National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

city, town Agency Bldg. 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany

1. Name

historic	Lyme (T	own) Mul	ltiple Resource A	irea	-	
and or common	_					
2. Loca	ation					
street & number	Town limi	te of th	ne town of Lyme,	Jefferson Co N	JY	not for publication
city, town			vicinity of	Jerrerson oo., r	<u>1</u>	
	Lyme					
state New Y	sificatio	code	036 count	/ Jefferson		code 045
Category _X district _X building(s) _X structure _X site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisi N/A in process being consi	tion	Status X occupied X unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted no	entertainme	l _ ent _ t _	museum park private residence religious sclentific transportation tother: Cemetery
4. Own	er of Pr	oper	ty			
street & number	individual in Various	ventory				
city, town			vicinity of	-	state	
	istry of deeds, etc.	Jeffe	nl Descript			
city, town			rtown		state No	ew York
6. Rep	resentat	ion i	n Existing	Surveys		
	<u>Statewide Inv</u> ic Places 0	entory o	of has this p	property been determin		le? yes no
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Cover

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

For NPE use only C. C. Deceived 2 3 1990 date entered NATIONAL	
REGISTER	

state New York

7. Description

Condition X excellent X deteriorated X good ruins X fair unexposed	Check one X unaltered X altered	Check one _X_ original site moved dateN/A
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lyme Multiple Resource Area encompasses all that area within the corporate limits of the town of Lyme in northwest Jefferson County, New York. Lyme is part of New York's upstate region above the Mohawk River traditionally known as the North Country; with its situation on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario below the St. Lawrence River, Lyme also belongs to the Eastern Lake Ontario region and to the more broadly defined Thousand Islands region. Geographically, the town centers around Chaumont Bay, one of the largest fresh-water bays in the country, flanked by the peninsulas of Point Salubrious to the east and Point Peninsula to the west. Situated around the perimeter of the bay are the village of Chaumont and the hamlets of Three Mile Bay and Point Peninsula, Lyme's three principal settlements. To the southeast of Lyme is the town of Brownville; to the northeast is the town of Clayton; to the northwest is the town of Cape Vincent; and to the southwest is Chaumont Bay and Lake Ontario.

The town of Lyme encompasses 28,912 acres of mostly clay soil, with blue and Black River limestone underlying the surface at a depth of between 2" to 15" in random outcroppings throughout the town. In terrain Lyme is generally level; upper Lyme, the triangular area north of New York State Route 12E, consists of flat cropland, while the town's three major peninsulas - Point Peninsula, Point Salubrious, and Three Mile Point - are characterized by gently rolling open grasslands. The Chaumont River, Lyme's principal stream, flows south through the eastern part of Lyme and empties into Chaumont Bay at the village of Chaumont. The smaller Three Mile Creek flows in a parallel course three miles to the west and empties into Three Mile Bay at the hamlet of Three Mile Bay. Both outlets were the locus of nineteenth-century shipbuilding activity; Horse Creek, which empties into Sawmill Bay at Chaumont village, powered saw and gristmills in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Lyme boasts some forty miles of shoreline around Chaumont Bay and on Lake Ontario characterized by narrow strips of rocky beach below steep banks and outcroppings of water-smoothed limestone close to the shore. The calm waters of Chaumont Bay, sheltered from Lake Ontario winds by Point Peninsula, were favored for commercial fishing in the last century and for recreational boating in the present one. Within the corporate boundaries of Lyme are several small offshore islands, including Cherry Island south of Point Salubrious and Grenadier and Fox Islands west of Point Peninsula on Lake Ontario. Once inhabited and actively farmed, these islands are now abandoned and inaccessible except by water.

[X] See continuation sheet

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Lyme's nineteenth-century road network remains largely intact, with the exception of upper Lyme. Its small farms with their level fields, ideal for mechanized agriculture, have been consolidated since the 1930s into larger operations, resulting in the loss of approximately two-thirds of the secondary road network as well as several small crossroads hamlets. Lyme's major traffic artery is New York State Route 12E, historically the Cape Vincent Turnpike, running between Watertown to the east and Cape Vincent to the west. A number of county roads branch off to the north and south from State Route 12E. County Road 125 in the eastern part of Lyme makes a full circuit of the Point Salubrious shore and extends northeast into the towns of Brownville and County Road 179, in the approximate center of Lyme, historically the Clayton. Depauville Road, extends north from the village of Chaumont along the Chaumont River to the village of Depauville in the town of Clayton. Just west of Chaumont is County Road 8, historically the Millens Bay Road, extending northwest to Millens Bay on the St. Lawrence River in the town of Cape Vincent. Just east of the hamlet of Three Mile Bay is County Road 5, historically the Clayton road, running northeast into the village of Clayton Center in the town of Clayton. Finally County Road 57 in the western part of Lyme, historically part of the shore road around Point Peninsula, runs down the western shore of Chaumont Bay and cuts across lower Point Peninsula to the hamlet of Point Peninsula. Other town roads include the Old Town Springs Road, which runs north along the west side of the Chaumont River into Clayton, two roads which make the circuit of Point Peninsula and Three Mile Point; and a few surviving secondary roads in upper Lyme.

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Early farmers found Lyme's thin but fertile soil ideal for the cultivation of grains and grasses, which remained the town's two principal agricultural crops throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Timothy hay is still widely cultivated in Lyme, mostly as fodder for dairy cattle, though coarse wild-growing grasses are more common. The collapse in this century of Lyme's traditional agricultural system, and the subsequent consolidation of small family farms into larger operations, has noticeably affected Lyme's traditional agricultural landscape. Its remaining meadows, pastures, and fields of hay and corn are now interspersed with stretches of abandoned cropland, reverting to grassland or woods. Also detracting from this landscape are several modern intrusions, including some commercial development along State Route 12E on the outskirts of Chaumont and Three Mile Bay, and an increasing number of new summer cottages and trailer homes along Lyme's many miles of shoreline.

In 1980 the population of Lyme totalled 1,695 permanent residents. Of these, approximately 700 reside in Chaumont, the only incorporated village in Lyme and its largest concentration of population. Following this in terms of population density is the hamlet of Three Mile Bay, with a population of approximately 600 residents, and the small hamlet of Point Peninsula (formerly Wilcoxville) on Point Peninsula, with some dozen dwellings. The balance of Lyme's permanent population is widely dispersed throughout the town, in older farmhouses and a few modern dwellings along State Route 12E, in upper Lyme, and around Lyme's extensive shoreline.

With its scenic lakeshore setting, Lyme has, for over a century, hosted a seasonal population in addition to its permanent one. One of the earliest seasonal developments in Jefferson County was established on Lyme's Point Salubrious in 1878. Since that time, and particularly with the development of the automobile, Lyme's lakeshore has been steadily developed with a number of small private communities of cottages and trailer

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homes, either along the shore road or connected to the road by unpaved lanes. This development represents Lyme's most significant current demographic trend, spurred by the recent expansion of Fort Drum near Watertown and the sudden increase in the county's population.

The Lyme multiple resource area nomination is the result of two different surveys of Lyme, sponsored in 1981 and 1987 by the St. Lawrence/Eastern Ontario Commission (SLEOC) in Watertown, New York. The 1981 SLEOC survey team identified and recorded a total of 43 resources on New York State Building/Structure Inventory forms, principally by means of windshield surveys, owner interviews, and research of secondary source materials. The 1987 team, with the Buffalo-based architecture and planning firm of Cannon Design Inc. as consultants, based its initial efforts on this survey and expanded its scope considerably. Project consultants identified and evaluated all potential resources in Lyme against National Register criteria, researching and documenting those that appeared to possess physical integrity and a measure of historical significance. As a result, 10 of the original surveyed properties were identified for nomination as individual properties, and another 11 as part of two newly identified historic districts. In addition, the Cannon team identified an additional 12 significant properties that had not been identified before and also included them in the Lyme Multiple Resource Area.

Closely assisted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the 1987 survey of Lyme was methodical, in-depth, and comprehensive. A USGS-derived base map, and an adapted version of the state's color-coding system, was used to record the age, condition, and relative significance of every building in Lyme. A variety of historic documents, particularly the 1864 Beers Atlas map of Lyme, were used to match original owner names with surviving farmsteads, to identify the sites of vanished farms and other resources, and to reconstruct lost portions of the secondary road network. Threatened, derelict, and ruinous properties were also identified on the map and many photographed as well.

Though an evaluation of Lyme's archeological potential is beyond the scope of the present nomination, the 1987 survey map should assist future archeological investigations in Lyme. Studies of the original site of Chaumont village, shipyard sites in Chaumont and Three Mile Bay, and the site of the "Warner Springs" boarding house on Point Salubrious, may yield information that will warrant their inclusion in the Lyme Multiple Resource Area. Similarly, further documentation of building types throughout the Eastern Lake Ontario region may one day permit a more informed appraisal of Lyme's vernacular architecture and eventually result in the addition of other Lyme buildings to this nomination.

For the Lyme multiple resource area, the Cannon survey team derived a master list of 18 individual components and four historic districts, dating from between c. 1806 to 1931 and representing the most intact properties in the town whose historical and architectural significance could be established from available research. These 24 individual components include a total of 85 contributing buildings, 10 non-contributing buildings, 4 contributing structures, and 1 contributing site, for a total of 90 contributing features in this nomination.

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Town of Lyme Multiple Resource Area Lyme, Jefferson County, New York

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The 85 contributing buildings in the Lyme Multiple Resource Area nomination cover a broad range of building types, materials, construction methods, and architectural styles. Farmhouses, agricultural outbuildings, village dwellings, and commercial buildings are represented in stone, brick, and wood alike; high-style and vernacular expressions of the major architectural styles of the nineteenth century are accompanied by carpenter-built pattern-book houses of the early twentieth century. As a body of works, they illustrate the many phases of Lyme's history, from its initial settlement and early prosperity to the development of its nineteenth-century industries and the evolution of its agricultural and seasonal/recreational economies.

Included among the 90 contributing features of the Lyme multiple resource area are 35 dwellings, three churches, three grange halls, two schools, a commercial building, a train station, a boat house, a warehouse, a fraternal building, and a cemetery. Also included are ten agricultural outbuildings and a variety of other contributing outbuildings such as carriage barns, privies, and garages. Of the 35 dwellings, five are farmhouses, five are seasonal houses or cottages, and the rest are village houses. For the most part, the nominated properties are concentrated in Chaumont and Three Mile Bay; the seasonal homes are located on Point Salubrious, while the four nominated farmsteads are situated on Point Peninsula, three of them contiguously. These farmsteads retain most or all of their original acreage, each consisting of 100 acres or more; some also include intact concentrations of agricultural outbuildings clustered near the farmhouse.

From its initial settlement in 1801 until after the War of 1812, most buildings in Lyme consisted of notched logs; one three-bay half-house example, dating from 1822 and later sheathed in clapboards, has been tentatively identified on the Angell Farm (component #18). Masonry construction appeared in Lyme as early as 1806, likely introduced by Canadian stonemasons; however, it was not until after the War of 1812 that stone dwellings gained widespread favor. In the late 1810s and 1820s, two-story fivebay center-entrance stone houses were built throughout the North Country. Of the six such houses extant in Lyme, three feature single massive end chimneys which attest to the British origins of their builders. Only two of the six retain sufficient integrity to warrant nomination, the Chaumont House (component #1, 1818) and the Evans/Gaige/Dillenbeck house (component #2, c. 1820); the others have been radically altered or have suffered serious deterioration through neglect.

More isolated examples of masonry buildings constructed in the North Country and in Lyme in the 1830s represent the culmination of the local stone tradition. Masonry elements such as quoins, beltcourses, and lintel-courses were carefully dressed and imaginatively used. Both extant examples in Lyme from this period, the Wilcox house (component #11) and the Old Stone Shop (component #10) are included in the present nomination.

After about 1825, wood-frame dwellings of a modest scale predominated in Lyme; early gable-end examples featured a three-bay, center-entry plan, followed in the 1830s by three-bay side-entry gable-front cottages. By 1840, these had merged to form the gabled-ell house, with its formal gable-front portion and lateral gable-ended kitchen wing. The gabled-ell house type was adopted for farmhouses and village homes throughout Lyme in the 1840s and '50s; customarily they were plainly detailed, with square Doric porch posts, monumental corner boards, and approximate temple proportions representing

OMB No. 1024-0018, NPS Form

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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the only overt references to the Greek Revival. Many Lyme farmhouses of this type have vanished or were replaced with larger houses in the early twentieth century, but a significant concentration gabled-ell village examples are included in the Lyme Multiple Resource Area, including three examples in the Row Historic District (component #13), the Wilcox house (component #11) and Pennock and Copely houses located within the Chaumont Historic District (component #8).

Although the construction of agricultural outbuildings as a rule went undocumented, Lyme's early outbuildings followed a discernable building pattern. The earliest outbuildings consisted largely of hay-and-cattle barns, horse barns, granaries, and storage sheds. They were gable-roofed with heavy interlocking timber frames sheathed in vertical planks. In plan they fall into two categories: the English barn, with a threebay, gable-ended, side entry plan, and the New England barn, similar in form but with the entry in the gable front. Both plans persisted into the twentieth century for most outbuilding types in Lyme; both are represented in the Point Peninsula farms included in the Lyme multiple resource area.

In the 1850s and 1860s, the Romantic Movement brought new nationally popular styles to Lyme. The Downingesque Gothic, briefly popular before the Civil War, was soon eclipsed by the bracketed Italianate, which by the 1870s predominated as the most fashionable domestic style. At this time the Gothic style re-emerged; while it had found favor in the 1840s as suitable for ecclesiastical buildings, the 1870s and 1880s saw an increasingly eclectic use of Gothic elements on a variety of building types, including houses and commercial buildings as well as churches. These trends are represented by several surviving examples in Lyme, particularly in the Chaumont Historic District.

In the 1870s, other architectural and design innovations were introduced to Lyme. The town's first romantic landscape cemetery (Cedar Grove Cemetery, component #3), created in 1873, transformed the local convention of the utilitarian grid-plan burying ground. New building types emerged, notably the community grange hall, with its standard plan of communal space downstairs and meeting room upstairs, a format which would persist well into the twentieth century. Three extant examples of this property type including, the Chaumont Grange (component #6), Union Hall (component #22) and the Three Mile Bay Grange Hall (Three Mile Bay Historic District, component #12) have been identified and included in the nomination. The 1880s brought the first summer houses to the shores of eastern Lake Ontario; most examples in Lyme were built along the lower shore of Point Salubrious. With their light-frame construction, broad open verandas, and elaborate jigsaw ornamentation, they were subject to dilapidation and alteration, and, as a result, none of the few remaining examples possess sufficient integrity to warrant nomination. The bungalow craze of the 1900s transformed Lyme's seasonal house type; the new cottages were low and square in plan, with the hipped roof and other bungalow and Arts & Crafts details typical of the period. With their more manageable scale and less ornate detailing, several well-preserved examples of the seasonal bungalow are included in the Point Salubrious Historic District (component #9). The bungalow language affected other building types connected with the seasonal economy of early twentieth- century Lyme, including a train station (Chaumont Railroad Station, component #7) and boathouse (the Taylor Boat House, component #16) on a small lakeshore estate, though the Colonial Revival was favored for the houses built on these estates.

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Lyme's industrial and agricultural prosperity at the turn of the twentieth century was accompanied by innovations in building and design practices. In the second half of the nineteenth century, as dairying grew in importance to the local economy, a new type of barn emerged: light-framed, often gambrel-roofed, with basement entry and ramp to the upper level. Most examples in Lyme have suffered radical alteration or serious deterioration. In place of the stone construction in the early part of the century came the simulation of masonry through the use of metal stamped to resemble rock-faced ashlar, ordered by the sheet along with other decorative trim and applied to conventional frame buildings. The same use of architectural catalogues facilitated the construction of Lyme's many early twentieth-century farmhouses. Most were built by a firm of carpenter/builders based at Sackets Harbor (town of Hounsfield) with elements from their own planning mill and following specifications and designs from catalogues published by such firms as the Radford Architectural Company of Chicago. This completed the transition from the local vernacular building traditions of the early nineteenth century to the nationally-based standardized process of the twentieth century.

Two of the earliest extant houses in Lyme are Chaumont House (component #1, c.1806-1818) and the Evans/Gaige/Dillenback House (component #2, 1820), both of masonry construction with sophisticated design and architectural elements of the Federal style. Chaumont House is a two and one-half story, five-bay, center entry house of coursed random-width rough-dressed limestone and smooth trim. The two-and-one-half story Evans/Gaige/Dillenback House features a three- bay side-entry plan, also with coursed rough-dressed limestone walls and smooth trim. Its exterior walls were once painted to simulate fine ashlar, while its rear stone kitchen wing may have originally been freestanding. The culmination of Lyme's stone building tradition is represented by two very different building types: Old Stone Shop (component #10, c. 1838) at Three Mile Bay and the farmhouse on the Charles Wilcox Farm on Point Peninsula. The Old Stone Shop is a one and one half-story four-bay gable-end building, built as a double blacksmith shop, characterized by smooth-dressed lintelcourses and quoins at the corners and around openings. Though blacksmith shops of the period were customarily built of stone, few had the architectural finish of this building. The farmhouse on the Charles Wilcox Farm (component #11, c. 1839) is a two and one-half story gable-front house with masonry features similar to those of the Old Stone Shop, as well as a lunette window in the gable peak and a sidelight entrance door. The latter feature also characterizes two contemporary gable-front wood-frame cottages in the Chaumont Historic District.

With its one story ell situated perpendicular to the main block, the Wilcox farmhouse is the earliest instance in Lyme of the gabled-ell house. The gabled-ell house emerged in the 1840s in Lyme with a specific standard format, represented by the three contiguous examples in The Row Historic District (component #13, c. 1845 - c. 1847) in Three Mile Bay. Each house consists of a two story gable-front block and a one and one half story kitchen wing. Approximate temple proportions and cornerboards are among the only direct references to the Greek Revival.

The Romantic Movement, the coming of the railroad to Lyme, and the development of the coal-fired steam engine combined to transform the architecture of Lyme in the 1850s and early 1860s. As early as 1844 the Chaumont Presbyterian Church in the Chaumont Historic District (component #8) was built in Gothic rather than Greek Revival style. The Menzo Wheeler House (component #14, 1860) in Three Mile Bay, of a larger scale than

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previous dwellings in the hamlet, incorporated elements of the Downingesque Gothic and Italianate styles to embellish his two and one half story mansard-roofed house; Chaumont merchants built brick houses of similar scale at this time, notable the Gothic Backus/Copley House (1860) and Italianate Imman House (1861-2) in the Chaumont Historic District. While the gabled-ell house persisted in the 1850s as a vernacular house type, though on a slightly larger scale as exemplified by the Thompson and Watrous Houses (both c. 1855) in the Chaumont Historic District. other house types began to appear. The Christopher Getman Farmhouse (component #19, c. 1858) adopted an innovative, more formal scheme. This one and one-half story frame farmhouse follows a T-shaped plan, with a three bay center-entry main block facing the road and a rear ell featuring one of the earliest glazed porches in Lyme.

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The last third of the nineteenth century witnessed a wave of new construction in Chaumont. The two and one half story wood frame palazzo-type Waitstill Crumb House (c. 1878) and the flat-roofed Ashton Adams House (c. 1879) in the Chaumont Historic District reflected the continued popularity of the Italianate style, while the Waitstill Crumb House (c. 1880) showed a developing taste for Gothic eclecticism. The same spirit inspired the design of the Copley Office Building (1872) in the Chaumont Historic District. as well as the United Methodist Church (1880) in the hamlet of Point Peninsula. This side-tower church combines such Gothic motifs as pointed arches and quatrefoils with other more exotic features in a highly eclectic composition. The Phelps House (c. 1881) and Darrow House (c. 1882) in the Chaumont Historic District show a continuing trend towards a style-less eclecticism that persisted until the advent of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles of the 1890s.

Other Lyme building types reflected changes in taste and technology in the 1870s. The Union Free School (component #12, c. 1877) at Three Mile Bay exemplifies the adaptation of the residential Italianate palazzo style to a civic building. This two-story, wood-frame, four-classroom schoolhouse, with wide bracketed eaves and square belfry, incoporated important design innovations over its one-roont predecessor, such as window bands along one wall for proper classroom lighting and an upper assembly hall, divided for classroom use by a set of sliding doors. The Putnam Schoolhouse (component #15, c. 1875), a late example of a one-room schoolhouse, is a rectangular, one and one-half story wood frame building which also incorporates a window band, a high ceiling, and a separate room upstairs used for storage.

The 1870s introduced entirely new building types to Lyme, notably the grange or community hall. The Three Mile Bay Grange Hall (c. 1874) located in the Three Mile Bay Historic District (component #12) is the earliest of Lyme's three grange halls and one of the earliest in the state. This two story rectangular wood frame building features a center entrance flanked by large windows on a gable-front facade. Its downstairs consists of a plainly finished open space used for dances and other community activities, while the more highly finished upstairs contains a meeting hall, kitchen, and cloakroom facilities. This basic format persisted for Lyme's two later grange The Chaumont Grange Hall & Dairymen's League Building (component #6, 1898) at halls. Chaumont, also a rectangular two-story wood frame building, originated as a dual-purpose building; the lower portion was entered through a side entry and the upper hall through a set of outside enclosed stairs. The two-story, rectangular, wood frame Union Hall (component #22) of c. 1908 in the hamlet of Point Peninsula is similar to the Three Mile Bay Grange Hall in that it features a center entrance flanked by large windows on a gable-front facade. Here the composition is an actual commercial storefront, underlining the semi-public nature of the building; its kitchen is more conveniently located downstairs, like that of Star Grange No. 9 (1931) in the town of Hounsfield.

The late nineteenth century saw the emergence of Lyme's seasonal economy with the establishment of "Warner Springs" on Point Salubrious. The construction of this palazzo-style boarding house, with full verandah facing Chaumont Bay, was followed in the 1880s and '90s by a number of light frame, two story summer houses, characterized by large porches embellished with jigsawn ornament. The Warner family's new farmhouse, later known as "Windemere" in the Point Salubrious Historic District (component #9) reflected the influence of these new building types, with its shingled walls, ornamental

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features, and wrap-around veranda. When rebuilt in 1904, the c. 1825 Nathaniel Warner House (also in the Point Salubrious District) was also treated to board and batten work, Queen Anne sash, and a wrap-around veranda. Radically different in plan and spirit were the five seasonal bungalows built between 1908 and c. 1925 south of "Windermere" and also part of the Point Salubrious District. The earliest of these, "The Gables" (1908) is a one story wood frame cottage with elements of the bungalow and Arts & Crafts movements, includinge low hipped roof and diamond pane windows. Its general design and plan, with central livingroom and four corner bedrooms, appears to have been derived form a design in <u>Radford's Artistic Bungalows</u> published by the Radford Architectural Company of Chicago. The same plan was used for the Purcell cottage (1912) next to "The Gables", while the Mahtesian Cottage (c. 1913) represented the culmination of the local Arts & Crafts movement, with its boulder fireplace and elaborate interior. The Moore and George cottages, both dating from the mid-1920s, showed less attention to stylistic detail and more to a self-sufficient plan, with their own kitchens and lavatories.

The same use of architectural companies and catalogues characterized other buildings in turn-of-the-century Chaumont. The Masonic Hall (1898) in the Chaumont Historic District and the George Brothers Building (component #5, 1899) were both wood frame buildings sheathed in sheets of galvanized metal, stamped to simulate rock-faced ashlar. Cornices and other decorative trim on both buildings indicate that they may have been ordered from, or inspired by, the Mesker Brothers Architectural Works. The Chaumont Masonic Hall is an example of the community hall type in Lyme, built for a fraternal order rather than a grange, while the George Brothers building exemplifies an urban commercial building type in a village setting.

The architectural catalogue and the carpenter-builder also was instrumental in the construction of Lyme's many early twentieth-century farmhouses, built during Lyme's hay boom of the 1920s. Most were built by Charles Gamble & Sons of Sackets Harbor, who used elements from their own planing mill and specifications from a variety of builder's catalogues. The house at the Lance Farm (component #20, 1908), two and one-half stories in height with a three-bay center-entry plan, exemplifies the distinctive "Gamble style", with its shingled gable peak, elaborate turned porch posts and spindle friezes, and Queen Anne sash. The Taft house (component #19, 1908) in Three Mile Bay, also built by the Gambles, was not only inspired by but copied directly from a Radford publication (specifically Design No. 176 in the Radford Ideal Homes) with minimal changes to detail and plan. This two and one-half story gable-front frame house incorporates style elements of the Queen Anne, the Arts & Crafts, and the Colonial Revival in a highly eclectic composition, calculated by its Chicago designer to please general tastes.

8. Significance

1700–1799 X 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics ducation engineering X_ exploration/settlement	music	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation Xother (specify) Recreation
Specific dates	ca. 1806-1931	Builder/Architect		<u></u>

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The twenty-four components of the Lyme Multiple Resource Area represent the most intact historical and architectural resources of the town of Lyme whose significance may be established from available sources. Dating from c. 1806 to 1931, they reflect several major periods in the town's history, including its initial settlement in the early 1800s, its economic prosperity following the War of 1812, the development of its industries throughout the nineteenth century, and the long evolution of its agricultural economy. They also illustrate Lyme's architectural history 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 Lyme's early stone craftsmanship, the emergence of its vernacular farmhouse and agricultural outbuilding types, and the impact of national trends on local building traditions. As such, the various components of the Lyme multiple resource area are significant in the areas of exploration/settlement, agriculture, education and architecture.

The site of Lyme, 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. In an effort to settle the north frontier and prevent border warfare with Canada, the New York State Office of Land Commissioner sold most of what was to become Jefferson County to speculator Daniel Macomb in 1792. The lands soon passed to William Constable, who sold part of the tract to Peter Chassanis, sponsor of the ill-fated attempt to establish a a community of French refugees at "Castorland." In 1801, Chassanis' brother-in-law James LeRay de Chaumont, an ardent Americophile, and his associate Gouverneur Morris acquired and divided the vast territory between them, with LeRay's share covering some quarter million acres between the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. Soon afterwards LeRay established a land office and home base in LeRaysville near Watertown and began to sell or lease the lands to the inconting tide of settlers from New England and lower New York State.

Few men did more for the early development of Jefferson County than James LeRay; many of the communities he established, including Cape Vincent and Alexandria Bay, bear the names of members of his own family. In 1802 he planned a new settlement on the Chaumont River, to be named "Chaumont" in honor of his ancestral home. Jonas Smith and

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _See Quadrangle nameChaumont, _Ca	_		Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
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[X] See continuation Zone Easting	sheets	B Zone	Easting Northing
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Verbal boundary description and Boundary of the town boundary of the town	of Lyme Multi		Area follows the legal New York
List all states and counties for p			
state	code	county	code _{N/A}
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prepa	red By		
name/title John A. Bonafide, H	listoric Prese	ervation Progra	am Assistant
organization OPRHP Field Servi	ces Bureau	d	ate June 12, 1990
street & number Agency Buildir	ng 1, Empire S	State Plaza te	elephone 518-474-0479
city or town Albany		S	tate New York
12. State Histor	ic Prese	ervation	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this pro	operty within the s	tate is:	
national	state	X_ local	
665), I hereby nominate this property according to the criteria and procedu	for inclusion In th ires set forth by th	e National Register	pric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– and certify that it has been evaluated nice.
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Henry Delameter, the two agents appointed to undertake this venture, first chose a site on the river two and a half miles north of Chaumont Bay; when the site proved unhealthy, the agents removed in 1803 to the present site of Chaumont village at the mouth of the river. The settlement soon attracted several families from Ulster County, New York, and in 1806 LeRay began construction of Chaumont House for use as a combination land office and overnight lodge as he made the circuit of his vast estate between LeRaysville ane Cape Vincent.

In the same year, however, the financial failure of Smith and Delamater and a series of deaths from "lake fever" (malaria) temporarily checked the growth of Chaumont. LeRay returned to Europe and left Chaumont House unfinished; surviving settlers removed to Point Salubrious below Chaumont, named by LeRay for its freedom from malaria. By 1812 the Point Salubrious community was the largest on Chaumont Bay, consisting of some 15 families engaged principally in lumbering and subsistence farming.

The War of 1812 dramatically reversed the fortunes of Chaumont and every community throughout the North Country, stimulating local economies and removing the threat of war for prospective settlers. In 1815 "Chaumont Ferry" was connected to Brownville by an extension of the Cape Vincent turnpike, and the following year James LeRay returned from Europe to supervise the development of his estate. In 1818 he appointed Musgrove Evans, brother-in-law of General Jacob Brown, to undertake the planning and development of Chaumont. Evans imported a number of new (Quaker) families, laid out a network of streets, completed Chaumont House by 1820, and in that year completed his own elegant stone house nearby. With its sophisticated masonrywork and architectural details, the Evans/Gaige/Dillenback House (component #2) remains the finest Federal-era house in Lyme.

In many respects 1818 was a banner year for the town of Lyme. It was in this year that Lyme was officially formed from Cape Vincent and Brownville and named by settler Eber Kelsey for his hometown of Lyme, Connecticut. It was also in 1818 that Point Peninsula was first settled by the numerous Wilcox family, also from Connecticut. This period also saw the beginnings of a number of local industries which supported Lyme's economy throughout the nineteenth century. Fishing emerged as an important export industry; from about 1816 until the time of the Civil War, approximately 10,000 barrels of "ciscoes" (lake herring) and whitefish were exported annually from Chaumont. Lyme's first stone quarry opened in 1825 at Chaumont, soon renowned for the fine texture and durability of its marble-like limestone. Saw- and grist mills lined Horse Creek east of Chaumont, on what became known as "Sawmill Bay."

Lyme's post-war prosperity was checked in the early 1820s by the anticipated opening of the Erie Canal, which entirely bypassed the North Country; local land values plummeted, and in 1823 James LeRay declared bankruptcy and returned to France. Yet its developing fisheries, stone quarries, and lumber mills ensured Lyme's survival into the 1830s, when shipbuilding was added to its list of important industries. In the early 1830s, Asa Wilcox had begun building ships for the lake trade on the south tip of Point Peninsula; in 1835 he moved his operations to the tiny hamlet of Three Mile Bay, sonamed for its distance from Chaumont. The result was a building boom in which Three Mile Bay developed almost overnight into a hamlet which, for a time, exceeded Chaumont in size and importance. One of the new buildings was the Old Stone Shop (component #

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10) of c. 1838, a double blacksmith shop built by partners Asa Wilcox and blacksmith Aura Wilson to serve the needs of the Wilcox shipyard as well as the community at large. A rare building type in itself, the Old Stone Shop is also the most significant commercial building in Lyme, distinguished by the use of smooth-dressed lintelcourses and quoins to accent the rough-dressed walls.

The following year, Asa Wilcox's cousin Charles Wilcox built a new farmhouse below Three Mile Bay, on the east shore of Point Peninsula. In early nineteenth-century Lyme, the Charles Wilcox Farm was the town's largest sheep farm and its farmhouse one of the finest. While its masonrywork links it to the Old Stone Shop, its plan, consisting of a gable-front block and a low lateral kitchen wing, represented the earliest appearance in Lyme of the gabled-ell house.

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Attracted by its growing industries and its virgin farmland, a number of new families settled in Chaumont in the mid-1830s; two of their gable-front cottages survive in the Chaumont Historic District (component #8), heralding the gabled-ell house as well as the coming Greek Revival. But it was at Three Mile Bay that most domestic architecture arose in 1840s Lyme. During this period the Wilcox shipyard attracted a variety of service industries to Three Mile Bay, including blacksmith Aura Wilson, tinsmith Hart Knowlton, and tailor Phillip Shay. In the mid-1840s, they built the three contiguous gabled-ell houses at the west end of Three Mile Bay which are included in the nomination as The Row (component #13). These houses are significant as variations on a house type that was almost universal in its day, yet which allowed a great flexibility in terms of scale and stylistic detail. The Knowlton house also demonstrates how such houses were commonly expanded to meet the needs of later generations; in 1917 it gained a new kitchen at the rear and a new bedroom story on the lateral wing.

In the meantime, the agriculture of Lyme was gradually developing a market economy based upon perishable or bulky products - dairy products and coarse grains - which were impractical to ship to eastern markets from Western farms and thus more economical to raise in New York State. Towards mid-century, Lyme farmers began to expand or replace settlement-era farmhouses. In 1849, farmer David Angell expanded the three-bay log half-house built by his father in 1822 at the David Angell Farm into a traditional fivebay, center-entry clapboarded house with lateral kitchen wing. Less than ten years later, in 1858, Christopher Getman built a more fashionable, Italianate style vernacular farmhouse; the Christopher Getman Farmhouse was both formal and innovative in plan, reflecting the increasingly sophisticated tastes of Lyme farmers.

In 1851 the Watertown & Rome Railroad, first formed in 1832, extended a line to Cape Vincent in a straight run through Chaumont and passing Three Mile Bay a mile to the north, affecting its development for the rest of the century. Alexander Copley, Jefferson County's most prosperous landowner and Chaumont's most prominent resident, determined that the station should be located at the east end of Chaumont rather than at the riverfront. When he won this struggle, he built the last and finest Greek Revival residence in Chaumont across from the station, in the new center of the hamlet. The railroad altered not only the physical patterns but also the economic fortunes of Lyme forever. It brought about the rise of Lyme's merchant class in the 1850s; its members spent their new wealth on fashionable new houses. Chaumont merchants Absalom Backus and Ira Inman both built fine brick houses in the early 1860s in the Chaumont Historic District. Backus chose a flamboyant Gothic Revival style, while Inman opted for a more reticent Italianate palazzo house. The development of the coal-fired steam engine represented a major step for Lyme's sawmill industry; in 1860 Three Mile Bay's Menzo Wheeler refitted the hamlet's water-powered sawmill with a steam engine and immediately built a new house nearby which, with its great variety of wall sidings, may have been intended as a standing advertisement of the mill's new capabilities. The Menzo Wheeler House also reflected the prevailing taste for the "picturesque eclectic," combining Gothic and Italianate features on a mansard-roofed gabled-ell house.

Though the Civil War much reduced economic activity in Lyme during the 1860s, prosperity returned with renewed vigor in the 1870s; indeed, the last third of the nineteenth century saw Lyme, and particularly Chaumont, succeed in a variety of industrial and agricultural activities. With the death of Alexander Copley in 1871, his

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son Hiram inherited his father's vast holdings and business interests, which included shipbuilding, lumbering, and land speculation. One of his first acts was to build the Copley Office Building (1872) in front of his father's house in the Chaumont Historic District: unique in Jefferson County for its eclectic Gothic style elements, its type as a family-based office building, and for its fine masonry work. The following year Copley established the Cedar Grove Cemetery on three acres overlooking Chaumont Bay. This was the first cemetery in Lyme in the "romantic landscape" tradition; it includes all the key elements - a winding circulation system, plantings to invite restful contemplation, the sight and sound of water - and terraced burial plots to create a highly romantic effect. Chaumont was incorporated as a village in 1874, with Copley as its first president. Later, in the 1870s, he divided a large parcel on Main Street into three house lots, each with specific setback provisions. The three houses subsequently built upon them - the Knapp, Crumb, and Adams houses in the Chaumont Historic District are uniform in scale and stylistic ambition, reflecting the newly fashionable tastes of the villagers. In the 1880s Copley developed Washington Street as well, leading to the cemetery; the Darrow and Phelps houses of the early 1880s in the Chaumont Historic District reflect a more vernacular approach to house design.

The railroad price wars of the 1870s, spurred by the competition between the major lines to ship Western goods to Eastern markets, threatened to undercut New York State produce prices. In an effort to combat this situation, farmers in Lyme and throughout the state adopted the grange system, conceived after the Civil War to help restore order to the devastated South. The New York State Grange was officially established in 1871, and in 1873 State Grange No. 126 was formed at Three Mile Bay, followed soon afterwards by the construction of the Three Mile Bav Grange Hall. the first of Lyme's three grange halls and one of the oldest still extant in New York State. The Three Mile Bav Grange Hall followed a plan that became standard for later grange and community halls, with a semi-public open space downstairs and a more private meeting hall upstairs. Referred to simply as "the Hall" on historic maps, it was the center of community life, with its lower space used for dances, dinners, and a variety of other activities and its upper hall for meetings of the Grange and other fraternal organizations. The grange continued to play an important role in Lyme into the twentieth century, as attested to by the creation of Chaumont Grange No. 855 (component #6) in 1898 and the Point Peninsula Grange No. 1036 in 1906. The Chaumont Grange Hall and Dairymen's League Building demonstrates the flexibility of the community hall building type; in the beginning it housed the grange on the upper floor and the Dairymen's League on the lower floor, the first unionizing effort of the state's dairy farmers. Union-Hall (component #22, 1908) in the hamlet of Point Peninsula further reinforced the semi-public nature of the Grange hall. Owned in common by the farmers of Point Peninsula, Union Hall features a commercial shopfront as its entry as well as a kitchen located conveniently on the first floor.

The 1870s also brought innovations to Lyme's educational system. By 1840 seventeen school districts had been established in Lyme, each with its own one-room schoolhouse. The construction and maintenance of these schoolhouses was only partially supported by the state; the parents of each child attending school in a district were directly charged for this purpose. In 1867 the state abolished the "rate bill" system, making local education theoretically free for everyone. As a result, the schools in both Chaumont and Three Mile Bay were replaced with "union free schools." Chaumont's was

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removed in the 1930s but Three Mile Bay's Union Free School (c. 1877) still survives on its prominent site at the end of Academy Street. The Union Free School incorporated important educational innovations, including classrooms segregated by age and with their own teachers, window bands and higher ceilings to improve lighting and ventilation in the classrooms, and an upstairs assembly hall, divided by a set of sliding doors for classroom use. District School No. 3 (c. 1875) at Putnam Corners exemplifies a one-room schoolhouse built under the new system, also with a window band, a higher ceiling, and a separate room for storage upstairs.

Perhaps the most dramatic change in Lyme in the 1870s was the establishment of the town's seasonal/recreation economy. One of the first seasonal developments in the Thousand Islands was the Thousand Island House, built in Alexandria Bay in 1874. In 1878 a second seasonal development was established in the region by Alva Warner on Point Salubrious. Warner had discovered a mineral spring on his family farm on Point Salubrious in 1875 and by 1878 had established the "Warner Springs" spa, with a lavish Italianate palazzo-style summer boardinghouse on a knoll overlooking Chaumont Bay. Throughout the rest of the century several summer houses with broad verandas and fanciful jigsawn ornament were built at "Warner Springs" and along the lower shore of Point Salubrious; Mrs. Warner's new farmhouse of 1892, in the Point Salubrious District (component #9) adopted many of the fanciful features of these homes.

As part of the overall trend towards resort use, affluent merchants and industrialists began to establish lakeshore estates near the close of the century. Chaumont House (component #1) was restored in the 1890s by Watertown industrialist George Lance, while in the 1900s James L. Taylor, who was responsible for bringing electricity to Jefferson County in the 1900s, transformed his family home at Three Mile Bay into a gentleman's retreat. To create "Green Acres," Taylor moved the house to the shore, rebuilt it in Colonial Revival style, and built a large boathouse with servants' quarters upstairs. The Taylor Boathouse (component #16), the only example of its building type in Lyme, features the low hipped roof, wide bracketed eaves, and variety of wall siding derived from contemporary bungalow architecture. The same style elements characterize another building associated with Lyme's seasonal economy: the Chaumont Railroad Station (component #7), constructed c. 1900 by the New York Central Railroad as part of its campaign to promote the entire Lake Ontario shore from the St. Lawrence River to Niagara Falls. The station is one of a series of stations along the line with the same basic plan yet with varying elements; the Sackets Harbor station (town of Hounsfield), otherwise very similar, features a gabled rather than a hipped roof.

In the early twentieth century, Lyme's seasonal economy underwent a transformation that has persisted to the present day. In 1904 Watertown merchant W.H. Moore, who gave Frank W. Woolworth his start in business, purchased "Warner Springs" and established the Chaumont Bay Club, offering small lots for the construction of bungalows for private retiring after a day's socializing at the "clubhouse." Distinguished Watertown associates and members of the Moore family built a series of bungalows in the first quarter of the century which remain the most intact concentration of this building type in Lyme. Although the 1878 clubhouse was removed in the 1940s, the bungalows and Warner farmhouses of the Point Salubrious District reflect not only the transition of Lyme's economy from agricultural to seasonal/recreational, but also the evolution of that seasonal economy itself.

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The turn of the twentieth century saw the gradual eclipse of Lyme's traditional industries. The waters of Chaumont Bay, fished out for commercial purposes by the late nineteenth century, found favor as a haven for sports fishermen; the Chaumont shipyard began to build sloops and small yachts rather than trading vessels. The Chaumont quarries continued to produce fine limestone for foundations, trim, and occasionally ground floors, as attested to by the George House (component #4) in Chaumont; however, Chaumont merchants found it less costly to build in simulated masonry rather than the real article. Three Chaumont buildings, constructed after an 1897 fire which destroyed much of the central business district, feature the use of stamped metal as sheathing on otherwise conventional frame buildings. While the sheathing on the Chaumont Grange Hall & Dairymen's League Building simulates wood clapboards, the Masonic Hall in the Chaumont Historic District and the George Brothers Building (component #5) feature metal siding stamped to resemble rock-faced ashlar, along with trim and other details which reveal that the siding may have been manufactured by the Mesker Brothers Architectural Works. The Masonic Hall is also significant as the only community hall built in Lyme for a fraternal organization, while the George Brothers Building exemplifies an urban building type applied to a storage warehouse by ambitious merchants.

Other architectural companies played a role in the last great agricultural boom in Lyme of the 1900s. Particularly towards the end of the decade, conditions were ideal for Lyme's hay farmers. In the age just before the development of the automobile, New York City depended on many thousands of horses, who in turn depended on North Country hay. Windfall profits enabled many hay farmers in Lyme to replace their old farmhouses; the spacious new houses offered by Gamble & Sons, a family firm of carpenter/builders based in Sackets Harbor, averaged about \$8000. The new house on the Lance Farm (component #20) on Point Peninsula, constructed in 1908, features the turned porch posts, spindle friezes, shingled gable peaks and Queen Anne sash characteristic of the Gambles' work, as well as a wealth of interior cabinetry and woodwork. The Taft House (component #19) in Three Mile Bay, another Gamble house of 1908, was taken complete from Design no. 175 in an early edition of Radford's Ideal Homes. Built for a retiring hay farmer, the house features an eclectic mix of Queen Anne, Arts & Crafts, and Colonial Revival elements which were calculated to please a variety of tastes.

The growing popularity of the automobile in the 1910s and 1920s completed the transformation of Lyme from a largely agricultural community to a seasonal resort. The trend continues today, as the agricultural landscape of Lyme slowly deteriorates through neglect.

OMB No. 1024-0018, NPS Form

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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