

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 Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

other names/site number _____

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 141 Reynolds Rd.

	not for publication
	vicinity

city or town Fultonville

state New York code NY county Montgomery code 057 zip code 12072

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

R. David Mury 12/9/2021
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
DSHPD
 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:) _____

Alexis Abernathy 2/3/2022
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
2	11	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	11	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Early Republic/Georgian and Federal

foundation: Stone

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt

other:

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House is located at 141 Reynolds Road in the Town of Glen, Montgomery County, New York. The property includes 23 acres of what was originally a 282 acre farm that was surveyed in 1743 as Lot 12 of the Delancey or Aurieskill Patent. The property was subdivided before 1800 with additional subdivisions further reducing the property to the present acreage by the early twentieth century. The nominated parcel is a rectangular shape and is bounded by Reynolds Road to the south and State Highway 30A to the west. The boundary was drawn to include the current tax parcel with the house and outbuildings.

The nominated property is the northeastern corner of Lot 12 in the Delancey Patent's eastern allotment. The nomination includes the ca. 1786 residence, a two-story five bay side gabled Dutch frame house with a Georgian style center hall plan and a small brick smokehouse ca. 1820. There are also eleven non-contributing buildings on the property which were built after the period of significance. These include a one-story tool barn ca. 1905, that stands southeast of the house, an automobile garage ca. 1960 stands on the east side of the house and a boarding and riding stables built by the current owners in the early 2000s. Six wooden running sheds are in the horse pastures and two outbuildings, a low gable-roofed hay barn and a small, multi-use, shed-roofed barn, stand southeast of the pastures and stables. The property encompasses mainly open cropland directly north of the house. The northern quarter of the property is wooded and descends to a seasonal tributary that flows into the Auries Creek west of the property. The tiny hamlet of Glen, where five roads meet, is located about a mile north of the house.

Narrative Description

Setting and Location

The Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven property are part of Lot 12 of the Delancey or Aurieskill Patent, a 10,000-acre patent that spans part of the first plateau of land (elevation about 900 ft) above the south bank of the Mohawk River and flanks the upper reaches of the Auries Creek, or Kill. The house commands a sweeping vista encompassing the High Peaks in the Adirondacks to the north, the Mohawk Valley (elevation about 300 ft) to the north and west, the Otsego Hills directly west, and the Catskills to the south-southwest.

The present highway system forms a five-way intersection about a mile north of the house in the hamlet of Glen (NRHD, listed 2001) perched at the northern edge of the plateau. A handful of dwelling houses, commercial properties, two church buildings, and a large community cemetery face the main east-west route comprised of Logtown Road (CR 110) west of the hamlet and County Road 161 running east to Mill Point. At Mill Point, a bridge crosses Schoharie Creek a few miles above its confluence with the Mohawk River. County Road 122 departs the hamlet northeast towards the river, roughly paralleling the east bank of the Aurieskill to the hamlet of Auriesville, formerly Smithville. NYS Route 30A is now the main north-south route through the hamlet and descends to the canal village of Fultonville. South of the five corners, NYS Route 30A passes less than a half-mile west of the Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven house. Reynolds Road (CR 121) originates in a T-junction west-northwest of the house with NYS Route 30A and bends southeasterly through Lots 12, 11, 10, and 9 of the Delancey Patent. The principal façade of the house faces south to Reynolds Road at about 45 degrees to the

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highway. Surrounding lands are mainly open—fallow or planted in crops—with intermittent woodlots. Wooded areas border streams that join the Auries Creek. The landscape is lightly settled and encompasses both historic farmsteads and recently built houses.

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House (one contributing building)

The Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven house is a wood-frame dwelling composed of a large two-story, five-bay main block, built ca. 1786, with a center hall plan. A later one-and-a-half-story kitchen ell was added to the house ca. 1830 and is placed asymmetrically against the north eave wall of the main block.

The frame of the main block employs a variation of New World Dutch timber framing that modifies the typical story-and-a-half form to build a two-story house. It is composed of twelve massive hand-hewn H-bents assembled using scribe-rule construction. The main block measures approximately 24 x 45½ feet. Eight of its eleven bays measure approximately 42 inches from the outer edges of the posts. The end bays are narrower, 37-38 inches, and the east bay of the hall, fifth bay from the east end of the house, measures 31 inches. The H-bents are mortised into similarly massive sills and plates and appear to run the full height of the two-story building. The oak top plates—felled between 1783 and the spring growing season of 1786, run the full length of the building.¹ The H-bents appear to be oak but may be ash. Downward diagonal bracing at the corners of the frame and at the corners of the room work in concert with brick nogging throughout the exterior walls to stabilize the two-story frame.

In the cellar and on both floors of the main block, the ceiling beams of the H-bents are exposed and aligned front to rear. The cellar beams vary slightly more in size than those at first- and second-floor levels, and their spacing differs. The beams range in width from 7½ inches to 10 inches and between 9¼ inches and 12 inches in depth. The heaviest ones support the first floor; those supporting the second and attic floors are smaller in cross section. The beams are hand-hewn and cleanly finished white pine; those on the first and second floors as well as the western six bays of the cellar have beaded lower edges. Thirteen heavy squared common rafters support the roof. The rafters are finished with bird's-mouth joints where they rest on the top plate of the main block and have lapped and pegged apexes. The rafters do not align with bents of the frame. The two rafters tested for dating are chestnut.²

The main block rests on a neatly laid mortared foundation constructed of local sedimentary stone: it affords a full-height cellar with about a third of its height above grade. The foundation is banked gently to the west and follows the contours of the landscape; the slope is more pronounced to the north, especially on the west side of the 1980s ell. At the east end of the north cellar wall, a set of wide shallow stone steps capped by roughly five-foot-long and four-inch-thick stone slabs descends from outside the cellar wall to an entrance cut into the north wall of the cellar foundation. The interior corner of the entrance is quoined; the stair wall nearly aligned with the northeast corner of the house is less neatly finished. The steps descend under the floor of the shower bathroom in 1980s ell. Before the ell was enlarged, the stairs were reached through a battened plank door in the floor of the lean-to abutting the east wall of the older ell.

¹ The 1783 date was provided by testing overseen by Carol Griggs, *Cornell University Dendrochronological Analysis*, ca. 2019; Edward R. Cook and William J. Callahan affirmed this date in their December 2020 analysis.

² Cook and Callahan, *Cornell University Dendrochronological Analysis*, 5.

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The main block is clad in wooden clapboards. Remnants of much wider siding with a beaded lower edge survive at the east end of the north wall of the main block.³ This exterior finish suggests that the present clapboards replaced earlier siding that was applied after the ell was attached to the house. An exposed exterior brick chimney back laid up in Dutch cross bond is centered on each gable wall. Large brick interior chimneys project above each end of the main block's ridgeline.

The gable-roofed ell is roughly 18 feet square. Its floor is supported by a summer beam aligned north-south and five east-west log joists, hewn flat on their top edge to carry the kitchen floor and mortised into the summer beam and sills. Frame members tested are oak. The living spaces retain evidence of the plaster and lath on the walls and kitchen ceiling. The ell was added asymmetrically to the main block, ca. 1830.⁴ A massive brick chimney was centered on the original rear wall of the ell, and the large stones that once formed its foundation are scattered at the north end of the crawlspace beneath the ell. The hearth in the kitchen was dismantled after a 1943 fire in the woodshed adjoining the north wall of the original ell. The woodshed was destroyed, but the brick nogging in the walls of both the ell and the main block likely protected the rest of the house.

In the 1980s new construction enlarged the original kitchen ell. This increased the footprint of the ell to about 28 x 45 ½ feet and raised its height to match that of the main block. The ridge of its gable roof encroaches onto the main block and is centered above the expanded structure. The present owners added a large, east-facing two-bay garage to the northeast corner of the ell in the early 2000s. The south-facing eave wall of the garage is finished to resemble a one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled service ell typical of the first half of the nineteenth century.

³ Similar siding, possibly reused, is also found on the interior cellar stair walls on the north wall between two doorways into the east half of the main block.

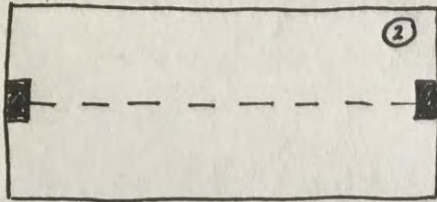
⁴ Cook and Callahan identified the species of the lumber used and the harvest date of ca. 1800. The structure was added to the house ca. 1830, probably from another location.

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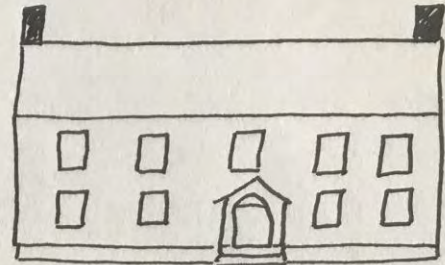
Montgomery County, NY
County and State

SMITH-VOORHEES-COVENHOVEN HOUSE
141 Reynolds Rd, Fultonville, NY 12072

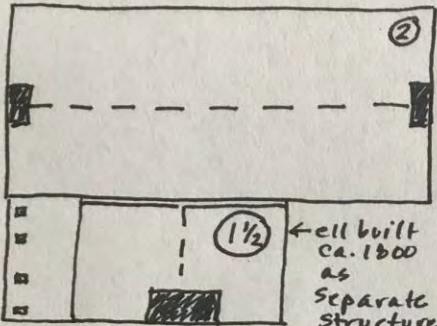


ca. 1785-1830

housefront may be reoriented to present one, ca. 1830



South facade, ca. 1830

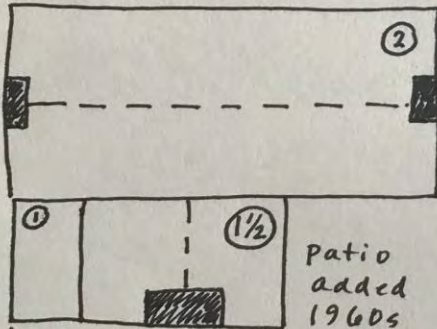


ca. 1830



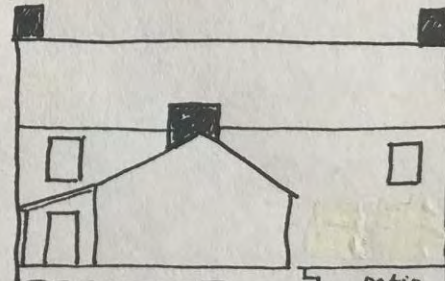
West facade

East facade



ca. 1830-1980

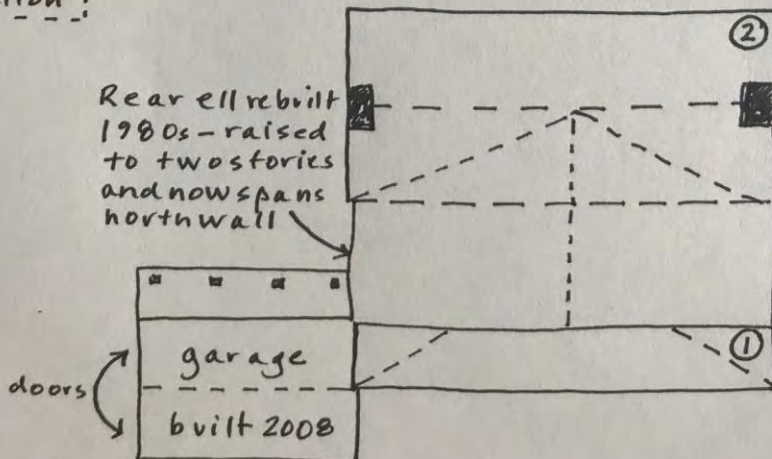
lean-to added after 1830; enclosed by early 1900s



North facade 1960s

Woodshed location

Rear ell rebuilt 1980s - raised to two stories and now spans north wall



← 12' → approx.

North

Jessie Ravage
Barbara Ann Ferraro
October 2021

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Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House/ Exterior

The five-bay façade of the Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House faces south at about 45 degrees from Reynolds Road. The main entrance is nearly centered, slightly recessed, and surmounted by a denticulated Georgian Revival pediment with partial returns. The pediment, replaced by the present owners, follows the ghost of an earlier one, and its peak aligns with a small notch cut out of the lower edge of the clapboard passing above it. The round-arched recess is paneled in flat boards edged with a narrow bead and encircles a fanlight above the door. Engaged columns are applied to plain board trim with narrow extended architraves. The present owners replaced the Victorian-era door they found in the opening when they bought the property. The present door, a period six-panel example, hangs on heavy strap hinges and is fitted with a box lock. Details revealed when the center three bays of the south eave wall were exposed during a 2020 repair of the sill show that the recessed round-arched opening is a change to the south wall of the first-floor hall.⁵

The south facing façade windows are hung with twelve-over-eight wood sash. Windows on the east and west gable elevations have nine-over-six sash except for the single first-floor opening in the east wall, which is hung with a mid-twentieth-century twelve-over-eight sash. Little is known about the historic fenestration of the ell due to the fire and subsequent remodeling, which used contemporary sash in varied configurations.

The exterior trim on the main block is partially lost, but enough survives to suggest an overall Federal-era scheme. The facing boards of the attic windows in each peak and the exposed chimney backs retain a finely articulated backband.⁶ The plain board trim on window openings throughout the main block features narrow drip caps and the ghosts of backbanding of similar width to that used on the attic openings and firebacks. The gutters on the eave walls appear to be wooden ones incorporated into the bed molding that caps the plain board frieze. Other trim elements include a largely intact Federal-style bed molding at the eave line on the west gable elevation and one partial return using the same molding profile located on the northwest corner of the main block. The east gable wall features a raking frieze, likely a late nineteenth-century alteration.

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House/Interior

The interior plan of the first floor of the main block features a center hall flanked by single, equally sized, large rooms spanning four bays at either end of the Dutch frame. The second-floor plan is similar, except that the room east of the hall is divided into two rooms, a larger southeastern one and a smaller northeastern one. All rooms in the main block are accessed from the hall. The first-floor ceilings are slightly more than eight feet high; those upstairs are a few inches lower. The walls are plastered throughout the main block. Plaster is troweled directly onto the brick nogging of the exterior walls; the partition walls dividing the rooms east and west of the main hall are plastered over split lath.

The first floor of the original ell is a large central room that was probably used as a kitchen from the time it was placed adjacent to the main block. The large cooking hearth chimney was reconstructed after 2001 where it was located until the 1943 fire in the woodshed. The kitchen is accessed from the main hall through a heavy Dutch door and through a four-panel door in the north wall of the east parlor. A door in the east wall of the kitchen opens to a broad, stone-flagged mudroom located where there was a lean-to historically. The exterior door in the mudroom is opposite the kitchen door. The present owners added a shower bathroom abutting the rear wall

⁵ The brick nogging is gone on both stories and appears to have been removed when the entrance was remodeled. The baseboards and chair rails of the hall walls on both floors extend into the wall cavity. The plaster of the new wall was applied to accordion lath.

⁶ The current owners reproduced the trim on the east fireback based on that on the west fireback.

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of the east parlor. A door in the west wall of the kitchen descends a short flight of steps to a sunroom spanning the west end of the rear wall of the main block. This room was enclosed in the 1960s.

The original half-story of the ell was remodeled ca. 1980 with small bedrooms. The historic framing and nogging are exposed as well as a window opening in the easternmost bay of the second story of the main block. Above the sunroom, the present owners installed a full bathroom and laundry room/closet in the expanded ell. These rooms are accessed through a door in the north wall of the large west room on the second floor. Before the ell's enlargement, a steep narrow stair, probably part of the ell's original configuration, ascended its north wall adjacent to the woodshed that burned in 1943. The ell's second floor is only accessed from a mid-twentieth-century Dutch door in the north wall of the upstairs hall in the main block.

First-floor hall (22 feet x 10 feet 10 inches):

The first-floor hall in the main block features four doorways and an open staircase with an intermediate landing in the northwest corner. The casing of the exterior entrance in the south wall arches over the fanlight placed above the door and is wedged between two beams that run the depth, north-south, of the hall and the wood plank ceiling. The casing is trimmed in a plain, single-face molding with a narrow-beaded edge and a diminutive decorative carved keystone. At the north end of the hall, a large Dutch door hangs on four heavy strap hinges and features diagonally laid planking facing into the hall and six fielded panels facing into the ell. A brass knob operates the latch on the planked face. The casing facing into the hall features a heavy ogee backband and a beaded facing board. Doorways to the rooms flanking the hall are centered on the east and west walls. These have matching six-paneled wood doors with flat, beaded panels and are hung on leaf hinges.

The stair layout accommodates an open Georgian-style stair in a Dutch-framed house. It ascends the west side of the first-floor hall to a square landing in the north corner, turns and completes its run with four more steps to the second-floor hall. The turn is accommodated by slicing through the floor beam of one of the H-bents to allow the upper run of the stair to pass through rather than over it. The beam is mortised into the newel post at the landing, which is, in turn, mortised into the beam below.⁷ The staircase combines the newel posts, railings, balustrade, and layout of a Georgian-style stair, details stylish in the 1760s, with Federal-style stringer trim and nosings on wide, deep treads. The Federal details match the chair rails and trim scheme of the doors, door casings, chair rail, and baseboard on the east and west walls of the first-floor hall. The high profile Federal-style moldings form a coherent decorative scheme that updated, or finished for the first time, much of the main block interior to the newest taste in the early 1800s. Evidence in the floor under the stair may indicate that an earlier run, possibly enclosed, ascended more steeply between the H-bents, and that the newel posts, railing, and balustrade may be altered to fit the present use.

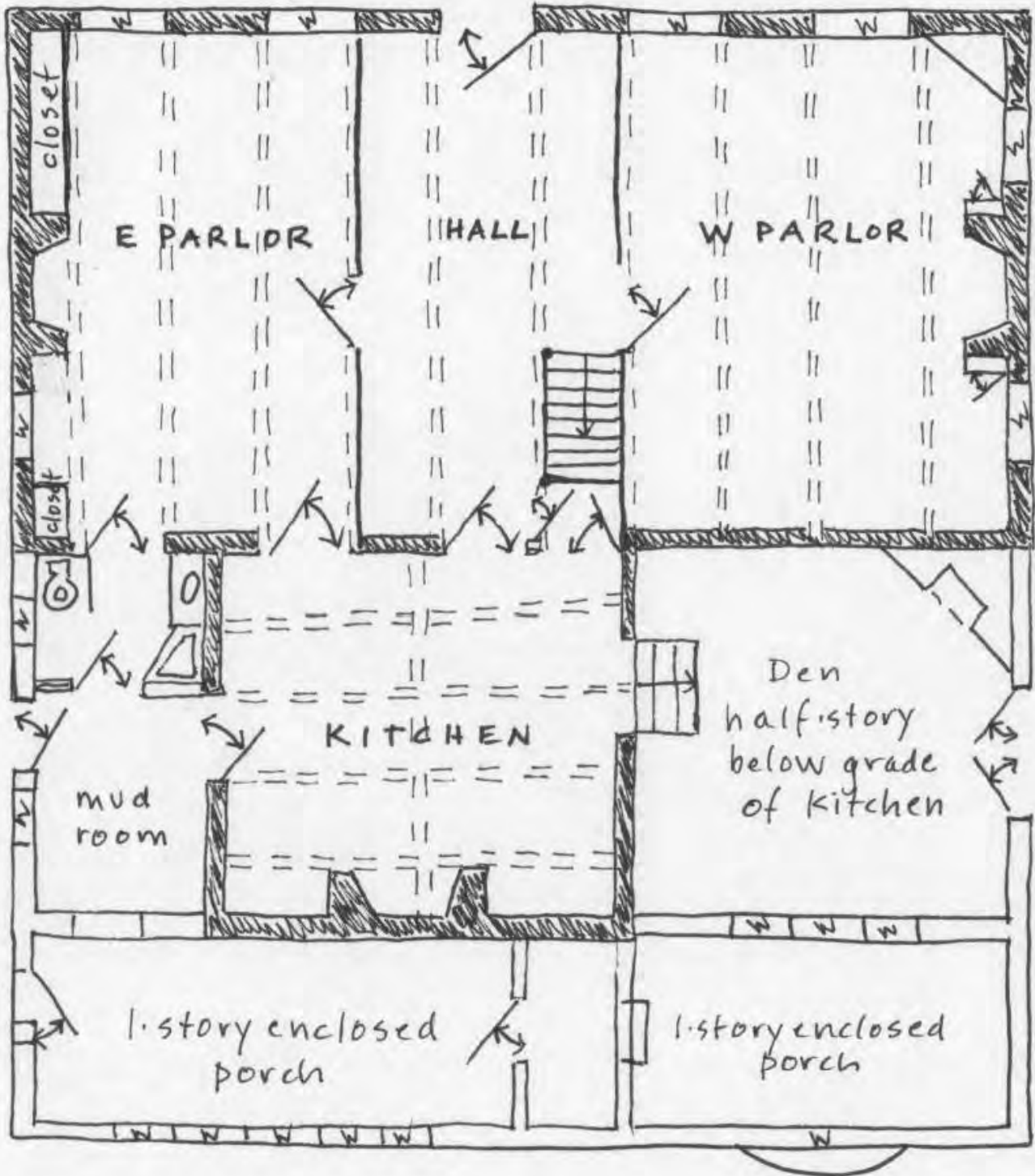
⁷ Other surviving examples, such as the Nellis Tavern in St. Johnsville, tied the H-frames flanking the stair together.

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← 10' → approx. scale

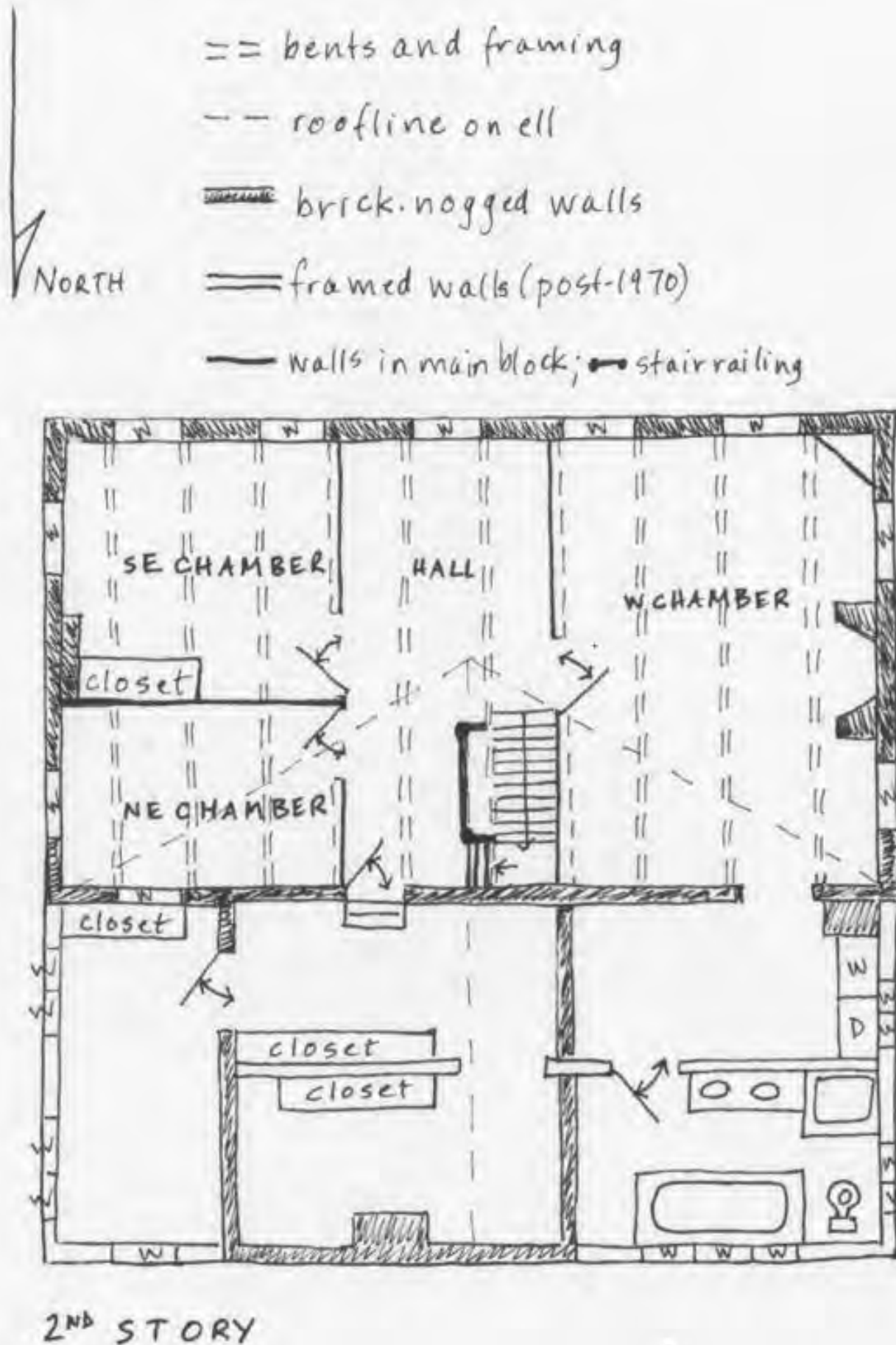


1ST STORY

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East parlor (16 feet 1 inch x 22 feet 10 inches):

This room has been used as a dining room since at least the 1940s. Five beaded ceiling beams run the room's depth, north-south. The room's west wall abuts the east face of the westernmost of these. Two windows in the front wall are set between the deep beaded beams of the ceiling, one adjoining the hall wall and the other between the second and third beams from the east gable wall of the house. These openings feature beaded trim boards with a narrow ogee backband. Two doors, differently trimmed, open opposite to the windows into the ell from the north wall of the room.

The built-in cupboards and an overmantel with fielded panels that span the entire east wall of the room are the room's salient feature. These extend about 33 inches into the room, accommodating the depth of the chimney breast centered on the east wall. It appears that when built, the paneled wall featured matching large cupboards, each with paired doors hung on L-hinges, flanking the overmantel. The large south closet remains, the north one was installed in the southeast chamber on the second floor when that closet was replaced by a deeply recessed window after ca. 1930.⁸ A third narrower cupboard is located at the north end of the wall. The cupboard doors have fielded panels, and the entire composition is capped by a heavy ogeed crown molding reminiscent of a Dutch *kas*. The large hearth with brick firebox and jambs is surmounted by a plain mantel shelf supported by a bold cavetto molding. The tripartite overmantel features one large central fielded panel flanked by two narrow ones. This hearth retains a crane. A new floor of narrow maple boards was laid over the earlier pine floor in the 1940s.

West parlor (16 feet 3 inches x 22 feet 9 inches):

The only entrance to the west parlor is through the six-panel door centered on the west wall of the hall. Five beaded ceiling beams run the depth (north-south) of the room. The east wall of the parlor abuts the east face of the easternmost of these beams. Two windows are located on the front wall—one between the east wall and the next beam west of it and the other between the third and fourth beams moving west. Two more windows flank the fireplace, which is centered on the west wall. The entire room features a coherent Federal-style decorative scheme. The only identified indication that this replaces an earlier scheme is the unbeaded edge of the beam nearest the west wall.⁹

The Federal-style trim scheme includes window surrounds, door casing, and chair rail. The highly decorative mantelpiece flanked by shallow cupboards, a full-height cupboard in the southwest corner of the room, and a clock shelf between the south windows are, however, the most significant details. The windows feature an ogee-profiled back-banding that matches all other window casings in the main block, except those in the first-floor east parlor. The door casing features a more elaborate version of the trim facing the hall on the same doorway. Similarly, this room also has a more elaborate version of the chair rail used in the hall. The wide, even width, pine boards appear to go with this scheme.

The mantelpiece embellishes a hearth opening with brick firebox and jambs that projects 33 inches into the room. Shallow, glazed cupboards are placed above the chair rail on its sides. The Federal-style wood mantel consists of plain panels edged by narrow moldings composed of graduated beads. Fluted pilasters flank the jambs, and the mantelshelf projects above a delicately crafted frieze composed of narrow, shallow relief panels alternating with punchwork panels featuring vertical rows of diamonds, each pierced by a single hole.

⁸ A photograph of the exterior of the house shot ca. 1925 shows that the window was not yet there. Owner collection.

⁹ Walter R. Wheeler, field visit, August 2021. This may show there was a paneled wall with cupboards like the one in the east parlor, or the room may have been prepared for that work, but it was never completed.

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The corner cupboard in the southwest corner is inserted below the ceiling beam. Its elaborate crown molding abuts the lower edge of the beam, and the space above is enclosed by a plastered panel. The cupboard features paired lower doors and paired ten-light, two-by-five configuration, upper doors. The stiles feature fluted pilasters below the chair rail, which match those on the fireplace surround, and open panels bordered by composite moldings above the rail. The heavy shelves in the glazed upper cabinet are curved in two ogees that meet in the center as paired, rounded lobes.

Second-floor hall (22 feet x 10 feet 10 inches):

The second-floor hall dimensions match those of the first-floor hall below. The Federal-style chair rail and beaded baseboards continue up the staircase from the first floor and wrap the second-floor hall. The second-story hall floor is pine boards of slightly varied widths ranging up to fifteen inches. For a time in the twentieth century, the south third of the hall was walled off to make a small room; its footprint remains visible on the floorboards.

On the east side of the hall, matching wood doors with four fielded panels access the two rooms at that end of the house on the second floor. These doors are hung on strap hinges mounted on the interior sides. The four-panel door to the west chamber has flush beaded panels on the interior side and hangs on leaf hinges. All three doors are secured with Norfolk latches (later replacements).

Adjoining the main stair on the north wall, a Dutch door, added in 1920s or 1930s, about a foot shorter than the main block's other doors opens into the ell. It hangs on strap hinges and is stained rather than painted, probably to resemble the reddish-brown paint on the stair railings and newel post.

The enclosed attic stair is in the northwest corner of the hall above the first run of the main stair. It consists of a single run of narrow treads with steep risers that ascends the west wall of the hall. The attic stair door has a single, wide fielded panel measuring 23 inches across that forms the center section of the door. It hangs on HL hinges and is secured with an early patent latch. The wall enclosing the stair is made of wide vertical boards edged with a narrow bead; a simple beaded edge trims the doorway.

Southeast chamber (13 feet x 16 feet 2 inches):

The southeast chamber on the second floor is a sizable, well-lit room with two windows set between alternating beams and aligned vertically with the ones below in the south wall and a third window in the east wall south of the plastered chimney block. There is no hearth in this room, and the chair rail, a more modest version of the one in the hall wraps the chimney. The window casing and interior of the door casing feature a Federal-style molding scheme like other rooms in the main block except the east parlor on the first floor. A large cupboard with paired upper and lower fielded-panel doors adjoins the chimney block and is nearly identical in width and design to the one in the east parlor below. It appears to have been moved to its present location in the 1930s. The floor is laid with boards varying from ten inches to twelve inches in width.

Northeast chamber (9 feet 5 inches x 16 feet 2 inches):

The northeast chamber on the second floor is a narrow room with similar finishes to those of the southeast chamber. It now has a single window in its east wall. A second one in the north wall was covered when the ell was expanded; the opening survives in the back wall of a closet.

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West chamber (16 feet 3 inches x 22 feet 9 inches):

The west chamber on the second floor has a configuration nearly identical to the west parlor. Two windows are set between alternating beams in the south wall and are stacked above those in the parlor below. Two somewhat narrower windows flank a hearth with brick firebox and jambs centered on the west wall. The floors are wide pine boards measuring ten to twelve inches wide.

The Federal-style trim scheme matches that used in the west parlor, but the carefully detailed mantelpiece and cupboard in the southwest corner display, slightly different, designs. The mantelpiece features narrow pilasters composed of beaded panels flanking the jambs and a plain breast panel above the firebox. A mantelshelf projects above a low-relief frieze composed of shallow, convex rectangles alternating with narrow pieces half the depth of the rectangles. Delicate Federal moldings set off most components of the decorative scheme.

The decorative scheme of the corner cupboard is related to the mantelpiece with pilasters composed of plain panels edged by a composite beaded molding. The paired lower doors feature a flat panel set off by a similar molding and are set within a larger panel enclosed by a beaded edge. The heavy interior shelves feature the same double ogee molding as the first-floor corner cupboard. It has a single fifteen-light, 3 x 5 configuration, upper door. The heavy crown molding is composed of several descending sizes of ogees and beads, and the space above the cupboard is boxed in between the ceiling beams.

In 2005, the present owners built a laundry room/closet and a bathroom on the second floor of the expanded ell. These two new rooms are accessed from the north wall of the west chamber through a door between posts of the H-bents that were notched for a window. Part of the exterior wall of the main block is exposed in the laundry room/closet and shows evidence of the old clapboard exterior and notching for a second window opposite the one nearest the hall on the south side of the house. If the window was used in an earlier period, it was nogged in later. One of the diagonal braces placed to stabilize the frame is also visible in this room.

Cellar (main block):

The cellar is accessed *via* an enclosed stair underneath the open staircase in the first-floor hall. A door in the paneled wall of the enclosure and a second door from the kitchen in the ell both open onto a narrow landing. The stairs descend southerly and feature a Georgian balustrade similar but not identical to that of the main stair. West of the stair the beams supporting the first floor are beaded and painted, and the walls retain a skim coat of plaster with evidence of paint or lime wash. These details in the western part of the cellar suggest that it was once a domestic space, possibly a kitchen. The end chimneys are supported by mortared brick piers and roll-front arches. The west chimney foundation features an additional, apparently later, round arch with a soldiered brick leading edge, set on the opposite axis underneath the earlier rolled arch. The piers of this chimney flank an open space below that suggests a hearth, but there is no flue. The eastern chimney base is a single solid pier below its rolled arch.

Five windows pierced the cellar wall. One in the east half of the north wall abutting the later-added ell retains early period wood bars roughly one square inch in cross section. A second opening in the western part of the north wall is bricked in. The three windows in the south wall now have vinyl hopper sash. In the 1950s, a large concrete block cistern was built abutting the north wall of the cellar.

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Smokehouse (one contributing building), ca. 1820

The small, less than eight feet square, brick smokehouse rests on a roughly laid up fieldstone foundation. The brick is laid up in English bond with irregularly placed header courses. A wooden door made of plain vertical boards and hung on two strap hinges is asymmetrically placed in the north wall. Inside, the smokehouse retains iron hooks for hanging meat. The wood frame roof appears to be a later replacement and is clad in wood shingles capped by an iron ridgepole typical of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century factory manufacture. Butted wooden rafters support the roof, and the peaks are clad in horizontal wood boards.

Tool barn, reused as a garage (one non-contributing building), ca. 1905

This one-story, nearly square plan approx. 16 feet x 16 feet, gable-front wood frame building faces Reynolds Road. Its unusually high ridgeline is perpendicular to the highway, and a small brick chimney pierces the north end of the peak. The front and sides are clad in asbestos shingles laid over earlier flushboard wooden siding still exposed on the north gable wall. It is roofed with asphalt shingles. The gable wall facing the highway is spanned by two sliding doors composed of vertically laid wood boards. Fixed two-light sash illuminate the interior, and there is a standard-width door at the west end of the north gable wall. The building was designed with a clear span to allow easy movement of implements inside, and the chimney vented a small forge used for repairing implements. The interior walls are unfinished.

Garage (one non-contributing building), ca. 1960

This one-story, gable-front wood frame car garage clad in wood board-and-batten siding and galvanized iron roof panels stands near Reynolds Road. Vinyl-clad upward sliding garage doors open west onto the drive accessing the house and the stable operation. A recently added stovepipe is applied to the north eave wall.

Stable block and indoor riding ring (one non-contributing building), 2008

The one-story, gable-front stable block and adjoining indoor riding ring is the largest building of the Sablewood stable operation. The ridgeline of the gable-front stable runs north-south over the center aisle that accesses twelve box stalls, seven on the east side of the aisle and five on the west side. Nine of these stalls open onto a small individual pen set under the slope of the main roof, which is supported by exposed posts. The large single-span riding ring is reached from the northwest corner of the stable block. The tack room in the northwest corner of the stable block is reached from both the indoor ring and the stable block.

Small barn (one non-contributing building), 2009-2016

This barn is composed of three adjoining shed-roofed sections, all opening north. It was built in three phases. The western section with a garage bay and a standard-width door in its north wall was built in 2009. The tall center section, with most of its north wall open, is a storage area for bedding. It was added in 2010. The eastern section, a pony barn with four box stalls was built in 2016 and matches the height of the west section. It has paired sliding doors centered on the north wall, and clear vinyl siding spans the area above the doorway to allow light into the building. Paired, sliding six-light vinyl windows flank the doors, and two similar openings pierce the east wall. The entire building is clad in corrugated steel siding and roofed with the same material.

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Hay barn (one non-contributing building), 2009

This long, narrow, one-story barn is clad in wood board-and-batten siding and a metal roof. Its ridgeline runs north-south. Its open east wall faces a drive that continues north between the western edge of the fenced pastures and the stable block.

Pasture shelters (six non-contributing structures), 2008-2014

A small gable-roofed, wooden shelter stands at the foot (west end) of each fenced pasture. They are clad in wood board-and-batten siding and have ribbed metal roofs. The open eastern ends allow horses in the pastures to shelter from the prevailing wind.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1786 - ca. 1830

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, ca. 1786-ca. 1830, encompasses all of the architecturally significant changes made to the residence early in its history.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House, located in the Town of Glen, Montgomery County, is significant under NRHP Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The nominated dwelling, built ca. 1786 and modified subsequently, is significant for its representation of shifting architectural tastes in the immediate post-Revolutionary period, and the adaptations made to traditional building practices to accommodate them. The house is of the two-story, end-gabled, center hall type that became increasingly common in the Mohawk Valley after the Revolution, it being a type strongly associated with New England building traditions. Yet the house is framed in the New World Dutch manner with a series of closely spaced H-bents, a framing system typically employed for story-and-a-half constructs in Dutch and German-settled areas, but in this instance modified to accommodate a full second story. As such, the building portrays the adaptation of existing building traditions and techniques in the face of architectural and cultural change. Many of the interior features date to the occupancy of Peter Voorhees, who appears to have finished or otherwise redecorated the center hall and western rooms in the Federal style early in his ownership, from 1796 to 1815. In 1826 Seth Covenhoven bought the house, and he appears to have added the kitchen ell—a reused structure constructed ca. 1800—and reoriented the house to a new highway opened after 1828. Covenhoven’s son, also Seth, made few changes and established a pattern of preservation sustained through subsequent ownerships that allows for some understanding of how different construction and stylistic traditions intersected in the post-Revolutionary period in rural Montgomery County. The cited period of significance, ca. 1786-ca. 1830, encompasses all of the architecturally significant changes made to the residence early in its history.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Background of the Town of Glen

The town of Glen abuts the south bank of the Mohawk River in eastern Montgomery County. In the 1600s and 1700s, European development cleaved to major watercourses that penetrated the interior, generally expanding upstream over time. In colonial New York, five episodes of warfare limited expansion.¹⁰ During the quiescent period from 1713 to 1743, Britain’s colonial administration issued many letters of patent transferring lands along the Mohawk River from native peoples to British subjects.

By the mid-1730s, British officials and land speculators eyed the surrounding uplands south of the Mohawk. In 1737, a 10,000-acre tract about 600 feet above the valley floor in the present town of Glen was patented to James DeLancey, Paschal Nelson, Jacob S. Glen, William Bowen, Nicholas Bayard, and John Lindesay. The

¹⁰ All of these wars were part of much larger conflicts fought on both sides of the Atlantic. The first of these contests, King William’s War (1688–97), was fought entirely on European soil. American historians call the later conflicts Queen Anne’s War (1702–13), King George’s War (1743–48), the French and Indian War (1754–60), and Revolution, or War of Independence (1775–83). In England, these wars are known as the War of the Grand Alliance or the Nine Years’ War, the War of Spanish Succession, the War of Austrian Succession, and Seven Years War. All were settled by treaties signed on the European continent. These include the Treaty of Ryswick (1697), the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), the Treaty of Aix-la-Chappelle (1748), and the Treaty of Paris (1763). The American War for Independence, considered by some historians as part of the same series of conflicts, was also settled at Paris in 1783.

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tract was called the Delancey Patent and alternately as the Aurieskill Patent for the tributary of the Mohawk that bisects and drains it. The patent was surveyed into two allotments, 4,000 acres east of the creek and 6,000 acres west of the creek, in 1743.¹¹ These allotments were further divided into rectilinear lots of slightly less than 300 acres for distribution by lottery among the patentees in 1743.

After the lotting survey, individual patentees could lease, sell, or exploit their lots independent of the other partners, but potential tenants were reluctant to move to remote, heavily wooded regions without roads. Most of the Delancey Patent lay untenanted until the Treaty of Paris was signed in early 1783, after which heirs of patentees actively sought tenants or buyers. Population in the region rose quickly, and the 1790 census for the Town of Mohawk recorded households headed by people with English, Dutch, and German names. As the population grew the section south of the river was erected as the town of Charleston in 1793. The town of Glen was erected 30 years later from Charleston.

Jeremiah G. Smith Era

Jeremiah G. Smith (b. 1761, Claverack, Columbia County) purchased 282 acres (Lot 12) in the eastern allotment of the Delancey Patent from the heirs of patentee Paschal Nelson (1700–1759). Smith had moved to the Delancey Patent from Claverack with his older brother John (1759-1791). Their younger brother Richard (b.1763) soon joined them. They were among the earliest entrepreneurs on the Delancey Patent, where Jeremiah established a mercantile center trading in timber products. Mature forest of chestnut, ash, oak and white pine cloaked open hillsides while ancient hemlocks filled the ravines of the Aurieskill and adjacent creeks. Soon after Jeremiah bought Lot 12 from the Nelson heirs he transferred a 1.5 acre parcel to Thomas and Joshua Ostram, who appear to have been business associates.¹² Later records show that this land was near the northwest corner of the lot, not far south of where Jeremiah established a store and potash works on Lot 8. Before the spring of 1791, when John Smith died, Jeremiah had transferred the western third of Lot 12 to him and 8.5 acres to Thomas Phillips.¹³ Phillips opened a gristmill on his parcel abutting the southern boundary of Lot 12 formed by the Aurieskill. The dividing line between Jeremiah and John formed part of the road from the Delancey Patent to the Mohawk River where the hamlet of Auriesville, first called Smithville, later formed. The route ran along lot lines north of the hamlet that formed at the crossroads on the Delancey Patent. Where Lots 8 and 15 cornered with Lot 12, it crossed “southerly through a corner of John Smith’s, deceased, land to come to a road now traveled eight rods (528 feet) [to the bridge north] of Jeremiah Smith’s House, thence to continue on the line between Jeremiah Smith and John Smith, deceased, to the corner of Jeremiah Smith cleared land, thence to Marcus Marlett’s old foot path, thence across Auries Kill to McDonald’s Bridge.¹⁴ The bridge north of Jeremiah’s house crossed the small westward flowing tributary of Auries Creek about a 1,000 feet north of the house. In November 1794, a petition was entered to alter the south end of this highway from

¹¹ Montgomery County Deeds, NY, Book 5, Page 90, 20 October 1786, records these details. The two tracts, each divided into lots for division amongst the patentees, are shown on the county map drawn by David H. Burr. The western allotment was sometimes known as Marlatt’s or Mollatt’s Bush as shown on a map copied by J.S.G. Edwards.

¹² Montgomery County Deeds, NY Book 5, Page 96. The Ostrams appear regularly in town records, deeds, and the census.

¹³ Montgomery County Deeds, NY, Book 5, Page 96. Deed directly transferring land to the Ostrams, John Smith, or Phillips appears to have been filed in Montgomery County, but the deed whereby Jeremiah sold two thirds of Lot 12 to his brother Richard on 30 December 1794 states that Jeremiah had earlier sold the remaining third to John. John’s parcel remains intact today. This deed was recorded directly after the one whereby Jeremiah bought Lot 12 from the Nelson heirs. Until he wanted to sell the property, Jeremiah had not filed his title to it.

¹⁴ Town of Glen highway records, transcribed from Town of Mohawk records, pp. 54-55.

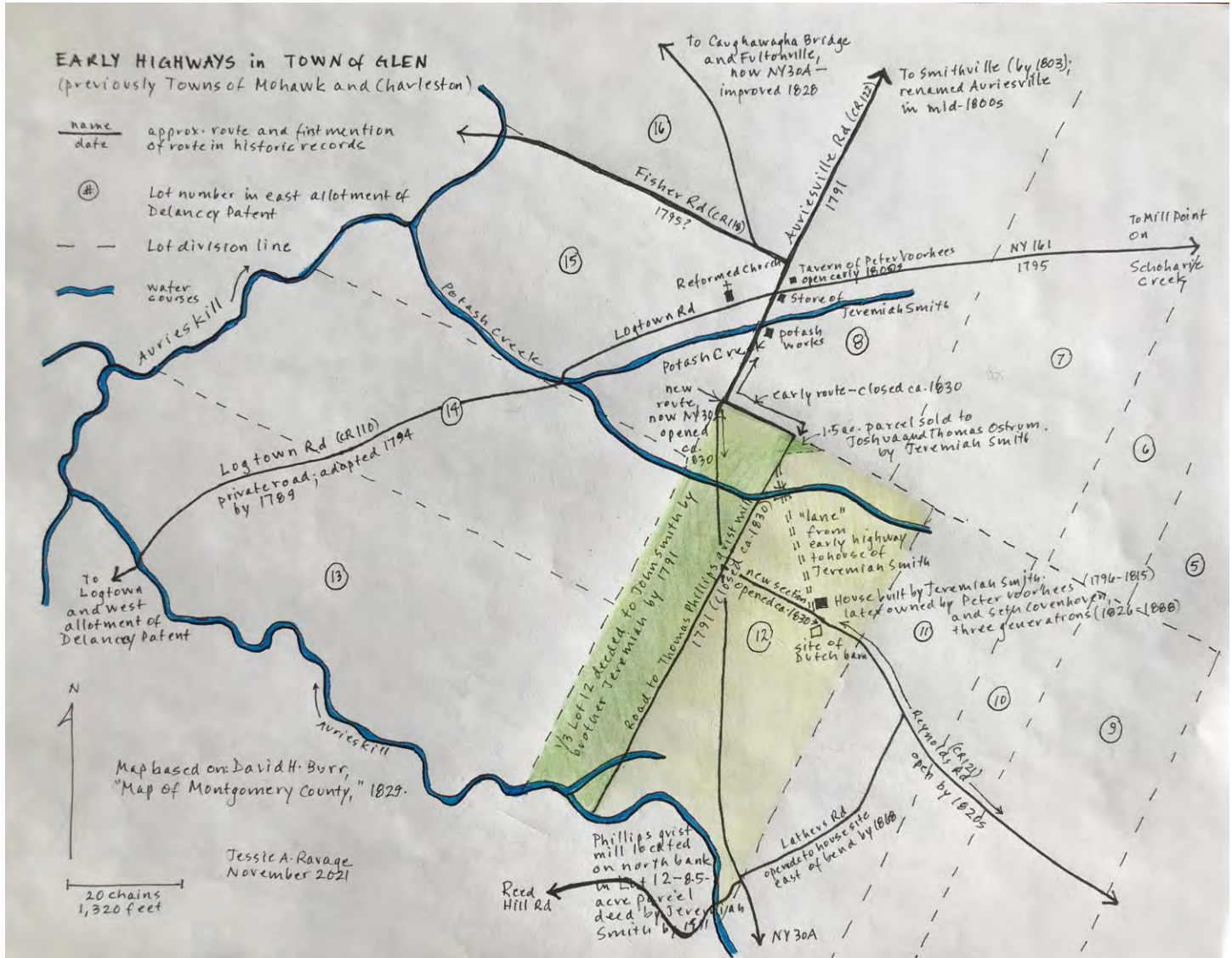
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“Jeremiah Smith’s improvements” to a slightly different crossing of the creek across from Lot 28 in Corrie’s Patent.¹⁵

By this time, Jeremiah Smith’s improvements included his house, cleared land, a store where the Logtown and Auriesville roads crossed, and a potash works south of the crossroads on a different tributary of Auries Creek still called Potash Creek.¹⁶



Map drawn by Jessie Ravage based on David H. Burr “Map of Montgomery County, 1829.” 2021.

¹⁵ Town highway records, transcribed from Town of Charleston, p. 61.

¹⁶ The store and potash works are outside the boundary of the nominated property.

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Smith built the two-story main block of his house at the highest point on Lot 12 within a few years of buying the lot. He probably also constructed the Dutch barn that stood about 200 yards downhill and south of the house until 1994 when it was dismantled and moved.¹⁷ The house commands a sweeping view taking in its own lands to the north, west, and southwest and the plateaus capping the north and south escarpments of the Mohawk Valley. The High Peaks of the Adirondacks more than 50 miles away encircle the northern rim of the view. The hills of Otsego County rise steadily westward. The plateau slopes away west and south, dipping into the upper drainage of Auries Creek, before ascending again towards the northern edge of the Catskills. From his very windows, Jeremiah Smith could assess the goings-on of his surroundings, while the prominent site and scale of his dwelling expressed his ambition and wherewithal to his neighbors.

The unusually large size of the house suggests that Jeremiah's business activities centered there until he sold his property on Lot 12 in 1794.¹⁸ Jeremiah may never have finished some of its rooms for domestic use: perhaps much of the building was a warehouse while the young family lived in only a few rooms. This suggests a similarity of use with the Isaac Paris house, a Mohawk Valley mercantile dwelling in the Village of Fort Plain and could account for only the east end of the building featuring Georgian finishes characteristic of the construction period.¹⁹ The house and barn formed the center of Smith's farm and mercantile operation for about a decade while he established himself as a leading citizen of the growing community on the upland south of the Mohawk River. Historic records show that Jeremiah lived in a different house near his store at the crossroads on Lot 8 of the Delancey Patent by early 1797.²⁰

The house rests on a high, well-built mortared stone foundation banked to the west. The consistency of the frame and foundation displays a house built in a single phase by skilled workers. Its symmetrical five-bay eave walls and side-gabled roof allude to its interior Georgian-style center hall plan. Study of its framing technology reveals that the house combines a generally English layout and mainly Dutch construction technologies. These technologies remained in use into the nineteenth centuries in the Schoharie and Mohawk valleys and in Claverack, Columbia County, where Jeremiah was born and raised. The lumber used to construct the frame tells of a plentiful mature hardwood forest. We know little about specific local builders at the time, but in the pre-Revolutionary era, Dutch-influenced building was probably the norm in the adjacent area. More broadly,

¹⁷ The barn was dismantled in 1994 by Richard Babcock. *Dutch Barn Preservation Society Newsletter*, Fall 1994 (7:2).

¹⁸ Montgomery County Deeds, NY, Book 5, Page 96, 20 October 1786

¹⁹ Isaac Paris (1761–1790) was the son of a merchant in the town of Palatine on the north side of the Mohawk who built a large wood frame house in the town of Minden at about the same time as Jeremiah Smith built his house. Structurally, the buildings differ greatly, but this does not obviate the possible similarities of dual use as both a domestic and a commercial space designed to house a growing mercantile establishment. Paris died a young man, and so we don't know what kind of trajectory he envisioned for himself. Also called the DAR Chapter House. It is located south of Mohawk Street in the Village of Fort Plain. The Fort Plain DAR Chapter retained Walter R. Wheeler to prepare a historic structure report in 2015. The Fort Plain DAR Chapter sells an abridged version.

²⁰ This date is noted on a survey prepared by J.S.G. Edwards (1847–1917) in 1878 and in possession of Ronald and Wanda Burch who live in the house built later on the site where the store was located. "First store in Glen Village)/ b. Main part of torn down by J.S. G. Edwards in 1878, one story & no cellar, walls filled in with round sticks & mud, then lath and plaster over, formerly used as a store by Jeremiah Smith & supposed to have been built by him in about 1797, then used as a store by Jacob S. Glen & Nicholas Van Rensselaer as successors to Smith, March 25 1801 to Oct. 19 1802 & then by Nicholas Van Rensselaer as successor to Glen & Van Rensselaer." Some of this information is reiterated in notes compiled on Plate 10, "Historical," of Edwards' volume of transcribed historic maps located in Fonda, New York, in the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives. Subsequent maps in this volume use this reference: J.S.G. Edwards, *Transcribed Historic Maps*, Plate # (Fonda, N.Y.: Montgomery County Department of History & Archives).

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German and Dutch descendants mingled in the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys where their blended building technologies were further mixed with English systems after Independence.

Dutch framing used fewer complicated joints than English framing, which may have contributed to its persistence in regions where the Dutch tradition was already established. Sometimes builders designed a façade suggesting a center hall plan, but the interior retained an asymmetrical plan characteristic of earlier Dutch houses. Builders working for clients who wished to incorporate the Georgian and Federal center hall plans integral to an elegant American house after Independence developed solutions in a framing system conceived to accommodate asymmetrical interior plans. A full two-story house required further adaptation of Dutch framing techniques because the posts tended to splay at the top if their height exceeded a half-story above the horizontal beams of the H-bents.²¹ Jeremiah Smith's builder relied on heavy sills and plates more characteristic of the English tradition in combination with corner braces that are pegged into the plates at the corners of the rooms, at the second-floor joists, and at the sills to stabilize the massive Dutch H-bents of the frame. The frame of Smith's house is further stabilized by brick nogging in all exterior walls except for the south end of the center hall on both stories where the nogging was removed by a later owner.

In earlier German-tradition houses, the walls were often filled with wattle and daub that was overlain with plaster.²² As with wattle-and-daub nogging often found in Dutch and German buildings, the plaster in this house was troweled directly onto the brick nogging and frame on the exterior walls. Split, or accordion, lath is the substrate for plaster on the interior walls of the main block and the south exterior wall of the center hall. The house displays the exposed joists characteristic of the earlier established Dutch and German building traditions in the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys, where their use persisted into the nineteenth century even though by the mid-1780s, in more urbane, more coastal settings, a large and costly house would likely have had plastered ceilings.²³ Smith's builder worked in the local pattern: the horizontal members of the frame are cleanly finished, and the corners are beaded. The floorboards are laid upon them, serving both as floor of the story above and as ceiling of the story below.

The main block plan features a Georgian center hall flanked by one large room at either end of the first floor. On the second floor, there are two smaller and differently sized rooms above the east parlor (now a dining room) with four-paneled doors typical of vernacular Georgian design. The coherent Federal-era (early 1800s) remodeling of the hall and west rooms leaves little apparent evidence of how those rooms were used in the 1780s and 1790s except that the westernmost ceiling beam of the west parlor has no bead. This might indicate that this room had a paneled wall like the one in the east parlor during the Smith occupancy, or that such a finish was planned but never built. The west chamber upstairs offers no visible clues of its earliest appearance or use. The ceiling beams in the western half of the full-height cellar feature beaded corners and evidence of paint as well as painted plaster on the walls that may indicate an early domestic space, possibly a kitchen.

²¹ Clifford W. Zink, *Dutch Framed Houses in New York and New Jersey, Winterthur Portfolio* 22:4 (Winter 1987): 275.

²² Examples survive in the Nellis tavern in St. Johnsville, Montgomery County, and in at least two buildings in the Village of Schoharie, both reused as barns. This material was also described by J.S.G. Edwards in the store built by Jeremiah Smith that Edwards demolished in 187# to build his mansard-roofed house on NY 30A in the hamlet of Glen.

²³ Clifford W. Zink, *Dutch Framed Houses in New York and New Jersey, Winterthur Portfolio* 22:4 (Winter 1987): 172.

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When built, the fenestration in the north eave wall may have matched that of the south wall with five openings spanning each story. Notches in the H-frames on the north wall correspond with each of the openings in the south wall, although most of them are now nogged with brick or reused for doors.²⁴ The windows in the gable walls of the west parlor and in all upstairs rooms may date to the Federal remodeling.²⁵ The one let into the east parlor on the first floor was added after 1925.²⁶

The heavy Dutch door at the north end of the center hall is appropriate for a principal entrance in the construction period and features the dual decorative scheme found on late eighteenth-century houses in Dutch and German-settled regions where Georgian paneling befitting the main exterior door of a stylish house faces out and a more Germanic finish faces in. This door appears to be in its original location, predating the addition of the kitchen ell and facing north to the crossroads through which Jeremiah Smith's business passed. By 1790, a "lane" ran southeast from his potash works to the property line that split Lot 12 lengthwise between him and his brother John, crossed a bridge over the unnamed creek north of the house to gates in the fence enclosing the lane, and passed by the west side of the house.²⁷ The lane met a road running southeast through Lots 11, 10, and 9 that became Reynolds Road. Thus, the north-facing principal entrance overlooked the growing hamlet where Jeremiah Smith's mercantile opportunities were based, and the south wall surveyed the utilitarian outbuildings including the barn, smokehouse, and possibly other structures. The trim on the exterior door in the south eave wall of the house does not match any other trim in the house and appears to postdate the construction period by at least two decades.

Peter Voorhees Era

Peter Voorhees bought the Lot 12 property from Jeremiah's younger brother, Richard, for £1,714 in May 1796; Richard had paid £1,700 eighteen months before to Jeremiah.²⁸ Peter Voorhees may have had overlapping interests with Jeremiah Smith in the emerging economy located in the Delancey Patent while developing his own sphere of influence. Voorhees served in the 22nd session of the state Assembly in 1798–99. In the same period, he joined the St. Patrick's Lodge founded by Sir William Johnson in 1766 in Johnstown, where he was raised to the rank of Master Mason in March 1798.²⁹ Charleston town highway records indicate that Peter Voorhees made the Lot 12 property his primary residence soon after his purchase as his farm and the lane leading from Jeremiah Smith's store at the crossroads to the house were reference points for highway improvements in June 1796.³⁰ Voorhees was acquiring Jeremiah Smith's role as a leading citizen in the crossroads hamlet as the latter began planning to shift his base of operations north.

²⁴ Walter R. Wheeler states that sometimes a builder notched openings that weren't used. This may be the case here as the framing of three of the five upstairs openings on the north wall are nogged with brick similar to that in the adjoining walls.

²⁵ Walter R. Wheeler states that frequently, there are no windows in the gable walls in the eighteenth-century houses.

²⁶ The current owner has a photograph of about that date showing no window there yet.

²⁷ Town highway records, transcribed from Town of Charleston.

²⁸ Montgomery County Deed, NY Book 7 Page 62, Richard Smith to Peter Voorhees. Book 5 Page 96, Jeremiah Smith to Richard Smith, 30 December 1794.

²⁹ Florence Christoph, *Voorhees Family genealogy*, 6.

³⁰ *Town Meetings & Road Records of Town of Glen, Montgomery County, State, New York, from 1823–1875*. Transcribed by Cleo Stuhman. N.d. (ca. 1935): 66. *n.b.* This typescript incorporates much earlier records from precursor towns of Mohawk and Charleston. (Fonda, N.Y.: Department of History & Archives)

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It appears that Voorhees commissioned the Federal-style interior decorative scheme in the halls and western rooms of the main block, the addition of new trim in the east rooms, and possibly also some Federal-style exterior details. Evidence of earlier beaded siding with a deeper reveal suggest that might have been the earliest exterior finish, which was covered by the plain, narrower siding now on the house. Voorhees may also have added the backbanding on exteriors of the window casings, chimney backs, and the partial returns on the gable walls. Inside, the west rooms were appointed with stylish mantelpieces, corner cupboards, and windows in the gable walls. The previously finished east rooms were updated with chair rails, baseboards, and door and window casings. The first-floor stair remains a puzzle with its reused Georgian railings, newel posts, and balusters combined with deep treads nosed with Federal moldings.

Peter Voorhees and his second wife Sally sold the Lot 12 property to Peter's son, Samuel, in 1815 for \$5,000.³¹ Peter moved west to a canal-side lot in the Town of Lysander, Onondaga County. Samuel, a physician, owned the Lot 12 property for about a decade before selling to Philo and Richard McDonald in 1824 in a three-way transaction that allowed Samuel to establish his practice in Amsterdam.³² Two years after that, in 1826, Seth Covenhoven, a highly competent farmer, bought the Lot 12 property from William R. McDonald and wife Abigail of Glen, apparently relations of Philo and Richard.³³

Seth Covenhoven Era

Seth Covenhoven came to the Mohawk Valley as a young man in 1802.³⁴ Records indicate that while the Smiths and the Voorheeses were outwardly ambitious and sought to establish themselves in the larger commercial network of the time, Seth Covenhoven focused mainly on developing his own farm. Highway records show, however, that he recognized the importance of an efficient transportation system to move produce. The year he bought the Lot 12 property, the Erie Canal completed its first season as a fully opened waterway. It changed the fortunes of farmers up and down its route by greatly reducing the cost of freight. This engendered a flurry of local highway building to connecting interior settlements with the water route. In 1828 Seth Covenhoven was recorded petitioning for a new road, now the western section of Reynolds Road, to connect his house to the proposed north-south route, now NY 30A.³⁵ These new alignments offered him a more direct and level route to market than the old lane running north from the house, but the new road passed through the rear yard of his house. It appears that Covenhoven reversed the orientation of the house by remodeling an earlier opening in the center bay of the south wall as the principal entrance facing the new highway. Little evidence survives to indicate how the earlier opening looked. Even the brick nogging was removed to allow the doorway to be slightly recessed.

Reversing the orientation of the house opened the north wall for the addition of the kitchen ell and woodshed. The ell differs from the main block in several significant ways. The lumber in the ell floor

³¹ Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 15 Page 337 records the sale to Samuel Voorhees of the Lot 12 property.

³² Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 18 Page 474. This is the first of three deeds filed consecutively whereby Samuel sold the property in Lot 12 to Richard and Philo McDonald.

³³ Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 21 Page 329.

³⁴ NYS Census for 1855, E.D. 3, Town of Glen, HH 82/89 and 82/90. Different sources offer conflicting accounts of Seth's parentage.

³⁵ Town highway records, pp. 16-17. The new north-south highway was proposed in April 1825. In July 1828, fourteen freeholders including Seth Covenhoven, Thomas Ostrum, and Jacob S. Glen petitioned for a new road running west from Covenhoven's house on Lot 12 to the "new road." They also requested that "all such old part of the road as lies East of aforesaid new road applied for" be disannulled. pp. 31-32.

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system was harvested ca. 1800. Its roughly laid foundation is unlike the carefully constructed one supporting the main block, and the shallow crawlspace under the ell is crudely prepared. The floor system is framed with a summer beam rather than with Dutch H-bents. These details suggest that the ell was a small domestic structure, possibly a tenant house, moved to the present location for reuse as a kitchen ell with a large cooking hearth.

Three generations of the Covenhoven/Conover³⁶ family owned and worked the farm on the Lot 12 property, and for most of that time, households comprising two or three generations and also laborers and servants lived in the house. The farm was among the largest and most highly valued in the town's third election district.³⁷ It numbered 148 acres of improved land and 58 acres of unimproved land and was valued at \$7,000. It was managed in the traditional manner of diversified agriculture. Rather than rely on a single cash crop, individual farmers hedged their bets against the vagaries of weather and markets by raising several commodity crops, hay, livestock, and value-added products, mainly butter. The Covenhovens cut more hay (45 tons) and raised more oats (1,000 bushels) than most of their neighbors but kept comparatively few acres under the plow. Their livestock, however, was the most highly valued in the district (\$1,764) and included 11 horses, a number indicating they bred horses to sell.

In July 1883, a reporter from the *Canajoharie Courier* described the farm run by Seth Conover, Jr. (b. 1818) after a day spent jaunting about the towns of Root and Glen with Daniel Spraker.

The best place we found was at the home of Seth Conover, Jr., on the uplands from Glen. Here the dinner horn was blowing, and the sound was so inviting that we stopped. Mrs. Conover, (who was formerly Miss Lynch of Fultonville) is perhaps one of the best cuisine conductors in the land, and on this occasion won the compliments of our party. Mr. Conover is a thorough farmer and has one of the best laid farms in Glen, being high, sightly, and tornado-proof, the house having weathered the storms for a century. The building is yet well preserved, not a decayed beam or sill to be seen. In some rooms, the wallpaper of one hundred years ago is still on the walls and looks fairly. The members of the household are lovers of antiquity, and hence preserve as much of the ancient as possible. The Conover family has occupied the place about 60 years, Seth Conover, Sr., being still living and enjoying good health. It was formerly the property of the extensive Voorhees family. Henry Grantier, of Argusville, is the 'right bower' at this place, and the appearance of the fields and stock speak volumes for the excellence of his service.³⁸

The third Seth (1844–1923) to live in the house may have been less preservation-minded than his parents and grandparents. In April 1885, it was reported he planned renovations on his buildings that summer.³⁹ He mortgaged the property and by March 1888, it appears he was in financial trouble as it was announced he planned to live in Amsterdam.⁴⁰ Daniel Spraker (1798–1896), who took the reporter touring five years

³⁶ The second Seth Covenhoven shortened the family name to Conover.

³⁷ Agricultural schedule, 1855, page 5, line 8. ([https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BP2-SB5?i=12&cc=1937366;retrieved DATE](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9BP2-SB5?i=12&cc=1937366;retrieved%20DATE))

³⁸ "A Day in the Country, Siftings gathered by our report last week, while on a trip through Root and Glen," *Canajoharie Courier*, 17 July 1883. "Right bower" is now an archaic usage meaning "a close friend, a partner, an accomplice." (https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/right_bower).

³⁹ *Canajoharie Big Courier*, [April] 1885.

⁴⁰ "Local Matters," *Canjo Raddi*, 8 March 1888.

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earlier, foreclosed on Conover's mortgage.⁴¹ The sheriff struck off the 175-acre property to Spraker on the courthouse steps in Fonda for \$9,790.⁴²

After the Period of Significance

We don't know how Spraker used the property, but deed indices for Montgomery County show that he did not frequently buy properties in this way. He had the farm surveyed in 1891.⁴³ This might have been in advance of planning to sell the property, but perhaps he thought it would make a pleasant summer retreat where food could also be raised for the family table in Fonda, where he lived.⁴⁴ Spraker was 90 years old and reportedly deaf and blind when he bought the property, and there is little evidence of changes he might have made.⁴⁵ One photograph shows an open entrance porch with squared posts over the principal entrance in the south eave wall facing Reynolds Road that might date to his ownership but could equally have been added by the third Seth Conover before he lost the property.⁴⁶ This porch protected an Italianate door with paired glazed upper panels still there when the present owners bought the house.

Spraker died of pneumonia at age 98 on 1 September 1896.⁴⁷ Two of his heirs—daughter Louise S. Wilson and grandson J. Ledlie Hees and wife Adla—sold the property in Lot 12 in Glen to Asa B. Holmes for \$100 on 27 March 1899.⁴⁸ Holmes and his wife Etta sold the property to Orlando M. and Almira Mead in 1902.⁴⁹ O. Mead was shown as the owner of the property in the 1905 *New Century Atlas of Fulton and Montgomery Counties*. The Meads probably built the tool barn southeast of the house, but they appear to have made few other changes before they sold the property to Herbert H. and Lena M. Lathers in 1922.⁵⁰ Their only child Margaret "Peg" was born three years later in 1925.

The Lathers purchase inaugurated a second long tenure by the same family. Like the Conovers, they made few changes to the main block of the house. They inserted a small bathroom in the southeast corner of the west chamber and built a lavatory off the east gable wall entered from the cupboard doors in the east parlor. Both were removed by the present owners. The main block remains minimally wired for electricity. The house was clad in aluminum in the latter half of the twentieth century, but that finish has since been taken off. It appears that when the aluminum was added, the backbanding on the window casings was removed. There may have been additional changes to the principal entrance in the south eave wall, and at some point, the Victorian-era entrance porch was removed. A fire in the woodshed in 1943 led to its demolition. In the east parlor, narrow width maple flooring was laid over the older one when that room was remodeled as a

⁴¹ Book of Mortgages, Book 86 Page 525.

⁴² Book of Mortgages, Book 103 Page 581.

⁴³ J.S.G. Edwards, "Map of Farm owned by Daniel Spraker, located in the town of Glen and known as the 'Conover Farm.'"

⁴⁴ Many examples of such purchases by well-to-do people illustrate this pattern.

⁴⁵ Clipping reprinted at Daniel Spraker's grave memorial at FindAGrave.com appears to be ca. 1888, based on context.

(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31547795/daniel-spraker>.)

⁴⁶ Photograph in possession of present owner of the house.

⁴⁷ Daniel Spraker, Prospect Hill Cemetery. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31547795/daniel-spraker>)

⁴⁸ Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 140 Page 13.

⁴⁹ Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 144 Page 595.

⁵⁰ Montgomery County Deed, NY, Book 196 Page 223.

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dining room. The large cupboard on the north side of the hearth was moved to the southeast chamber upstairs, and a window opened in space left behind in the east wall. The Lathers built the later garage. Following a fire ca. 1974 in the ell, it was renovated and enlarged; the heavy wooden frame and nogging of earlier ell was kept largely intact within the taller, wider structure. Margaret Lathers Sowle inherited the house and ran an antiques shop on the first floor of the main block for about 20 years, from ca. 1966 to 1986.⁵¹ Margaret died in 2001, shortly after the current owners bought the house from her son Michael.

The present owners purchased the house and 23 acres on the north side of Reynolds Road. Parcels were divided off at various times from the older 175-acre property that the Lathers bought in 1922. The current owners remodeled the kitchen and rebuilt the cooking hearth using brick salvaged from the house. New bathrooms and a laundry were built in the newer portions of the ell. They also constructed a boarding and riding stable in the ca. 2000s with an indoor riding ring and fenced pastures in the northeastern quadrant of the property.

⁵¹ Oral history provided by Amy Sowle to Barbara Ann Ferraro. Ferraro provided information via e-mail, 21 October 2021.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Maps

Burr, David H. *Map of the County of Montgomery and Fulton, published by the Survey General pursuant to an Act of the Legislature*. Albany, New York: Rawdon, Clark, and Co., 1829.

Century Map Company. *New Century Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton counties, New York, by the publisher's corps of surveyors and draughtsmen*. Philadelphia: Century Map Co., 1905.

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Primary sources

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1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920.

Secondary sources

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Young, Alfred F. *The Democratic Republicans of New York. The Origins, 1764-97*. Chapel Hill: University of
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1987).

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 23.08 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>553741</u> Easting	<u>4748529</u> Northing	3	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>553812</u> Easting	<u>4748087</u> Northing
2	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>553979</u> Easting	<u>4748414</u> Northing	4	<u>18N</u> Zone	<u>553582</u> Easting	<u>4748209</u> Northing

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

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

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the current tax parcel. The current tax parcel is the remaining 23.08 acres of the historic 282 acre lot parcel.

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

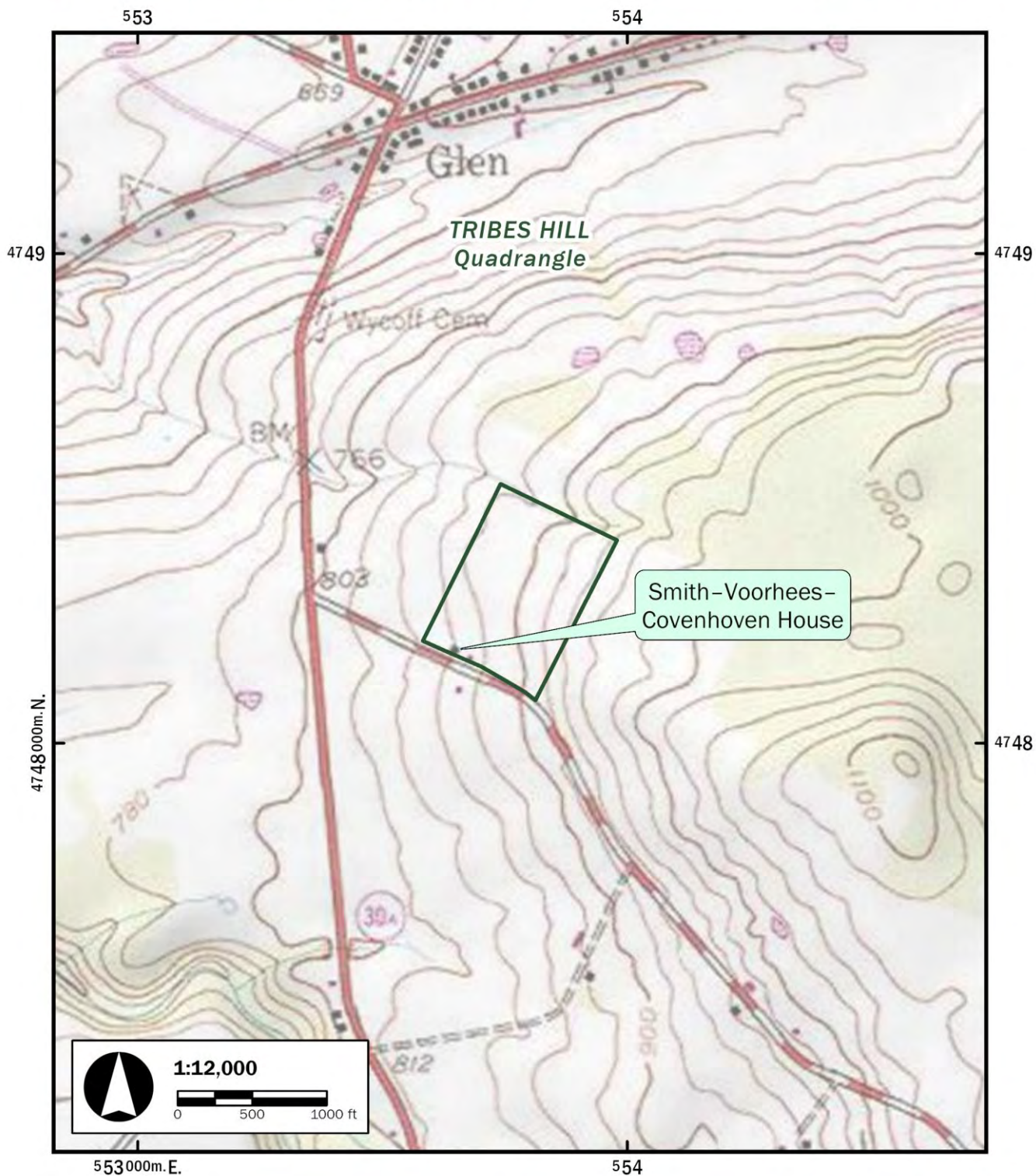
Name of Property

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Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House
Town of Glen, Montgomery County, New York

141 Reynolds Road
Glen, NY 12072



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter

 Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

Name of Property

Montgomery County, NY
County and State

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House
Town of Glen, Montgomery County, New York

141 Reynolds Road
Glen, NY 12072



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter
Parcel Year: 2021
Orthoimagery Year: 2017

Nomination Boundary



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jessie Ravage edited by Erin Czernecki, SHPO
organization _____ date October 2021
street & number 34 Delaware St telephone _____
city or town Cooperstown state NY zip code 13326
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House

City or Vicinity: Glen

County: Montgomery County State: NY

Photographer: Jessie Ravage and Cynthia Falk

Date Photographed: February 2019 and Summer 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0001

Exterior, view from east of south elevation and east wall of main block with ell behind and garage extending eastwards

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0002

Exterior, view of west elevation wall of main block and ell on north wall

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NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0003

Interior, first floor hall, view south showing arched casing touching ceiling beams and wooden ceiling of south entrance to house

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0004

Interior, first floor hall, view northwest to stair in northwest corner, entrance to west parlor and Dutch door at north end of hall with planked side with hardware

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0005

Interior, view south from kitchen into first floor hall with cellar doors and stairs to second floor above the doorway

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0006

Interior, kitchen in ell, view north showing rebuilt cooking hearth chimney in location of earlier one and kitchen remodeled around it by present owner in early 2000s

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0007

Interior, east parlor, view northeast showing paneled wall with cupboards surrounding fireplace, planked ceiling and two doorways in north wall

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0008

Interior, west parlor, view southwest showing mantelpiece on west wall and cupboard in southwest corner of room

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0009

Interior, second floor hall, view northeast showing paired doors to northeast and southeast chambers and twentieth century Dutch door into ell at top of the stairs

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0010

Interior, second floor hall, view northwest showing door to west parlor and enclosed attic stair

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0011

Interior, southeast chamber, view east showing window in gable wall, plastered-over chimney block, and edge of cupboard moved from east parlor in the 1930s or 1940s

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NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0012

Interior, northeast chamber, view southwest showing interior of door

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0013

Interior, west chamber, view southwest showing mantel on west chimney block and cupboard in southwest corner

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0014

Smokehouse

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0015

Tool barn, right and garage, left

NY_Montgomery County_Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House_0016

Stable and attached riding ring, view northwest

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.

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/22/2021 Date of Pending List: 1/6/2022 Date of 16th Day: 1/21/2022 Date of 45th Day: 2/7/2022 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 2/3/2022 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer *Alexis Abernathy* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date 2/3/2022

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

From: [Steve Helmin](#)
To: [Czernecki, Erin \(PARKS\)](#)
Subject: Glen Historian Supports Smith-Vorhees-Covenhoven House
Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 3:34:45 PM

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Dear Ms. Czernecki:

As Historian for the Town of Glen, I'd like to express my support for the listing of the Smith-Vorhees-Covenhoven House on the National Register of Historic Places. I have reviewed the application posted on the OPRHP website and am familiar with the property. It is a wonderful example of Early Republic / Georgian and Federal styles. As noted in the application, the Smith-Vorhees-Covenhoven House is near adjacent to the Glen Historic District. I heartily support this nomination.

Sincerely,
Stephen Helmin
Historian, Town of Glen
518-339-2400 (c)



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

December 22, 2021

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: National Register Nomination E-submission Transmittal Letter
Smith-Voorhees-Covenhoven House, Montgomery County, NY

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

This letter is to request that the above property be considered for listing by the Keeper of the Register. We received an email letter of support for the nomination from Town of Glen Historian, Stephen Helmin.

Please feel free to call me at 518-268-2168 or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Howe
Survey and National Register Coordinator
kathy.howe@parks.ny.gov