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

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

Inventory—Nomination Form

National Register of Historic Places

1. Name

historic					
and or common Sandy C	reek (Town) Multi	ple Resourd	ce Area		
2. Location					
street & number Variou Town of San city, town Corporate B		forms		not for publ	ication
state New York	code 036	county Oswe	eao	code	0.7.5
3. Classification	tion				
Category Ownership	x occupie x unoccu work in guisition Accessible essX yes: res	ed pied progress stricted	resent Use agriculture Commercial educational entertainment Sovernment industrial military	museun _X_ park _X_ private r _X_ religious scientifi transpo other:	residence s c
4. Owner of l	Property				
name Multiple	Ownership - See c	ontinuation	sheet		
city, town	vic	nity of	state		
5. Location courthouse, registry of deeds, street & number 48 East					
city, town Oswego	C DEINGE DELECT	Anning	state	New York	13126
	ation in Exis	ting Sur			15120
	ntory of Historic		been determined e	ligible? ye	es <u>X</u> no
date 1986			federalX_ sta	ite county	local
depository for survey records	NYS Office of Pa	irks, Recrea	ation & Hist	coric Rrese	ervation

city, town Albany

state New York

7. Description

Condition V	arious	Check one unaltered	Check one	site
good fair	ruins unexposed	<u>X</u> altered	moved	date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

See Continuation Sheets

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number ____7 Page ___1_

> The historic resources of the town of Sandy Creek, New York were identified by means of a comprehensive survey/inventory completed in 1976 under the direction of the Heritage Foundation of Oswego and in 1981 and 1985 by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Ontario Commission and the Town of Sandy Creek, with the consultation of the New York State Historic Preservation Office staff. One hundred twenty-six properties were photographed, mapped and recorded on New York State building/structure inventory forms and systematically evaluated against the National Register criteria for their architectural and/or historical The multiple resource nomination includes all significance. properties within the corporate limits of the town of Sandy Creek whose historical or architectural significance can be determined from currently available information. These properties are the most outstanding or intact representative examples of their type, style or period in the multiple resource area. Other properties and districts may be added to the nomination in the future should additional information allow for a positive finding regarding National Register eligibility. Sites where the primary significance may be archeological have not been evaluated, and systematic archeological study of the area, particularly Indian sites, pioneer dwelling sites and the sites of early-nineteenth century water-powered industries on the banks of Little Sandy Creek, may yield additional information about historic significance.

> The thirteen components of the Sandy Creek (Town) multiple resource nomination contain a total of thirty-one contributing The nominated buildings and four contributing structures. properties together reflect the historical development of the town of Sandy Creek from the 1830's through 1928 and are the town's most intact and significant historic and architectural The components of the nomination are the Sandy Creek resources. Historic District, (composed of eleven commercial residential and civic properties, fourteen contributing elements), and twelve individual properties including eight residential properties (composed of seventeen contributing elements). The individual properties also include two religious, one civic and two commercial buildings. All but one of the individual properties are located in the villages of Sandy Creek and Lacona in areas which lack sufficient integrity to warrant nomination as historic districts. One individual property is located on the Lake Ontario shore in an area which lacks sufficient architectural significance to warrant nomination as a historic

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number ____7 Page ____2

district. The agricultural building complexes throughout the town have been altered, expanded or replaced throughout the twentieth century and lack sufficient integrity for nomination.

The 3.7-acre <u>Sandy Creek Historic District</u> encompasses the historic and present commercial center of the village of Sandy Creek. Constructed between the 1830's and 1928, it includes seven wood frame commercial buildings, most in the Italianate style, three frame residences, including two high-style Greek Revival style houses, and a brick Colonial Revival style library. The buildings in the historic district exhibit high levels of integrity and local craftsmanship. They are complementary in scale, style and materials, unified by a consistent facade line and related by their common period of development.

The twelve individual properties in the multiple resource nomination, built between 1851 and 1928, represent the latenineteenth century growth and civic development of the community based on the prosperity of the local farm economy and improvements in transportation. They represent a broad range of popular late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century architectural styles, including outstanding examples of Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Bungalow, High Victorian Gothic, and Neoclassical style buildings as well as the most intact representative examples of vernacular building types. Constructed of wood or brick, the individual properties possess integrity and embody the distinctive characteristics of their type, style or period.

The Greek Revival style <u>Pitt M. Newton House</u> (1851), built by William Elliott Howlett, is the earliest of three such houses in the multiple resource nomination. The others are the Julius Robbins House (1857) and the Horace Scripture House (pre-1861), both in the Sandy Creek Historic District. Each of the houses exhibits a one and one-half story front portico with two square pillars and two Ionic columns and a side wing. The Robbins and Scripture Houses feature hipped roofs with broad cornices atop the front porticos. The <u>Pitt M. Newton House</u> displays a pedimented portico, a cross-gable roof and pedimented window crowns.

The Italianate style, popular in the late nineteenth century, is represented by four commercial buildings in the Sandy Creek Historic District as well as two individual properties. The <u>Matthew Shoecraft House</u> (c.1867) and the <u>Samuel Sadler House</u>

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number ____7___ Page ____3__

> (1870's) both display the square shape, hipped roof, broad cornices and one-story entry porch characteristic of the Italianate style. The <u>Matthew Shoecraft House</u> features turned double cornice brackets and simple window crowns. The <u>Samuel</u> <u>Sadler House</u> displays double carved brackets, highlighted by a shaped frieze and molded window crowns. It is distinguished by a unique variety of brick patterns formed by using common or Flemish bond in several shades of red brick.

The <u>Smith H. Barlow House (1898)</u> and the <u>Fred Smart House</u> (1900) are representative examples of the Queen Anne style. Both exhibit towers, a combination of siding materials, one-story porches with turned posts and balustrades with turned spindles, all characteristic of the style. The porch posts on the two houses are identical. <u>The Smith H. Barlow House</u> features an irregular window pattern and asymmetrical massing.

In contrast, the <u>Fred Smart House</u> has symmetrical massing and fenestration, indicating the influence of the Neoclassical style. Only the flat and conical rooflines of its round towers disrupt the symmetry of the facade. The first floor of the <u>Fred Smart</u> <u>House</u> is sided with pressed metal resembling concrete block.

The vernacular building type most characteristic of the nineteenth-century growth of the villages consists of a simple rectangular frame block with a gable-roof, regular fenestration, clapboard siding and restrained ornament, if any. Three, two or two and one-half story commercial buildings in the <u>Sandy Creek</u> <u>Historic District</u> are representative of this type, as is the modest, small-scale Captain James Thompson House, also in the <u>Sandy Creek Historic District</u>. One individual component, the <u>Newton Tuttle House</u> (1871), is typical of this local building type and is the most intact representative example in the multiple resource area. It is distinguished by a rear wing and decorative details on porch columns and brackets.

Another individual component, the <u>Charles M. Salisbury House</u> (1908), is an example of an early twentieth century vernacular middle-class residence that is distinctly modern in its form and details, showing the influence of the emerging Craftsman style and the architectural journals and pattern books of the day. It features a multi-gabled roof, horizontal massing, uniform clapboard siding and simple details such as square porch posts and square spindles in the porch balustrade.

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Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number ____7 Page ___4

> The Holyoke Cottage (1906) is an outstanding intact example of a Bungalow style vacation cottage located on the Lake Ontario shore. It has a low-pitched hipped roof, with exposed rafters and a recessed full facade front porch with round columns. A front dormer is highlighted by a roof-top balustrade. The house retains its original windows with diamond-shaped panes and a wide Dutch type door.

> Two architecturally significant religious buildings, the <u>Methodist Church</u> (1879) and the <u>First Baptist Church</u> (1918), are included in this nomination. <u>The Methodist Church</u> (1879) is a brick High Victorian Gothic style building, featuring a threestage tower with a spire, a two-story tripartite pointed-arched stained-glass window, a steep slate roof, corbelling and banded window crowns. In contrast, the <u>First Baptist Church</u> (1918) is a vernacular frame church with a rooftop tower, clerestory windows and a multi-gabled pyramidal roof. The distinctive octagon shape reflects its Akron plan interior layout, with peripheral meeting rooms around a central sanctuary.

> Three components which reflect the early twentieth century civic and commercial development of the villages as well as the popularity of historicist styles of the period include the brick Colonial Revival style Annie Porter Ainsworth Memorial Library in the <u>Sandy Creek Historic District</u> and two individual components, the <u>First National Bank of Lacona</u> (1923) and the <u>Lacona Clock</u> <u>Tower (1925). The First National Bank</u> is a one-story brick, Neoclassical Revival style commercial building with a stepped parapet front and a pedimented portico with four Corinthian columns. The entry features sidelights and a large fanlight. The brick <u>Clock Tower</u>, a freestanding three-stage structure, houses a clock and the village bell. It is constructed of the same red brick as the bank, but exhibits the influence of the Tudor style with buff brick corbelling and quoin-like detailing at the corners and around the door and clock openings.

A complete list of nominated properties follows. Additional information concerning all properties included in the multiple resource nomination is enclosed on the New York State building/structure inventory forms.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—C			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	Iandscape architectur	e religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	iaw	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
<u> </u>	commerce	exploration/settlement	t philosophy	theater
<u>X</u> 1900–	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention	- -	other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1830-1928

Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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See Continuation Sheets

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number _____ Page ____

The Sandy Creek (Town) Multiple Resource Area contains twelve individual properties and one historic district, dating from the 1830's to 1928, significant by their associations with the architectural and historical development of the town of Sandy Creek, a community whose was history founded on the prosperity of local farms, the opening of important transportation routes and the advent of tourism. The properties constitute an inventory of the most intact and significant surviving examples of midnineteenth to early-twentieth century commercial, residential, religious and civic buildings in the town. The nominated properties include representative and distinguished examples of the popular architectural styles of the day, including Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, High Victorian Gothic, Bungalow, Neoclassical Revival and Colonial Revival styles, as well as distinctive vernacular building types reflecting the influence of nationally popular movements and architectural publications of the period. The architectural heritage of the town reflects the development of mercantile prosperity associated with local farming and regional trade, the growth of important religious and civic institutions, the development of a seasonal shoreline recreation area and the exceptional quality of design and construction of local craftsmen/builders. With the exception of vacation and recreation related buildings, little new development has occurred in Sandy Creek since the early twentieth Century.

The historic resources of Sandy Creek represent three major periods of the town's development: the early settlement from 1802 to the mid-nineteenth century, the mid-to late-nineteenth to early-twentieth century development of religious and civic institutions in the villages and the development of the Lake Ontario shore for recreation.

Little remains from the earliest events and habitation in the town. Samuel de Champlain and a band of Hurons landed on the lake shore in 1615 but left after being defeated in battle with the Onondagas. Relics, found near the Lake Ontario shore, are all that remain of an early Indian village in that area.

The early settlement of the town, beginning in 1802, was inhibited by the War of 1812. Sandy Creek's strategic location halfway between the forts at Oswego and Sackets Harbor was cause for fear of invasion, driving off established settlers and discouraging new ones.

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Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number ____8 Page ____2

After the war, settlement by pioneers from New England increased. Lumbering and potash production were the first industries, aided by water-powered sawmills on Little Sandy Creek. As the forests were cleared, the topography and fertile soils proved ideal for dairy farming and the cultivation of hay, corn, potatoes and fruits. In 1835, Colonel Thomas Meacham focused national attention on the area and its dairy industry by making a 1400-pound cheese as a gift for President Andrew Jackson. Colonel Meacham transported the cheese to Washington D.C. with as much fanfare as he could muster over the threemonth-long trip.

The only historic resource associated with this early settlement period is the William Cottrell House (c. 1835), the earliest extant building in the <u>Sandy Creek Historic District</u>. It survives as the rear section of 8071 Harwood Drive. A onestory frame residence with a gable roof, front porch and picket fence, it was very similar to the modest, pre-1854 residence of Captain James Thompson located at 8087 Harwood Drive in the <u>Sandy</u> <u>Creek Historic District</u> and typical of small log or frame dwellings from the period. Due to late-nineteenth and early twentieth century alterations to the front of the building, it is more representative of the later nineteenth century commercial development of the village.

The second major period of Sandy Creek's development occurred between 1849 and the turn of the century, when the villages of Sandy Creek and Lacona grew as regional centers of commerce, based on the continued prosperity of agriculture, the growth of water-or steam-powered industry along Little Sandy Creek, the opening of the Syracuse-Watertown Plank Road through Sandy Creek (1849), and the arrival of the Rome-Watertown Railroad in Lacona, (1851). By 1853 the village of Sandy Creek had fifty dwellings, five general stores, four blacksmith shops, three shoe shops, two harness shops, two carriage shops and a hotel. It also had two tanneries, a grist mill, a saw mill and three churches.

The <u>Sandy Creek Historic District</u>, the historic and present commercial center of the village of Sandy Creek, reflects this period with its concentration of commercial buildings for, or adapted to, the increase in commerce along the Syracuse-Watertown Plank Road. The district includes two former blacksmith shops

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Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number 8 Page 3

(8085 and 8079 Harwood Drive, 1847 and 1861) a former boot and shoe store (8079 Harwood Drive, 1894), a millinery shop (8073 Harwood Drive, c.1867) a general store (9165 N. Main Street, 1898), a furniture store/undertaking service (9163 S. Main Street, 1899) and the former William Cottrell Residence (8071 Harwood Drive, 1835), which was converted to commercial use in 1895. Built of frame construction, these commercial buildings reflect local builders' adaptations of popular mid-and latenineteenth century architectural styles, most commonly the Italianate. All are two or two and one-half stories high with first floor storefronts and upper-story storage space. Four have flat roofs, projecting cornices and decorative brackets. Three have gable roofs, and three have first-floor galleries over the sidewalk.

The district also contains three residences of local merchants or craftsmen from this period: the one-story vernacular frame residence of Captain James Thompson, one of the local blacksmiths (8087 Harwood Drive, pre-1854), and the two Greek Revival style frame residences (8084 and 8080 Harwood Drive, 1857 and pre-1861) of Julius Robbins, proprietor of a general store, and Horace Scripture, a gentleman farmer and horse trader.

The Captain James Thompson residence, in its small scale, simple rectangular form and lack of architectural detail, is typical of modest residences of the period. The high-style Robbins and Scripture residences, distinguished by their high level of architectural detail and quality of craftsmanship, attest to the prosperity of their owners and of the village in the mid-nineteenth century.

The <u>Pitt M. Newton</u> residence (1851, individual component), located east of the Sandy Creek Historic District, is identical to the Julius Robbins and Horace Scripture residences (both in the historic district) in style, scale, proportion and some details. It was also built for a prosperous merchant, Pitt M. Newton, owner of the P. M. Newton General Store in the Sandy Creek Historic District. The Newton, Robbins and Scripture residences are significant as outstanding examples of Greek Revival style residential architecture in Sandy Creek and as the only intact surviving examples of work of local master craftsman William Elliott Howlett. All three residences reflect the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Town of Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area Sandy Creek, Oswego County Section number _8 Page _4___

influence of the popular architectural pattern books of the period in their Greek Revival style and the proportions and details of their Ionic columns. They also reflect Howlett's own interpretation of popular architectural styles in his use of a combination of square pillars and Ionic columns on the front portico. In addition, while the earlier Newton residence has a gable roof and a pedimented portico, the Robbins and Scripture houses have hipped roofs and the Scripture house features Italianate style cornice brackets. All three houses are distinguished by the high quality of Howlett's wood craftsmanship, displayed in the finely detailed fluted columns and carved Ionic capitals.

William Elliott Howlett (b. c.1817) was a skilled furniture and coffin maker as well as a builder of houses and school buildings in Sandy Creek from the 1840's through the 1870's. He probably learned his craft from his father, an early settler from Connecticut and a builder. He operated a shop on Ridge Road which probably had treadmill-operated lathes and other woodworking machines. He moved to the village of Sandy Creek where he was able to use water power in the 1870's. His work ranged from the elaborately detailed Newton, Robbins and Scripture residences, which demonstrated his skilled craftsmanship and his familiarity with architectural pattern books of the period (particularly those by Asher Benjamin) to examples of simple vernacular frame houses with a gabled main blocks and side or rear wings and restrained architectural detail, similar to the Newman Tuttle residence (individual component) and typical of modest residential buildings in the town in the mid-to late-nineteenth century.

The prosperity of the town of Sandy Creek in the second half of the nineteenth century is reflected in a number of outstanding residences (all individual components), representative examples of a variety of architectural styles which were popular in this period. The <u>Matthew Shoecraft House</u> (c.1860's) (individual component) and the <u>Samuel Sadler House</u> (1870's) (individual component) are the finest examples of Italianate style residences in Sandy Creek. Both exhibit the square shape, projecting cornice with decorative brackets and entry porches with tapered pillars which are characteristic of the Italianate style. The <u>Samuel Sadler House</u> is distinguished by its varied combinations of masonry patterns, reflecting the hand of its

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owner/builder, a master mason. The Matthew Shoecraft House is distinguished by its double turned cornice brackets and decorative window crowns. The Queen Anne style <u>Smith H. Barlow</u> <u>House</u> (1898) (individual component) and <u>Fred Smart House</u> (1900) (individual component) are significant as the best local examples of the style and as the personal architectural expressions of their original owners, both builders and craftsmen. Both houses are typical of the Queen Anne style in scale, form, the use of towers and varied siding materials. The Smith Barlow House exhibits irregular massing and a variety of window sizes and shapes, while the Fred Smart House shows the influence of the emerging Neoclassical style in its symmetrical facade.

The late nineteenth century was a period of residential growth in the villages. Many of the new dwellings were simple unadorned frame houses with gabled main blocks and side wings built by retired farmers, landlords and middle-class families. The <u>Newman Tuttle House</u> (1871) (individual component) provides the most intact representative example of a typical vernacular residential building in the villages during this period.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth century was a period of civic pride, growth of important religious institutions and establishment of community organizations including the Union Cemetery Association (1866), the Union School District (1871) the Sandy Creek Lecture Association (1882) and the H. H. Cole Cornet Band (1879). A significant religious building which epitomizes the prosperity and high standards of craftsmanship as well as the community spirit during this period is the High Victorian Gothic style <u>Methodist Church</u> (1879) (individual component). Designed by architect Winslow Tucker of Watertown, NY, this distinguished brick edifice with as late roof was financed by donations from the entire community and constructed by the volunteer labor of the congregation. It is also significant as an outstanding example of the High Victorian Gothic style in the multiple resource area.

The <u>First Baptist Church</u> (1918), (individual component) is another distinguished example of a religious building from this period which, in both its exterior form and interior plan, reflects a national trend in Protestant church designs to create auditorium spaces with ancillary spaces available through moveable partitions. It was designed by Charles M. Salisbury, a

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prominent businessman who epitomized the progressive spirit of this period as a leader of the Baptist congregation in his management (as a co-founder and chairman of the board) of the <u>First National Bank of Lacona</u> (individual component) and as a local builder who incorporated new trends in architecture in his work.

Mr. Salisbury also designed the <u>Charles M. Salisbury House</u> (1908) (individual component), significant as a middle-class vernacular residence which is distinctly modern in form and details for Sandy Creek at the time, reflecting the influence of national architectural journals and the emerging Craftsman style.

The <u>First National Bank of Lacona</u> (1923) (individual component), the town's only bank, was important to the economic growth and stability of the town and remained solvent throughout the Great Depression. It is architecturally significant as the only representative example of an early twentieth century Neoclassical Revival style commercial building in the multiple resource area.

In 1925, The Coterie Club, a local women's service club, donated the <u>Lacona Clock Tower</u> (individual component) in recognition of the centennial of the town of Sandy Creek. The Clock Tower is significant as an intact representative example of an early twentieth century civic monument, reflecting the national popularity of eclectic historicist styles of the period and local civic pride.

In 1928, the Hon. D. E. Ainsworth, a native of Sandy Creek, donated the Annie Porter Ainsworth Memorial Library to the town, in memory of his late wife. The library, a familiar landmark sited at the crossroad center of Sandy Creek, is significant as an intact representative example of Colonial Revival style building and as the centerpiece of the <u>Sandy Creek Historic</u> <u>District.</u>

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century the improvement of transportation contributed to travel, the development of tourist accommodations in Sandy Creek, (including hotels like the Watkins House and Sandy Creek House in the <u>Sandy</u> <u>Creek Historic District</u>) as well as recreational use of the Lake Ontario Shore. While unsuitable for shipping or agriculture, the

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marshes and shallow ponds protected by sand bars proved ideal for hunting, fishing, swimming and recreational boating. The first rental cottage in Sandy Creek was built in 1895. The <u>Holyoke</u> <u>Cottage</u> (1906) (individual component) reflects the emergence of the shore as a recreation and vacation area and is an outstanding and exceptionally intact example of a seasonal bungalow.

The historic resources of the Sandy Creek Multiple Resource Area represent three major phases of development of the town from the mid-nineteenth century to early twentieth century. Subsequent development has produced minor changes in the historic fabric of the community, with most historic buildings remaining in use, in settings appropriate to their original functions, continuing to serve the life of the community.

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