> "History of Federal Corners presented to Richfield Historians," *Richfield Springs Mercury* (22 July 1971): 1. Local historian, William Taber, presented a talk about Federal Corner to the local historical society in 1971, in which he claimed that the Jackson and Bohn families were charcoal burners. So far, no primary source has been uncovered that corroborates this. Charcoal burning was an important, largely unacknowledged, trade, and burners were frequently considered marginal.

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accounts, etc., is scanty. This is typical throughout Otsego County until the mid-1800s and since the hamlet was virtually gone by that time, evidence is especially ephemeral. This does not mean it did not exist. The name Federal Corner appears in an 1813 legal notice published in the *Otsego Herald*. Edward Cheeseman, who ran a general store in partnership with Calvin Cheeseman and then on his own, advertised in 1804, when the partnership was dissolved, that he would “continue the business “at the old stand at the Head of Schuyler’s (a.k.a. Canadarago) Lake,” and that he had “in hand a handsome assortment of dry-goods, groceries, crockery, hardware” and also clover seed.<sup>30</sup> In June he noted that he would purchase oxen aged three to five years on Saturdays at his store.<sup>31</sup> This appears to be evidence of the drover trade that formed an important part of the region’s agricultural economy in the early 1800s. Cattle could walk to slaughter; grain and hay required wagons and cost more to transport. Newspaper advertisements for Cheeseman’s shin plasters and Arabian Balsam ointment are found regularly at least through 1832.

No primary source yet located provides any details of Vibber’s shop.<sup>32</sup> The 1820 federal census industrial schedule did not enumerate an iron working shop in either Richfield or Otsego, but it was acknowledged at the time that the schedule was incomplete.<sup>33</sup> And, the population schedule for that census shows a concentration of people working in industry rather than in agriculture in this area, among them Lemuel Fitch Vibber, his son Lemuel, and John Williams. Some of these households divided the males of laboring age between industry and agriculture.<sup>34</sup>

The story of the turnpike being the ruin of rather than an important commercial impetus for the development and early success of the hamlet of Federal Corner may originate in the contested route between the stakes at Mile 10 and Mile 14.5 of the turnpike. Several residents in the area had expected the turnpike

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<sup>30</sup> *Otsego Herald*, 3 May 1804: 3.

<sup>31</sup> *Otsego Herald*, 28 June 1804: 3.

<sup>32</sup> “Notice: Luman Brockway, etc.,” *Otsego Herald* (24 April 1813): 4.

<sup>33</sup> Horatio Gates Spafford, *Gazetteer of the State of New-York* (Albany, New York: B.D. Packard, 1824): 607-8.

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company to improve the existing Patchin Road route through Federal Corner. In 1807-08, however, the surveyors urged a new, more northerly alignment to avoid the swampy area at the head of Canadarago Lake. This new route, which was adopted, forms Main Street in the Village of Richfield Springs today and continues east on US 20 towards Cherry Valley and thence to Albany. It opened in 1808-09.<sup>35</sup> Thus, the turnpike passed about a quarter-mile north of the Federal Corner businesses lining Patchin Road and part of Butternut Road.

In the years immediately following the opening of the Third Great Western Turnpike, the route was heavily used and toll collection on the turnpike peaked in 1815 at \$12,322.<sup>36</sup> In the mid-1820s, however, prevailing travel patterns in this part of central New York were quickly reoriented northerly to access the Erie Canal, which rapidly superseded all turnpikes in the area as the most important travel corridor. Freight costs on the canal were but a small fraction of the cost of overland freight, and farmers and mill owners shipped goods north into the Mohawk Valley rather than east or west on the turnpike. While the canal did not open from end to end until 1825, the section from Seneca Falls to Rome opened in 1819. By 1821, it was opened east as far as Little Falls and was earning revenues for the state that could be poured back into building costs.<sup>37</sup> The northerly reorientation of trade was reflected in falling revenues on the turnpike: in 1823 toll collection dropped to \$8,382 and in 1824 to \$5,079. In 1825, the turnpike collected only \$4,920 in tolls. The Utica & Schenectady Railroad opened in the mid-1830s, and soon the state lifted the ban imposed on rail freight meant to keep goods traffic on the state-built waterway. This constituted another blow, and while toll collection stabilized between \$4,000 and

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<sup>34</sup> *United States Census for 1820*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, page 1.

<sup>35</sup> Papers of the Third Great Western Turnpike Road Company, Folders 1803 through 1809. (Cooperstown, New York: New York State Historical Association, Special Collections)

<sup>36</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 18 March 1859.

<sup>37</sup> Peter L. Bernstein, *Wedding of the Waters. The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation* (New York and London: W.W. Norton, 2005): 217 and 262.

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\$5,000 *per annum* until 1848 based on the drover trade, revenue fell rapidly after that. The company dissolved in 1859. Two years earlier, tolls totaled just \$1,305—far less than the amount required to maintain the road.<sup>38</sup>

This shift in traffic was probably one of several factors leading to the disappearance of the industrial hamlet of Federal Corner. For some businesses, especially the forge and possibly the tannery, the once plentiful woodland resources required for their operation would have been greatly diminished after three decades of continual harvest. This reduced an important benefit of the location, which probably seemed foolishly remote to the rising generation. Opportunities elsewhere beckoned to the sons of men who had opened businesses in that section at the turn of the nineteenth century like Lemuel Fitch Vibber. Several similar industries in other hamlets in Otsego County disappeared or diminished greatly during the second quarter of the century; the few survivors would eventually move to places closer on transportation arteries and adopt steam power during the third quarter of the century.<sup>39</sup>

Vibber was in his mid-60s in 1839, when he bought his new house lot in Richfield Springs. This purchase appears to represent his retirement. He built his new house facing Church Street (now NY 167), which his deed described as the “road leading northerly from Richfield Springs to Warren.” This may indicate its importance as the northerly route; it was adopted in the early 1900s as a state highway. Further, by the mid-1830s, the sulfur spring about a mile west of Vibber’s Federal-style house on Butternut Road was attracting a growing spa clientele, who could find “respectable accommodations” in the village growing around it.<sup>40</sup> This village centered on the intersection of the turnpike and Church Street. It developed rapidly in the antebellum era and was a popular resort into the early 1900s. Patchin Road appears to have gone out of use before the mid-

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<sup>38</sup> *Freeman’s Journal*, 18 March 1859.

<sup>39</sup> Examples include cotton mills on Toddsville and Oaksville on Oaks Creek, Town of Otsego, and also on the Butternut Creek; the hammer factory in Garrattsville in New Lisbon; the Denio fork works in Fork Shop Corners, Towns of Hartwick and Otsego; the Shipman axle and spring works in Springfield Center, Town of Springfield; and textile mill in Clintonville, Town of Middlefield; to name a few.

<sup>40</sup> Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New York: comprehending its colonial history; etc.* (New York: Thomas F. Gordon, [1836]): 627-8.

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1800s as it was not mapped in 1856.<sup>41</sup> Cemetery Road about a half-mile farther south was opened in 1847, and it was mapped.<sup>42</sup>

Turn-of-the-century sources opine that Federal Corner failed because the turnpike bypassed it, forcing its businesses to move or close. It seems more likely that businesses along Butternuts and Patchin roads prospered in the 1810s before the Erie Canal opened *because* they were near the busy turnpike. In the next quarter-century diverse factors, including the shift in transportation patterns, the decrease in fuel, and aging business owners may all have contributed to the hamlet's demise—a fate it shared with a number of others in Otsego County. Third and fourth generation descendants grew up hearing the story of an old industrial hamlet; they also learned that it was bypassed by the Third Great Western Turnpike. The bypass became identified as the sole reason for the eventual abandonment of Federal Corner. By the 1930s, even though land records show that the alignments of the long-abandoned Patchin Road and the more recently opened Cemetery Road differed, the power of local storytelling had moved the old hamlet a quarter-mile south to the intersection of Butternut and Cemetery roads. Even the USGS was convinced to label that intersection “Federal Corners [sic].” Notably, this label was not used on the 1903 version of that quadrangle.<sup>43</sup> In the same era, three NYSED historic markers were placed along Butternut Road to relate the woeful tale of Federal Corner. Thus, this tale has persisted in secondary sources and local tradition even though the primary sources—mainly land records, the federal census, and the papers of the Third Great Western Turnpike—support a more nuanced interpretation.

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<sup>41</sup> C.[yrus] Gates, *Map of Otsego County* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A.O. Gallup, 1856).

<sup>42</sup> “History of Federal Corners Presented to Richfield Historians,” *Richfield Springs Mercury*, 22 July 1971. Based on the design and period of the house, it seems likely that the original drive would have approached the center of the building to create a symmetrical landscape matching the strong symmetry of the front façade of the house. The deep setback is unusual in this region where most houses stood right at the edge of the highway. Lemuel Vibber's site suggests a degree of wealth and pride.

<sup>43</sup> <http://docs.unh.edu/NY/rchs03nw.jpg>.

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### Ownership and Development Periods of the Vibber House

Lemuel F. Vibber built his Federal-style house ca.1810. He sold it to John W. Tunnicliff in 1840. John Tunnicliff is said to have planted the grove of hard maple trees in front of the house during his tenure. He sold the house and land to his son, David, in 1847. David married about that time and lived for a time in the house. By 1860, however, it appears the house lay empty and David B. Tunnicliff sold it to his cousin, James P. Chamberlin, in 1867. Based on the style of the new windows and the alterations to the casings on first floor, it seems likely that Chamberlin made these changes ca.1870. He probably also installed the present staircase in the center hall of the main block. Elizabeth Crouse bought the house in 1887, and she built the two-story rear ell, which surely replaced an earlier service ell. Additional changes, including replacing the floors in the main block, minor alterations to the fenestration in the back wall of the house, the addition of an upstairs bathroom, and the construction of a “colonial” taste fireplace were made during the period ca.1930–60.

Local tradition holds that Lemuel F. Vibber built the house at 302 Butternut Road in 1798, probably because this is the date of his first land deed (for the north half of Lot 1 in the Mathys Patent) in the town.<sup>44</sup> Stylistically, however, the Vibber House is more characteristic of one designed and built ca.1810–25 in this region. In 1810, it would have been a large and very stylish dwelling. Its massing, symmetrical plan, and side-gabled form are similar to a number of houses built at regular intervals along the route of the Third Great Western Turnpike in Otsego and Madison counties soon after the highway opened in 1808–09. It also bears a strong similarity in its proportions and scale to the house built by Vibber’s near neighbor, John Derthick, who owned the south half of Lot 1 in the Mathys Patent. Such houses represented the material success of their owners, brought at least in part by their proximity to the turnpike.

Vibber’s material success in that period may be further represented by two additional land purchases in the years right after the turnpike opened. In 1809, he bought the south half of Lot 10 in the Mathys Patent from



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William Averill of Otsego, the hotelkeeper near the Little Lakes.<sup>45</sup> In 1811, Vibber acquired a 50-acre lot located in the adjacent McNeil or Stewart Patent in the Town of Springfield, from Ariel and Lydia Harris of Springfield.<sup>46</sup> This last was always described separately in subsequent deeds and was eventually split off from the land in Lots 1 and 10 in the mid-1800s. Later deeds indicate that the remaining land, minus at least one more small subdivision, totaled about 90 acres and formed a contiguous parcel lying between Butternut Road and the Springfield town line to the east.

Vibber paid the unusually large sum of £420 for the parcel in Lot 1 bought in 1798. Until the mid-1810s, this parcel lay in the Town of Otsego, and so Vibber's move from Richfield, where he was enumerated in the 1790 census, to Otsego in 1800, is revealed.<sup>47</sup> Since his household was enumerated in Otsego, it seems likely that among the improvements garnering the high price, there was probably already a dwelling house in 1798. This may have been the source of the heavy hewn rafters prepared for a steeper roof pitch than that of the present house, where they are now. These are interspersed with pole rafters simply hewn on the side supporting the roof deck and notched and pinned at the ridgeline to match the older ones. Vibber's new Federal-style house was probably larger than the previous one and so required additional rafters. The house may contain additional reused timbers prepared for previous buildings—a common practice in the period—but these are not as immediately evident as the rafters.

While no records yet uncovered confirm a construction date of ca.1810 for the nearby Derthick house, John Derthick's grandson, who still lived in his forebear's house on the next property in 1878, recounted that his

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<sup>44</sup> C/185.

<sup>45</sup> O/347.

<sup>46</sup> Q/95.

<sup>47</sup> "United States Census, 1800", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XH5Y-KLQ> : accessed 2 February 2016), John Dethick, 1800. Vibber's name was incorrectly recorded as "Benjamin Bibber." His neighbors, John Dethick, James Palmer, Francis Henry, Peter Frevan, Abraham Maby, Walter Waterman, John Douglass, George Frevan, John Henry, Richard Towser, Conrad House, and William Averill place him on the landscape based on deeds.

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grandfather built his house in 1808.<sup>48</sup> Derthick and Vibber probably shared a long acquaintance and similar experiences that might have shaped their tastes. Poll records in Colchester, Connecticut, show that both men lived there in 1787.<sup>49</sup> Similarities in form and massing of their houses might indicate that they chose the same builder at about the same time although the houses differ in their siting. The Derthick house stands close to the road, although on a raised site that sets it above the surrounding landscape, while the Vibber house is set back from the highway on a long drive. This deep setback on gradually rising ground is that of a country estate. On its tall foundation, the house rose high above its surroundings and commanded a grand view of Canadarago Lake and environs. Its view also took in the Federal Corner hamlet a few hundred paces to the northwest, so while the house was set at a distance that allowed a buffer of privacy and quiet from the bustle of forges and the smells of a tannery, it was easily monitored. The house also showed passersby within a considerable compass that Lemuel Fitch Vibber, Esq., was a man of means. Derthick, too, appears to have been a successful farmer based on premiums he earned at the county fair held by the agricultural improvement society, but he may have overextended himself to construct his house, as he was declared in default on the property in June 1810.<sup>50</sup> Regardless, both men's houses are representative of the strongly symmetrical neoclassical design aesthetic adopted by a number of New Englanders who migrated to central New York in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Lemuel Fitch Vibber's new house was a two-story, double-pile building with a side-gabled roof and five bays spanning the front façade. The post-and-beam frame rested on a raised, slightly banked stone foundation enclosing a full basement, which featured full-height windows on the front and sides. The exterior was clad in wood clapboards and featured a restrained neoclassical decorative scheme with full returns on the gable ends. Delicate recurved brackets were evenly spaced in the frieze below the eaves on the front and the returns on the sides (those on the north side are gone). A fine rope-turned bed molding trimmed the gable ends above narrow

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<sup>48</sup> [Duane Hamilton Hurd], *History of Otsego County* (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Everts and Fariss, 1878): 303.

<sup>49</sup> Duane Hamilton Hurd, *History of New London County, Connecticut* (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1882): 387.

<sup>50</sup> *Otsego Herald*, 10 June 1810: 4.

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rake boards featuring shallow incised triglyphs. Corner boards with fillet edges enclosed the corners, and a plain board water table was capped by a drip edge. The original window casings were similarly plain with narrow dripcaps. Given the period of construction, the house probably featured twelve-over-twelve sash on the first story and twelve-over-eights upstairs except for a decorative window above the center entrance. This might have resembled the tripartite example still in the nearby Derthick house.

The center entrance, with an unusually wide front door, opened onto a wide center hall running the depth of the house. Four rooms of equal size, two on each side of the hall, were reached through single-width doors facing the hall. In the main block, the upstairs plan was nearly identical to that of the first floor—the southeast chamber was smaller and the southwest one larger rather than being of equal size. The location of a staircase that presumably ascended to the second story in the main block is unknown. Neither the basement nor the attic nor the rooms on either story displays strong evidence of early hearth chimneys (there is later stove evidence). It appears that the trim scheme was plain throughout, with simple fillet beads on the boards boxing the posts, doorways, and windows. The six-panel doors featured characteristic flush panels with beaded edges on one side and plain rabbeted panels on the other. There was surely a service ell incorporating the kitchen, additional service space, and storage or possibly bedchambers above, but evidence is lost or hidden by the present ell.

Lemuel F. Vibber sold his house and 90 acres of the surrounding property, by then located in the Town of Richfield, to John W. Tunnicliff (1784-1858) in 1840 for \$3,500. This parcel did not include any of the Vibber land lying in the adjoining Town of Springfield in the Stewart Patent. The parcel Tunnicliff bought was bounded on the north by Vibber's son, Lemuel Vibber, although the exact location of the latter's house is unknown.<sup>51</sup> He was listed in the census through 1850 living in the vicinity based on neighbors, but the 1855

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<sup>51</sup> 67/439. In 1834, Lemuel's father and stepmother executed an unusual deed with Timothy Babcock of Otsego, in which they sold an 11.25-acre property for one dollar in exchange for Babcock's assuring that Harmony Vibber, their daughter-in-law, receive the rents accrued on the property without regard to her coverture. The circumstances leading to this are unknown, but they suggest that Lemuel, the son, was unreliable in some way and that Lemuel Fitch Vibber sought to protect his grandchildren as well as his daughter-in-law.

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and 1860 censuses record him living in German Flatts, Herkimer County, working as a blacksmith. Lemuel's property in 1850 had a very low valuation of \$330 in the census.<sup>52</sup>

John Tunnicliff allegedly planted 90 maple trees around the house.<sup>53</sup> With the rise of Romanticism in the mid-1800s, the picturesque taste in landscape design emerged, and the broad, open sweeping views of the neoclassical taste of the early 1800s gave way to softer, more sheltered settings for buildings. Today's rather unkempt thicket of mainly small caliper hard maples that fills the setback from Butternut Road and hides the Vibber House from view is surely the descendant of Tunnicliff's grove, which gave the house the name "Maple Grove" in the 1868 Beers *Atlas of Otsego County*. The name persisted in deeds into the 1900s.

John W. Tunnicliff sold the house and acreage to his son, David B. Tunnicliff, of Albany in 1847.<sup>54</sup> David Tunnicliff, age 27, was recorded living in Richfield, apparently residing in the former Vibber house, in 1850. He identified himself as a farmer with real estate valued at \$8,000, by far the most highly valued property in the neighborhood. He and his wife, Genevieve, had a one-year-old daughter, Amelia. His father John, 66, and brother, N. Dow Tunnicliff, 30, both farmers, lived with them, as did Zilpha Green, 12, and Mary Richmond, 22.<sup>55</sup> In 1855, David headed a household of seven that included his wife, two young children (Amelia, 6, and William P., 4), his brother, Dow, his mother-in-law, Amelia Powell, an Irish laborer, an Irish domestic servant, and a carpenter.<sup>56</sup> A second daughter, Nancy Dow, was born in 1856 in Richfield, but by then her father was in business in Albany. Genevieve Powell Tunnicliff (1825–1864) is buried in the Church Street

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<sup>52</sup> *United States Census for 1850*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, Dwelling 1426/Household 1516.

<sup>53</sup> *Richfield Springs Mercury*, 1971.

<sup>54</sup> 81/109. John's dates are found at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=64882068>. This website states that he married Nancy Ann Dow, although her gravestone is not so inscribed. David Tunnicliff had a daughter called N. Dow Tunnicliff, which might be an homage to his mother's family. Nathan Dow was a prominent citizen in the Federal Corner area in the early 1800s.

<sup>55</sup> *United States Census for 1850*, Household 1509.

<sup>56</sup> *United States Census for 1850*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, Household 219.

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burying ground in Richfield with her two-year-old daughter, Estella, who died five days before her mother.<sup>57</sup> Nancy Dow Tunnicliff was raised in Richfield by her grandmother and died in 1924. Her father moved to Gilbertsville (Town of Butternuts, Otsego County) later in life.<sup>58</sup>

In 1867, David Tunnicliff sold the 90-acre property containing Lemuel F. Vibber's house to his first cousin, James P. Chamberlin, for \$10,000.<sup>59</sup> James was the son of Olcott Chamberlin (1793–1861). Olcott married John W. Tunnicliff's sister, Cornelia (1791–1850) in 1813, and he headed the household adjacent to his nephew, David, in the list in 1855 and 1860.<sup>60</sup> In 1855, James and his wife, Harriet, and two children, Caroline, 3, and infant, Olcott, lived with his widowed father, Olcott, as well as James's oldest sister, Mary, 40.<sup>61</sup> The household also included five servants (three laborers and two domestic servants).<sup>62</sup> While one or two laborers was fairly typical on larger, more valuable properties, two domestics is unusual except for households also engaged in the developing boarding house trade centered on the Richfield Springs spa.

The old Vibber house may have been vacant when the 1860 census was taken, as it appears to be absent from the list (as a domicile) based on household order.<sup>63</sup> That census listed Olcott's daughter, Louisa M., 46, and son, Alfred, 37, living with him. Alfred (1821–1872) had moved to Camden, Oneida County, as a young

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Tunnicliff&GSiman=1&GScid=2346902&GRid=64882067&>.

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=64964447>.

<sup>59</sup> 437/540.

<sup>60</sup> Bailey, 119. Photograph of Olcott Chamberlin's grave in the Church Street graveyard found at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=chamberlin&GSfn=olcott&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=36&GScnty=2016&GScntry=4&GSob=n&GRid=64881925&df=all&> shows that Chamberlin died in 1861 rather than 1860 as Bailey related. Cornelia Chamberlin's sibling relationship is provided at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Tunnicliff&GSiman=1&GScid=2346902&GRid=64881920&>.

<sup>61</sup> *New York Census for 1855*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, 1<sup>st</sup> election district, Population schedule, Household 220.

<sup>62</sup> *United States Census for 1860*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, Household 673.

<sup>63</sup> In other censuses, two houses were listed between Derthick and the owners of the former Vibber house, but in 1860, only one household intervened.

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man; there he married Mary A. Ransom (1825–1899) in 1847.<sup>64</sup> He and his sister, Louisa, may have returned to help their father manage the large property because he was ill, but neither James P. nor Mary, who lived with Olcott in 1855, remained in 1860. Neither is yet located in the 1860 or 1865 censuses.

The 1865 census recorded only Alfred Chamberlin's household living in the vicinity. Three years later, the 1868 atlas showed J.P. Chamberlin owning two houses—the Federal house on its long drive and another house standing near the highway a short distance north of the drive. This second house was apparently gone by 1903, as it was mapped neither in the *New Century Atlas* nor the USGS quadrangle published that year. No above ground evidence indicates its location. It may have been built as a tenant house, as the household of Richard Shropshole, an English farm laborer without property, was listed adjacent to James in 1870. In the other direction, between James Chamberlin and John Derthick, Alfred Chamberlin, 49, and his family, Mary A., 44, and son Olcott A., 12, were enumerated living on real estate valued at \$22,000 with two domestic servants, Nora and Abby O'Neil, and three laborers.<sup>65</sup> This indicates that Alfred probably built the house shown southwest of the corner of Cemetery Road in 1903 between the completion of the 1868 atlas survey and the enumeration of the 1870 census.

The 1870 census recorded James P. Chamberlin, 44, farmer, with real estate valued at \$11,000, two households away from John Derthick. The household included James, married to Harriet, 42; children Caroline, 18, and Olcott C., 16, farm laborer; as well as Mary Chamberlin, 54.<sup>66</sup> This last appears to be James's older sister rather than his sister-in-law. Based on the style of the new windows and split lath of the new walls associated with them, it seems that James Chamberlain probably made those alterations soon after he bought the Vibber house. The building may have felt old-fashioned and down at the heel by that time, especially if it had been uninhabited for a period. The partitions dividing the north and south ends of the house into two chambers

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<sup>64</sup> Bailey, 119. Mary A. Ransom Chamberlain's dates come from her gravestone in Lakeside Cemetery, Richfield.

<sup>65</sup> *United States Census for 1870*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, Household 7.

<sup>66</sup> *United States Census for 1870*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, Population schedule, Household 6.

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each were both removed. The staircase with its heavy, lathe-turned newel post matches the taste of the window casings. The wide center entrance on the front was recessed to accommodate the new wall depth on the first floor. The panel layout of wide front door (single, glazed upper panel with horizontal oblong below and three small square panels below that) is more typical of the Queen Anne taste popular in the 1890s than the Italianate taste exemplified by the new window casings and staircases, so the present door may replace the first one in this new opening. The beadboard panels are similar to those lining the recessed casing. Also on the exterior, the plain lintel boards with drip caps of the first-story window casings on the front and south side were replaced with low pedimented ones.

By 1875, the census recorded only Alfred's widow, Mary A. Chamberlin, and their son, Olcott, 17, still in the former Federal Corner vicinity. She was living at the Lake House Hotel at the foot of Butternut Road. Her sister-in-law Mary, 60, and nephew, Alcott, 21, resided in the household of Delos Getman, a manufacturer, in the Village of Richfield Springs. Getman's house was valued at \$3,000 in a neighborhood of equally highly valued dwellings.<sup>67</sup> Since Mary had lived in her brother James's household for many years, and his son was living with her under someone else's roof, it appears James and Harriet both died not long after James bought the former Vibber house from his cousin.

The 1880 census located Mary A. Chamberlin still living in Richfield. Based on census order, she and her son, Olcott (1857–1930), probably resided in the house that Alfred built about a decade earlier. Her household included a domestic servant and her four-year-old daughter and three laborers. John Derthick headed the next household listed, which numbered 16 people. William Edick, a laborer, lived in the opposite direction.<sup>68</sup> The latter is likely the house by the highway shown in the 1868. This household order indicates

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<sup>67</sup> *New York Census for 1875*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, 1<sup>st</sup> election district, Population schedule, Households 303 (Chamberlin) and 29 (Getman).

<sup>68</sup> *United States Census for 1880*, Households 87 (Edick), 88 (Chamberlain), and 89 (Derthick). Olcott Chamberlin's dates are provided in his obituary reprinted at <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi->

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that the Vibber house might again have lain untenanted. Two years later, in 1882, Mary A. Chamberlain of Richfield mortgaged the former Vibber property for \$1,000 payable within a year to Elizabeth Crouse of Warren, Herkimer County.<sup>69</sup> Five years on, in April 1887, the Otsego County sheriff sold the property for \$1,000 to Crouse to settle a suit she brought against Chamberlain for default on the mortgage.<sup>70</sup>

Elizabeth Crouse, 62 and a farmer, was living with Maggie Crouse, 35, in the Federal Corner area in Richfield in 1892. This census did not delineate households, but the order suggests that Abram Jackson, 52, lived as a laborer in the household. James Galliger's household followed Crouse in the list; George Edick's household preceded hers. The latter was preceded by Olcott Chamberlain, 34, living with Anna E. Chamberlain, 26, and his mother, Mary A. Chamberlain. John Derthick's large household preceded the Chamberlains.<sup>71</sup> The 1903 *New Century Atlas of Otsego County* showed the "Derthick Homestead" associated with at least five outbuildings was a little farther south. Another house on the west side of Butternut Road and north of the drive to the Vibber house was owned by Mrs. M. Butler. Combining this map with the 1892 record indicates that Elizabeth Crouse owned the former Vibber house after 1887 and that Olcott Chamberlain lived with his wife and mother in the house built by his father, Alfred, on the west side of the highway. The Edicks and Galligers lived in the other two houses in the neighborhood.

Based on construction and materials, it was probably Elizabeth Crouse who added the ell to the house soon after her purchase in 1887, although it is puzzling why she built such a large ell for her small household. The ell is similar to the plainly built additions to farmhouses offering summer accommodation in the Catskills in the same era, and it may be that Crouse hoped to tap into the trade in the rural area southeast of the Richfield

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bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=chamberlin&GSfn=olcott&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=36&GScty=2016&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=64908666&df=all&

<sup>69</sup> *Book of Mortgages 111/42.*

<sup>70</sup> 214/307.

<sup>71</sup> *New York Census for 1892*, Town of Richfield, Otsego County, 1<sup>st</sup> Election District, page 1.



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spa. There were several such places overlooking Canadarago Lake in the 1870s and 1880s. These offered a less expensive rural holiday alternative to the large resort hotels in the village.

The two-story back ell appears to rest on an earlier drylaid stone foundation above a shallow crawlspace, to which there is no access. This could have supported a Federal-period service ell. The present ell is a balloon frame building with massing and roof pitch similar to the older main block. It has deep eaves with plain frieze boards typical of vernacular construction used in the late 1800s and wood clapboard siding. It features a fairly regular fenestration plan of single windows except for paired windows in the upper story facing south. These may have been mimicked below, but a later, shallow projecting bay with a multi-light fixed window and a shed roof alters that opening. Two sets of the Federal-period twelve-over-eight sash appear to have been reused in the first story of the rear ell flanking the rear entrance, which is asymmetrically placed in rear wall.

The interior plan of the ell has been largely stripped back to the studs, floors, and some doors. Details of the older ell may be hidden under the existing structure. Where exposed, the vertical planks that formed the interior of the rear wall of the main block retain plaster evidence of mill lath walls hung on them on both floors. There is no evidence of earlier split lath. The planks also retain large nail holes spaced at intervals suggesting clapboards or wood paneling typical of kitchen interiors were nailed to them earlier on. It seems certain that it must have contained the kitchen as there is no evidence of a cooking hearth in the main block. On both floors, doorways were cut into the planks to connect the later ell to the main block; none of the existing casings appears to predate the late 1800s. The doors accessing the halls on both levels and the basement stair, however, are all six-panel Federal-period ones. A swinging door added in the mid-1900s connects the kitchen in the ell with the south chamber in the main block on the first floor, which was redesigned as a dining room about that time. A small door in second story connects the ell with the northeast chamber on that floor. A large kitchen filled most of the first story of the ell; beadboard wainscot typical of the late 1800s remains. A stove chimney is located at the east end of the kitchen.

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The flushboard siding spanning the first floor front suggests a plan for an open veranda, a popular addition in the period and *de rigueur* for a summer boarding house or hotel. The evidence for attaching a roof is not apparent, so this plan may never have been realized. In the first half of the twentieth century, a raised patio of poured concrete steps spanned the front of the house. This combined with the regular addition of soil around a foundation over time has diminished the building's exterior height by three feet or more from its original design. On the north side of the hall, the thin partition wall with the old doorways still retaining some of their original trim were encased in a new wall with a new arch opening onto the north chamber.

Virtually nothing is known about how the property was used during the first quarter of the twentieth century. When Margaret Crouse, who owned the property by 1925, died, her executor J.D. Reed of Richfield sold the property and also part of an adjacent parcel to Revillo C. and Fannie Wightman, tenants in the entirety, for \$6,000.<sup>72</sup> The property passed through a second foreclosure in 1929 and was auctioned off to Citizens Banking Company of Schuylar Lake, New York, in June for \$2,500.<sup>73</sup> The bank sold the house and 1.67 acres, including the maple grove, on 24 May 1930 to Ruth McCready Owen for \$700.<sup>74</sup> Owen added about 20 more acres in 1938 before the other acreage was sold to the Cooperstown National Bank.<sup>75</sup> In March 1946, Gwen Owen Taber of Richfield sold the house lot and the parcel added in 1938 to Richard Owen.<sup>76</sup> The present owner believes that the paired doors (now replaced by a window) in the rear wall of the main block north of the ell were added during this ownership. The narrow oak flooring throughout the first floor of the house was laid over a newspaper dating to Richard Owen's ownership. He sold a reconfigured seven acres of the property, which included the Vibber house, in July of 1946 to Edward P. and Augusta Sherman.<sup>77</sup> This parcel changed hands

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<sup>72</sup> 331/414.

<sup>73</sup> 348/366.

<sup>74</sup> 353/231.

<sup>75</sup> 383/524.

<sup>76</sup> 418/565.

<sup>77</sup> 423/208.

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again in 1954 and in 1963, when Josephine Baunach, a widow, bought the property and moved there with her two daughters.<sup>78</sup> A small frame garage that stood near the highway was moved to a spot about 100 yards behind the house and placed on a poured concrete foundation to house a horse owned by one of the daughters, Phyllis Jo. This building is clad in wood novelty siding. Phyllis Jo now owns the house and the lot surveyed for Richard Owen minus a half-acre subdivision cut from the southwest corner end adjoining the road frontage. Her sister, Helen Eileen Mondore, built a prefabricated house on that site where she lives at present.

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<sup>78</sup> 462/542 and 536/736.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line of the attached map with scale

### Boundary Justification

During Lemuel F. Vibber's period, the property included as much as 90 acres; however, by the 1920s, it had been subdivided and sold numerous times. The boundary was drawn to reflect the size of the parcel in the mid-1950s, when it had stabilized at approximately seven acres, which remains the size of the parcel today.

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Photographer: Jessie A. Ravage  
34 Delaware Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326

Date: 2116

Tiff Files: CD-R of .tiff files on file at  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.  
and  
New York State Historic Preservation Office  
Waterford, NY

0001: Front and south side of main block

0002: Front and north side of main block

0003: South side of main block and later ell

0004: Smokehouse

0005: Interior, first floor, view from southwest corner through hall to northeast corner

0006: Interior, second floor, view from rear of corridor over stairs to center front and southwest corner room

See continuation sheet



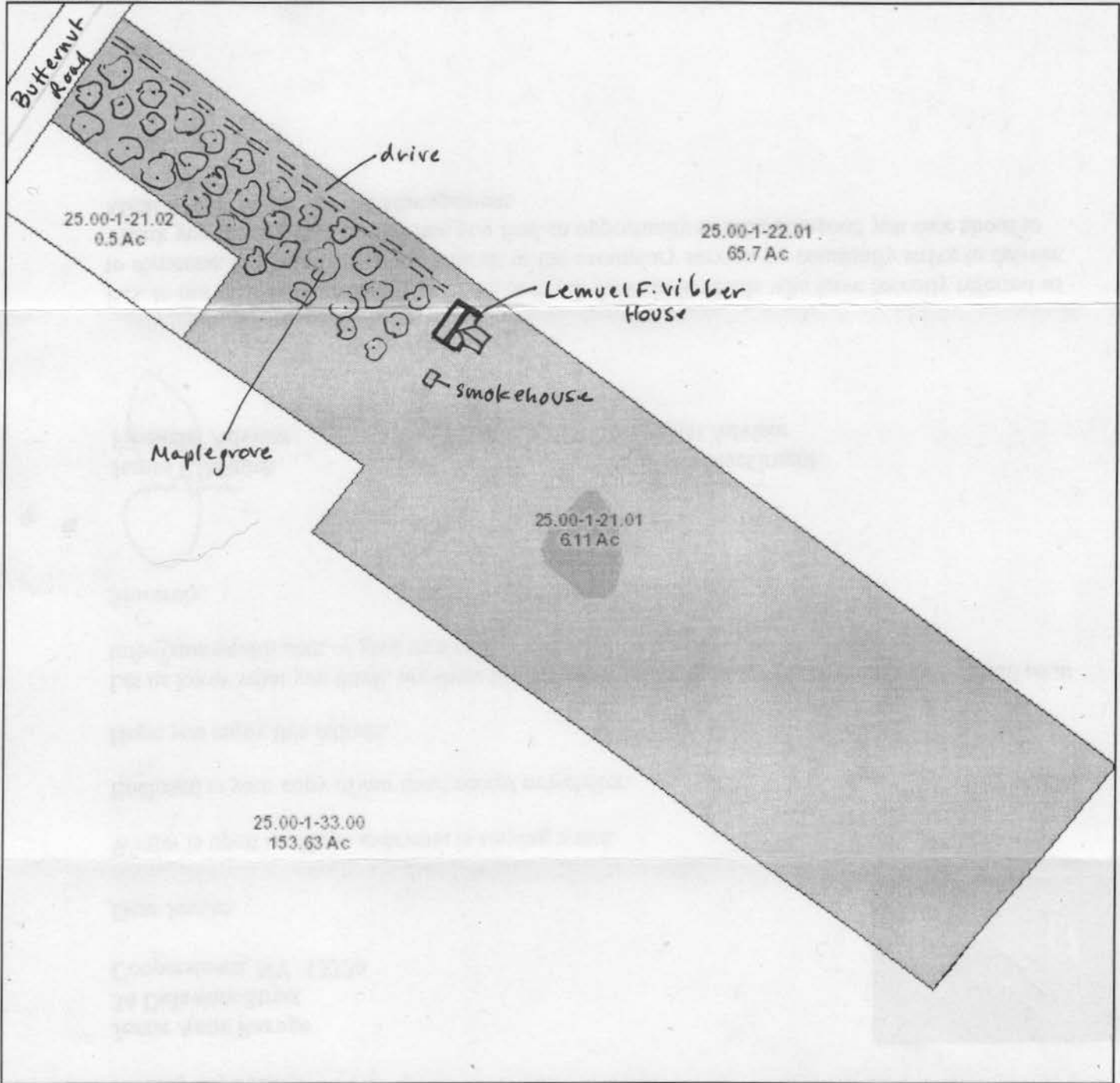
# Otsego County, New York

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Lemuel F. Vibber House, 302 Butternut Rd, Richfield, NY



Date Printed: 2/9/2016



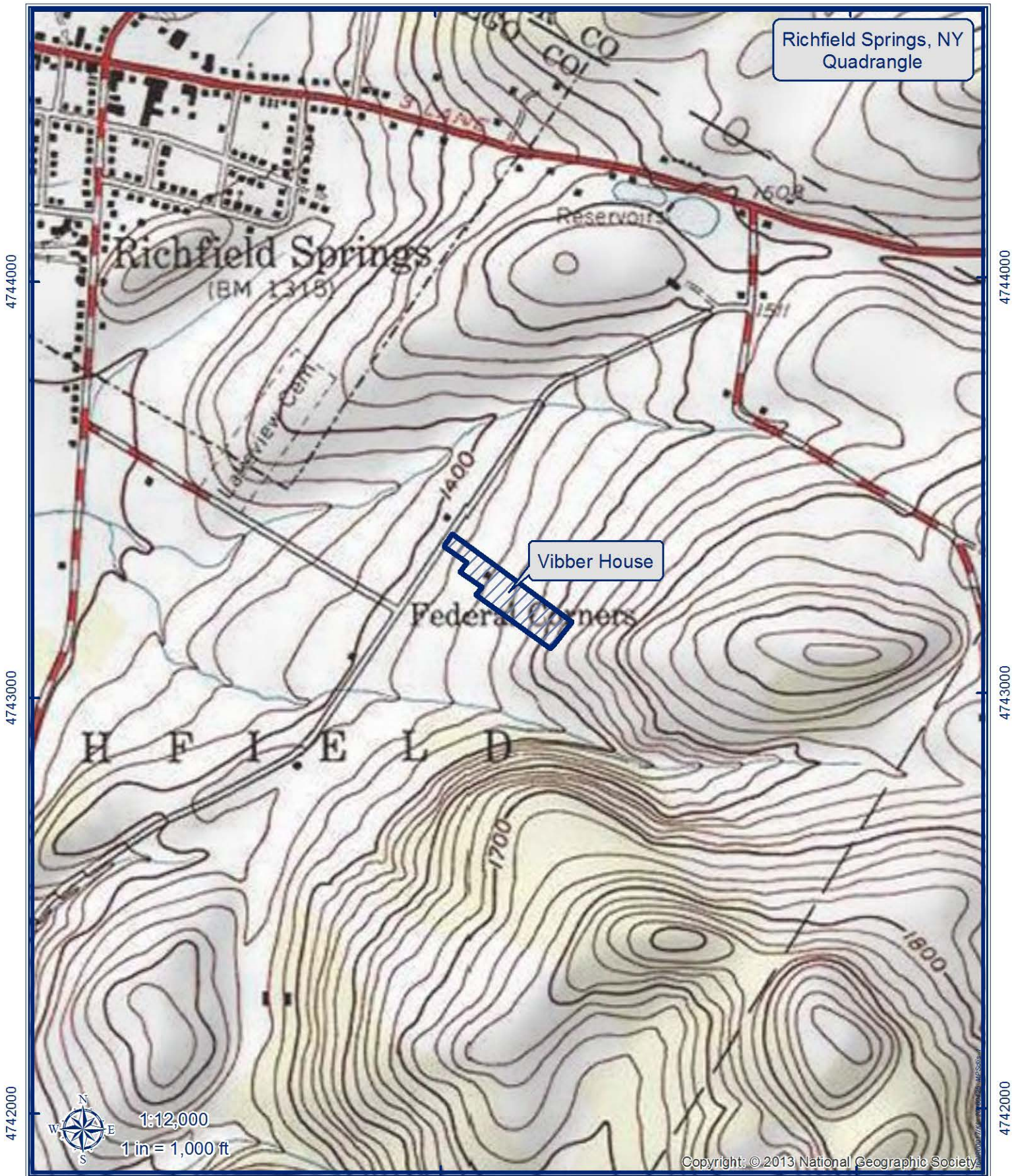
## MAP DISCLAIMER - NOTICE OF LIABILITY

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Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 150 feet







Richfield Springs, NY  
Quadrangle

Vibber House

Federal Corners

Richfield Springs  
(BM 1318)

Reservoir

H F I E L D



1:12,000  
1 in = 1,000 ft

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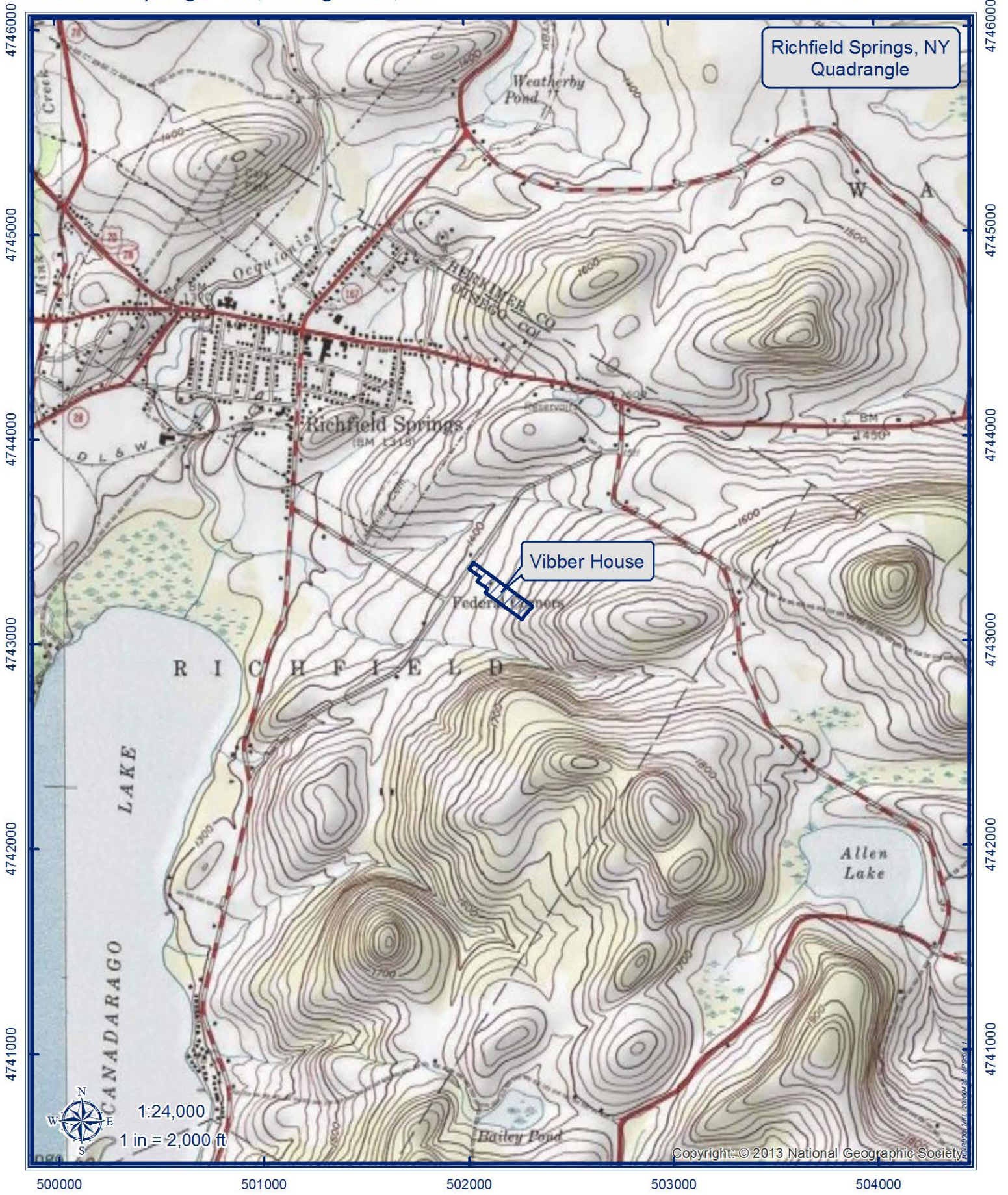
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



 Vibber House



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation



Richfield Springs, NY  
Quadrangle

Vibber House



1:24,000  
1 in = 2,000 ft

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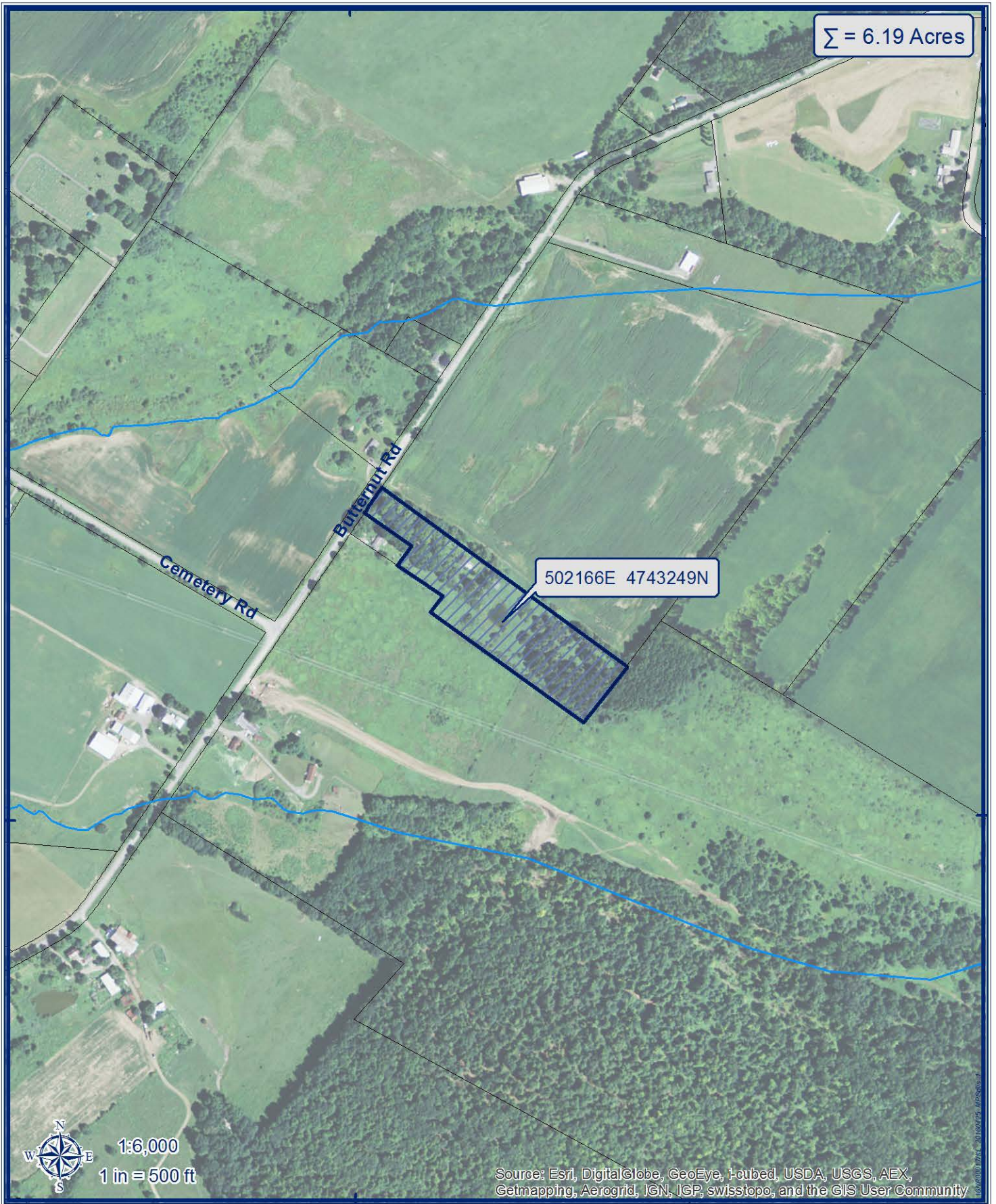
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



 Vibber House




Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation



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



 Vibber House



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Vibber, Lemuel F., House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Otsego

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/25/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/09/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000393

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 6-21-16 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.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner

29 April 2016

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 submit the following five nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Edmund B. Hayes Hall, Erie County  
Leyden Common School No. 2, Lewis County  
Crescent Corset Company, Cortland County  
Lemuel F. Vibber House, Otsego County  
Callicoon Downtown Historic District, Sullivan County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office