

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received APR 9 1986

date entered 5-23-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Canastota Village & Multiple (1-066)

historic

and/or common Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area

2. Location

street & number Various; see attached Inventory Forms

___ not for publication

city, town Lenox

___ vicinity of

state New York

code 036

county Madison

code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<u>X</u> occupied	___ agriculture <u>X</u> museum
___ building(s)	___ private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial ___ park
___ structure	<u>X</u> both	<u>X</u> work in progress	<u>X</u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>X</u> entertainment <u>X</u> religious
___ object	<u>na</u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
<u>X</u> MRA	<u>na</u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
		___ no	___ military <u>X</u> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name See attached Inventory Forms

street & number

city, town

___ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Courthouse

street & number Court Street

city, town Wampsville

state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic
title Resources

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date July 1983

___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation, ESP, Bldg. #1

city, town Albany

state New York 12238

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area includes all the area in the incorporated village of Canastota, Madison County, New York. It is one of two villages in the town of Lenox, a predominantly rural, agrarian town centrally located in the north section of the county. Lenox is bounded on the north by Oneida Lake, and on the east, south, and west by the towns of Oneida, Lincoln (formerly a part of Lenox) and Sullivan, respectively. The other village in the town is Wampsville, located in the southeast corner of Lenox. Wampsville is the county seat of Madison County.

Canastota covers 2.8 square miles of low, relatively flat terrain and has a population of ca. 5,000. The village, located in the south-central section of Lenox, is a roughly rectangular-shaped area bounded on the south by the heavily travelled Route 5 (formerly the Seneca Turnpike, an important Colonial period thoroughfare) and on the east, north and west by the relatively sparsely settled, rural landscape of the town of Lenox. Major east-west thoroughfares servicing the village include the New York State Thruway (Route 90; interchange 34 lies in the northeast corner of the village), Canal Street (bordering the Old Erie Canal bed, sections of which still survive within the corporate limits of the village) and the Penn Central Railroad line (originally the Syracuse & Utica line). Primary north-south thoroughfares are Main Street and Peterboro Street, two of Canastota's earliest streets laid out when the village was first settled in the 1810s. With the exception of the New York State Thruway, current thoroughfares follow important Colonial period and/or nineteenth-century transportation routes which determined much of the community's historic development. Natural waterways include the Cowaselon Creek, flowing east-west through the north end of the village, the Canastota Creek, flowing south-north through the heart of the village (between Main and Peterboro Streets) to unite with the Cowaselon Creek in the northwest corner of the village, and the Owlville Creek, meandering northeasterly then north-westerly through the northwest corner of the village, also to be received by the Cowaselon Creek.

The historic resources of the community were identified by a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

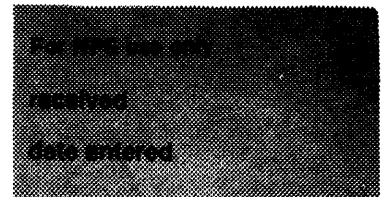
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number 7

Page 2



comprehensive architectural and historical survey of the entire village conducted in 1983. The survey was sponsored by the Canastota Canal Town Corporation with assistance from the Rural Preservation Companies of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Housing and Urban Community Development funding, and an Historic Preservation Fund grant from the New York State Historic Preservation Office. Historical documentation, based on local and regional history collections, archives of the town library and the Canal Town Museum, newspapers, city directories, maps, photographs, county records and the Cornell University archives, was prepared by Naomi Klein, Historic Preservation Consultant, under the guidance of the New York State Historic Preservation Office staff. The windshield survey revealed two concentrations of historic buildings and approximately twenty scattered individual properties which warranted further investigation. The properties were recorded on New York State Building/Structure Inventory Forms and were subsequently evaluated by staff and the State Review Board against the criteria for eligibility for the National Register. The evaluation yielded a commercial district of 25 buildings in the historic and current central business district of Canastota along South Peterboro Street near the old Erie Canal (South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District; 20 contributing components), a residential district of 30 dwellings and two churches in one of the village's most architecturally distinguished residential enclaves (South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District; 44 contributing components; south of the central business district) and fourteen individual properties scattered throughout the village, including nine residences, a former commercial building, two churches, a school and a library. A total of 86 contributing features are included in the multiple resource area nomination. Eighty-five are buildings and one is a structure (smokehouse, Individual Component #12). According to the information currently available, they are the only properties in the village that possess sufficient architectural and/or historic integrity to be included as components of the multiple resource area nomination. There are no properties in the village currently listed on the National Register.

The built environment of the village in general is comprised of one and one-half to three-story buildings. Residential properties predominate, with scattered examples of religious, civic and industrial architecture. The village also includes a concentration of commercial buildings in the heart of the central business district, the geographic and historic core of the community. Density is highest in the central business district, with

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page

3

three-story, attached rows predominating. Density decreases towards the fringes of the village, with the sparsely settled, rural-like northern third of the village having the lowest density within the corporate limits of the village. The use of wood as a building material predominates throughout the village, with the majority of residences executed in wood and sheathed with clapboard. Many residences were sided with modern sheathing in the mid- to late-twentieth century. The use of brick and stone as building materials is generally limited to the commercial, civic, industrial and religious buildings; although, scattered examples of masonry residential architecture survive as well. Although there are several examples of large, architecturally sophisticated residences executed in a variety of popular American styles, the majority of Canastota's buildings are scaled-down, middle-class adaptations of the tastes and building traditions of each particular period. The influence of a broad range of national styles is evident throughout the village, including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Second Empire, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles. Although standard, textbook examples of the major styles do survive, vernacular, eclectic and transitional interpretations of building techniques and styles predominate. Relatively few, however, either individually or as a group, retain sufficient architectural integrity to be included in the multiple resource area nomination, primarily because of extensive alterations to individual structures and their settings due to the effects of mid- to late-twentieth century development. The nomination, then, includes only a small percentage of Canastota's entire collection of architecture. The sixty-one nominated properties represent the only intact, significant resources which, individually or in groups, reflect the historic development of the village. The nominated resources stand out as Canastota's finest, most sophisticated commercial, civic, religious and middle- and upper-class residential architecture. No historic industrial resources or vernacular, working-class housing survive intact.

The major east-west thoroughfares divide the geographic area of the village roughly into thirds. The northern third, which, since the mid-1960s, has been clearly defined by the N.Y.S. Thruway, is a relatively undeveloped area comprised of heavily wooded areas and occasional farmsteads. Buildings on the farmsteads generally date from the late nineteenth to the twentieth centuries; none possesses architectural and/or historic integrity. A few rural roads service this section of Canastota. Historically and currently, the village's commercial, residential,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page

4

religious, industrial and civic activity has been confined to the southern two-thirds of the incorporated village, which, for the ease of discussion, can be divided into quads roughly delineated by the east-west axis of the Penn Central line and the old Erie Canal, and the north-south parallel axes of Peterboro and Main Streets. The corridor defined by the railroad and the canal marks the historic hub of light industrial activity and the first central business district in the village, while the north-south routes mark the focal point of the community's residential development and second phase of commercial development. The immediate vicinity of the intersection of these four routes, all of which throughout Canastota's history have determined the village's land use and economic activity, comprises the historic and present core of the community.

The core of the village, at the matrix of the four quads, is the central business district, a densely settled, three-block area of South Peterboro Street between Canal Street on the north and the railroad tracks on the south. Secondary commercial structures flank the cross-streets, particularly along Center Street and Diamond Street. The South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District encompasses only the intact historic buildings of the central business district, including both sides of a two-block section of South Peterboro Street and adjacent sections of the south side of Center Street. The buildings included in the district, dating from ca. 1870 to ca. 1920, are two- to three-story attached brick buildings and are embellished with a variety of picturesque, late-nineteenth century decorative elements or restrained, classically inspired early-twentieth century detailing. The boundary is drawn to exclude the modern and extensively altered older commercial structures to the immediate north and east and the modest, small-scale residential properties to the west. The southern boundary is clearly defined by the railroad tracks.

Just northwest of the South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District is the original basin of the old Erie Canal. Flanking the south side of the canal is a small, pleasantly landscaped and partially wooded park. On the north side is Canal Street, lined with the visual reminders of the village's first central business district during the first half of the nineteenth century. Generally dating from the nineteenth century, the Canal Street properties are modest, small-scale frame buildings of mixed commercial/residential use. As a group, the historic character of the former center of commercial activity no longer survives due to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page 5

the high degree of alterations, the large number of vacant lots and occasional modern buildings. One structure, however, survives virtually intact and is included in the nomination as an individual component. The Canal Town Museum at 122 Canal Street (Individual Component #1), is a one-story frame former commercial building with restrained stylistic features and modest detailing. Although erected in 1874, this building is typical of those that once lined the canal in the early nineteenth century.

The South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District and the canal basin constitute the core of the community, beyond which the village expanded in all directions. North of the South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District is the historically fashionable, middle-class residential neighborhood of North Peterboro Street. The neighborhood, visually dominating the northeast quad of the village, is comprised primarily of nineteenth- and early-twentieth century dwellings, which once exhibited generally high levels of architectural sophistication and craftsmanship. However, due to extensive alterations to individual buildings and occasional modern intrusions, the properties now lack architectural distinction as a group and thus are no longer eligible for the National Register as a district. Only three properties along North Peterboro Street retain sufficient integrity to meet the National Register criteria; these are included as individual components of the nomination. They are the North Peterboro Street Elementary School at 220 N. Peterboro St., just north of Chapel Street, and, on the east side of the street between Elm Street and Wilson Avenue, 326 North Main Street and 328 North Main Street, (Individual Components 1, 2 and 3, respectively.) The school, built ca. 1927, is a large, brick and stone building with restrained Collegiate Gothic style features. Surrounded by small-scale frame dwellings, the school is the visual focal point of the streetscape. One and one-half blocks to the north are the dwellings at 326 and 328 N. Peterboro St. (ca. 1890s and 1880s, respectively), large and stylish buildings which are distinguished in the immediate neighborhood for their scale and level of sophistication. Further north is the cloverleaf interchange of the N.Y.S. Thruway and a group of modern commercial buildings, north of which the village-like setting of the North Peterboro Street neighborhood gives way to the sparsely settled, rural character of Route 13.

The remainder of the northeast quad is predominantly residential. East of the North Peterboro Street neighborhood is a large neighborhood comprised of modest, small-scale nineteenth- and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota
Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page

6

early-twentieth century dwellings, the large, modern Junior/Senior High School and, further east, modern ranch style houses. Just west of North Peterboro Street, in the corridor between North Main and North Peterboro Streets, is a residential enclave comprised of modest frame dwellings, none of which, although dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, retains architectural and/or historic integrity.

The main artery (and east boundary) of the northwest quad is Main Street which, like North Peterboro Street, was once a prestigious, middle-class residential enclave comprised of a variety of relatively sophisticated mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth century dwellings. As a group, however, the buildings no longer retain their architectural integrity or historic character due to extensive alterations to individual buildings and occasional modern intrusions. Several outstanding architectural specimens do survive, however; they are included as individual components of the nomination. They are: 205 North Main Street, 313 North Main Street, the Canastota Methodist Church at the corner of North Main and New Boston Streets, 115 South Main Street, 203 South Main Street (Canal Street defines the demarcation between North and South Main Streets), the Canastota Public Library at 102 West Center Street and the United Church of Canastota at 144 West Center Street. (See Individual Components 5, 4, 6, 7, 9, 8 and 13, respectively.) All seven buildings illustrate the nineteenth- and early-twentieth century prominence of the Main Street neighborhood.

The dwelling at 313 North Main Street, one of the earliest extant, intact buildings in the village, is an L-shaped, vernacular Greek Revival style dwelling erected ca. 1845 and remodelled in the 1880s with a variety of picturesque, Eastlake style ornamentation. One and one-half blocks south and closer to the heart of the village is the small-scale Second Empire style cottage at 205 North Main Street (ca. 1870s). Adjacent to and south of 205 North Main is the Canastota Methodist Church (ca. 1909). The massive rusticated stone edifice, reflecting the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, is the visual focal point of the North Main Street neighborhood.

Between Canal Street and the Penn Central tracks is a three-block section of South Main Street which was, at one time, one of the finest residential enclaves of Canastota, illustrated by the residences at 115 South Main Street and 203 South Main Street, the Library and the United Church. The imposing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madsion County, NY

Item number

7

Page

7

library at the intersection of South Main and West Center Streets, erected ca. 1902, is a large, Neoclassical style brick civic building. Adjacent to and north of the library is the small-scale frame cottage at 115 South Main Street, a mid-nineteenth century vernacular dwelling with a variety of late Victorian era eclectic style additions and ornamentation. South of the library, across Center Street, is 203 South Main Street (ca. 1870), an imposing, Italianate style frame dwelling with a prominent cupola. Just east of the group is the late Victorian period eclectic style United Church at 144 West Center Street (ca. 1903), the visual focal point of the mixed residential/commercial neighborhood of West Center Street.

The remainder of the northwest quad of the village is comprised of a variety of residential and light industrial buildings. Neighborhoods north of New Boston Road, the major northwest egress from the village, are predominantly mid- to late-twentieth century suburban tracts. Properties along New Boston Road towards the corporate limits of the village include scattered late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century farmsteads, none of which survive intact. Areas south of New Boston Road are comprised primarily of small-scale working-class houses dating from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century, many of which were probably associated with the Watson Wagon Company industrial complex which dominates the corridor of land between the old Erie Canal and the Penn Central railroad tracks. Further west of the old Watson Wagon Company buildings (currently occupied by the Pittcon Company) are scattered industrial and railroad-related buildings, including the Madison County Cold Storage Warehouse at the end of Barlow Street near the west boundary of the village. The warehouse, a large, five-story brick building with corbelled brick ornamentation, is a typical turn-of-the-century industrial facility. Alterations have compromised its original architectural integrity and it is therefore excluded from the nomination.

The southern quads of the village are predominantly residential in character, with dwellings dating from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century. Separating the two quads is the wide corridor of land between South Main and South Peterboro Streets, occupied by light industrial buildings on the west bank of the Canastota Creek. Dominating the southeast quad is the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District, a district of twenty-eight substantially intact dwellings and two prominent churches. The district encompasses the area along both sides of a two-block section of South Peterboro Street just south of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page

8

South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District but clearly separated from it by the Penn Central tracks. Dating from ca. 1850 to ca. 1930, the dwellings and churches included in the district are one and one-half to two-story buildings on relatively large, landscaped lots flanking the broad, tree-lined street. Relatively sophisticated and finely crafted, the buildings display distinctive features of a variety of popular American styles, including Greek Revival, Italianate, High Victorian Gothic, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne, Eastlake and Colonial Revival. Most are executed in wood, although scattered examples of brick as a building material survive as well. The district encompasses a small collection of only the best, most intact dwellings in a large neighborhood of late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century dwellings which occupies much of the southeast quad. As a group, however, only those properties along the northern blocks of South Peterboro Street survive intact; those along the southern blocks of South Peterboro and cross and sidestreets have suffered unsympathetic alterations and occasional modern intrusions. Beyond the older neighborhood, mid- to late twentieth century suburban residential properties are found along the southeastern and eastern areas of the quad. The vicinity of the intersection of South Main, South Peterboro and Route 5 (Seneca Avenue) is dominated by late-twentieth century, low-scale suburban commercial architecture. There are no individually significant properties in the southeast quad.

The southwest quad is very similar in character to the southeast quad. There are, however, no intact concentrations of significant historic properties. Only three scattered individually significant properties survive intact among the altered late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century dwellings. They are found at 233 James Street and 107 Stroud Street and, at the corner of Stroud Street and West Seneca Avenue, the Judge Nathan S. Roberts House (Individual Components 10, 11 and 12, respectively). The dwelling at 233 James Street, a mid-nineteenth century, vernacular Greek Revival style dwelling, and 107 Stroud Street, an 1870s Italianate style dwelling, survive in their village-like setting, although individual dwellings in the immediate vicinity lack integrity, thus precluding historic district potential. The isolated setting of the Roberts House gives the property a secluded character and evokes the feeling of an estate or country seat befitting the founding father of the community. Thick trees and broad, landscaped lawns surround the two-story, three-bay, elegant 1820s Federal style mansion which is set well back from Route 5 on a prominent hill overlooking the heavily

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota
Madison County, NY

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

9

For NPS use only
received
date entered

travelled thoroughfare. Mid- to late-twentieth century suburban tracts are found along the western fringes of the quad and along Route 5.

The attached chart summarizes the components included in the nomination. Also included are Building/Structure Inventory Forms and Historic District Inventory Forms which provide additional descriptive information for each component.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number

7

Page

10

For NPS use only
received
date entered

PROPERTY and date(s) of construction

of contrib. buildings

- | | |
|---|-------|
| A. South Peterboro Street Commercial
Historic District; ca. 1870 - ca. 1930 | 20 |
| B. South Peterboro Street Residential
Historic District; ca. 1850 - ca. 1930 | 44 |
| 1. Peterboro Street Elementary School
220 North Peterboro Street; ca. 1927 | 1 |
| 2. 326 North Peterboro Street; ca. 1890 | 2 |
| 3. 328 North Peterboro Street; ca. 1870s | 2 |
| 4. 313 North Main Street; ca. 1840s; 1880s | 3 |
| 5. 205 North Main Street; ca. 1870 | 2 |
| 6. Canastota Methodist Church; ca. 1909
Main and New Boston Streets | 1 |
| 7. 115 South Main Street; ca. 1850s; 1880s | 2 |
| 8. Canastota Public Library; ca. 1902
102 West Center Street | 1 |
| 9. 203 South Main Street; ca. 1870 | 1 066 |
| 10. 233 James Street; ca. 1846 | 1 |
| 11. 107 Stroud Street; ca. 1875 | 1 |
| 12. Judge Nathan Roberts House; ca. 1820
West Seneca Avenue (contrib. structures: 1) | 2 |
| 13. United Church of Canastota; ca. 1903
144 West Center Street | 1 |
| 14. Canal Street Museum; ca. 1874
122 Canal Street | 1 |

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1820 – ca. 1930 **Builder/Architect** See narratives

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Canastota Multiple Resource Area nomination includes two historic districts and fourteen individual properties which together reflect important aspects of the historical development of the village of Canastota. The sixty-four architecturally and/or historically significant properties (eighty-six contributing components) chronicle the growth of the community from its earliest prosperity as a thriving canal-side commercial center through its early twentieth century emergence as a regionally prominent agricultural center, renowned for the cultivation of onions in the area's rich, fertile mucklands. As a group, the resources reflect the relative prosperity of Canastota's middle and upper classes, comprising a broad range of distinctive types, periods, styles and methods of construction. Built between ca. 1820 and ca. 1930, the residential, commercial, religious and civic buildings embody the distinctive characteristics of a wide variety of popular American styles, including Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Colonial Revival and Neoclassical. Transitional, eclectic and vernacular interpretations of the major styles survive as well. Most are standard examples of their type, period and/or style in the region and are typical of nineteenth-century, mid-state, canal-side communities. As a whole, the resources retain substantial integrity and remain important reminders of Canastota's nineteenth and early twentieth century prominence as a center of commerce and agriculture.

During the first decade of the nineteenth century, the area which today is encompassed by the boundaries of the incorporated village of Canastota in the town of Lenox was a low, swampy forest with a small clearing along the Cowaselon Creek west of the core of the present village. The area was a small portion of the Canastota Tract, a large expanse of land extending from Oneida Lake to within one-half mile of the Seneca Turnpike, an important east-west Colonial thoroughfare (Route 5). The tract, comprised of ninety-one lots, had been purchased by the State of New York from the Oneida Indians in 1795. Parts of the tract were subdivided and settled shortly thereafter, with fertile land and

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See Inventory forms

Quadrangle name Canastota

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24 000

UTM References See Inventory Forms

A

Zone Easting Northing

[illegible]

C

D

E 

F 

G

H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED SITE MAPS AND INVENTORY FORMS

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By (See continuation sheet)

name/title	Nancy L. Todd, National Register Program Assistant
-------------------	--

organization Division for Historic Preservation **date** March 1986

street & number ESP, Agency Bldg. #1 **telephone** (518) 474-0479

city or town	Albany	state	New York	12238
---------------------	--------	--------------	----------	-------

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation

date 3/28/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listings date
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York

Item number 8

Page 2

abundant water power supporting lucrative agricultural and industrial activity. Among the earliest settlements in the area were Quality Hill along the Seneca Turnpike in the southwest corner of the town of Lenox, which had been the original hub of commercial activity for the surrounding region before Canastota emerged as the business center, Oneida Valley in the northeast corner of Lenox, Wampsville in the southeast corner of Lenox, Lenox Furnace, an industrial center in the northeast corner of the present-day town of Lincoln (formerly, until 1896, the southern section of the town of Lenox), and Merrillsville and Bennetts Corners, industrial and commercial centers, respectively, also in Lincoln.

In 1810 Capt. Reuben Perkins obtained a state patent for the Canastota Reservation, a 329.5-acre portion of the Canastota Tract on the north side of the heavily travelled Seneca Turnpike. Perkins was a prominent pioneer who had settled in Quality Hill in the late eighteenth century and who subsequently became a land speculator, the founding father of Canastota and the first superintendent of the Canastota section of the Erie Canal. At this time a few Indian families were living in the swampy lowlands. There were no roads serving the Reservation, only an Indian trail leading north from the turnpike towards the early settlement of Oneida Valley. Within a few years, Perkins began selling off sections of his purchase and several settlers had arrived. By the mid-1810s, four residences and a flourishing wheat field marked the early settlement of Canastota. There are no known material remains of this earliest period of the village's history.

The single most important event in the history of Canastota was the creation of the Erie Canal, the Canastota section of which was begun in 1817. The canal was opened for traffic through Madison County in 1820 and completed across the state in 1825. The canal had a tremendous impact on the development of Canastota, as it did on all other settlements along its route, determining new patterns of land use, changing locations of trade centers and altering established economic bases. Canastota emerged as an important commercial center providing lodging, goods and services first for the canal planners and surveyers in the early- to mid-1810s, then to the construction workers in the mid- to late 1810s and finally to the canal travellers and workers in the 1820s and subsequent decades.

By the end of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York Item number 8

Page 3

cluster of several taverns, stores and residences, a saw- and planing mill and a gristmill marked the early settlement of Canastota. Main, Center and Peterboro Streets were laid out, and the east-west corridor along the banks of the Erie Canal basin became the hub of commercial activity. There is only one extant, substantially intact building in the village which reflects the earliest period of the canal era in Canastota's history. It is the Judge Nathan S. Roberts House, (ca. 1820, West Seneca Avenue, Individual Component #12), an architecturally significant example of Federal style residential architecture. One of Canastota's finest architectural specimens, the Roberts House features an elegant arcaded facade with fluted pilasters supporting a pedimented gable end. The finely crafted entrance features a semi-elliptical fanlight with tracery surmounting a delicately carved entablature supported by fluted pilasters. Half sidelights with delicate tracery flank the six-panel door. The form and massing of the Roberts House is also typical of the period and style in the region and would be repeated in Canastota's architecture throughout much of the nineteenth century. The building consists of a two-story, three-bay, side-hall main block flanked by one-story service wings. The orientation of the gable end towards the street is also a characteristic attribute of the period. The dwelling was built for the the locally prominent Nathan Roberts, who was instrumental in routing the canal through the village of Canastota. Roberts gained statewide notoriety for his accomplishments as an engineer in the construction of the Erie Canal.

A 1984 fire destroyed the only other extant, intact building dating from the early canal era, the Cali House, located at 126 Canal Street in the heart of the original central business district. Built ca. 1823, it was a one and one-half story frame building originally constructed for mixed commercial/residential use, typical of the buildings that formerly lined the canal. The modest vernacular structure with plain architectural detailing was a utilitarian structure built to serve the needs of the canal workers and travellers in the early- to mid-nineteenth century. It was the only intact, extant reminder of Canastota's original central business district. Although in scale and form some of the buildings on the north side of the old canal continue to convey the historic ambiance of the former central business district, extensive alterations, modern intrusions and vacant lots have severely compromised the overall integrity of the streetscape. However, there is one intact canal-side property that retains substantial integrity and is included as an individual component of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota,

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York

Item number

8

Page

4

the nomination. It is the present Canal Town Museum at 122 Canal Street (Ind. Comp. #14). Although built well after the canal basin was no longer the center of commercial activity, the one-story, former commercial/residential building of ca. 1874 evokes the early to mid-nineteenth century character of the village's canal-side activity and remains the only reminder of the original central business district.

The second quarter of the nineteenth century was a period of great prosperity for Canastota. In addition to the prosperity engendered by the opening of the canal, small-scale agricultural and industrial activity in other parts of the village and surrounding town continued to flourish during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, contributing to the village's prominence as a regionally important commercial center. Industrial ventures in the village during the period included, for a brief time, the manufacture of salt in the 1820s. A small quantity was made but the drilling apparatus soon broke and work was abandoned. (The production of salt was not pursued again until 1863 when another company formed; it, too, failed.) The post office was established in 1829 and Ichabod Spencer was made postmaster. The Bulletin, a local paper out of which the Canastota Bee eventually evolved, was established in 1829. By 1831 there were three public houses, three stores and a hatter business in the village. The population was 406. Facilities for the education of children were established, and the Baptist, Methodist and Reformed Protestant (Presbyterian) congregations were organized by the mid 1830s. The village was incorporated on April 28, 1835. The completion of the Syracuse & Utica Railroad through the heart of Canastota in 1839 provided an additional mode of efficient and economical transportation for agricultural and industrial products, thus assuring Canastota's continued success and prosperity. By 1840, the population reached 800 and the village contained four taverns, eight stores, three churches and 120 dwellings. By 1850 the U.S. Census showed the population to be 1,000.

A variety of significant residences dating from the second quarter of the century reflect the pre-Civil War period of Canastota's development, including several particularly noteworthy examples of Greek Revival style architecture. Two of the best and earliest examples of the period and style are located at 233 James Street and 313 North Main Street, Individual Components #10 and 4, respectively. Both were built in the 1840s and were, at the time, well away from the more densely settled core of the village. Both are relatively modest, vernacular interpretations

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York Item number 8

Page 5

of the Greek Revival style, finely crafted but less ostentatious than the fully developed versions of the period common throughout the region but conspicuously absent in Canastota. In form, massing and detailing they are nearly identical, exhibiting characteristic attributes of the Greek Revival style commonly associated with rural vernacular building traditions of the period in the region. Each features an L-shaped configuration with a two-story, three-bay main block flanked by a one-story, slightly recessed side wing which contains the primary entrance; each main section features a gable roof with exaggerated cornice returns, a full entablature and corner boards. Windows contain double-hung sash and door and window openings have simple wooden trim. The house at 233 James Street is a more pure statement of the Greek Revival style, having received few exterior alterations and/or additions since the 1840s. It was built by J. W. McPherson, a locally prominent mason and early village settler. The period of significance for 313 North Main Street, however, extends into the late nineteenth century, at which time an elaborate, Eastlake style verandah spanning the entire facade was added.

Closer to the more densely settled core of Canastota are several village dwellings which also embody distinctive characteristics of the Greek Revival style, although all date from at least a decade later than the North Main Street and James Street properties and are generally less intact. Four relatively good examples of the period and style are located at 249, 257, 301 and 305 South Peterboro Street (photos #29, 29, 30 and 32, respectively) in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District. All are characterized by regionally typical form, massing and detailing. They are two-story, two- or three-bay structures with gable roofs, the ends of which are oriented towards the street. Pediments or deep cornice returns mark the gable ends and full entablatures encircle the buildings. All but 301 South Peterboro Street feature flanking service wings. All are characterized by relatively restrained vernacular detailing, including simple molding around door and window openings. None exhibits the trabeated entrance with heavy detailing so typical of the period, illustrating the relative plainness characteristic of these dwellings.

Canastota continued to flourish during the third quarter of the nineteenth century as a regionally prominent commercial center serviced by the canal and railroads. There are numerous substantially intact residential properties that reflect this period

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet

Madison County, New York

Item number

8

Page

6



of the village's history and illustrate the community's prosperity. Architecturally significant examples of a wide variety of picturesque Victorian era styles and types are scattered throughout the village, with particularly noteworthy examples of Italianate style dwellings predominating. The residences at 203 South Main Street (Ind. Comp. #9) and 107 Stroud Street (Ind. Comp. #11) are outstanding examples of traditional Italianate style residential architecture. Distinctive characteristics of the period and style embodied in 203 South Main Street (ca. 1870) include the cubic massing, the low-pitched hipped roof surmounted by a prominent, elaborately ornamented cupola and the broadly projecting eaves embellished with ornate brackets and modillions. The wide frieze, corner quoins, arched window openings and floor-length windows are also hallmarks of the Italianate style. The building's fine craftsmanship, sophisticated detailing and siting on a relatively large, landscaped corner lot distinguish 203 South Main Street as one of Canastota's finest residential properties of the period. It was constructed by the Colton family, prominent early settlers of the village. The residence at 107 Stroud Street (ca. 1870s), exhibiting a traditional three-bay, side-hall, cubic-massed main block surmounted by a low-pitched hipped roof with broadly projecting eaves, is distinguished by a veneer of decorative wooden ornamentation, including an elaborate front verandah. The tripartite, round-arched front window, the double-doorway and the miter-arched lintels above door and window openings are all characteristic attributes of the style.

The South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District includes several significant examples of the Italianate style including, most notably, the dwelling at 318 S. Peterboro Street (photo #25). Characteristic attributes of the period and style exhibited by the dwelling include cubic massing, a low-pitched hipped roof and a wide frieze with paired brackets supporting broadly projecting eaves. Picturesque window treatment also characterizes the dwelling, with a variety of oculi, paired, round-arched openings and projecting bay windows, most with ornately bracketed, miter-arched lintels. The dwelling at 238 S. Peterboro Street (1868, photo #19), visually prominent as one of the few examples of masonry residential architecture in Canastota, is also an important example of the Italianate style. Its two-story, three-bay, side-hall main block with flanking wing and cross-gable roof, reminiscent of Federal and Greek Revival style forms, is a common form for the earlier examples of the Italianate style in Canastota and throughout the region. Distinctive

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York

Item number

8

Page

7

Italianate style features of this residence include broad, overhanging eaves with ornate brackets, paired, round-arched windows and floor-length windows with ornamental surrounds. The residence at 246 S. Peterboro Street (ca. 1880, photo #20), although dating from a slightly later period, is also a distinctive example of the Italianate style, with particularly notable architectural detailing including an elaborate cornice and panelled corner pilasters. The dwellings at 310 (ca. 1870, photo #24) and 316 S. Peterboro Street (ca. 1870, photo #24), although slightly altered, continue to reflect the influence of the Italianate style.

Also dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century are several less traditional, more picturesque and eclectic interpretations of popular, late nineteenth century American styles. The influence of the Second Empire style is reflected in the Residence at 205 North Main Street (Ind. Comp. #5, ca. 1870), a diminutive frame structure distinguished by a prominent flared mansard roof sheathed with rectangular and hexagonal slate shingles. The residence at 317 South Peterboro Street (ca. 1870, photo #34) in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District is characterized by picturesque asymmetry and a variety of elaborate wooden ornamentation.

Residential architecture in Canastota dating from the last quarter of the nineteenth century reflects the increasing eclecticism typical of late nineteenth century architectural trends throughout America and illustrates the continued growth and prosperity of the community. Significant examples of late Victorian era eclectic style residences include the dwellings at 328 North Peterboro Street, 115 South Main Street, 313 North Main Street and 326 North Peterboro Street (Individual Components #3, 7, 4 and 2, respectively). The residence at 328 North Peterboro Street (ca. 1880s), a relatively plain, late nineteenth century middle-class dwelling, is distinguished by an elaborate Eastlake style verandah embellished with a profusion of wooden ornament. The residence at 115 South Main Street, believed to date originally from the mid-nineteenth century, is an important example of the upgrading of an older, more modest vernacular dwelling to a more stylish, fashionable and contemporary architectural statement. The 1880s remodelling of 115 South Main Street is a local craftsman's interpretation of a variety of picturesque, late Victorian era eclectic style features. The existing mid-nineteenth century building and the small lot imposed a variety of constraints on the builder; the 1880s product is a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet

Madison County, New York

Item number

8

Page

8

scaled-down adaptation of a variety of architectural trends of the period. Notable features of the dwelling include the small-scale but prominent corner tower with a steeply pitched, slate-covered pyramidal roof and the projecting bay window on the front facade. Decorative elements include the stained-glass windows in the stairwell of the tower, the decorative shingles on the tower and the gable ends of the front porch, and the Eastlake style woodwork which embellishes the entrance porch. Historically, the dwelling is associated with the locally prominent Colton family, direct descendants of Capt. Rueben Perkins and among the earliest settlers of Canastota.

The residence at 313 North Main Street, a mid-nineteenth century, Greek Revival style dwelling, is also an important example of the practice of aggrandizing older, more modest buildings. Several original exterior architectural features survive intact, including the wide frieze and deep cornice returns, reflecting the building's 1840s origin, but the most salient feature, the front verandah, reflects the dwelling's 1880s remodelling. The exceptionally elaborate, Eastlake style front verandah distinguishes 313 North Main Street as one of Canastota's finest examples of picturesque, late Victorian era eclectic style residential architecture. The Residence at 326 North Peterboro Street (ca. 1890s) is an outstanding example of the Queen Anne style in Canastota. Distinctive attributes of the style embodied in the remarkably intact dwelling include the picturesque, asymmetrical configuration, the multi-gabled roof with prominent cross gables and the variety of decorative shingle siding. A rather late example of the style, the building also reflects the influence of the early Colonial Revival style in its restrained, classically inspired detailing and front verandah with Doric order columns.

Several other examples of picturesque, late nineteenth century residences survive intact. They are located in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District. Stylistic features of the Queen Anne and Eastlake styles are prevalent, with particularly notable examples located at 314 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1890), 320 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1888) and 324 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1888), photos #24, 26 and 26, respectively. All are characterized by picturesque asymmetry and a variety of decorative ornamentation. The elaborate woodwork and fanciful decorative ornamentation of the dwelling at 245 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1890, photo #28) distinguish it as one of Canastota's finest buildings of the period.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

9

Also reflecting the influence of the late nineteenth century picturesque movement are several examples of religious architecture including two churches in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District and two churches included as individual components of the nomination. The First Baptist Church (ca. 1873, photo #22) at 302 South Peterboro Street in the district reflects the influence of the High Victorian Gothic style. It is a relatively restrained interpretation of the often ostentatious vocabulary of the style and is characterized by simple symmetry and rather plain detailing. Verticality is achieved by the prominent tower surmounted by an octagonal spire. Light-colored stone trim on red brick creates a polychrome exterior, a characteristic attribute of the style. The Trinity Episcopal Church (ca. 1886, 400 S. Peterboro St., photo #27), also in the district, is a smaller, more modest edifice and embodies features of the Carpenter Gothic style. Frame construction, Gothic-arched window openings with simple wooden trim and a steeply pitched gable roof are hallmarks of the style.

Although the two churches included as individual components of the multiple resource area nomination date from the early twentieth century, stylistically they recall the tastes of the late nineteenth century Victorian era. The United Church of Canastota (ca. 1903, Individual Component #13), dominating the block of Center Street just west of the central business block, combines features of the Queen Anne and High Victorian Gothic styles. The picturesque, brick and stone building is characterized by an asymmetrical configuration and a steeply pitched hipped roof punctuated by a variety of towers and cross gables. Dominating the facade is the large, square tower surmounted by a pyramidal, slate-covered steeple upon a frame bell tower. The polychrome exterior (red brick facades and buff-colored stone foundation and trim), the coarsely hewn treatment of the stone and the broadly arched door and window openings with bold stone lintels are all typical attributes of late Victorian era religious architecture. Additional significance is derived from its associations first with the Presbyterian congregation of Canastota (established in the 1820s) and later with the combined congregations of the Presbyterians and the Methodists. The church is also important as the work of Melvin H. Hubbard (b. 1852, d. 1921), a regionally renowned church architect. J. W. McPherson of Canastota performed the masonry work and E. E. Stafford of Earls-ville served as chief carpenter. It remains an important local landmark for both its architectural integrity and as a center of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota,

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York

Item number 8

Page 10

religious and community activity. The Canastota Methodist Church (The Greystone Community Center, Individual Component #6), erected ca. 1909, is also an important local landmark associated with the religious and community activity of Canastota. The Methodist congregation, one of the earliest religious societies in Canastota, was organized in the 1820s. The current structure replaces the original (ca. 1830s) church, which was destroyed by fire in 1908. The edifice is the key visual element in the streetscape and anchors the south end of the fashionable, middle-class nineteenth-century residential neighborhood along North Main Street which, as a group, has lost its historic character. Architecturally, the church reflects the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the bold, heavy massing and use of rounded-arch door and window openings. Of particular note is the use of Pennsylvania white marble and the sophisticated craftsmanship with which the random-course rusticated stone construction was executed. The Syracuse architectural firm of Asa L. Merrick and James A. Randall was responsible for the design of the Canastota Methodist Church.

Significant examples of commercial architecture from the late nineteenth century also reflect the picturesque and eclectic stylistic trends of the late Victorian era. Dating from the last three decades of the century is a significant collection of commercial buildings in the South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District, which together illustrate the commercial hey-day and prosperity of the period. Individual buildings embody a variety of stylistic features of the period, with the influence of the Italianate and Romanesque Revival styles predominating. Ornamental brick and woodwork distinguish the upper stories of many of the buildings, uniting the streetscape in an overall picturesque and eclectic cohesiveness. The homogeneity which characterizes the compact district prevails because most of the buildings were erected during a relatively short building boom necessitated by the destruction of nearly the entire central business district by a devastating fire. By the mid-nineteenth century, the hub of commercial activity had begun to expand eastward from the original canal-side central business district. By 1870, South Peterboro Street had become the focal point of mercantile activity. Frame buildings comprised much of the bustling South Peterboro Street neighborhood which, in 1873, was consumed by the fire. Great prosperity and the combined efforts of the downtown merchants allowed the recreation of the central business district on a greater, more elaborate scale, this time comprised of fire-proof buildings of masonry construction. The relative

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet

Madison County, New York

Item number

8

Page

11

sophistication and fine craftsmanship of many of the buildings erected during this two-decade boom illustrate the economic well-being and progressive tastes of the citizens of the period.

Although post-fire buildings predominate in the district, several survivors of the fire are also included. These early buildings are relatively restrained, traditional interpretations of the Italianate style and correspond to the Italianate style dwellings of the 1860s and 1870s represented in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District and scattered individual components of the multiple resource area nomination. The building at 108 S. Peterboro St. (photo #1), with its modest window surrounds and plain, wide frieze with simple brackets, is a representative example of restrained Italianate style commercial architecture. Also typical of the period and style, although more elaborate, is the building at 104 Center Street (photo #9), distinguished by the ornamental cornice treatment and bold, elaborate drip moldings above window openings. Another survivor of the fire is the Doolittle House at 204 S. Peterboro St. (photos #7, 17), sections of which are believed to date from 1869. Originally a prominent hotel for canal travellers and a social center for the local community, the building is no longer a contributing component of the district. Once a three-story, seven-bay Italianate style brick building, the loss of the upper story to fire and the extensive and unsympathetic alterations to the lower stories have destroyed the building's architectural integrity.

Post-fire commercial buildings in the district exhibit a far greater level of eclecticism and ostentatious ornamentation, paralleling the trends in residential and religious architecture in Canastota of the period. Particularly significant examples include the Cronk Block (ca. 1890, 146 S. Peterboro St., photos #5, 6), which dominates the northeast corner of the South Peterboro-Center Streets intersection, and the row of four buildings (photos #10, 11) anchoring the southeast corner of the district (208 - 222 S. Peterboro St.; the Delano Buildings, ca. 1883 and the Field & McMahon Block, ca. 1885). The three attached buildings at 133, 139 and 149 S. Peterboro St. are also distinguished examples of the picturesque and eclectic tastes of the period (photos #3, 4). The Twogood House at 149 S. Peterboro St. (photo #4) is additionally significant as an important nineteenth-century hotel. Built in 1877 on the site of an earlier hotel which had burned in the 1873 fire, the hotel operated for many years under a series of proprietors as a popular boarding

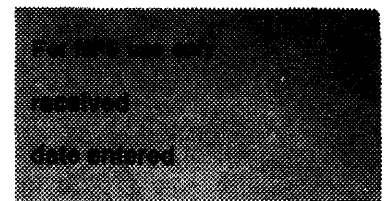
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York Item number 8

Page 12



house and center of community activity. The Canal Town Museum (Individual Component #14), also post-dating the fire, is a significant example of vernacular commercial architecture. Dating from ca. 1874, the modest, small-scale building, originally mixed commercial and residential in use, is reminiscent of the typical early to mid-nineteenth century commercial architecture which originally flanked the canal basin.

Coinciding with and financing the late nineteenth century building boom in downtown Canastota was a period of great industrial and agricultural expansion and prosperity throughout the rest of the village. Industrial activity included the expansion of existing manufactories (previously small-scale, family owned and operated companies) and the establishment of many new companies, including the Canastota Knife Company, the Canastota Glass Company, the wheelrake manufactory of Patten & Stafford, the Smith & Ellis Furniture Company, the Field & McMahon Furniture Company and Bowman's Feed Mill. Prominent mercantile concerns included the Cronk Dry Goods Business and the Farr Brothers Hardware Store. Dating from this period of late nineteenth/turn of the century industrial development are several extant industrial resources, none of which retain sufficient integrity to meet the National Register criteria. The industrial complex currently occupied by the Pittcon Company originally dates from 1899 when the Watson Wagon Company was founded. The company was for many years the village's largest manufacturing concern. Extensive twentieth-century additions and alterations have compromised the original architectural integrity of the complex. Dating from the early twentieth century is the large brick Madison County Cold Storage Warehouse; it, too, lacks integrity due to unsympathetic alterations.

Canastota also began to emerge as a regionally prominent center of agriculture in the late nineteenth century. Cultivation of the mucklands in Canastota and the Canastota vicinity produced onion and celery crops that played an important role in the local and regional economy. Smith-Canastota, Inc., founded in 1886, was and still is a prominent producer of onions, potatoes and carrots. Their large, late nineteenth century warehouse complex at the east end of East Center Street flanking the railroad tracks still survives, but extensive twentieth-century alterations have compromised the integrity of the buildings.

Canastota flourished well into the first quarter of the twentieth century. Industries established in the late nineteenth century continued to thrive, still supported by the canal and rail

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota,

Madison County, New York

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

13

lines, and agriculture remained an important factor in the local economy, particularly the production of onions and celery. Reflecting this period of the community's development is a variety of buildings scattered throughout the village. Significant residential properties dating from the first decades of the century are concentrated in the South Peterboro Street Residential Historic District. Stylistically, most of these dwellings embody distinctive attributes of the Colonial Revival style and are generally characterized by symmetry and restrained, classically inspired detailing. Particularly noteworthy examples of the period and style are found at 250 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1920s, photo #20), a frame dwelling with an elegant, arcaded facade and ornate, classically inspired entrance trim, and 309 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1900, photo #32), a large residence with a traditional two-story, five-bay, center-hall facade and classical entrance and window treatment. Representative examples of the period and style include 251 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1900, photo #29), a standard "foursquare" dwelling, and 326 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1926), a small, two-story, three-bay cottage with restrained detailing.

Canastota's only intact commercial buildings dating from the early twentieth century are found in the South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District. Plain and restrained in comparison with the highly ornamented late nineteenth century rows, the early twentieth century buildings complement the district in scale, form and use of materials. The Avon Theater (121 S. Peterboro St., ca. 1913, photo #2) and the adjacent building at 117 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1910s, photo #2) are representative examples of early twentieth century commercial architecture. The polychrome brickwork and stone-capped parapet embellishing the diminutive Perry Building at 131 S. Peterboro St. (ca. 1910s, photo #3) are also typical early twentieth century decorative features.

Canastota's only historic civic buildings date from the early twentieth century. They are the Canastota Public Library (ca. 1902, 102 W. Center St.) and the Peterboro Street Elementary School (ca. 1927, 220 N. Peterboro St.) (Individual Components #8 and 1, respectively). The library is architecturally significant as a distinguished example of the Neoclassical style and as an example of the work of Archimedes Russell of Syracuse. Additional significance is achieved in that it is an Andrew Carnegie library, one of the many libraries across the country funded by the noted philanthropist. The library has functioned as a cultural and educational center for the community since its erection and remains an important local landmark. The imposing school is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Madison County, New York

8

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

14

an important example of early twentieth century educational architecture. Stylistically, it is a rather restrained interpretation of the Collegiate Gothic style, distinguished by bold stone detailing and Gothic-arched door openings. The school derives additional significance as the work of Earl Hallenbeck, a prominent architect known for his designs of central New York school buildings. The school remains the visual focal point and southern anchor of the fashionable North Peterboro Street residential neighborhood, the historic character of which has been compromised by a variety of unsympathetic alterations and mid-twentieth century intrusions. Both remain important reminders of Canastota's early twentieth century vitality.

The erection of the United Church of Canastota (Individual Component 13) on West Center Street in 1903 and the Canastota Methodist Church (Greystone Community Center, Individual Component 6) on North Main Street in 1909 also illustrate the continued well-being and growth of the community in the early twentieth century. Both remain prominent local landmarks and are important reminders of the early twentieth century religious and cultural life of the community.

There is one building included in the multiple resource area nomination (the U.S. Post Office, 1940, photo #12) that is less than fifty years old and is presently being evaluated for exceptional significance. The post office is a small, brick Colonial Revival style building in the heart of the South Peterboro Street Commercial Historic District. Until a statewide evaluation of pre-1945 post office architecture is completed, the Canastota U.S. Post Office is considered non-contributing due to age only.

Canastota's prosperity had always been particularly dependent on the Erie Canal. Rail transportation had been gradually superseding the canal as the most efficient means of transportation during the late nineteenth century and, with the introduction of automobile transportation, the canal soon became obsolete. By the 1920s the canal had significantly slowed its operations. Despite the loss of the canal, Canastota continued to prosper during the second quarter of the twentieth century, particularly due to agriculture. However, by mid-century, technological advancements made possible greater efficiency on large farms, rendering the small-scale local farms obsolete. Gradually, the regional economy shifted its focus to government employment, commerce and utilities. Many residents began to seek employment outside the village and county. To this day, however, Canastota's

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, New York

Item number 8

Page 15

location midway between Syracuse and Utica still offers attractive prospects for commuters, and the village remains a vital community.

The attached Building/Structure Inventory Forms and Historic District Inventory Forms provide additional information on the significance of each component included in the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number 9

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Albany, NY. Division for Historic Preservation. Research files.
Barlow, Eugene M. "Address on the Early History of Canastota,"
delivered to the Madison County Historical Society.
Madison County, New York, September 19, 1900.

Campbell, Wallace H. "Canastota and the Erie Canal." n. pub.,
1963.

The Canastota Bee.

The Canastota Bee Journal.

Finch, Roy G. "The Story of the New York State Canals,"
Albany: J.B. Lyon Co., 1925.

Gaddes, George. "Origin and History of the Measures that Led to
the Construction of the Erie Canal," New York State
Pamphlets 8. Syracuse: Summers & Co., 1866.

Goodrich, Carter. Canals and Economic Development. New York:
Columbia University Press, 1961.

Hammond, L.M. History of Madison County. Syracuse: Truair, Smith
& Co., 1872.

Madison County Planning Board. Madison County Development
Factbook. Madison County, New York, 1981.

Madison County Property Deeds. Madison County Courthouse,
Wampsville, New York.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance
Co., 1885, 1906, 1911.

Smith, James H. History of Chenango and Madison Counties.
Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1880.

Smith, John E., ed. Our County and its People: A Descriptive
and Bibliographic Record of Madison County, New York.
Boston: The Boston History Co., 1899.

The Syracuse Herald.

Tax Assessor's Records, Canastota, New York.

The Utica Observer.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area, Canastota

Continuation sheet Madison County, NY

Item number 11

Page 1

For NPS use only

received

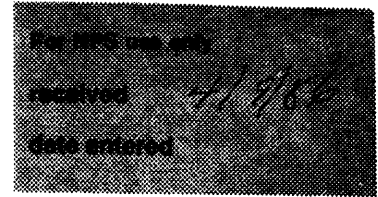
date entered

Research documentation and draft nomination prepared by:

Naomi Klein
Canal Town Corporation
Canal Street
Canastota, New York 13032

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area
State Madison County, NEW YORK

Coner Patrick Andrus 5/23/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. South Peterboro Street
Commercial Historic
District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrus 5/23/86

Betty L. Savage 5/22/86

2. South Peterboro Street
Residential Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

3. Canal Town Museum

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

4. Canastota Methodist Church

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

5. Canastota Public Library

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

6. House at 233 James Street

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

7. House at 205 North Main Street

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

8. House at 313 North Main Street

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

9. House at 326 North Peterboro
Street

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

10. House at 328 North Peterboro
Street

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 5/23/86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Canastota Village Multiple Resource Area
State Madison County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. House at 107 Stroud Street
Entered in the
National Register

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

12. House at 115 South Main Street

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

13. House at 203 S. Main Street

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

14. Peterboro Street Elementary
School

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

15. Roberts, Judge Nathan S., House

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

16. United Church of Canastota

[Signature] Keeper *[Signature]* 5/23/86

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest