

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^{MRA} Glens Falls ~~Multiple Resource Area~~: Fredella Concrete Block Structures ^{Tr}
~~Thematic Resources~~
and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Individual Inventory Forms _____ not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
____ district	____ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	____ agriculture
____ building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	____ unoccupied	____ commercial
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational
____ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	____ entertainment
____ object	^{NA} in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	____ government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theme	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial
		____ no	____ military
			____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Individual Inventory Forms _____

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See Cover Form _____

street & number _____

city, town _____ state _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Cover Form _____ has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

date _____ federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 Fredella Concrete Block Structures Thematic Resources consist of ten buildings: the Joseph J. Fredella House and Garage and a small historic district of eight contiguous residences located on Fredella Avenue in the city of Glens Falls. The Fredella house is located immediately west of Glen Street on Mohican Street near the Hudson River; the Fredella Avenue Historic District is located several blocks east of Glen Street, between Warren Street and Oakland Avenue. The buildings included in the thematic group were identified and classified as part of a comprehensive inventory of historic resources in Glens Falls conducted in 1980-1981 by Richard C. Youngken of the city's Office of Community Development. The thematic group includes all known intact examples of residences in Glens Falls built by the Fredella Company between 1912 and 1918 using distinctive molded concrete blocks and architectural details. Although Fredella is known to have constructed other masonry buildings in Glens Falls and the firm's cast concrete decoration was used to embellish other Glens Falls residences, the thematic resources include the only extant examples of buildings completely constructed and decorated using Fredella's manufactured products and distinctive designs. The builder's own residence and the group of eight houses which he built as a speculative venture incorporate a variety of structural and decorative elements based upon neoclassical forms. Cast in iron molds, Fredella's buildings incorporate concrete features imitating ashlar, rock-faced stone, radiating voussoirs, modillions, fluted columns, classical capitals, segmental arches, and intricate bands of fretwork. Used in similar combinations on the various buildings that constitute the thematic group, these features distinguish and help to identify Fredella structures within the multiple resource area.

The thematic group includes the following nominated properties:

1. Joseph J. Fredella House & Garage, 15-17 Mohican Street;
2. Fredella Avenue Historic District, including numbers: 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 21R Fredella Avenue.

Additional architectural and historical information concerning these properties is contained on the enclosed inventory forms.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<u>XX</u> 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<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 1912-1918 **Builder/Architect** Joseph J. Fredella

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fredella Concrete Block Structures Thematic Resources encompass ten buildings which represent the innovative use of molded concrete architectural elements in early twentieth century residential construction in Glens Falls. Constructed by local builder Joseph J. Fredella between 1912 and 1918, Fredella's own residence and garage and eight residences which he built on speculation incorporate significant Neoclassical style decorative and structural elements seldom found in later concrete block construction. Though never generally adopted for residential construction in Glens Falls, Fredella's concrete residence and the houses of the Fredella Avenue Historic District nevertheless demonstrated the practicability and the aesthetic potential of molded concrete architecture and were an early manifestation of this building technique in the city and the upper Hudson Valley.

Joseph J. Fredella was an Italian mason who immigrated to the United States in 1901. By 1912 Fredella had established a successful construction firm in Glens Falls, where he built several commercial and civic structures. Fredella made his reputation as a highway contractor, constructing and paving some of the first state highways into the Adirondack region during the period between 1920 and 1930. From his Mohican Street residence (which he designed and built in 1912), Joseph Fredella conducted a concrete manufacturing and construction business in Glens Falls from 1912 until his death in 1930. With its ornate, Neoclassical style embellishments, Fredella's residence advertised the architectural adaptability of a novel construction material and the stylishness obtainable in relatively inexpensive construction. To demonstrate this point further, Fredella erected eight additional residences similar to his own as a speculative housing venture. Built of concrete block resembling ashlar, with highly detailed porches cast in iron molds, the houses built for Italian workers along Lime Street (the present Fredella Avenue) between 1914 and 1918 were further evidence of Fredella's belief and interest in molded concrete as a revolutionary new building material.

Never widely adopted in Glens Falls after Fredella's death, the ornate concrete building technology embodied in the Fredella House and the buildings of the Fredella Avenue Historic District are significant as rare examples of sophisticated vernacular design and construction in Glens Falls during the early twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Individual Inventory Forms

10. Geographical Data

See Individual Inventory Forms

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
1	1	1
2	2	2
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H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title See Cover Form

organization

date

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

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

See Cover Form

title**date**

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration