

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NRS use only  
received AUG 12 1983  
date entered

1. Name

historic

and/or common <sup>(MRA)</sup> Shawangunk Valley ~~Multiple Resource Area~~

2. Location

street & number ~~see individual inventory forms~~ not for publication

city, town Gardiner & Shawangunk vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Ulster code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name multiple ownership, see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ulster County Clerk's Office

street & number County Office Building, 244 Fair St.

city, town Kingston state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title see continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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Shawangunk Valley Multiple  
Continuation sheet Resource Area, Ulster Co., N.Y. Item number 6

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

1. TITLE New York Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources  
DATE February 1980  
DEPOSITORY New York State Division for Historic Preservation  
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, N.Y. 12238  
DETERMINED ELIGIBLE? No

2. Properties in the Multiple Resource Area already listed in  
the National Register of Historic Places are:

Johannes Decker Farm, Gardiner vicinity, Ulster County  
3/5/74

Shawangunk Reformed Church Complex, Wallkill vicinity,  
Ulster County, 6/3/82

Tuthilltown Mill, Gardiner vicinity, Ulster County, 6/14/82

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input 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 historic resources of the Shawangunk Valley were identified by means of a comprehensive survey/inventory of structures compiled between 1976 and 1979 under the direction of the Shawangunk Valley Conservancy with the consultation of the New York State Historic Preservation Office staff. The Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area contains eleven individual properties. All properties included in the nomination were recorded on New York State building/structure inventory forms and systematically evaluated against the National Register criteria for their architectural and/or historical significance. Sites where the primary significance may be archeological have not been evaluated. Three properties within the multiple resource area are presently listed on the National Register: The Johannes Decker Farm ( 3/5/74 ), the Shawangunk Reformed Church Complex ( 6/3/82 ), and the Tuthilltown Mill ( 6/14/82 ).

The Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area is defined by the watershed of approximately eleven miles of the Shawangunk Kill, which flows through Ulster County, New York, including its major tributaries, the Dwaarkill and the Kleine Kill. The area is composed of approximately 20,000 acres in the towns of Gardiner and Shawangunk, a broad plain east of the crest of the Shawangunk Mountains and west of the Hoagburgh ridge. It is bordered on the south by the Ulster-Orange County line at Red Mills and on the north where the kill enters the Wallkill River in Ganahgote.

The Shawangunk Kill has its origins in a number of small streams in southwestern Orange County, New York. It flows northeast from there forming the border first between Orange and Sullivan Counties, and then between Orange and Ulster Counties. For most of that route, the kill has little flood plain and the area along its banks is heavily wooded and undeveloped. In Ulster County the Shawangunk Kill flows into a broad plain and becomes part of a natural and visual environment quite distinct for its unique beauty and history.

The Shawangunk Mountains, which rise to an elevation of about 2,000 feet above sea level, dominate this landscape. Their eastern ridge forms a dramatic escarpment. The Hoagburgh Ridge on the east is lower and less dramatic; however, it provides visual definition for the valley. The vistas in the valley are typically very broad because of the flat topography and the large proportion of land cleared for agriculture. It was here that the early settlers came to establish their farms. The natural attributes of the valley encouraged its development in the late seventeenth century when white men began displacing the Native American tribes which had occupied the valley for centuries.

( see continuation sheet )

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New York

Early inhabitants of the Hudson Valley located themselves near the river and its tributaries, which offered easy transportation and satisfied their basic needs. They also were apprehensive of the unknown woods and particularly the Native American tribes which resided there. In 1682 Gertrude Bruyn and Michael DeModt approached members of the dwindling Esopus tribe about the purchase of the lands named Shawangunk and so started the influx of families whose descendents remain there today. The Deckers, Jansens, Terwilligers and Bruyns were among those who ventured into the interior from the stockade areas of Kingston. The arable lands in the valley were exceptional. Wildlife was plentiful and fruits and vegetables were found in such quantities as to be considered native to the region. The concentration of settlement along the kill and its flood plains can be attributed to these natural features which supported the many aspects of this agrarian community.

The architectural history of the region originates with the stone houses of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. These structures were built of native stone which was both readily available in the Shawangunk Valley and a durable material. The houses varied little in design or detail. This uniformity became characteristic of Ulster County vernacular houses as it was transmitted from one generation to another for nearly two centuries. The houses were generally one and a half stories tall with one or two room plans. Examples of these early houses survive as the cores of houses which were later expanded such as the William Decker house, the Thomas Jansen house and the Johannes Jansen house. Distinguishing features include steep gable roofs, often with clapboarded ends; few, small and randomly placed windows; chimneys at end walls and broad two sectioned "Dutch" doors set against the inside faces of the thick stone wall so that the depth formed a recessed entrance. Garret space was unfinished and traditionally used for storage; many houses had granary doors at the garret level of one gable end.

It was common to find a central hall flanked by one or two rooms appearing in later eighteenth century stone houses ( such as the later additions to the William Decker house and the Thomas Jansen house ). Such composite houses were often composed of a row of three rooms, each with exterior doors. By the time of the Revolution, however, the taste for consolidated houses with two stories of rooms around a central hall had been introduced to the local building tradition ( e.g. Johannes Jansen house ). Customarily, stone houses were dated and initialed by the owner on a lintel, cornerstone or along the eaves, as evident at the William Decker house ( initialed datestone ), Brykill ( initialed datestone ) and the later section of the Johannes Jansen house ( initialed at eaves ).

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Few frame buildings constructed before the Revolution survive in Ulster County although three examples exist in the Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area ( Terwilliger house, Dill Farm and the Peter Aldrich Homestead ). Heavy lath between the framework of these structures was covered with a thick mud and clay mixture reinforced with straw and hair. Broad overlapping clapboards protected the buildings. In form and design, frame residences followed the stone building tradition.

Federal period decorations of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries influenced the interior design of both stone and frame buildings in the Shawangunk Valley. Finely carved mantels and doorcasings were introduced into simpler, earlier structures as they were enlarged, as evident in the Thomas Jansen house, the Terwilliger house and the Peter Aldrich Homestead. While the earliest buildings had been constructed by owners or local tradesmen, the decorative moldings, cabinetry, mantels and door frames of the nineteenth century were the work of a larger, more sophisticated craft network that developed as communication between communities expanded after the Revolution. However, the surviving examples in the multiple resource area embody distinctive characteristics that reflect the persistence of parochial taste in the locality and traditional patterns of behavior. An anomaly is the Van Vleck house, which was designed and erected in a manner quite distinct from the local patterns. In addition to containing distinguished Federal characteristics, the Van Vleck house is a purer representation of the taste that was finding only limited expression in the Shawangunk Valley.

Architecturally, the buildings within the multiple resource area in the Shawangunk Valley reveal that utility was a primary concern in the early settlement period. The subsequent additions and updating of the structures reflect the nineteenth-century growth, development and prosperity in the valley. The small single-room houses of the early inhabitants provided shelter for the family as well as storage for their food and a space for household occupations. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries these structures became secondary wings for larger houses, which frequently had symmetrical center hall plans and an emphasis on Federal design ( see: Thomas Jansen house, Johannes Jansen house and William Decker house ). The mid and late nineteenth century brought further alterations of exterior detailing and interior plans giving old structures a more

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fashionable appearance in popular styles ( such as the Italianate features of the Johannes Jansen house ) and giving new houses wholly new forms and ornament as is the Greek Revival design and decoration in the Miller's house at Red Mills, and the Civil War period Bevier house - a 'new' farmhouse in the informal, romanticized taste. By the twentieth century, the Colonial Revival movement provided a unique interpretation of the local house type at Brykill carrying the stone house architecture into the academic realm and completing its evolution.

In this agrarian community, public and industrial ( non-farm ) buildings were rare, though some intact examples exist in this multiple resource area. The Shawangunk Reformed Church ( NR listed ) and the Tuthilltown Mill ( NR listed ) and the largely intact nineteenth-century Pearl Street Schoolhouse structure ( included in this nomination ) are distinctive examples. The eleven components of the Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area nomination exhibit the range of development of family and community life and their expression in the differing periods and styles from the first half of the eighteenth century through the first half of the 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 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1750-1930

Builder/Architect see accompanying forms

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area is an unique natural environment containing eleven significant properties which embody the distinctive architectural attributes of the agrarian culture which has prospered there since the seventeenth century. The nominated properties comprise an inventory of exceptional vernacular house types, in stone and frame construction, which represent the evolution of local architecture over two centuries of development. As a group, these buildings with their persistent use of traditional materials, forms and techniques and their cautious integration of new decorative design elements, demonstrate the continuity of the post medieval traditional building practice in a transplanted New World society. In Ulster County, renowned for its distinctive stone architecture, the Shawangunk Valley retains a significant collection of buildings, which reflect the growth of the agricultural settlement from the seventeenth century to 1930.

The first inhabitants of the Shawangunk Valley were the Esopus Indians, part of the Delaware tribe, having settled there many centuries before the European discovery of the region. Their population was small and centered in the broad watershed of the Shawangunk Kill and its tributaries. The newcomers kept at a distance in the stockaded compounds on the Hudson until 1663 when the Indians attacked a satellite settlement near Kingston and took a number of women and children captive. Dutch soldiers followed and descended upon the Indians as they worked fortifying their encampments, causing them to flee back across the Shawangunk Kill. The soldiers recovered the captives and returned to Kingston with thirteen Indian prisoners. The Dutchmen then revisited the Shawangunk Valley in October of 1663 to ravage the cornfields and destroy any remnants of the Indian village.

The sorties into the Shawangunk Valley introduced the population of Kingston to a fertile area suitable for new farms. Soon after the hostilities ceased, Gertrude Bruyn and Michael DeModt approached the remaining Esopus Indians about the purchase of lands in the Shawangunk Valley region. By 1682, deeds for these purchased lands were registered in Kingston. Gertrude Bruyn built a house and settled her land on the west side of the Shawangunk Kill by 1687. Adjoining lands became part of Colonial Governor Thomas Dongan's tract in 1684; Dongan conveyed parcels to Cornelius Decker and Jan Evert Terwilliger and several

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other founders of local families. By 1712 all the Dongan tract had been transferred. In the mid eighteenth century large tracts were subdivided encouraging settlement to spread across the valley. Land ownership, however, continued by family descent well into the nineteenth century and later.

A crossroads known as Bruynswick served as the center of the community before 1776. An inn was operated there in the 1750's and it was here that the Shawangunk Reformed Church and parsonage ( NR - 6/82 ) were constructed from 1751 through 1755 on a six-acre parcel donated by Isaac Hasbrouck. Cornelius and Peter Decker completed the parsonage by October 1751 and construction of the church was begun by Garrett Decker, Abraham Terwilliger, Jacobus Bruyn, Isaac Hasbrouck and Hendrick Van Weyen in January 1752. The multiple resource area covered in this nomination largely constitutes the geographic and familial sphere of the Shawangunk Reformed Church. Significant early residences in this vicinity are the Johannes Decker Farm ( NR-3/74 ) and the Terwilliger house, a component of this nomination.

After the Revolutionary War, the community centered around Ganahgote and Tuthilltown where the Shawangunk Kill empties into the Wallkill River. Mills were in operation there in the eighteenth century and the Tuthilltown grist mill ( NR-6/82 ), built by Selah Tuthill in 1788, remains as an example of this significant commercial activity in the community. This early industrial enterprise consisted of a grist mill, saw mill, fulling mill and dye house with a carding mill and a store added in the mid nineteenth century.

During the nineteenth century other small commercial centers developed in the Shawangunk Valley. The area of Red Mills, for example, on the Orange-Ulster county line had a fulling mill and saw mill by 1840. The miller's house survives and is part of this nomination. Dwaarkill grew around the industry concentrated on the creek which shares its name. The William Decker house survives from the early development of this area.

After the Wallkill Valley Railroad opened in 1868 on the east side of the Wallkill River all subsequent industrial development and transportation expansion occurred along its route, causing the village of Wallkill to become the center of the town of Shawangunk. For the same reason, the hamlet of Gardiner began to draw commerce away from Ganahgote and Tuthilltown. Major north-south highways located east of the Shawangunk Valley accentuated this trend away from the multiple resource area.

( see continuation sheet )



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The resulting lack of growth of the Shawangunk Valley since the mid nineteenth century has helped to preserve its agrarian character and early architecture. The Shawangunk Reformed Church at Bruynswick still serves an active congregation as it has for more than two hundred years; the Johannes Decker Farm is a working farm and the waterpowered Tuthilltown Mill operates daily. With these exceptional examples of the region's past, the following eleven sites constitute the significant historic resources surviving in the Shawangunk Valley from its first two centuries. Architecturally and historically, the watershed of the Shawangunk Kill and its tributaries has retained the distinctive environment that made it appealing to its original settlers.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ~~see individual forms~~

Quadrangle name Napanoch & Gardiner Quads

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UTM References see continuation sheet

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

The Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area is defined by the watershed of approximately eleven miles of the Shawangunk Kill which ( see continuation sheet )

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------------	------

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

see continuation sheet

name/title Neil G. Larson

organization N.Y.S. Division for Historic Preservation date May 1983

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

city or town Albany state N.Y. 12238

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

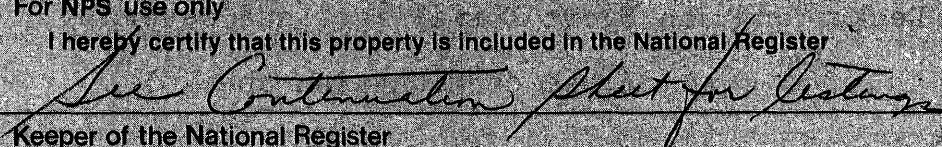
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Commissioner date 8-4-83

**For NPS use only**

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

 date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Data and documentation for this National Register of Historic Places nomination was provided by an extensive survey and study conducted by the Shawangunk Valley Conservancy, a not-for-profit environmental organization in the multiple resource area. The comprehensive historic resources survey was conducted by the conservancy largely through a volunteer effort.

For the completion of the National Register nomination form, with the resulting research and documentation, the conservancy contracted with a professional consultant, Elise M. Barry of Rhinebeck, N.Y.

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area  
State New York

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |  |                                     |            |                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Aldrich, Peter, Homestead                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 2. Bevier House                              | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 3. Brykill                                   | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 4. Van Vleck House                           | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 5. Decker, William, House                    | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 6. Dill Farm                                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 7. Jansen, Johannes, House<br>and Dutch Barn | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 8. Jansen, Thomas, House                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 9. Miller's House at Red Mills               | Substantive Review                  | Keeper     | <u>Grade M. Clelland</u> 9/26/83 |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |
| 10. Pearl Street Schoolhouse                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 9/26/83     |
|  |                                     | Attest     | _____                            |

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Shawangunk Valley Multiple Resource Area  
State New York

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Terwilliger House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for*  
Keeper

*Alvina Byers 9/26/83*

12.

Attest

Keeper

13.

Attest

Keeper

14.

Attest

Keeper

15.

Attest

Keeper

16.

Attest

Keeper

17.

Attest

Keeper

18.

Attest

Keeper

19.

Attest

Keeper

20.

Attest

Keeper

Attest