

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **SEP 05 1989**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Hounsfield (Town) Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The town limits of the town of Hounsfield not for publication

city, town Hounsfield vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Jefferson code 045

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource Area | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: cemetery |

4. Owner of Property

name See individual inventory forms

street & number Various

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Court House

street & number Arsenal Street

city, town Watertown state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title New York State Statewide Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

of Historic Places
date October 1988 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Agency Bldg. #1, Empire State Plaza, Albany state New York

7. Description

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area encompasses all that area within the corporate limits of the town of Hounsfield, New York, exclusive of the village of Sackets Harbor. Sackets Harbor, a once-prosperous port of trade on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, played a role of national significance as defender of America's northern frontier during the War of 1812. Its numerous historical resources, including the village core, the Sackets Harbor Battlefield Site, and Madison Barracks, have been surveyed and listed in the National Register of Historic Places at various times within the past decade. Although concerned primarily with the Hounsfield hinterland, the Hounsfield MRA includes Sackets Harbor in its historical and architectural overviews, to provide an appropriate context for the candidate properties presented herein.

The town of Hounsfield is located in northwest Jefferson County in upstate New York, in the region above the Mohawk River historically known as the North Country. Hounsfield is also part of the Eastern Lake Ontario region and of the more broadly defined Thousand Islands region. In the northwest corner of Hounsfield is the village of Sackets Harbor, facing Brownville's Pillar Point Peninsula across the Black River Bay. Into this bay empties the Black River, which separates Hounsfield from Brownville to the north. East of Hounsfield is the city of Watertown; to the south is the town of Adams; and to the southwest is the town of Henderson, with Henderson Harbor as the next port south along the lakeshore from Sackets Harbor.

The town of Hounsfield encompasses approximately 27,790 acres of clay and sandy loam soil, with a bed of Trenton limestone between 4" to 12" below the surface. Mill Creek plus its several minor branches represents Hounsfield's principal stream, flowing west through the town's geographical center and emptying into the Black River Bay at Sackets Harbor. Hounsfield is level or gently rolling in terrain, with one low-lying swamp along its eastern border. Its largest area of flat land, covering

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several hundred acres below Brownville and once Hounsfield's finest farmland, is now occupied by the Watertown International Airport.

Early farmers found the thin but fertile soil of the North Country ideally suited for the cultivation of grains and grasses, which emerged as the two principal crops of nineteenth-century Hounsfield. Timothy hay is still widely cultivated in the town, mostly as fodder for dairy cattle, though coarse uncultivated grasses are more common. The collapse in this century of Hounsfield's system of family farms, and the subsequent consolidation or abandonment of many small farms, has noticeably changed the agricultural landscape. The hinterland's remaining meadows, pastures, and fields of hay and corn are now interspersed with stretches of abandoned fields, reverting to grassland or woods. Also detracting from this landscape are several modern intrusions, including two factories below East Hounsfield (one producing cement products, the other snow-blowing equipment), the Watertown International Airport below Brownville, a body shop and a junkyard in isolated areas of town, and the increasing number of mobile homes along the secondary roads.

Hounsfield's twelve-mile shoreline along Lake Ontario is characterized by narrow strips of rocky beach below steep banks, with outcroppings of water-smoothed limestone near the shore. Partially sheltered from lake winds by large peninsulas to the west, the offshore waters are typically calm. Lying within the corporate boundaries of Hounsfield are several small offshore islands, including Galloo, Little Galloo, Stony, and Calf Islands. Galloo Island, the largest of these, was ceded to the United States for a lighthouse in 1818; the other islands, though once inhabited and actively farmed, are now abandoned and inaccessible.

Hounsfield's nineteenth-century road network survives virtually intact, save for a few unimproved secondary roads now covered in undergrowth. Dominating this network are four main roads which radiate outwards from Sackets Harbor through the hinterland. Running northeast from Sackets is the Old Military Road, conceived after the War of 1812 to link the stations of Sackets and Plattsburgh; it replaced an earlier, less direct connector to Brownville (now Evans Road). In the 1940s the stretch below Brownville was removed for the new Watertown Airport, and the Military Road now terminates at the Old Salt

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Point Road (County Road 180). Running east from Sackets is the Old Watertown Road, which once intersected the hamlet of Jewettville on its way to Watertown. In the 1930s this was redirected away from Sackets and linked to the old Henderson Road to form State Route 3, which now represents the principal traffic artery through Hounsfield. Running southeast from Sackets is the Camps Mills Road (County Road 62), historically the Middle Road through Hounsfield. Beginning as Main Street in Sackets, it follows Mill Creek through the hamlets of Camps Mills, Sulphur Springs, and Stowells Corners. Running south is the Adams Road (County Road 75), originally the Oneida-Sackets Harbor stagecoach route, which passes through the hamlet of Purpura Corners on its way to the towns of Smithville and Adams.

Three north-south roads also bisect Hounsfield, the westernmost being the old Henderson Road between Jewettville and Henderson, now part of State Route 3. Through the center of town runs the Old Salt Point Road, an early connector between Syracuse and a salt point on the St. Lawrence River. As County Roads 66 and 180 (south and north of the Middle Road respectively), it runs through the hamlet of Camps Mills and north to Dexter. To the east is the Old Rome State Road, built during the War of 1812 to link Rome and Brownville. Now a quiet secondary road, it crosses into Hounsfield from Watertown below East Hounsfield and continues north to Brownville.

In 1980 the population of Hounsfield totalled 2645 permanent residents. Of these, approximately 1000 live in Sackets Harbor, by far the largest concentration in the town. Following Sackets in terms of population density are those sections of Brownville and Dexter which lie south of the Black River and thus fall within the boundaries of Hounsfield. Both are modest residential neighborhoods, consisting of two or three streets with approximately thirty houses each. The only other areas of concentrated settlement in Hounsfield are its many crossroads hamlets, none of which has grown beyond its nineteenth-century boundaries. Of these the largest are Jewettville and Purpura Corners just outside Sackets Harbor, each with between twenty and thirty dwellings. Camps Mills, Sulphur Springs, and East Hounsfield each contain less than twenty houses, while the tiny hamlets of Stowells Corners, Maxons Corners, and Alverson Station have all but vanished, leaving a house or two at the crossroads. The balance of Hounsfield's

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population is widely dispersed throughout the hinterland, housed on its working and non-working farms as well as in later cottages and mobile homes between the hamlets.

With its scenic lakeshore setting, Hounsfield has for over a century enjoyed a seasonal recreational population in addition to its permanent agricultural one. In the late nineteenth-century wave of resort development throughout the Thousand Islands, Hounsfield saw its first "summer colony" established at Campbell's Point above Henderson in the 1880s. Since that time, and particularly since the coming of the automobile, Hounsfield's lakeshore has been steadily developed with small private communities of frame cottages and mobile homes, connected to the main roads by unpaved lanes. This development and the continuing influx of mobile homes throughout the hinterland represent the most significant demographic trends in Hounsfield today.

The Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area nomination is the result of two different surveys of Hounsfield, sponsored in 1981 and 1987 respectively by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission (SLEOC) in Watertown, New York. The 1981 SLEOC survey team identified and recorded a total of sixteen Hounsfield resources on New York State Building/Structure Inventory forms, principally by means of windshield survey, interviews, and research of secondary source materials. The 1987 team, with the Buffalo architectural firm of Cannon Design as consultants, based its initial efforts on this survey and eventually included seven of the properties identified by the 1981 survey in the Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area nomination, while identifying an additional six properties in the course of the project. Identified resources which appeared to have physical integrity and a measure of historical significance were further researched and documented.

Closely assisted by the New York State Division of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the 1987 survey of Hounsfield was methodical, in-depth, and comprehensive in its approach. On a USGS-derived base map, each building in the hinterland was color-coded for age, condition, and relative historic significance. A variety of historic documents, particularly the 1864 Beers Atlas map of Hounsfield, were used to match original owner names with surviving farmsteads, to identify the sites of vanished farms and other resources, and to

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reconstruct lost portions of the secondary road network. Threatened, derelict, and ruinous properties were also identified on the map and many were photographed as well.

Although an evaluation of Hounsfield's archeological potential is beyond the scope of the present nomination, the 1987 survey map should assist future archeological investigations of the hinterland. Studies of its pioneer dwelling sites, and the sites of early water-powered mills along Mill Creek, may one day warrant their inclusion in the Hounsfield MRA. Similarly, further documentation of building types throughout the region may one day permit a more informed appraisal of Hounsfield's vernacular architecture and result in the addition of other Hounsfield buildings to this nomination.

The Cannon survey team derived a master list of thirteen individual component properties, representing the most intact and significant historical and architectural resources from 1802 to 1931 whose architectural and historical significance can be established from available research. Several individual properties and a district located in the village of Sackets Harbor have previously been listed on the National Register of Historic Places including: Union Hotel (1972), the Elisha Camp House (1973), Sackets Harbor Battlefield (1974), Madison Barracks (1974) and the Sackets Harbor Village Historic District (1983), containing a total of 156 contributing buildings.

The nomination's thirteen individual properties include a total of twenty-nine contributing buildings, thirteen non-contributing buildings, and one non-contributing object. There are 11 contributing primary buildings, 18 contributing outbuildings, 1 primary contributing site, 1 contributing outbuilding site, 1 primary structure for a total of 35 contributing features in the nomination.

Boundaries for the nominated properties have been drawn to include only the intact historic elements associated with each individual property. The boundaries reflect current property lines, except where historic farm acreage has suffered substantial integrity loss or loss of historic association with the nominated property. Certain boundaries were drawn to include only those features that are historically associated with the property and directly relate to the property's period of significance.

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The buildings included in the nomination represent a broad range of types, materials, construction methods, and architectural styles. Farmhouses, schoolhouses, and agricultural outbuildings are represented in stone, brick, and wood alike; Federal, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and carpenter-built styles are given high-style as well as vernacular expression. As a body of works they illustrate Hounsfield's multi-faceted history, from its initial settlement and early prosperity to the agricultural and seasonal economies which later emerged.

Of the thirteen properties included in the nomination, seven are rural dwellings; there are also two schoolhouses, one church, and one stone arch bridge. Of the seven rural dwellings, six represent farmhouse types and one is a residence associated with a resort estate. They are widely dispersed throughout the town with little or no physical relation to each other or to the other five properties included in the nomination. Most of the nominated farmsteads include much of their original acreage, often one hundred acres or more.

Most nominated farmstead include intact concentrations of contributing farm-related secondary structures. Outbuildings are generally clustered near the farmhouse and are, with the exception of a single stone smokehouse, executed in wood. Horse, dairy, and hay barns, granaries, piggeries, chicken coops, tool and machine sheds, garages and privies are located on many of the farmsteads. In general, construction of outbuildings on the town's rural farms was not documented and exact building dates for these buildings can not be determined; however, a pattern of early building practices is discernable: the earliest outbuildings represented in the nomination follow an English barn style with massive center posts and a three-bay side-entry plan. In the second half of the nineteenth century, as the dairy industry became more significant to the local economy, the larger dairy barn, often with basement and ramped equipment entry, became the predominant type. Barns, sheds, coops, and even garages feature heavy timber framing from the earliest examples through the early twentieth century.

The earliest extant houses in the town are the Stephen Simmons farmhouse (ca. 1818, component #1) and the Dr. Samuel Guthrie house (ca. 1818, component #2). Both properties are of masonry construction and feature sophisticated Federal style

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design and architectural elements. The Simmons house is a two and one-half story three-bay side entry building constructed of coursed rough-dressed native limestone with smooth-dressed stone quoins and trim. The Guthrie house features a traditional two and one-half story five-bay center entry plan and is constructed of locally produced brick. The house is the earliest example of brick construction in Hounsfield outside of Sackets Harbor. During the period from 1820 to 1835 five more examples of native limestone construction were executed in the town. The Simon Read house (ca. 1820, component #3), which features a one and one-half story five-bay center entry plan and four schoolhouses constructed of rubble limestone donated by land agent and quarry owner Elisha Camp. The four schoolhouses feature one and one-half story three-by-three-bay single room plans and are located throughout the town at the crossroads hamlets of Camp's Mills, Sulphur Springs, Purpura Corners, and Jewettville. While all four remain extant, the Jewettville and Camp's Mills schoolhouses have been substantially altered. Only the District School No. 19 (component #4) at Sulphur Springs and the District School No. 20 (component #5) at Purpura Corners are included in this nomination. Both of these buildings retain an exceptionally high degree of integrity.

Masonry construction continued to be the predominant building practice until 1840. One of the town's finest architectural examples from this period is the Ressiquie Farm farmhouse (ca. 1840, component #7). The brick and limestone two and one-half story gable-ell farmhouse is one of the town's finest examples of the Greek Revival style. The residence features a three-bay side-hall plan with heavy cornice, frieze and returns and a recessed entry flanked by sidelights and transom. The only other property to reflect this style is the East Hounsfield Christian Church (ca. 1844, component #8), which reflects a traditional meeting house plan.

The third quarter of the nineteenth century was marked by little new construction in the town. The major change to Hounsfield's landscape occurred at the Sulphur Springs Cemetery (component #9), where a settlement era burying ground was expanded in the 1870's, into a designed rural cemetery (based on current popular trends).

The remaining properties of the Hounsfield multiple resource area represent the early twentieth century and also

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represent three very diverse styles. The Conklin Farm farmhouse (1905, component #11) represents a large-scale two-family farmhouse designed and built by a local craftsman who incorporated numerous elements of the Eastlake and Queen Anne styles into the design. The Stevenson/Frink Farm farmhouse (1917, component #12), which replaced the original settlement era residence, were constructed of concrete block manufactured at the site. The plan and equipment needed to construct the Craftsman style residence was most likely purchased through a builder's catalogue. The last of Hounsfield's properties is also a replacement building for an earlier structure. The Star Grange No. 9 (1931, component #13) replaced the 1873 edifice, which was destroyed by fire in 1931. Unlike the Stevenson/Frink farmhouse, the new grange hall was constructed with the same plan as the original grange hall. The hall features a two-story three-by-five bay plan with an open hall first floor and second story meeting area. This plan reflects the traditional arrangement associated with this type of rural meeting house, which persisted from the mid-nineteenth century through the early twentieth century.

The town of Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area nomination encompasses a large land area and contains a vast array of historic resources which recall all aspects of the town's historic development. The thirteen individual components that constitute the nomination effectively represent the town's growth from its early nineteenth century settlement through its transitional agricultural period and into the early twentieth century.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Medicine |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | | |

Specific dates c. 1802 - 1931 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area nomination includes thirteen architecturally and/or historically significant resources located throughout the Hounsfield hinterland. Dating from c. 1802 to 1931, they reflect several major periods in the town's history, including its initial settlement in the early 1800s, its economic boom after the War of 1812, its industrial development in the 1830s, and the long evolution of its agricultural system. They also illustrate the architectural history of Hounsfield and contribute to our knowledge of building traditions in the North Country. These buildings and structures, widely diverse in construction method, material, type, and style, bear witness to Hounsfield's early stone craftsmanship, the evolution of its vernacular farmhouse and outbuilding types, and the later impact of national trends on local tradition. As such, the components of the Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area are significant in the areas of settlement, agriculture, education, medicine, transportation and architecture.

The thirteen individual properties that compose the Hounsfield Multiple Resource Area nomination include a broad range of distinctive and/or representative examples of architectural styles and tastes spanning a full century. The nomination components are evenly dispersed throughout the town's rural landscape, being situated at numerous crossroads hamlets. The components of the multiple resource area nomination can be categorized into several distinctive sets that illustrate all periods of Hounsfield's history. The Simon Read Farm (component #1) and the Dr. Samuel Guthrie House (component #3) represent distinctive examples of post-War of 1812 Federal style architecture. In addition, this period is represented by several

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See attached property maps

Quadrangle name Sackets Harbor, Watertown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See Attached

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary of the Hounsfield multiple resource area follows the legal boundary of the town of Hounsfield, Jefferson County, New York.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | N/A |
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John A. Bonafide Historic Preservation Program Assistant

organization Division for Historic Preservation date March 1989

street & number Agency Bldg. #1, Empire State Plaza telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 [Signature]

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date 7/25/89

For NPS use only

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

date 10/18/89

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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examples of native stone building practices including the Bedford Creek Bridge (component #4), District School No. 19 (component #5) at Sulphur Springs and District School No. 20 (component #6) at Purpura Corners. Mid-century architecture in the town reflects a national trend that promoted the incorporation of the nationally popular Neoclassical style into the vernacular building vocabulary. In Hounsfield this movement is represented by the Ressiquie Farmhouse (component #7) and the East Hounsfield Christian Church (component #8); both of these buildings are characterized by the use of Greek Revival style elements in their design. Turn-of-the-century architecture in the town is typified by the Conklin Farmhouse (component #11), with its carpenter/builder Gothic Revival design. The property is representative, on a small scale, of the use of pattern books and builder's guides during this period. Early twentieth century architecture in Hounsfield is characterized by a diversity of styles, ranging from the classic, Colonial Revival inspired estate, Shore Farm (component #10), to the Craftsman style farmhouse constructed at the early nineteenth century for the Stevenson/Frink Farm (component #12).

The site of Hounsfield, long part of the vast Iroquois hunting grounds in the eastern Lake Ontario region, was ceded to the United States by the Oneida and Onondaga tribes in 1788. By 1794, Boston doctor Thomas Boylston owned an immense tract along the Black River, divided into eleven townships. Township #1, named "Hesiod," was found in the initial 1796 survey to possess "very fine soil ... quite level ... many small fine streams in the eastern part"[1] In 1797 the northern half of Hesiod was sold to Henry Champion and Lemuel Storrs; while in 1801 the southern half went to Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield, the latter a native of Sheffield, England, recently arrived in New York as agent for his merchant brothers.

It was also in 1801 that New York lawyer Augustus Sacket bought that part of the Champion and Storrs tract on the Black River Bay and upon his first visit discovered a situation ideally suited for a port of trade with Canada, including a deep natural harbor and a location not thirty miles from Kingston, Ontario. Soon afterwards, Sacket built the first sawmill in Jefferson County on Mill Creek, and the construction of "Sackets Harbor" began in earnest. It enjoyed immediate success, as noted in an 1804 Utica newspaper:

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The flourishing state of Mr. Sackets village, its advantages of water carriage, and its valuable fishery, renders it one of the most inviting objects to an industrious settler.[2]

Industrious settlers did come to Hounsfield, mostly from New England and New York, for its fertile lands and the fishing along its shores. Among the first settlers in Hounsfield were the Reads, a numerous family who had migrated from Connecticut in 1802 with a band of Congregationalists and established "Reads Settlement" in the southeasternmost corner of the town on the road from Adams to Hounsfield. Two of their family homesteads at "Reads Settlement" still exist. The earliest is Elisha Read's Cape Cod cottage, a one and one-half story frame farmhouse with the same five-bay center entrance plan and low unadorned roof that characterized late eighteenth century cottages throughout New England. For a full generation after the War of 1812, the Cape Cod cottage persisted as the most common farmhouse type in Jefferson County. Such houses are frequently portrayed in the 1878 Taggart etchings as "the old homestead," alongside their later more fashionable replacements. With the influx of Canadian stone craftsmen to the area after the war, most of these farmhouses were built of stone rather than wood; often they comprised four rather than five bays in a house-and-a-half plan.

The other settlement era homestead established at "Read's Settlement," the Simon Read Farm (Component No. 1), is also Hounsfield's only stone farmhouse with a full five-bay facade and is situated on one of the best-preserved farmsteads in the town. Around 1820, a crude wood-framed dwelling that served as the original farmhouse at the farm was replaced with a stone farmhouse whose center entrance facade, anchored by end chimneys, evokes the formal dignity of Georgian-derived architecture. The house took inspiration as much from his cousin Elisha's earlier frame cottage as from vernacular tradition, for its gable peaks feature the same distinctive four-window fenestration. In other respects, Simon Read's farmhouse followed the conventional pattern for such houses; the kitchen wing is wooden and attached laterally to the body of the house and the entrance door is also toplit. The interior, altered to create an open plan in the 1920s, retains one of the original Federal period mantelpieces. Of equal significance to the house are the agricultural outbuildings of the Simon Read Farm, representing the earliest and best-preserved complex in Hounsfield. Two massive barns (now

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joined into one cattle barn) and a smaller horse barn are roughly contemporary with the house, constructed of heavy mortise-in-tenon timber frames. Like later Hounsfield farms, the timber-framed outbuildings were freestanding and informally arranged around a barnyard.

During this settlement period, Hounsfield farmers, clearing land for cultivation, burned felled trees to produce pearl-and-potash, used in the manufacture of many products and worth between \$200-\$350 per ton on the Canadian market. In 1807, due to increasing tension between the United States and Great Britain, Congress passed the Embargo Act, which forbade United States-Canadian trade. As a result of the embargo, the United States stationed a detachment of military troops at Sackets Harbor to prevent widespread smuggling.

When war broke out in 1812, Sackets saw some of the conflict's first military action; and in due course Sackets, with its strategic position and protected harbor, became the principal military and naval station on the north frontier. Millions were spent on fortification and ship-building, greatly stimulating the local economy and bringing in new settlers in great numbers. After the war many settled permanently at Sackets, and in 1817 Madison Barracks was established as a permanent military station. As a result Hounsfield's 1810 population of 943 nearly quadrupled to 3429 by 1820.

During this brief period of prosperity, many stone buildings of superior craftsmanship rose at Sackets Harbor, including the Union Hotel (listed on the National Register April 1973), the George Tisdale House (listed on the National Register August 1983), Christ Episcopal Church (listed on the National Register in August 1983), and several mills (one of which, the Elisia Camp mill, was listed on the National Register in August 1983). Stephen Simmons, owner of a flourishing hotel on the market square, built a refined country house of stone on the Middle Road a mile east of the village. The Stephen Simmons House (Component #2) displays many of the characteristic elements of local masonry work in this period, including coursed ashlar walls and smooth stone quoins and trim. It also displays typical Federal elements such as a rounded fanlight over the entrance and great lunette windows in the gable peaks. Its double drawing room with pocket doors and fine Federal mantelpieces and

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detailing distinguish it as the house of a gentleman farmer, or perhaps a convenient country retreat for a busy inn-keeper.

Another vernacular example of stone architecture at Sackets was the stone farmhouse built by Joseph Luff in 1822. His father Samuel, a Kentish miller, settled near the mouth of Mill Creek in 1805 and there built the first grist mill in Jefferson County. A grist wheel thought to be from this early mill, which is no longer extant, has been uncovered, representing the potential for archeological resources at this site; however, to date this potential has not been explored. Originally this was a one-and-one-half-story gable-front cottage, constructed of native limestone most likely quarried from the building site, with massive corner quoins and a centered entrance in the gable end wall. Near the close of the nineteenth century, a splendid new frame house was built atop this cottage and the property was re-named Shore Farm (Component #10).

For a brief period in post-war Sackets, brick was a rare commodity and considered a mark of status. The Elisha Camp House (listed on the National Register in August 1973), at Sackets Harbor, one of the finest Federal-era houses in Jefferson County, was constructed of English bricks shipped by way of Montreal. Shortly afterwards, the town's first brickyard was opened in the hamlet of Jewettville just outside Sackets; near this yard Dr. Samuel Guthrie, examining surgeon in the War of 1812, built his Georgian formula brick house in 1818. The Dr. Samuel Guthrie House (Component #3) is historically significant as the location Guthrie's lab, where he conducted the experiments that led to his discovery of chloroform as an anesthetic in 1831.

Throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, Sackets continued to prosper as the chief port of trade on eastern Lake Ontario, one of the busiest places in the county in the first half of the nineteenth century. From the harbor were shipped lumber, potash, grain, flour, and agricultural products; imported were salt, cement, and mercantile goods. This economic prosperity brought about a need for an improved and more efficient transportation network. Just after the war two stone arch bridges were constructed in Hounsfield to aid in the creation of more efficient trade routes between the hinterlands and Sackets Harbor. The first of two stone arch bridges was constructed over the Mill Creek between Sackets and Jewettville. The second, the Bedford Creek Bridge (Component #4), was installed over Bedford

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Creek in southwest Hounsfield in 1825 on the road connecting Sackets and Henderson Harbor to the south. The bridge is composed of abutments, spandrels, voussoirs and keystones of native rubble limestone. When completed, the Bedford Creek Bridge was one of the major trade thoroughfares in the town between the hinterland and Sackets Harbor and continues to support light traffic.

The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 spelled economic disaster for the North Country, which could not compete with the price of goods being shipped inexpensively on the canal. Extreme depression in the price of lands and the cessation of sales followed. To stimulate the local economy and eventually link Sackets to the Erie Canal, Elisha Camp helped form the Jefferson County Canal Company in 1828, with himself as commissioner and major stockholder. The result, completed in 1832, was a hydraulic power canal called "Camp's Ditch," which diverted the surplus waters of the Black River below Watertown into a twenty-foot wide channel, part Mill Creek and part man-made, and thus provided water power along Mill Creek. At the Sackets Harbor terminus Camp built a series of substantial stone mills, including a gristmill, two sawmills, a plastermill, and a papermill. Camp also developed the thriving industrial community of Camp's Mills in the center of Hounsfield, where the Old Salt Point Road crosses the creek. Here Camp dammed the waters to form a mill pond and built a stone gristmill and sawmill; the large gable-front gristmill is still extant but has been substantially altered as a residence.

At the same time, to help promote his own and the general economic interests of Hounsfield, Elisha Camp donated rubble limestone from his Chaumont (Lyme) quarries for the construction of at least four stone schoolhouses in the Hounsfield hinterland. Two are included in this nomination, District School No. 19 (Component #5) at Sulphur Springs and District School No. 20 (Component #6) at Purpura Corners. Each adopted the same three-bay-square plan, with gable-front facade and projecting gabled vestibule. Both buildings continue to evoke the era of the one-room schoolhouse, which lasted in Hounsfield until the late 1930s, while District School No. 19 derives additional significance from turn-of-the-century alterations, which reflect a nation-wide movement to elevate the standards of rural education. These national trends included the installation of additional windows, or a "window band," for added light and

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ventilation. Two other stone schoolhouses in Hounsfield, one at Jewettville and the other at Camp's Mills, were also constructed as a result of Camp's philanthropy; however, both have been substantially altered for residential use and are not included in the nomination.

The development of Camp's Mills attracted new settlers in the neighborhood at a time when the rural farmlands of upstate New York were being actively advertised in Europe. Benjamin Orchard migrated from England, building one of only two brick farmhouses in the Hounsfield hinterland during this early settlement period. Orchard's farm was constructed facing the Mill Pond, while English settler William Stephenson located north of Mill Creek at about the same time, on what is now the Stevenson/Frink Farm (Individual Component #12). The Stevenson farm complex was constructed ca. 1830 and consisted of several modest timber-framed buildings centered informally on the Old Salt Pond. The original farmhouse featured a traditional five-bay center-entrance plan characteristic of settlement era farmhouses in Hounsfield. The residence was demolished in 1910 and a modern residence (architecturally significant on its own) was constructed a short distance away. The significance of this site is enhanced by the survival of its late settlement era, heavy timber framed, farm related outbuildings, which include a stable, granary, piggery and stone smokehouse.

By the 1840's fully developed examples of the Greek Revival style appeared in the town. Several examples, generally vernacular interpretations of the style, survive intact. The Ressequie Farmstead (Component #7) constructed ca. 1840, featuring transitional Federal/Greek Revival elements, was constructed facing the Mill Creek. Brick and a large quantity of fine limestone for the farmhouse was shipped from Watertown on Camp's Ditch. The farmhouse features a one and one-half story gabled-ell plan, with walls of brick and foundation and trim of quarry-faced limestone. One of the earliest and best examples of this house type in Hounsfield, it follows a traditional formula for this period: one and one-half story gable-front with a single story side wing with traditional Greek Revival design elements, including a three-bay side-hall plan, heavy cornice molding, frieze and returns. Camp's Ditch, which had been responsible for creating an easy trade route from the hinterland to the Erie Canal, was abandoned in 1842, both because of railroad competition and because of difficulty of maintenance.

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In this mid-century period, a typical religious building type emerged in Hounsfield as well. With the population stock fixed but widely dispersed by the second generation, church organizations were small and of minor sects. In 1820 Reverend Lebbeus Field, a native Vermonter, built the East Hounsfield Christian Church (Component #8) on part of his family farm in East Hounsfield, at a cost of \$1100. Its form, closely similar to the church at Sulphur Springs, is readily identifiable as a Greek Revival style, New England Church type: gable-fronted, center entrance, three bays deep, with square flat-roofed belfry over the entrance, heavy cornice molding, frieze and returns. A few years afterwards a similar church was built at Sulphur Springs for the Seventh Day Baptists; however, it has lost much of its integrity through subsequent alterations and modern siding and does not appear to meet National Register criteria.

By 1850, Hounsfield's subsistence agriculture had evolved into a market economy. In order to compete with the increasing flow of Western goods, New York State began to specialize at this time in perishable dairy products and coarser grains, both of which were impractical to ship from the West. Thus Hounsfield's principal exports were butter, cheese, hay, grain, potatoes, apples, and milk, shipped from Watertown and points south on the Rome-Watertown railroad line. In 1874 this line completed a branch through Hounsfield connecting Watertown & Sackets Harbor, with several stops in Hounsfield facilitating shipment, including Camp's Mills and East Hounsfield.

The 1870s was a prosperous period for Hounsfield as railroad and transportation networks expanded to opening up new markets for local goods, although Western migration largely bypassed the North Country and few new farms were established. The traditional burying ground at Sulphur Springs did require expansion after two generations of use. In 1879 the Sulphur Springs Cemetery Association adopted a plan for a new "romantic landscape" cemetery, closely modeled on Watertown's Brookside Cemetery, designed in the 1850s and completed in 1865. The Sulphur Springs Cemetery (Component #9) used a circulation system of winding paths and roads, shaped burial plots and planting beds, and hemlocks around its fringe for a suitably melancholy air. It reflected the growing appreciation of Hounsfield farmers for national trends in architecture and landscape architecture.

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The coming of the railroad brought other economic and social change to Hounsfield in the late 1870s and 1880s. The rails made the North Country accessible to the leisured class, and from the first resort built by George Pullman ca.1875, the Thousand Islands and Eastern Lake Ontario were actively promoted as resort areas. On Campbell's Point just above Henderson rose a summer boardinghouse and several two-story cottages arranged in a circle, with generous porches and fanciful jigsaw work. The hotel has vanished and many of the 1880s houses remain in a heavily altered state.

In the 1890s affluent Watertown merchants and industrialists began to establish lakeshore estates throughout the region, such as J.B. Taylor's "Green Acres" in Three Mile Bay in Lyme. In 1894 Nathaniel Wardwell, owner of the local paper manufacturing industry, purchased the Luff family farm just across Mill Creek from Sackets and built a substantial Colonial Revival house atop the old stone cottage, sheathed in shingles and wrap-around verandas overlooking the Black River Bay. Here at Shore Farm (Component #10), Wardwell adopted the role of "gentleman farmer," with the land farmed by a tenant and the house used as a country retreat. Its recreational aspect took on another character in the 1930s, when the Wardwells operated "Shore Farm Camp" each summer, moving a number of earlier cabins from other locations to the estate for use as counselor's cabins. The cabins are considered non-contributing elements on the property due to their association with a period of significance not addressed in this nomination.

Hounsfield's dairy economy continued to prosper in the early twentieth century, assisted by the lucrative New York City hay market. Agricultural outbuilding types of the late nineteenth century persisted, including large, gambrel-roofed multi-purpose cattle barns and newly developed silos, as well as smaller gable-roofed houses and horse barns. But the few new farmhouses built during this period showed new directions; local building traditions were transformed by the broader influence of nationally popular architectural catalogues. The best example in Hounsfield of a carpenter-built farmhouse can be found at the Conklin Farm (Component #11). Completed in 1905 by a carpenter/builder from Dexter, the house is as distinctive for its large scale as for its unusual double plan. The house retains all of its distinctive carpenter-built features, including turned porch posts and Queen Anne sash in the gable

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peaks, and stands as virtually the only representative of its type and style in Hounsfield.

Similarly, when the Frink family replaced their 1835 farmhouse at the Stevenson/Frink Farm (Component #12) in 1917, they employed not an architect but a publication, Cement Houses and How to Build Them, by the Radford Architectural Company. Following its instructions, they manufactured the concrete blocks on site and introduced a new house type to rural Hounsfield: the four-square "comfortable" house, amply proportioned and characterized by horizontal lines, low hipped roof, and broad front porch. Its interior woodwork, also ordered from a catalogue and installed by a local carpenter, remains intact and well-preserved. The only other "comfortable houses" in Hounsfield are of wood-frame construction and are within the Sackets Harbor Historic District.

The long-standing importance of agriculture in the economic life of Hounsfield is demonstrated not only by the existence of the farms that dot the rural landscape but also by the importance of the grange movement in this rural community. Star Grange No. 9, constructed 1938 (Component No. 13), was the eighth grange to be organized in New York State; Hounsfield farmer Jay Dimick, its first master, later held office in the state grange system. The first grange was formed in 1878, with its first hall constructed in 1882, at Sulphur Springs. This first grange building followed the characteristic formula for community building types throughout the region; its first floor held an open all-purpose common room, plainly treated, while on the upper floor was a more elaborately treated meeting room, usually with kitchen and cloakroom facilities. When this hall was destroyed by fire in 1931, the grange was immediately rebuilt, using surplus materials donated by Gamble & Sons, carpenter-builders of Sackets Harbor, and following the same prescriptive arrangement. Unlike earlier grange halls, however, its kitchen is on the first floor and is fully electrified.

The collapse since World War II of the small-farm system in Hounsfield and across the region was caused by such factors as the increased costs of mechanization, the advantages of large-scale operation, and the demands of pasteurization. As a result, Hounsfield's most significant historic resource, the agricultural landscape of fields and farms that once formed a cohesive whole, is now gradually disintegrating. Since the mid-twentieth

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century, the town has seen the abandonment and subsequent deterioration of many of its once prosperous farmsteads. In other cases large tract farms have been parceled off with modern infill and small industry interrupting the pastoral setting. Most new construction has been thus far limited to scattered locations along rural roads throughout the hinterland; however, as Sackets Harbor and Watertown continue to undergo tremendous growth, modern development pressure is likely to increase. Thus far, however, the town retains its rural character and most of the town's homesteads and farmsteads retain their historic designs, settings, and associations.

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Thematic Group

Name Hounsfield MRA
State Jefferson County, NEW YORK

| Nomination/Type of Review | Date/Signature |
|--|--|
| Cover <u>Substantive Review</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> |
| 1. Bedford Creek Bridge <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 2. Conklin Farm <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 3. District School No. 19 <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 4. District School No. 20 <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 5. East Hounsfield Christian Church <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 6. Guthrie, Dr. Samuel, House <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 7. Read, Simon, Farm <u>Substantive Review Determined Eligible</u> DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 8. Ressequie Farm <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 9. Shore Farm <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |
| 10. Simmons, Stephen, House <u>Entered in the National Register</u> | for Keeper <u>[Signature] 10/18/89</u> Attest _____ |

9/15/89

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Name Hounsfield MRA
State Jefferson County, NEW YORK

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 11. Star Grange No. 9 Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Allois Byers 10/18/89
Attest _____
- 12. Stevenson--Frink Farm Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Allois Byers 10/18/89
Attest _____
- 93 13. Sulphur Springs Cemetery Substantive Review *for* Keeper Betty L. Savage 10/18/89
Attest _____
- 14. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 15. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 16. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 17. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 18. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 19. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____
- 20. _____ Keeper _____
Attest _____