United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places DRAFT
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name       Mark House

other names/site number

name of related multiple property listing N/A

Location

street & number 99 Johnson Road

not for publication

city or town Colonie

vicinity

state New York code NY county Albany code 001 zip code 12047

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

__ national       __ statewide       X local

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register       __ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register       __ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:) ________________________________

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900     OMB No. 1024-0018     (Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Mark House
Albany Co., New York
Name of Property                   County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- X private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

- X building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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<thead>
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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td>0 objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Total</td>
<td>1 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: New World Dutch

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Wood
roof: Asphalt
other: 

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Mark House is a rural dwelling in the town of Colonie, Albany County, New York. The small, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame residence is rectangular with a side-gabled roof. A slightly smaller, one-and-one-half-story wing, also rectangular with a side-gabled roof, is appended to the west end of the building. The building was originally constructed ca. 1791; however, it was either substantially altered or rebuilt ca. 1840, generally retaining the same form, materials, and method of construction as the original house. In addition, many late eighteenth-century materials were either retained or reused in the ca. 1840 alteration. Because some parts of the house, such as the framing, are inaccessible, it is difficult to analyze exactly what survives from the earliest period. However, all available evidence supports the supposition that while the actual construction may be more recent, the design itself, including its framing, form, plan, and proportions, embodies features characteristic of traditional northern European building traditions as they developed in the New World in the late eighteenth century.

Narrative Description

Site

The nominated resource is sited on a knoll overlooking the Hudson River valley, approximately 500 feet southwest of the junction of St. Agnes Highway, Johnson Road, and Boght Road. The property is about an acre in size; this is all that remains of a 695.7-acre parcel leased in 1791. Despite the loss of the farm, the small lot is surrounded by mature trees, including a row lining the road, and it retains a somewhat isolated, rural appearance despite surrounding development.

House

The Mark House consists of a main block, one-and-one-half stories in height, and a one-and-one-half-story attached wing extending from the west. Both parts of the house are of wood frame construction, have side-gable roofs, and both are sheathed with clapboards. The original front of the house faces south, away from the present-day course of Johnson Road. The house measures approximately 55 ½ feet long and is 26 ½ feet in depth. As it stands today, the house is essentially rebuilt in ca. 1840; however, it is very similar to and contains...
many elements of an earlier dwelling that was constructed in the late eighteenth century. The original dwelling is believed to have been built ca. 1791, soon after the signing of a lease between Stephen van Rensselaer, the patroon of the manor, and Isaac Mark.¹

The main block of the house sits on a mortared fieldstone foundation that extends under the full extent of the main block of the house, enclosing an area measuring approximately 32 feet by 22 feet in size. The foundation dates to the mid-nineteenth century and is accessed via a bulkhead at its southwest corner. Four small windows light the basement. The principal first-floor structure consists of hewn beams, possibly of oak, measuring 7 inches by 8 ¾ inches, which support the partitions of the central hall. The remainder of the first floor is supported by parallel joists, oriented north-south, 8 ¾ inches by 3 inches in size, and spaced 1 foot, 8 inches apart. These joists, apparently hemlock, were mill-sawn with a reciprocal saw. The basement is unfinished and does not appear to have ever served either for living or storage purposes.

While the majority of the framing of the superstructure is not currently available for inspection, it appears to consist of posts of small size (approximately five- or six-inches square) into which are framed the ends of the second-floor beams. These beams are oriented perpendicular to the ridge of the roof and are spaced approximately three feet apart. Although the framing itself appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century, the pattern of framing is that used in the mid to late eighteenth century. Studs set between the posts provide additional support for the exterior clapboard sheathing, interior machine-cut lath, and the brick nogging that fills the spaces between them.

First Floor
The interior of the house is laid out in an eighteenth-century plan using mid-nineteenth-century materials, finishes, and decorative motifs. The plan of the main block consists of an entry lobby located at the south end of the middle bay of the house, flanked by two squarish rooms, used as a dining room (west) and a parlor (east). Both rooms have columned wood mantels of bold Greek Revival form. Both rooms originally communicated with narrow rectangular chambers to their north. The partition that originally separated the parlor from its north chamber was later removed to expand the size of that public room. Tongue-and-groove pine floorboards between 6 and 8 inches wide and 1 inch thick are secured by reused T-headed nails.

¹ This is substantiated by limited archeological investigations conducted by Dr. Paul R. Huey and Matthew Kirk together with volunteers on the site on 23 April 2022. Personal communication with Paul R. Huey, 24 April 2022.
The principal entrance to the house is located on the south elevation of the main block and consists of an eight-paneled door with a transom. The door has a Carpenter patent box lock and keeper with brass trimming. This entrance is no longer in use and is now sheltered by a nineteenth-century porch. The current entrance to the house, also original, is in the wing and faces Johnson Road. The entrance to the dining room, parlor, and second-floor staircase is from a small entrance hall behind the main entrance. Two first-floor closets are located under the stair, which is enclosed. Interior doors typically have six panels and have porcelain or scroddled knobs with cast-iron box locks. Door and window architraves measure 5 ½ feet in the main block and 4 inches in width in the kitchen wing and have similar Greek-inspired profiles.

Second Floor
The second floor of the main block contains two large bedrooms, two long closets or crawl spaces, and an irregularly shaped hall. The stairs rise into this hall, which extends east-west to communicate with the two bedrooms in the main block and a third bedroom above the kitchen wing. The hall turns toward the south to include the stairs, which are surrounded by a tiger maple railing with turned balusters and a prominent newel of the same material. The hall widens to an approximately 9-foot-square chamber at its south end and lacks windows, being lit by means of two glazed doors, which provide light from the adjacent bedroom. The principal bedroom is located over the parlor, and it has a large closet that extends along the north side eaves wall. A smaller bedroom lacks a closet and is in the southwest corner of the plan. Both bedrooms were heated with stoves, or via pipes from first-floor stoves extending through these spaces. A second closet is located along the north eaves wall in the hall.

Finishes on the second floor are more modest than those found on the first floor. Baseboards and architraves are without moldings, and two of the doors make use of late-eighteenth-century hardware and may themselves be reused. Two other doors—those communicating from the hall to the larger, east bedroom—have nine glazed lights above two sunk panels without moldings. Second-floor floorboards are alternating tongue-and-tongue and groove-and-groove, are 1 ½ inches thick, over 1 foot in width, and may date to the late eighteenth century.

A small unfinished attic is accessed via a hatch in the ceiling of the hall, near the top of the stairs.

Kitchen Wing
The attached kitchen wing sits on a fieldstone foundation without excavated basement and consists of a single room on the first floor with a chamber above. The chamber is accessed via an enclosed stair that is located to
the left (proper) of a cooking fireplace. To the right of the fireplace is a paneled wall which incorporates a baking oven that is expressed on the exterior west wall in the form of a shed-roofed brick masonry projection. The second-floor beams are exposed in the ceiling of the kitchen; their smooth finish is an indication that this was intentional and reflects the continuance of a regional tradition. The wing contains a narrow hall that communicates with the dining room, in the main block to the east, and a small bathroom, at the south. A small vestibule is located at the north end of this hall. The bathroom at the south end of the hall and an unheated vestibule that encloses the basement bulkhead door were constructed in the second quarter of the twentieth century, as was a shed-roofed dormer that provides additional light to the bedroom at the second-floor level of the wing. This bedroom is accessed via the enclosed stair at the west end of the wing, as well as by a board-and-batten door in the west end of the second-floor hall of the main block. Its finishes date to the mid-twentieth century and consist of plywood flooring, gypsum wallboard, and wood paneling. It appears that before being remodeled, this room had remained unfinished. There is no attic.

The north entrance, currently used as the main entrance to the house, faces Johnson Road and is slightly recessed. It consists of a paneled door with sidelights and has a shouldered Greek Revival architrave.

Windows throughout the house are six-over-six double-hung sash, apart from those in the later additions and the reused eight-over-eight sash on the west end of the second story. Mid-nineteenth-century solid-panel shutters remain for almost all the windows. The house is sheathed with clapboards that average 5 inches in width on the original (south) front of the house and measure approximately six inches in width on the secondary elevations.

Late-Eighteenth Century Features
Features of the house that were probably part of the late-eighteenth century dwelling on the property include components of the framing, brick nogging, square hearth bricks, box locks with oval knobs, H-L and butterfly hinges, T-headed nails, an eight-over-eight double-hung sash window, and the second-floor floorboards.

Late-Nineteenth-Century Alterations
A porch measuring approximately 19 feet long and 8 feet deep, the hipped roof of which is supported on four square Italianate posts with chamfered corners, and which has a bracketed cornice, was added to the house in the late nineteenth century. It is currently enclosed by screening; this was accomplished without the removal of any historic features. Forced air central heating was introduced to the house about this time; this is evidenced by
cast-iron floor grilles that survive throughout the house. The furnace associated with this early system no longer exists. These alterations may represent work done soon after the end of the Mark family occupation, ca. 1881.

Twentieth-Century Alterations
Several minor alterations were undertaken in the second quarter of the twentieth century in support of the continued use of the house. These included the construction of a shed-roofed dormer on the south slope of the kitchen wing’s roof, and the construction of a small addition, which contains a vestibule and bathroom and encloses the bulkhead entrance to the basement. A secondary partition on the first floor, which would have originally divided the parlor from a bedchamber (similar to that remaining at the west end of the main block of the house) was removed at an unknown date, possibly as early as the late nineteenth century, but certainly by the middle of the twentieth century. The house has not been significantly altered since about 1950.

Other Site Features
Smokehouse (not counted; ruin): The remains of a now-collapsed smokehouse are located to the southwest of the house. This structure was of brick masonry construction, one story in height, and with a gable-end wall entrance. Bricks used in its construction dated from the late-eighteenth century into the mid-nineteenth century; it was probably contemporary with the rebuild of the house.

Wellhead (2 contributing structures): A wellhead with large bluestone cap, 5 feet, 8 inches in diameter, is in front of the smokehouse site. A second wellhead is located a few feet to the north of the northwest corner of the kitchen wing.

Garage (1 non-contributing building): wood-frame gable-entry two-car garage, 20 feet square in plan, is located at the west end of the property. Construction details indicate that it was built in the middle decades of the twentieth century.

Family Cemetery
Gravestones (not counted): Between the house and garage, partially within a triangular space enclosed by a low fieldstone wall, are several gravestones, most of which are associated with the Lansing family. It is not presently known if these stones were moved here or if they mark the locations of interments. Therefore, this resource is not counted at this time. Additional stones were reused as pavement for walks elsewhere on the property, also suggesting that these gravestones do not mark interments.
8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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<tr>
<td>SETTLEMENT</td>
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**Period of Significance**

ca. 1791-1881

**Significant Dates**

- ca. 1791
- ca. 1840
- 1881

**Significant Person**
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is ca. 1791-1881, the period during which members of the Mark family owned and occupied the property. This begins with the establishment of the tenant farm and the first construction of the house and includes any surviving eighteenth-century architectural features. It encompasses the reconstruction of
the house and any alterations since that time, including the construction of a small addition and a dormer, and ends with the Mark family’s sale of the property, after which its history is unclear.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Mark Farmhouse meets Criterion A in the area of Settlement for its association with the post-Revolutionary War settlement of the north portion of the town of Colonie, in Albany County, New York. Believed to have been initially constructed ca. 1791, when Isaac Mark was granted a tenant lease by patroon Stephen van Rensselaer III, the house was either significantly altered or rebuilt ca. 1840. The lease of a tenant farm from the Van Rensselaer family represented the most important eighteenth-century pattern of land settlement and development in the town of Colonie, which at one time had more than one hundred tenant farmers. The 600-acre farm, which was a collection of smaller tenant farms that the family then leased out to other tenants, remained under the leasehold until the system was abolished in the mid-nineteenth century and remained in the Mark family until 1881. Although the property no longer retains any of its farmland, its site is one of few remaining in the town that documents this defining settlement pattern, and its immediate setting retains some elements that recall its agricultural history.

The Mark House is also eligible under Criterion C as a rare surviving example of a rural house type that was once the most common house form in the town. Originally built ca. 1791 and either substantially altered or rebuilt ca. 1840, the house generally retains the same form, materials, and method of construction as the original house, as well as many late eighteenth-century materials that were either retained or reused in the mid-nineteenth century construction. Although some parts of the house are inaccessible for inspection, all available evidence supports the supposition that while the actual construction may be more recent, the design itself, including its framing, form, plan, and proportions, embodies features characteristic of traditional northern European building traditions as they developed in the New World in the late eighteenth century. The five-bay, one-and-one-half-story wood-frame main block with a similar but smaller one-room kitchen wing is typical of the dwellings constructed on tenant farms throughout the Van Rensselaer patent and represented an adaptation of the Dutch gable end city house to a rural setting, where, without the constraints of narrow city lots, builders of such residences spread them out and moved their entrances to the side elevations, while retaining the typical
pattern of bent framing and end gables. This house type continued to be built long after the English had taken over New York and, indeed, after the Revolution, until a preponderance of settlers from New England brought their own distinctive building tradition. Its combination of eighteenth-century form and plan and nineteenth-century materials and decoration reflects the longstanding regional influence of the New World Dutch and their interaction with New Englanders. It is probably the most intact example of a farmhouse recalling New World Dutch building traditions in the period of significance within the town and retains a high level of integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Rensselaer Manor

The land upon which the future town of Colonie grew was shaped by glacial events that took place at least ten thousand years earlier. As the glaciers melted, sand and rock were deposited in wide deltas, including much of the area of the town. Streams formed within these deltas, several of which persist, such as the Salt Kill just north of the Mark House. These streams created alluvial flats, fertile in many areas for agriculture. This land was acquired by Kilaen Van Rensselaer (1586-1643), a wealthy Dutch merchant (working through the Dutch West India Company), and others, who negotiated the purchase of a tract encompassing nearly a million acres of land on both sides of the Hudson River from Mohican Nation. The tract ran from Beeren Island in the Hudson River, approximately eleven miles south of the city of Albany, to the Cohoes Falls in the Mohawk River. The estate extended twenty-four miles outward from both banks of the Hudson. Van Rensselaer ultimately became the sole owner, and the Manor of Rensselaerwyck was established. As noted by historian Henry Christman, “the patroon system ... had been engrafted on America by Kiliaen Van Rensselaer in 1629, long after it had been discarded in Holland. … The patroon would have baronial authority, with full property rights and complete civil and military control over the people, who would be bound by contract to fealty and military service as vassals.” Most of the earliest settlers were Dutch who left their original settlement in Fort Orange and moved outward searching for farmland. These initial farmers settled in the alluvial flats along the river. The manor continued as a legal entity into the nineteenth century, with Stephen van Rensselaer III (1764-

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1839) as the last patroon. It has been estimated that there were over 3,000 tenant farmers in Rensselaerwyck at the time of his death.³

Stephen van Rensselaer III took over the patroonship in 1785 and hired surveyors to lay out farm lots ranging from 100 to 160 acres in the manor, offering land for reasonable rates and often with seven years of free rent. One area that Van Rensselaer had not leased to tenant prior to the Revolution but wanted to settle European farmers was composed of rolling dunes, stabilized by pine trees. This portion of the manor became the town of Watervliet, today’s town of Colonie. A post-war influx of settlers from New England populated the area’s rich farmland by the late 1790s. The primary crop grown by the tenants was wheat. Rent was typically in the form of bushels of wheat or other commodities, including labor. A typical farm lease required the annual payment of “Sixteen Skipples of good Merchantable Winter Wheat, four Fatt (sic) Fowls (to be delivered at the Mansion House in said Manor) and to perform one Day Service with Carriage and Horses Yearly and Every Year.”⁴ In addition to wheat and other agricultural products, parts of the town were also dedicated to dairy farming, especially in the Boght neighborhood, where the Mark farm was located.⁵

The Erie Canal, completed in 1825, entered the town of Colonie just north of Albany and exited the adjacent town at Crescent. That waterway, together with the Champlain Canal, which connected with the Erie Canal at Cohoes, provided a means to move farm products to far-flung markets. Subsequently, the extensive and early establishment of railroads furthered the market reach of the town’s farmers, increasing their wealth in the process.

After the death of patroon Stephen van Rensselaer III, the former patroon’s lands were divided between his two sons, who started enforcing lapsed rental payments from the manor’s tenants. This resulted in the Anti-Rent Wars, as tenants clashed with the law enforcement agents and militia who accompanied those who tried to collect the back rents. These encounters, together with legal wrangling and state legislation, eventually resulted in the dissolution of the manor and, with it, the obligations of the Mark family and other farmers in the region.


⁴ Broderick, 32.

⁵ Broderick, 34 and 58.
Colonie’s “Boght” neighborhood is located in the northeast portion of the town. The “Boght,” a Dutch name for the nearby bend in the Mohawk River, is located just to the north of the manor. For that reason, it was attractive to new settlers, who did not have to secure leases from the patroon or his representatives or pay annual rents. Rensselaerswyck included almost all of today’s Albany and Rensselaer counties and portions of Columbia County. While the Mark House is located just inside the north line of the manor, it is also broadly within the Boght neighborhood. Historically, Colonie (originally known as the town of Watervliet) was extensively farmed; today the town is chiefly occupied by suburban subdivisions.

The Mark Family

The Mark family’s association with the property begins in the late eighteenth century. Tenant farmers Isaac Mark and Joseph Haswell were both Revolutionary War veterans; Mark had served as a member of the Fourth Regiment of the Albany County Militia under Colonel Kilian van Rensselaer, while Haswell served in the Fifth Regiment, under Colonel Gerritt G. van den Bergh.6 In 1791, Stephen van Rensselaer, patroon of the Rensselaer Manor, leased 695.7 acres in what was then the town of Watervliet (now Colonie) to Mark and Haswell. Mark and Haswell may have worked the land before the lease was signed; this was a common practice of the period since leases sometimes came after the successful establishment of a farm and the dependable production of crops. Isaac Mark eventually purchased half of the leased lands from Haswell, his brother-in-law, including the land where the Mark House is now located.7

Thomas Mark (ca. 1728-1812) was born in England, where his son, Isaac, had been born in 1757. The Mark family departed from Whitehaven, Cumberland, England, for New York in 1774, on a ship named The Golden Rule. On the same ship was another large family, the Haswells. Thomas Mark and his family settled in the area of Cherry Valley, New York, in 1775 and became locally famous for having carried a petition from the residents of Cherry Valley to Governor Clinton requesting protection from an anticipated attack by Joseph Brant and other British allies at the beginning of the Revolutionary War (one of the signers of the petition was Isaac Mark, his son). The Cherry Valley massacre occurred a few months later. According to historian Cuyler Reynolds, “soon after this Thomas Mark removed with his family to Albany County, where he cultivated a farm

7 Paul R. Huey, “Thomas and Isaac Mark of Watervliet (Colonie),” typescript, August 2021, 5-6.
The Mark and Haswell families were both very large. During their journey to America, the two families became acquainted, with “six marriages between the children resulting from this chance acquaintance.”

Isaac Mark (1757-1843), the only Mark family son, married Mary Haswell in 1779; the union was cut short by her death in 1782; soon after he married Margaret, the sister of Mary. Joseph Haswell, their brother, married Mary Mark, Isaac’s sister. Three other Mark family daughters married Haswell sons.

A lease of almost 700 acres was very large, much larger than the average tenant farm of 100 or 150 acres. This suggests that the Marks were among the better-off group of tenants who themselves divided their land and subleased it to several smaller tenants. In addition to the leased farm, Isaac Mark also acquired other lands in the town of Colonie. Several of the adjacent farms were occupied by members of the Lansing family, and they are represented in a small cemetery near the property. A deed recorded on December 21, 1808 documents the sale of property from Abraham G. Lansing and his wife, Susanna Lansing, to Isaac Mark for $9,500. The exact location of this addition to Mark’s large holdings in the town remains unclear.

The house is believed to have initially been occupied by Isaac Mark (1757-1843) and Margaret Haswell Mark (1767-1856). Isaac Mark died in 1843 and was buried in the Mark family cemetery, which is located on a nearby parcel, outside the nomination boundary. Isaac’s wife, Margaret, is listed in the 1850 census as head of the household, along with her unmarried daughter, Deborah Mark (1795-1868), and her widowed daughter, Ann(a) Mark Hammond (1808-1881). Margaret Mark lived to the age of eighty-eight, dying in 1856. She was buried next to her husband in the family cemetery. Ann’s husband, Dr. Ammon Hammond, died in the house, but there is no documentation that they lived in the house as a married couple before his death in 1849. Census records from the 1830s show Dr. Hammond’s residence to be in Hamilton County, New York. The 1854 map of Albany County shows “Wid Marks” referring to the two widows (mother and daughter) at the house’s location.

9 Reynolds, 352.
10 Huey, 5.
11 There are Lansing grave markers on the property, but the location of the graves is not known.
The map shows two other buildings close by the “Wid Marks” house, one unnamed and the other labeled “G Marks,” which would presumably be that of George Mark, the son of Isaac and Margaret, who lived until 1864. The Atlas Map of 1866 identifies the Mark home on Johnson Road near Boght Road as occupied by “Mrs. Hammond.” Deborah Mark and Ann Mark Hammond are both buried in the nearby Mark family cemetery.

New World Dutch Architecture

During the years in which the Dutch ruled New York, this cultural group established a robust architectural presence shaped by New World experiences and conditions but based on ancient northern European building traditions. Even after the English took over the colony in 1664, and Dutch immigration ceased, there remained a strong impetus to preserve the Dutch cultural identity, especially in the built environment. In upstate New York, this was aided by the vast amounts of land still under the control of Dutch patroons, such as Kilian van Rensselaer, and by the fact that local builders were trained in this tradition and passed these skills on to the next generations. Even when new settlers, such as the Marks, arrived from England, their house was constructed in the “New World Dutch” tradition, likely by local builders.

Thus, the form, proportions, and method of construction of the ca. 1791 house built for the Mark family embodied features that characterized this tradition and differed from the heavy-timber, scribe-rule framed, center chimney plan houses being built in New England in this same period. Features such as H-bent framing, with heavy timber posts alongside walls supporting clear span beams, a room and a half deep plan, end chimneys, an intact baking oven, and cooking fireplace, exposed beams, an enclosed stair in the kitchen, and extended side aisles are features that represent this tradition and document the continuing influence of New World Dutch culture in the region from the post-Revolutionary period well into the middle decades of the nineteenth century.

Features of the house that reflect the continuance of New World Dutch cultural traditions in the region include the expressed second-floor beams in the kitchen wing, the overall proportions of the house—low with one-and-one-half story side walls—and the plan, which reflects the common use of lean-tos to house secondary spaces, later incorporated (as here) within the body of the house as “half rooms” along the rear of the dwelling. The use of nogging is common in the region. Although the frame of the house is largely unavailable for inspection, what can be seen strongly suggests the use of parallel H-bents, another reflection of the retention of New World
Dutch traditions. The use of this type of framing system had begun to fall off after the Revolution, when an influx of settlers from New England, which included the Mark family, came into the area. Thereafter, house plans and forms more common to New England became prevalent; however, aspects of New World Dutch building and culture remained as late as the mid-nineteenth century, as can be seen in the later-built portions of this house.

What is perhaps even more interesting is that based on what can be seen and understood of the frame, finishes and decorative motifs, this house was either substantially altered or reconstructed ca. 1840. Although it is impossible to tell exactly how much of the original house survives without more substantial investigation, current information suggests that not only did the Mark family build a New World Dutch House in post-Dutch New York, but they rebuilt one in a nearly identical design nearly eighty years after the Revolution. This speaks to the strength and endurance of the Dutch cultural identity in rural New York, a purely American phenomena that lasted - in some cases - through the end of the nineteenth century. Gradually, however, with the profusion of new settlers moving west from New England, an abundance of published pattern books and other sources, changes in society that called for the differentiation of domestic space inside the home, and more standardization in the building industry, these old cultural norms died out.

The Mark House is especially important because it represents the persistence of local cultural traditions across a long period of time and because the fabric of the building itself retains a substantial amount of material from the early period, including eighteenth-century brick nogging, square hearth bricks, box locks with oval knobs, H-L and butterfly hinges, T-headed nails, an eight-over-eight double-hung sash window, and the second-floor floorboards. Nineteenth-century features that were incorporated in the “new” construction include Greek Revival mantels and mid-nineteenth century doors. Features added later include a late-nineteenth century porch.

The Mark House is a rare survivor of a building in the town of Colonie that illustrates the early history of the town and embodies its significant architectural and cultural traditions. It is especially significant because of the loss of the rural environment in the town as a whole. Once rolling farmland, the town is now a heavily developed suburb of Albany with little evidence of its eighteenth-century past.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Mark House                          Albany Co., New York

Name of Property                   County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property               0.93
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
Zone 18N                      Easting 603616
Northing 4735456

3
Zone  Zone
Easting  Easting
Northing Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected to coincide with the current legal parcel boundary, which is all that remains intact of the historic farmstead.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title                      Walter Richard Wheeler and Dr. Michael S. Radlick
organization                   Historical Society of the Town of Colonie       date 5/4/2022
street & number                534 Loudon Road                              telephone 518-782-2601
city or town                   Latham                                      state NY       zip code 12110
e-mail                         Historical.society.town.colonie@gmail.com

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property’s location.

  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets

- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)
DRAFT Mark House
Name of Property

Mark House
Town of Colonie, Albany County, New York

Mark House
99 Johnson Road
Colonie, NY 12189
DRAFT Mark House
Name of Property

Mark House
Town of Colonie, Albany County, New York

Area: 0.93 ac

99 Johnson Road
Colonie, NY 12189

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Coordinate Units: Meter
Orthoimagery Year: 2021

Nomination Boundary
Mark House
Town of Colonie, Albany County, New York

99 Johnson Road
Colonie, NY 12189

Note: The Albany County GIS boundary for tax parcel 20.1-1-32 appears to be slightly inaccurate. The southern boundary has been modified slightly to approximate the actual line.
Figure 1. Mid-19th century lithograph copy of the 1767 Bleecker map of the Rensselaer Manor (Bleekeer 1767). The Mark Farmhouse was later built near the northern boundary of the manor, a little more than two miles west of the south branch of the Mohawk River.
Figure 2. Detail from a map of 1850, showing the location of the Mark Farmhouse with respect to its nearest neighbors (Whitbeck 1850). Houses occupied by the Lansing family predominate. North is up in this view.

Figure 3. Detail from Map of Albany County (Gould and Moore 1854). The “Wid Marks” house is indicated at center left, with the “G. Marks” house below. The latter dwelling, occupied by George Marks, no longer stands. North is up in this view.
Figure 4. Detail from map of Watervliet, showing the Mark Farmhouse, identified as “Mrs. Hammond” in the center of this detail (Beers 1866). North is up in this view.

Figure 5. April 1980 view of the house, looking west (Barnet & Harwood 1980).
Figure 6. South elevation of the main block of the house, April 1980 (Barnet & Harwood 1980).

Figure 7. North elevation, April 1980 (Barnet & Harwood 1980).
Figure 8. The smokehouse, now in a ruinous state, as it was in April 1980 (Barnet & Harwood 1980). Note the wellhead, at left.

Photographs:
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Mark House
City or Vicinity: Colonie
County: Albany State: New York
Photographer: Walter Wheeler
Date Photographed: April 23, 2022
Description of Photograph(s) and number:
NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0001
Johnson Road elevation, the present entrance façade, with kitchen wing at right

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0002
View from the southeast showing original front elevation
Mark House
Albany Co., New York

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0003
Kitchen wing, looking southeast, showing projection for bake oven at right

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0004
Original paneled front door and transom

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0005
Johnson Road entrance showing architrave and inset door

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0006
Dining room looking northeast, showing typical architraves and baseboard and doors to an understair closet (at left) and the entry hall at right.

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0007
Mantel in dining room

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0008
View east in the parlor showing beam in former partition location, in foreground

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0009
Kitchen, looking west

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0010
View northeast from kitchen through hall to dining room

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0011
View in second floor hall looking southwest

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0012
View in second floor hall looking northeast showing door with glazing and at left a paneled door to a closet

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0013
West bedroom looking west south-west. The eight-over-eight window dates to the late-eighteenth century. Note the sloping chimney which vents the dining room fireplace and which has a closed hole for the pipe which once passed through this space.

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0014
View looking southeast within the enclosed stair leading from the second-floor bedroom in the kitchen wing down to the kitchen. Late-eighteenth century brick reused as nogging can be seen.

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0015
The remains of the smokehouse with bluestone-capped wellhead in foreground, looking east

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0016
Non-contributing two-car garage, constructed in the mid-twentieth century and in poor condition. The Mark house is seen at background left.
DRAFT Mark House
Name of Property

Albany Co., New York
County and State

NY_Albany Co_Mark House_0017
Lansing family gravestones on property, looking east; house in background

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.