

DRAFT Smith Octagon House
Name of Property

Columbia, New York
County and State

5. Classification

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

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

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

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

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, single dwelling

DOMESTIC, single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY, Octagon Mode

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE

WOOD, weatherboard

roof: SYNTHETIC, rubber

other: _____

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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 Smith Octagon House is located on the east side of U.S. Rt. 9 in the hamlet of Columbiaville in the Town of Stockport, Columbia County, New York (Fig. 1). Located at the confluence of the Kinderhook and Claverack creeks where they empty into the Hudson River, Columbiaville developed as a major center of textile manufacturing early in the 1800s. It is approximately five miles north of the city of Hudson, an important regional market and shipping hub on the river that shares its name. Set back from the highway, the Smith Octagon House is situated on a 1.97-acre parcel surrounded by lawns and mature ornamental and fruit trees. The property had once been part of a fruit farm of more than 100 acres spanning both sides of the highway. The farm was broken up and redeveloped in the 1960s, and the rural setting of the house has been diminished. Restored in the early 2000s, the two-story house was built ca. 1860 with an equilateral eight-sided plan that set it apart from its neighbors both in design and domestic patterns. Following a template promoted by Orson Fowler, the popular phrenologist and social reformer, the exterior walls were constructed with grout masonry parged with plaster. Windows are symmetrically arranged alternating one and two bays to a side. Interior rooms are organized around two central rectangular spaces; those around them are irregular in dimension. Exterior and interior spaces have been restored to reflect the original modest finishes consistent with Fowler's emphasis on simplicity and economy. After the house was sold in 1962, it fell into a state of abandonment and was permitted to deteriorate, with portions of the grout walls collapsing. The previous owner who purchased the property in 2002 restored the house to its original late-nineteenth century condition. As such it currently stands, the Smith Octagon House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Built ca. 1860, the two-story house has eight sides of equal width and a low eight-sided hipped roof surmounted by an octagonal belvedere (PHOTOS 1-6). While the architect or builder of the home is unknown, it was likely constructed by the property's original occupants, the Smith Family, closely following the guidelines and philosophy contained in Orson S. Fowler's how-to book on octagon houses, *A Home for All: or, A New, Cheap, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building*. The exterior walls are two feet thick and constructed with a grout comprised of sand, gravel, lime, and stones, and finished with plaster parging (PHOTO 22). The exterior was sided with wood clapboards in the 1920s to cover up the deteriorating condition of the grout walls. The floors and roof were framed with sawn lumber in a radiating system (PHOTOS 21 & 23). Interior partitions were originally built with wood studs and plaster but have since been replaced with sheetrock. Simple woodwork with profiles common to the mid-1800s distinguishes door and window openings, which are recessed in the thick grout walls, and baseboards (PHOTO 10). Since the home was originally heated via stove heating, there were no fireplaces to embellish, and the original stairs have since been closeted.

Fenestration is symmetrical with alternating walls with two bays and one bay of windows (PHOTO 2). Most of the six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows are in-kind replacements with true divided lights; at least one original unit survives in the south living room of the first floor. The west-facing facade has two bays with a first-story entry with sidelights and a transom (PHOTO 2). A second doorway was added to the upper floor when a two-story porch was added in the late nineteenth century; the porch was removed sometime before 1958, but the doorway remains (Fig. 5). The current entry is fronted by a non-historic open deck with stairs leading down to ground level. A rear entrance on the southerly side of the house had a covered porch, which had collapsed by the 1990s. The porch was removed, and the door sealed in place when a half-bathroom was installed in the interior space during the 2002 restoration (PHOTO 4). A third doorway with a wood stoop is located in a one-bay wall on the northerly rear side of the house; it enters into the current kitchen (PHOTO 5). The fenestration of this wall was reconfigured when a collapsed grout wall was rebuilt in the early 2000s with a wood frame. A floor plan published in a 1958 publication suggests that the first story of the original wall had two bays (Fig. 8).

The layout of the interior has the odd proportions typical of octagon houses (Fig. 8). The first floor is divided into three sections with two large rectangular rooms—the living room and separate dining room—occupying the central section,

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each with two windows (PHOTOS 9 & 11). A section on the west side contains the entrance hall with two exterior walls making an obtuse angle in the room (PHOTOS 7 & 8). It connects to both central rooms with a remaining triangular space partitioned on one side to contain a box stair adjacent to the entry and a small anteroom used as an office off the living room. The third section on the east side of the central rooms contains a kitchen space with two exterior walls. The space was reconfigured and renovated with a window converted to a door in the most recent work on the house (PHOTOS 12–14). A second box stair is contained in the wall on the south side of the room, and it is in this remaining triangular space that a half-bath was added and the doorway to the exterior was sealed.

The plan of the second floor is similar to the first as it is divided into three sections with two rectangular bed chambers in the center divided by a passageway that connects each other and to stairs leading to the ground floor in flanking front and rear rooms (PHOTOS 16 & 17). The center chambers have small triangular corner closets. The front room is unpartitioned and contains the stairs coming up from the main entrance (PHOTO 15). An 1880s doorway that once opened onto the two-story porch on the facade was removed and the doorway was replaced with a window sometime before 1958. The doorway and door have since been restored.

A bathroom has been installed in the northerly end of the rear section; the stairs leading from the kitchen occupy the southerly end of the section (PHOTO 18). An open ladder stair in the passageway provides access to the rooftop belvedere (PHOTO 19). There is a short attic between the second-floor ceiling and roof where the framing is exposed. The open structure has a simple cornice and cross-braced railings (PHOTOS 20 & 21). There had been brick chimneys centered in the two-bay elevations for stove heating; these have been removed (Fig. 4). One second-story room contains a stone shelf elevated on a wall that would have supported a chimney at that level. The basement is unfinished, with original framing exposed in the ceiling and a dirt floor with exposed bedrock (PHOTO 23).

The house was in a state of disrepair when it was purchased by a new owner in 2002 (Fig. 6). The property had been abandoned and vandalized in the 1960s, and portions of the grout wall on the north and east sides had collapsed (Fig. 7). Some of the interior plaster partitions had been damaged and were reconstructed in situ using sheetrock. The only change to the floor plan, when compared to a 1958 plan of the house, was the removal of partitions in the front entrance hall and the rear kitchen. A kitchen doorway leading outside, and an adjoining window were part of the collapsed grout wall. They were subsequently replaced with a single doorway when the wall was restored. A two-story porch, which had been added to the front of the house in the 1880s, was removed ca. 1958. The present front deck replaced a non-historic cement slab. A porch covering the kitchen entrance was also removed, and a small stoop was added in its place. It is likely that the house was originally fronted by a one-story veranda wrapping across two or more walls where entrances were located, which would have been consistent with the models Orson S. Fowler presented in his book on octagon house design.

As it currently exists, the Smith Family House retains integrity of design despite alterations to exterior materials and porches made during the period of significance and material changes associated with the restoration of the house in the 2000s. The design of the interior is essentially intact with its floor plan and simple decorative features preserved.

The 1.97-acre site provides a domestic setting for the house with a few surviving fruit trees reminiscent of its rural agricultural origins. A detached one-car garage built in the early twentieth century is located behind the house and is constructed of concrete block walls and a front-gable roof. Erected after the period of significance, it is considered non-contributing (PHOTO 27.) Other dwellings associated with the Smith farm exist on separate lots with separate owners. One home is the family's ca. 1800 homestead; another property was designed with a hexagon plan around the time of the octagon house. Both have been altered by additions and material changes that have diminished their historic integrity (PHOTOS 29 & 30.) Neither have associations with the areas of significance of the nominated property.

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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.)

- 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.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1860 - 1920

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the house ca. 1860 and concludes with the end of the Smith family's ownership in 1920.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The Smith Octagon House, constructed ca. 1860, meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as an early and rare example of an octagon house type. The building closely follows the design created by phrenologist Orson S. Fowler and promoted in his book *A Home for All: or, A New, Cheap, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building*, published in 1849. While Fowler did not introduce the octagon house in America, as has often been claimed, he did invent a version of one that embodied his progressive ideas for affordable housing (the book was intended to be a do-it-yourself manual), a scientific approach to materials and construction methods, and an improved way of life embracing the sanctity of nature. In addition to having eight sides, the house embodies clear characteristics that Fowler promoted, such as thick grout masonry walls for insulation, an economy of dimension-framing materials, generous natural light and ventilation provided by multiple window walls and a rooftop cupola, an efficient plan reducing wasted space of room corners and creating efficient circulation patterns, and the absence of excess decoration. Like most octagon houses, the Smith House was an outlier among its neighbors, which when they were introduced in the Antebellum Period, conveyed the progressive mentality of their owners.

Narrative Statement of Significance

SMITH FAMILY OF STOCKPORT

The octagon house in Columbiaville, Columbia County, appears to have been built for the Smith family ca. 1860 based on an inscription found in the house and as documented in historic maps dated between 1851 and 1876 (Fig. 2). The Smith family can be dated back to John McDonald Smith (1635-1680) of Salem, Massachusetts, whose son Jonathan Rock Smith moved the family to Hempstead, Long Island, in the early 1700s. Amos Smith (1765-1834), a descendant of Jonathan Rock Smith, then established the family in Columbiaville by the 1800s, according to an 1820 U.S. Census form for Columbia County. Amos Smith acquired an upland tract of land east of the Hudson River in Columbia County that was once part of a 600-acre patent conveyed to Albany fur trader Abraham Staats in either 1667 or 1685. (There were two contiguous patents.) The land was located where two major creeks, the Kinderhook and the Claverack, join to form the Stockport Creek, which, after a series of falls, empties into the river.¹

Amos Smith married Elizabeth Seaman in Hempstead in 1786, and they had at least five children—Elizabeth, Samuel, Peter, Seaman, and Cornell—all of whom moved with them to Columbiaville sometime after the turn of the nineteenth century. Each of them was recorded as a head of household in the 1820 U.S. Census, the first indication of their presence in the town, which was then part of the old Town of Kinderhook. Evidently, each household occupied an independent domicile. Daughter Elizabeth is enumerated as an unmarried household head, possibly a widow, with six children under the age of 20 years old, four of whom were employed in manufacturing. Samuel was over 45 years of age and had nine

¹ Staats operated a fur trading post and early landing at the mouth of the creek where an extant stone house (NR listed) and the likely site of an early historic gristmill are located. The fertile upland section of the patent east of the river was developed for agriculture, probably for wheat, by his four sons. Their descendants continued to possess the family lands through the eighteenth century. "Town of Stockport," *Columbia County at the End of the Century, Vol. 2* (1900) 647-649. Ruth Piwonka & Roderick H. Blackburn, *A Visible Heritage, Columbia County, New York, A History in Art and Architecture* (Kinderhook NY: Columbia County Historical Society, 1977), 26-27.

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enumerated individuals in his household, including four employed in manufacturing and one engaged in agriculture (probably himself). Peter and his wife had seven young children. Seaman was recorded with a wife and two young children; he was engaged in agriculture. Cornell and his wife had four children under the age of 16; he was engaged in commerce. Amos and Elizabeth Smith also were listed in the census schedule with two young males and a female; the males were working in agriculture.

By this time, Columbiaville had developed into a significant industrial center using the power generated by the torrential merging of the creeks. Recognized early on for its manufacturing potential, it attracted wool and cotton manufacturers from New England who employed machinery and skilled millwrights brought from England. The new maritime city of nearby Hudson had been platted to the south in 1784 by proprietors from Nantucket and Rhode Island. Some of these men also invested in the Columbia Manufacturing Society, which built mills on the Stockport Creek in 1809, thus forming the core of the industrial village of Columbiaville.²

It does not appear that Amos Smith was associated with any of these industrial pursuits. The land he acquired was located on a plateau north of Columbiaville, and early records indicate that he was principally engaged in agriculture; however, three of his children's households, as well as his own, contained mill workers. The concentration of six individual family dwellings in a compound on the property is unusual as if there was some kind of cooperative relationship among them. Only one house (located on a different parcel than the one the Smith Octagon House currently stands) survives there from that early period: a story-and-a-half with a side-passage plan and saltbox-style roof common to farm laborers and factory workers in the period (PHOTO 29.) The other dwellings were probably much like it. In 1830, most of the Smith families were still in Stockport but spread around the census schedule, perhaps an indication of the potential commune breaking apart. Amos Smith died in 1834, and his son Cornell Smith (1795-1853) took over management of his 73-acre farm and family. Cornell's household contained seventeen persons in 1840, three of whom were engaged in agriculture. The census did not show any additional dwellings associated with Cornell but multiple buildings are suggested here to accommodate an extended family of this size.

The 1850 census recorded Cornell Smith, aged 56, as a farmer with real estate valued at \$3,200, ranking it in the middling range of town assessments. By that time, he had married Rachel VanValkenburgh, a local woman born in Schoharie in 1817, and had their five offspring living with them: John (23 years), Rachel (21), Isaac (18), Jacob (13), and Robert (10); both John and Isaac were identified as farmers. His son John was listed a second time as a householder with an adjoining 109-acre farm valued at \$5,500. It is a redundant entry, yet it indicates that John was establishing his own farm at this time. The agricultural schedule compiled in the 1850 census attributed John with 109 acres of improved land on which he grew the typical subsistence crops of the day (rye, Indian corn, oats, and Irish potatoes). In addition, he had a flock of 130 sheep, the wool from which went to supply Stockport's woolen mills. He kept bees and made beeswax candles in a shop across the highway. Another son, Jacob, had a second census entry for a 170-acre farm with cows, cattle, and swine but no sheep. There were orchards on Cornell's farm and probably on his sons' adjoining acreage as well. The locale on a terrace above the Hudson River was known as having particularly favorable soil and climate conditions for growing fruit.³ John Smith's obituary noted his fruits "brought fabulous prices" in New York City.⁴

² Piwonka & Blackburn, *A Visible Heritage*, 100.

³ *Columbia County at the End of the Century*, 647,

⁴ "Death of John Smith," *Columbia Republican*: 26 Nov. 1891, 2,

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The Smiths became noteworthy but unconventional figures in the town. Cornell is remembered as having been a lay preacher in the Universalist Church, located in the nearby mill hamlet of Chittenden Falls, and Rachel was known as a clairvoyant who could communicate with spirits.⁵ Both had been swept up in the religious enthusiasm of the period, which rejected established church authority in favor of personal relationships with the creator whose presence was reflected in nature. They were also millenarians who believed in the Second Coming of Christ and a future golden age of peace, justice, and prosperity. The movement thrived in western New York where a generation of land-seeking New Englanders settled and formed new farms, towns, and institutions. Their extreme religious fervor gave the name Burned-Over District to the area. Yet, this rebellious brand of religion was not limited to the Burned-Over District. In fact, many migrants moving into other parts of the state (including farther west with the Yankee migration), particularly on the east side of the Hudson, were equally attracted to the religious reform and progressive ideals of the enthusiastic movement.⁶

The story of Rachel Smith has been repeated often in local history publications and in feature articles in newspapers and periodicals. It is usually presented in some form of the following account:

... Rachel Smith, known as "Aunt Rachel" was a member of a group of spiritualists who met regularly to hold seances. She was reported to have supernatural powers and could read minds. She was also a very good story teller and was very well liked. Aunt Rachel lived a long life, and upon her death in 1875, according to her family, she became a congenial spirit. She would not terrify the living. She would rock her old chair by the stove or playfully yank out pillows from sleeping peoples' heads. After her death, Aunt Rachel's nephew also died from Typhoid fever. His wife, also ill, was too sick to be told. Upon her recovery, a relative went to break the news, but the woman stopped him before he could speak, saying, "You don't have to tell me. I know everything. You see, Aunt Rachel was here."⁷

Like many of the people in the enthusiastic religious movement, the Smiths would have been attracted to the pseudo-science of phrenology, which originated in Europe and was introduced to America in the nineteenth century. It associated mental faculties and personality traits with regions of the brain and was expressed in the topography of the skull. It was another part of the idealistic belief system that restored the human experience to nature. Orson S. Fowler was the principal proponent of phrenology in the United States, and he made lecture tours and published materials on it. He had offices in New York and other cities where he and his associates would interpret the cranial contours of his devotees. Phrenology was widely discredited by educated scientists even as the practice was still spreading. Entrepreneurs, presenting as trained doctors, used it to exploit unwitting patients for a quick profit. Worse, it was used to affirm the superiority of white men and to justify the continuity of chattel slavery.

During this time, Fowler also lectured on the health and spiritual benefits of the octagon house resulting in them appearing sporadically throughout the region. He published *A Home for All* in 1849, which claimed the benefits of increased natural light coming through windows on multiple walls, the elimination of dark corners, improved ventilation with fresh air circulating through the house to a roof-top vent, thick exterior walls for insulation, and a room plan with shorter distances between rooms. He considered many of these improvements as connecting the house with nature, which was the

⁵ "The Smith Family of Columbiaville, New York," *Our International Family*.

<https://ourinternationalfamily.weebly.com/columbiaville-ny.html>

⁶ Whitney R. Cross, *The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1950).

⁷ This account misdates Rachel's death, which occurred in 1874. Mindy Potts, "Little Columbiaville and Its Big History" (April 2002). <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~clifflamere/genealogy/History/Col/ColumbiavilleColCo.htm>.

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representation of the deity; he believed a circular house reflected rounded shapes common in nature. At some point, Cornell and Rachel Smith and their son John were informed as to the virtues of the octagon form and were motivated to build a house of that design in Columbiaville. The simple form and restrained ornamentation of the house reflected Fowler's directives for a "plain" and "cheap" (meaning affordable to the working class) dwelling. He also suggested the use of building materials not utilized in other building methods at the time, like the conventional wood balloon frame. In his book, he encouraged the use of stacked plank construction for sturdiness and insulation. The exterior walls of the Smith octagon were concrete finished with parging, another innovation Fowler promoted. The Smiths appear to have been faithful to the book's instructions and ethics in nearly every way.

Cornell Smith had died by the time the house was reputedly under construction in 1860. The census taken that year listed his widow, Rachel, as head of household with \$3,000 of real estate in assets. The low assessment suggests that the octagon house was not inhabited at the time the census was taken. Thus, her family was still occupying the old homestead they had settled in. (The property was valued at \$10,000 in the state census of 1865, thus confirming the octagon house had been built.) Her son, John, aged 36, unmarried and a candlemaker, was not credited with real estate of any value. The next three sons—Isaac, Cornell, and Jacob—were all single men in their twenties who worked as Moroccan dressers, a family enterprise with a factory just up the road.⁸ The youngest son, Robert, was a carpenter, though at 20 years of age he was too young to have been the octagon's builder. Daughter Rachel was the only other female in the household.

There were three dwellings reported on the property in the 1870 U. S. Census. In one dwelling, the octagon house, lived the aging mother Rachel Smith (identified as a spiritualist in the 1865 state census), who had ceded head of the household status to her son John. The farm was valued in his name at \$10,000. Her daughter Rachel remained at home, and her son Amos returned to work on the farm. The old family homestead was by now occupied by her son Isaac, employed as a farmer, and his wife Julia. The third dwelling, occupied by her son, Jacob, a wool puller, and his wife Helen, was a house built on a hexagon plan around the same time. (It is still extant on a lot abutting the Smith Octagon House parcel but has been altered.) Ten years later, John, Isaac, and Jacob Smith still occupied their respective dwellings. John, a bachelor, shared the octagon house with his brother Amos, apparently disabled, and unmarried sister Rachel; his mother Rachel had died by 1874.⁹

In the 1870 census, John Smith was described as a hide, tallow, and fruit dealer. In addition to the family's extensive orchards, Morocco factory and candle factory, he operated a fertilizer plant that rendered phosphates from animal bones he collected from area meat processors (Fig. 3). It seems to have been his most lucrative endeavor at the end of his life. In 1877, he advertised in the *Kinderhook Herald* the sale of ammoniated super phosphate, bone dust and Western plaster.¹⁰ He produced tallow from animal fats. His obituary recalls him as a familiar figure at "leather stores and meat markets of Hudson gathering hides, tallow and bones."

The Smith farm, with its orchards and small industries, came to control the intersection where the Albany Post Road split, with one leg heading north to Kinderhook and the other branching off to run along the river towards Stuyvesant (formerly Kinderhook Landing). The map of Stockport in the 1876 *Atlas of Columbia County* named the intersection "Smith's Corners," a moniker that would last into the early twentieth century before being changed to Rossman's, a larger

⁸ Moroccan was a soft leather typically made from goat skin and textured and dyed for use in women's shoes and bookbinding. It is not clear that the Smiths were able to get goat skins from local tanneries or used cowhide as a substitute.

⁹ One genealogy purports John wed Mary M. Taylor in 1882, but his obituary states he never married.

¹⁰ *Kinderhook Herald*: 28 April 1877, 2.

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community that had developed around mills on the Kinderhook Creek. A fire in 1881 destroyed the “old candle factory” that was repurposed for rendering tallow and a nearly full fruit house, the heat damaging the sickle pears stored there.¹¹ The fruit house was replaced by a large cold storage house and the Smith’s production of profitable fruits was sustained for many more years.

When John Smith died in 1891, an obituary in a Hudson newspaper termed him an “eccentric man [who] worked hard, lived plain and hoarded money.” While not calling him a religious man, its description of him was consistent with the Universalist spiritualism of his parents:

It made no difference to John Smith what a man’s creed, race or color was. He recognized all men by virtue of their humanity as his brothers. He never spoke ill of any one, but always had a kind word for all, and was ever ready to help those who were in trouble. His word was as good as his bond. He despised all that was sordid and base, and maintained “Truth” for his motto and “Honor” for his standard. Yet he was an eccentric man, and when once an opinion was formed in his mind nothing could change it.

Mr. Smith was his own physician and believed in the “water cure” for all complaints that ailed him. For weeks at a time when sickness came upon him he would taste no food of any kind, the only draught to quench his thirst or moisten his parched lips came from a sparkling spring on his farm. After fasting in this way the required length of time he would begin to feel better, and it would not be long before his friends would see him around again looking hale and hearty.¹²

After his death, John Smith’s brother Jacob assumed title to the family farm and its enterprises. It appears John and Jacob’s brother Isaac moved into the octagon house, which his son, Frederick, inherited in 1905. The farm remained in the Smith family until 1920 when it was sold to James A. and Celie Haynes, who were neighbors and fruit growers. Their son Harrison W. Haines and his wife Alice subdivided the Smith parcel, and the octagon house was sold in 1962 with 4.79 acres to Manuel and Edith Perez of Columbiaville. The next owners, Edward S., and Carol E. Harvel, bought the house in 1979. It was in desperate shape when Hudson realtor and antiquarian Jonathan Hallam bought the property—then just 1.97 acres—in 2002. He restored the house to its present condition before selling it to the current owners, Robert A. Pesce and Lawrence Mauro, in 2012.

SPIRITUALISM

Millennial groups had always been attuned to social issues as they related to perfectionism. They supported abolition, temperance, women’s rights, and equality, and for a while, their rural isolation provided a buffer to the gradual advance of urban capitalism. In the Burned-Over District, events on the national scene intensified awareness of political and economic issues and diminished attention devoted to religious idealism. Also, a generational shift had occurred, and the descendants of the original settlers had less patience with millennial devotion to the gradual improvement of humankind. By the 1840s, enthusiasm for the millennial movement had dissipated. In its place emerged a greater emphasis on spiritualism with its close relationship of the natural and supernatural and the reliance of science to prove the relationship of man’s soul to the infinite spiritual power. The Swedenborgian Church emerged in the United States at this time and brought the remaining enthusiastic religious groups, as well as phrenologists and spiritualists, under its umbrella. Named for Swedish theologian, scientist, philosopher, and mystic Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), it emphasized the close

¹¹ “Fire at Stockport,” *Chatham Courier*: 28 Sept. 1881, 5.

¹² “Death of John Smith,” *Columbia Republican*: 26 Nov. 1891, 2.

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relationship between the natural and supernatural. Where phrenologists were able to connect people's personality traits with the divine order of the natural world, clairvoyants could communicate directly with the spirit world.¹³

Events occurring in March 1848 brought spiritualism to broader public attention. The family of Methodist farmer John D. Fox was disturbed in the night by loud rappings in their home in Hydesville, New York. Presumably, a ghost was present in the house, and two teenage Fox sisters, Margaretta and Katie, found they were able to communicate with it. They learned it was the essence of a peddler previously murdered there and buried in the basement. (It was claimed that evidence of the body was found, but physical proof was not provided.) Responding with rappings only the sisters could understand, the spirit would answer questions they would put to it with infallible omniscience.¹⁴ The story and their reputations spread throughout the region and beyond and resulted in many hitherto unidentified mediums coming forward. As the sensation spread, rappings, table moving, speaking in tongues, and involuntary operation of musical instruments became commonplace experiences. The Fox sisters were eventually shown to be frauds, providing more theater than clairvoyance, but that had little effect on the craze.¹⁵

According to at least one historian, the spiritualist movement swept through the city of Hudson in Columbia County.¹⁶ Among the believers was John Worth Edmonds (1799-1874), scion of a prominent Hudson family who practiced law in the city and held numerous local positions. He was elected to the New York State Assembly and then the Senate in the 1830s before ending his career as a State Supreme Court Justice from 1847 to 1853. With Dr. George T. Dexter, a controversial physician as well as a spiritualist, Worth published a book in 1853 titled *Spiritualism* in which he acknowledges the contribution of "Mr. and Mrs. S.," who could have been anybody but potentially Cornell and Rachel Smith of nearby Columbiaville.

However, if a spiritualist movement swept through Hudson and Columbia County, the details have proven ephemeral. Only the story of Smiths has been preserved, which likely is due to the surviving landmark of their octagon house.

ORSON S. FOWLER AND NINETEENTH-CENTURY RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

Orson Squire Fowler (1809-1887) was born in the western New York town of Cohocton in the midst of an enthusiastic religious revival that swept across the central part of the state during the first half of the nineteenth century. Fueled by thousands of Yankee migrants quickly populating the unsettled region, this religious and social reform movement manifested in many new church denominations, sects, communes, and utopian thinking. Because of this religious fervor, the region became known as the Burned-Over District. Rejecting the authority of church establishments and influenced by the Quaker and Unitarian beliefs in an individual's direct relationship with God, they participated in a millennial devotion to the perfection of mankind. Social and religious goals merged in this spiritual awakening of a formerly class-bound group with anti-establishment tendencies.¹⁷

Orson's father, Horace Fowler (1782-1859) was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and worked as a farmer. Known as "Judge" in one family tree, he relocated to Cohocton in Steuben County, New York in 1809, during which time he wed Martha Fowler (1787-1814), and Orson was born. Horace Fowler and his family were descended from John Fowler (1622-1676), who emigrated from Derbyshire, England, to Guilford, Connecticut, and established a homestead there. His

¹³ Cross, *The Burned-Over District*, 341-344

¹⁴ Cross, *The Burned-Over District*, 345.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 346.

¹⁶ Allison Guertin Marchese, *Lost Columbia County* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Books, 2022).

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great-grandson and Horace Fowler's father, Eliphalet, moved from Guilford to Stockbridge, Massachusetts around 1758 and relocated to Cohocton by the time his son Orson was born in 1809. This is a family history typical of New Englanders moving west after the Revolutionary War. Old towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts had become overpopulated causing new generations to move west to find farmland; as such, western New York with its fertile soil was a primary destination.

Orson left home at age seventeen and moved back to western Massachusetts, perhaps to family still living in Stockbridge, where he studied for the ministry in the Congregational Church before entering Amherst College in 1829. While there, he and a classmate, Henry Ward Beecher, became enthralled with the new science of phrenology after attending a lecture on the subject by German physician Johann Spurzheim (1776-1832) in Boston in 1832. Spurzheim was on a lecture tour of the United States, during which he died unexpectedly. He was promoting the findings of his mentor Franz Joseph Gall (1758-1823), a Viennese physician considered the father of phrenology.¹⁸ Fowler and Beecher returned to Amherst and staged a debate about the merits of the so-called new science. With this public presentation, Fowler developed the supportive arguments he would use in his own lecture campaign while becoming the foremost authority of phrenology in the United States.

Gall and Spurzheim were actual anatomical scientists associating regions of the brain with certain mental and bodily functions and forming the basis for modern neurology. Fowler and Beecher were idealistic theology students who saw phrenology through a spiritual filter as proof of the essential unity of all creation (Unitarianism), the perfectibility of mankind, and the supremacy of insight over experience in revealing basic truths.

A child of the Burned-Over District, Orson Fowler turned phrenology into a pseudo-science supporting his desire for religious and sociological reform. He was an itinerant proselytizer who addressed the public far and wide, published numerous books, pamphlets, and periodicals of his own and those of kindred spirits, and conducted hundreds of cranial "readings." Orson's brother Lorenzo, sister Charlotte, and her husband Samuel R. Wells, all phrenologists, worked with him to manage what became a far-reaching business.

The Fowlers linked phrenology to other social reform movements of the period, including temperance, vegetarianism, and sex education. In 1864, Fowler and Wells launched the *American Phrenological Journal and Life Illustrated*, a monthly publication that contained:

...everything new and useful in regard to the Science of Man, physical, mental, and spiritual.... Other interests, such as new inventions, agriculture, commerce, mechanism, science, art, and literature, will receive attention. We feel it is a duty to participate in, and co-operate with, all the great movements for the 'emancipation of man' from error, ignorance, sin, want, intemperance, and spiritual darkness. Our work embraces all mankind and all interests.¹⁹

¹⁷ Cross, *The Burned-Over District*.

¹⁸ "Talking Heads," online exhibit hosted by Center for History of Medicine, Harvard University, 2013. Retrieved 6/12/2024 <https://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/exhibits/show/talking-heads>; Spurzheim died during this tour.

¹⁹ See

https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_American_Phrenological_Journal_and_Life_illustrated/LjJsTAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=American+Phrenological+Journal+and+Life+Illustrated&printsec=frontcover

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This crusading tone reflects the ambition and excess that began to characterize the phrenological movement in America. Eventually, popular as it had become, it descended into a parlor game as phrenological busts with regions mapped out in the brain proliferated in the homes of believers.²⁰

ARCHITECTURE OF OCTAGON HOUSES

In the late 1840s, Orson Fowler found a new vehicle for the improvement of mankind. In 1849, Fowler published *A Home for All: or, A New, Cheap, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building*, a sort of how-to book for building the eight-sided building. In addition to detailed explanations of the pre-eminence of the form and plan of the octagon over conventional house design (rectangular, square, and cross-wing plans), building materials and methods (stacked plank construction), room use and living patterns, and comparative cost analysis, Fowler also provided opinions justifying his departure from the established orthodoxy consistent with his phrenologist philosophy (Fig. 9).

Fowler apparently wrote the book while designing his own octagon house in Fishkill, New York, erected in 1848-1852. His huge three-story, eight-sided house represents the book's climax after preaching the importance of modesty and economy. Yet, it seems the space was needed. The 1850 U.S. Census for the town of Fishkill, New York, enumerated Fowler, identified as an author, as the head of a household containing sixteen persons including his wife, Eliza, and three daughters aged eight to eighteen, a niece and nephew, his parents, five Irish laborers, and two free Black domestic workers.

The octagon became the symbol of Fowler's drive for the perfection of humankind. He opens his book with the statement: "No invention can be of greater practical utility to man than one which shall cheapen and improve our houses, and especially will bring comfortable dwellings within reach of the poorer classes."²¹ He went on to criticize the *status quo*, targeting the traditional rectangular, story-and-a-half farmhouses built by the settlers along with the modern ones with cross-wing plans. The latter can be attributed to irregular forms introduced by Andrew Jackson Downing in the 1840s as his alternative to the traditional box. Fowler challenged the pre-eminent architectural tastemaker of the day, who himself had set out to redefine American architecture and domestic life, although in a more genteel fashion.

I read Downing and others on this subject, but none suited me... Why so little progress in ARCHITECTURE [author's emphasis], where there is so much in all other matters? We continue to build in the same square form adapted by all past ages. Is it necessary? Cannot some RADICAL change for the better be adopted, both as to the external form of houses, and their internal arrangement of rooms? And looking about for some general plan, I said to myself, "Why not make our pattern from NATURE? Her forms are mostly SPHERICAL. She has ten thousand globular or cylindrical forms to one square one. Indeed, how very few squares we see in nature. Why not, then, adopt this spherical form for houses?"²²

Ironically, beneath differences in rhetoric and audiences, Fowler and Downing had a lot in common. Nature was the foundation of the millennialist worldview and their ideal of perfection, and for the phrenologist, the act of building shelter related to the area of "constructiveness." To Fowler, "all nature is one vast workshop, and all things in and on the earth are

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Orson S. Fowler, *A Home for All, or a New, Cheap, Convenient and Superior Mode of Building* (NY: Fowler & Wells, 1849) 5.

²² Fowler, *A Home For All*, 6.

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the manufactured wares of the great Maker of the Universe.”²³ In the octagon house, one would find “beauty and utility closely united in architecture as in nature.”²⁴

Initially, those receptive to the idea of an octagon house would have been the attendees of his lectures (which he gave throughout the Northeast) or readers of his publications who already would have had kindred beliefs in God, religion, and nature. It is easy to assume that the earliest houses, such as those built before the Civil War, would have been associated with people who were members of enthusiastic religious groups and identified with Fowler’s spiritual phrenology. They would have been rural folks in the Burned-Over District of New York and other areas where New Englanders had migrated to, including western Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. It is no wonder that these states have the greatest concentration of octagon houses.²⁵ (Later in the nineteenth century, when octagon houses had lost their relationship to utopian religion, they spread throughout the continent, often as eccentric status symbols built by community leaders, architects and builders, lawyers, and capitalists. Some schoolhouses were even designed in the octagonal style.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Cross, Whitney R. *The Burned-Over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1950.

“Death of John Smith.” *Columbia Republican*, Nov. 26, 1891, 2.

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<https://ourinternationalfamily.weebly.com/columbiaville-ny.html>.

“Talking Heads,” online exhibit hosted by Center for History of Medicine, Harvard University, 2013.
<https://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/exhibits/show/talking-heads>.

“Town of Stockport,” *Columbia County at the End of the Century, Vol. 2*. 1900.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University

²³ Fowler, *A Home For All*, 14.

²⁴ Fowler, *A Home For All*, 40.

²⁵ “The Octagon House Inventory Book,” https://bobanna.com/octagon/main_page.html. Captured 6/13/2024.

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recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.97 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Latitude: 42.328562

Longitude: -73.752900

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 boundaries are congruent with parcel lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Neil Larson & Marissa Marvelli
organization Neil Larson & Associates date July 30, 2024
street & number 60 Noone Lane telephone (347) 403-1257
city or town Kingston state NY zip code 12401
e-mail marissa.marvelli@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.)

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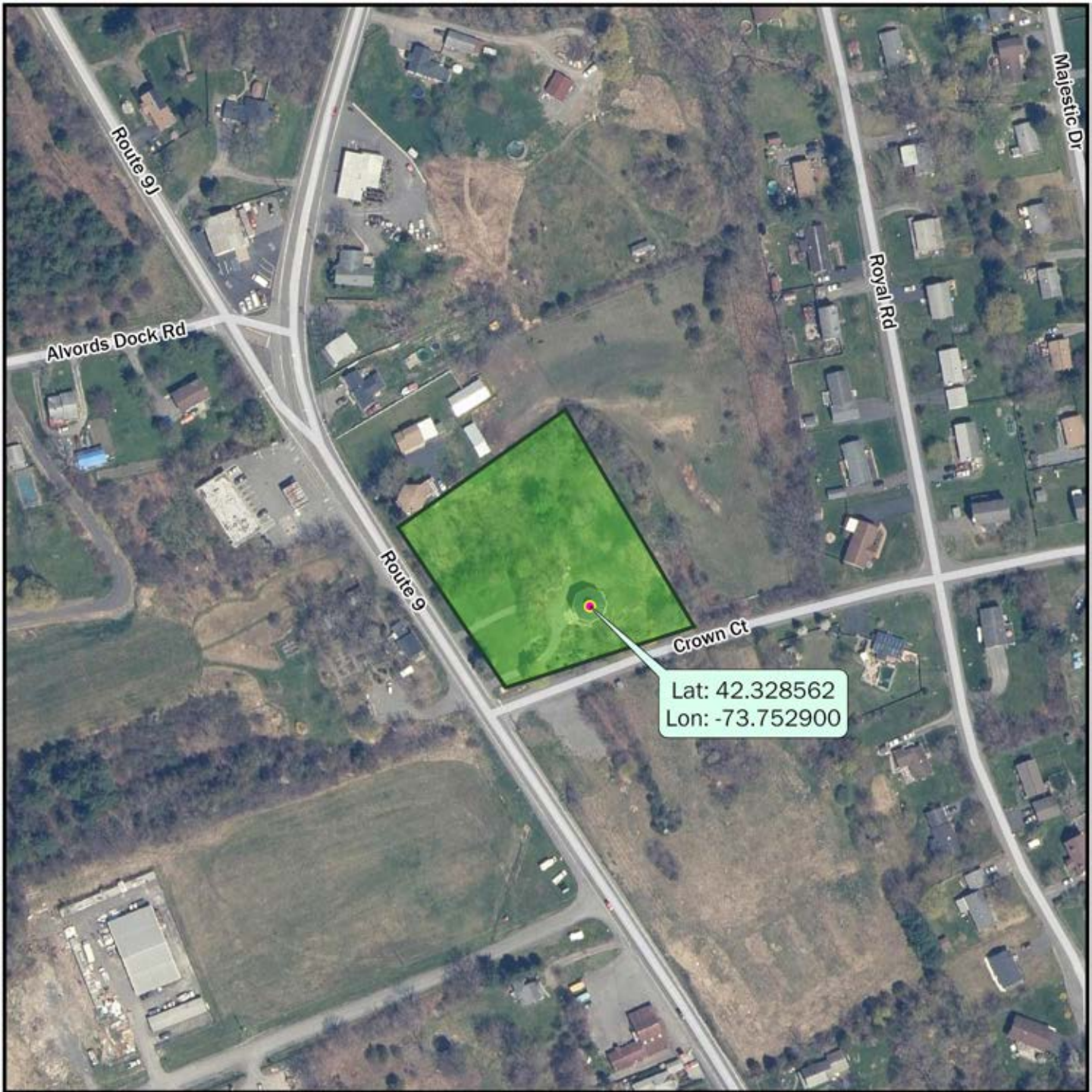
Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert Pesce
street & number 1250 U.S. Route 9 telephone (917) 406-0880
city or town Stockport state NY zip code 12171

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.



 Nomination Boundary (1.91 ac)



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation



1:2,400

0 100 200 ft

-  Nomination Boundary (1.91 ac)
-  Tax Parcels

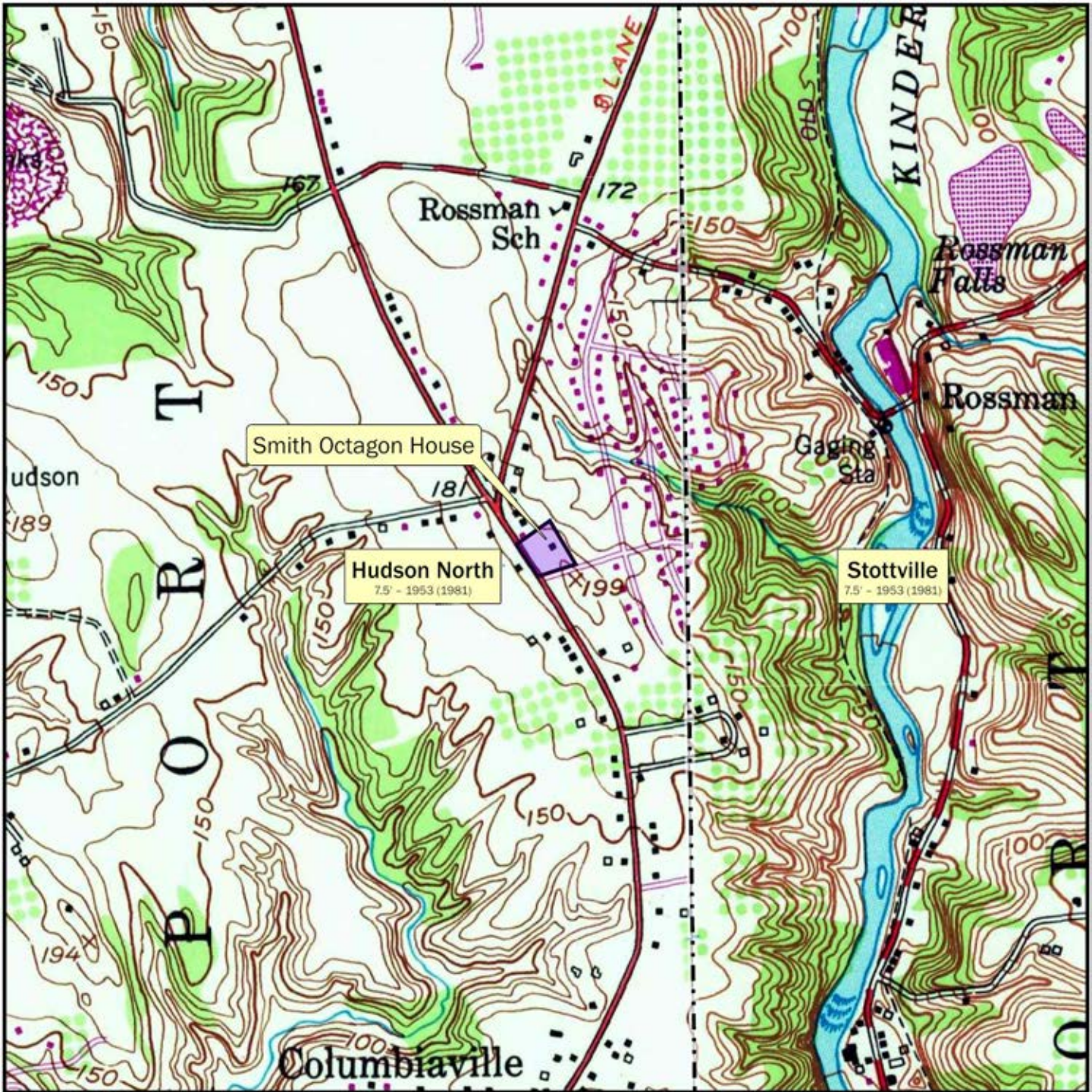


New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N


Columbia County Parcel Year: 2023

Mapped 01/29/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPD



1:12,000



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Parks, Recreation and
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Fig.1: Aerial view of Columbiaville highlighting the parcel containing the octagon house.

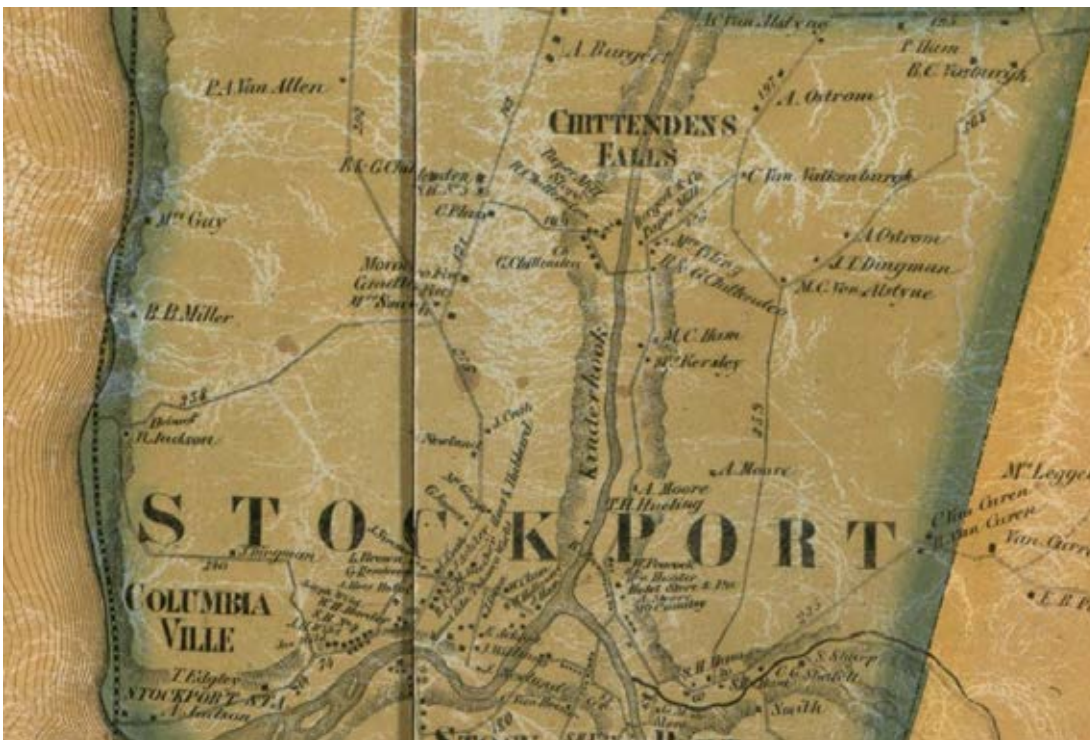


Fig.2: Detail of map of Stockport from the 1851 atlas of Columbia County showing buildings associated with the Smith family at the intersection of highways including a house associated with "Mrs. Smith" and a candle and Morocco factory. The church depicted on the road to Chittenden's Falls was Universalist. The open space around the house contained the Smith family's farm and orchards. The Hudson River is on the left.

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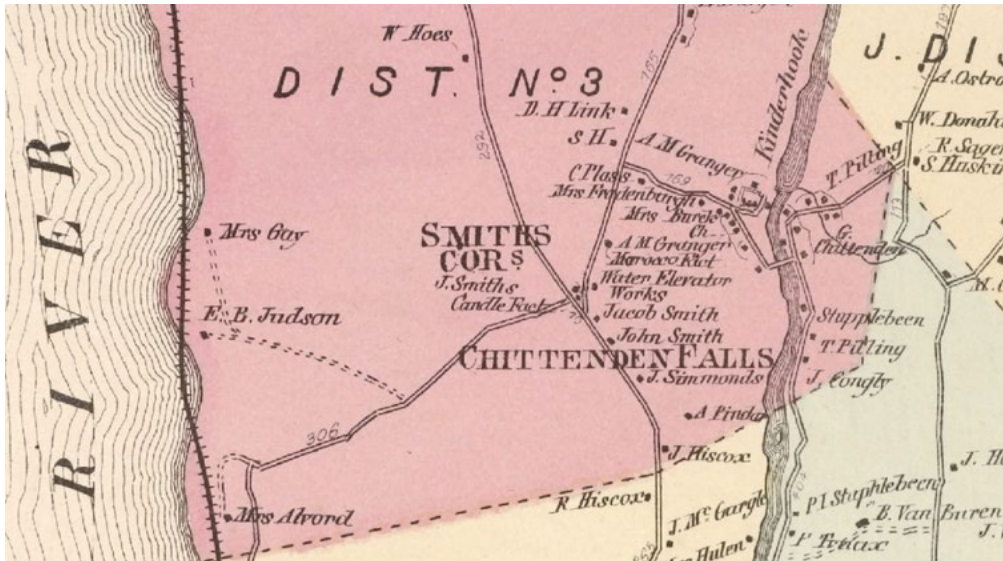


Fig.3: Detail of map of Stockport in 1873 atlas of Columbia County. The intersection at Smith’s Corners had houses assigned to John and Jacob Smith and Smith’s Candle Factory; the Morocco Factory appears to be operated by someone else.



Fig.4: Photograph of house taken by Margaret Bourke White in 1939 for her survey of the Hudson Valley for *Life Magazine*. The entrance is contained in a two-story porch on left.

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Fig.5: Photograph of house in 1957 with porches removed.



FIG.6: Photograph of house in 2002 after a period of abandonment.
Photo by Jonathon Hallam.

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Fig.7: Photograph of house in 2002 showing collapsed section of grout wall. Photo by Jonathon Hallam.

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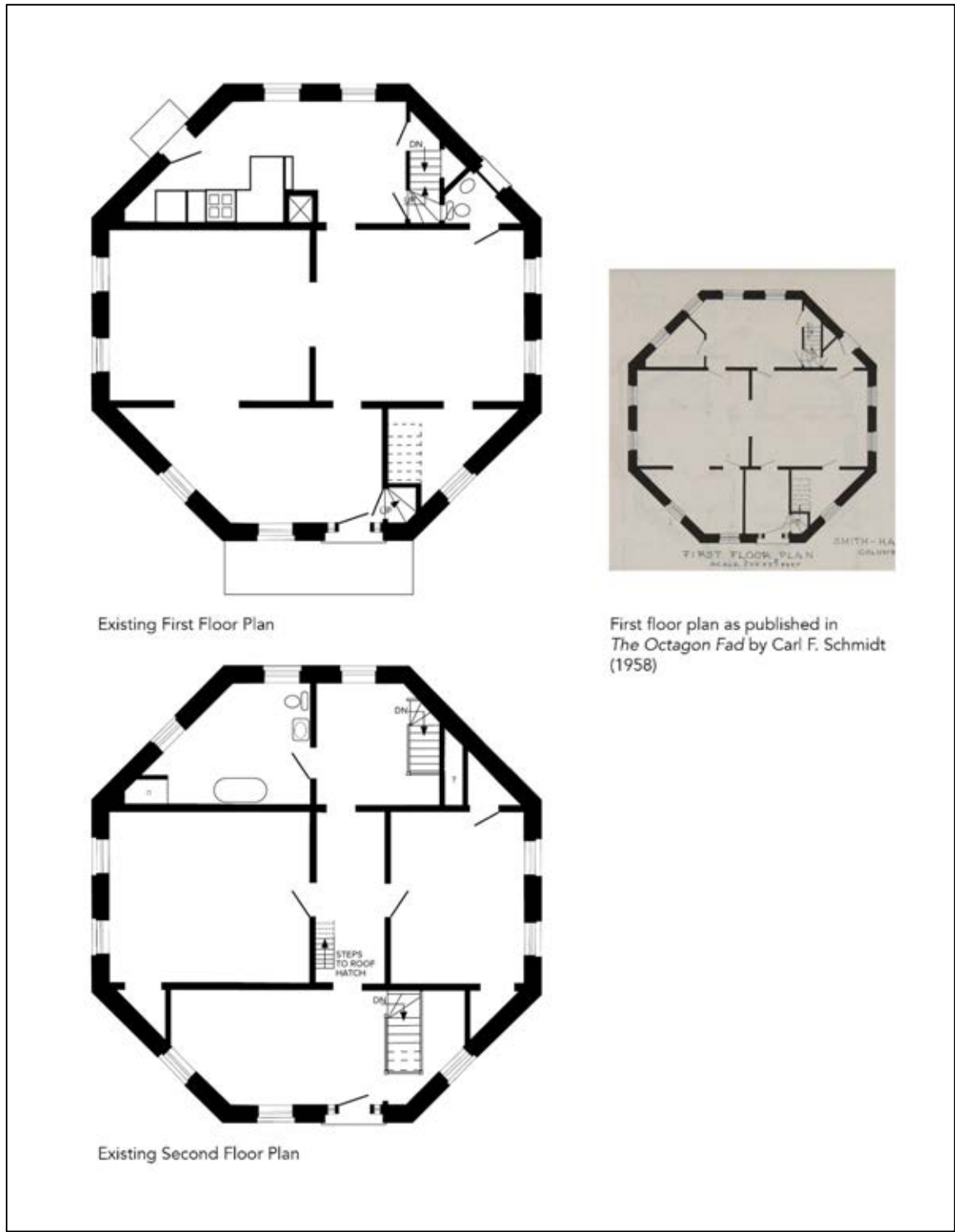


Fig.8: Floor plans. Drawn by Marissa Marvelli, 2024. No scale.

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Phrenologist's Dream House

Stockport architectural oddity was designed for cleanliness, comfort and the Lord's second coming



JUST OFF Route 9 in the Town of Stockport, stands one of Columbia County's most unusual homes. It is neither square, rectangular nor does it follow any conventional shape, but it is constructed with eight equal sides - a perfect octagon. It is not unusual for historians or architectural buffs, whose eyes have been caught by the odd-shaped structure, to ask Mrs. Manuel Peres who has lived there for 15 years, the history of the house, what shape the rooms are, how long it has been there and why was it built in the first place?

Actually, about 125 years ago, when the house was under construction, it stirred mild interest but no surprise in Stockport, because everyone who saw it understood perfectly that its builder was simply following the ideas of Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist, who, when he wasn't feeling cranky, had embarked on diverse careers in the fields of literature, publishing and architecture.

FOWLER'S FORTE, however, was the new science of the 1840's - phrenology - a trade he began while a student at Amherst College, charging his fellow students tuition a head for a reading.

Also he left charges he considered in this occupation. He found people enjoyed and would pay him a good fee to have him examine the protuberances and depressions in their skulls and then explain their meaning locally. Mentally,

So successfully did the former farm boy from Cohasset, N.Y., become that he decided to build a great model house, a memorial to himself in the Hudson River Valley.

With characteristic energy and flair for the unusual, he decided an ordinary house would do - he wanted a dwelling of a type never seen before - a structure people would look upon with amazement.

SUCCESS! HE hit upon the octagon idea. There had been six-sided houses before, but never one with eight sides. The assumption of Fowler's was doubted by historians who pointed out that Dudley Madison had resided in Washington's famous Octagon after the burning of the White House by the British in 1814.

Undaunted by historical fact, Fowler planned into the task of erecting his personal memorial near Fishkill, N.Y. and with it published a little booklet, "A Home for All - or the Great Wall and Octagon Model of Building." Not only was the dwelling different, it was amazingly practical.

His theories on light, air and sanitation were remarkable modern. The Octagon House, Fowler maintained, let in more sunlight and air, it eliminated dark corners where dampness collected, it enclosed the most space with the least material and it was, he maintained, more attractive than any other shape. He advocated that artists and writers build octagon houses and place in them a top floor room, lighted by a center glass dome, to serve as a studio.

FOWLER ALSO insisted that the finest material for building a house was what was denoted "good," a mixture of cement and gravel. Many of his followers, while more than willing to accept his other opinions, stopped at gravel.

To many devoted, rural folk who saw the practicality of the octagon house, gravel looked as if it might crumble, so they used more reliable materials - wood, brick or stone in their basements and cellars.

The Stockport octagonal house is believed to have been built by an Aaron Smith in the early 1850's and he, too, must have been skeptical of gravel for he used a field stone base for his structure. Today, the house he built a century and a quarter ago still stands in excellent condition.

Fowler's grand-father home in Fishkill has long since been razed as village fathers feared its decaying walls were unsafe.

THE STOCKPORT home has several modifications of Fowler's design: The entrance to the phrenologist's home was in the basement. This, he believed did away with drafts and dampness. The Peres house has an ordinary first floor doorway. An earlier veranda has been reduced to a simple, narrow entrance.

Fowler's house had pie-shaped rooms but the Stockport house is designed with a large square living room and parlor.

The wide, double doors, an unusual feature of all Fowler houses is found in the local residence.

Mrs. Peres told a visitor this week that the home is just what Fowler claimed it to be, well ventilated, light and an interesting place in which to live.

"We have 10 large rooms, one 30 by 30 feet below in the front of the house on the second level, and eight pie-wedge closets to allow for the wearing off of rooms and to use full every space," Mrs. Peres said.

Confusing a lot of her house, Mrs. Peres pointed out two rounded walls at the rear of the house. These walls are in the kitchen and have provided problems in attempting to decorate with paneled, wainscoting.

Another of Mrs. Peres' problems is what to do with windows of the traditional size over six designs that measure six feet in height and 28 1/2 inches in width. "I can stand up on the window ledge with room to spare" she says.

"Even the cupola is large," she continued, referring to the eight-sided open structure that tops off the house. A visit to the cupola on the day of our visit afforded a 300-degree panoramic view which included the Catskills, the Berkshire's plus rolling acres of countryside.

Mrs. Peres has made some attempts at restoration though the house, as we have said, is basically sound. One of her major problems is what to do about a furnace at the home in built on shale. Even though there is a full cellar under the house, there is no spot level enough on which to place a furnace.

Mrs. Peres has noted another Fowler inspired on the door. Each is paneled in the shape of a cross, and according to students of Fowler's architecture, Octagon houses were constructed so, when the Lord returned to earth for the second time, no matter from which direction He appeared, the occupants could look out one of their windows and see Him coming.

For many years people who resided in the Hudson Valley scattered and ridiculed these houses which became known as "Fowler's Folly," but modern day architects have turned back 125 years and now recognize any being constructed, but every one of them follows the basic principle of "A Home for All" except for the gnat.

In 1947 when this photograph was taken, the octagonal house of Stockport had a large front porch which was later removed.

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Photo by Steve Griffin

FANSHING DESIGN: In the 1850's, Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist, designed eight-sided houses to let in more sunlight, air, and eliminate dark corners and dampness. This home in Stockport designed by Fowler, still stands four square and has dedicated a memorial to himself the architect constructed in Fishkill, N.Y.

Fig.9: Representative example of a local features article on the house published in numerable instances over the life of the house. (The caption of the inset photograph mistakenly identifies the rear kitchen elevation with the front.) Unknown newspaper, March 31, 1977.

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Name of Property

County and State

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: Smith Octagon House
City or Vicinity: Stockport
County: Columbia
State: New York
Photographer: Marissa Marvelli
Date Photographed: May 3, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 0030: View of house from west.
- 0002 of 0030: View of facade from west
- 0003 of 0030: View of exterior from southwest.
- 0004 of 0030: View of exterior from south.
- 0005 of 0030: View of exterior from east.
- 0006 of 0030: View of exterior from north.
- 0007 of 0030: View of first-floor entry hall looking west.
- 0008 of 0030: View of first-floor entry hall looking northeast.
- 0009 of 0030: View of first-floor living room looking south.
- 0010 of 0030: Detail of floor and woodwork in first-floor living room.
- 0011 of 0030: View of first-floor dining room looking north.
- 0012 of 0030: View of first-floor kitchen looking north.
- 0013 of 0030: View of first-floor kitchen looking south.
- 0014 of 0030: Detail of woodwork in first-floor kitchen with pencil inscription.
- 0015 of 0030: View of second-floor front room looking south.
- 0016 of 0030: View of second-floor north bedroom looking northeast.
- 0017 of 0030: View of second-floor south bedroom looking south.
- 0018 of 0030: View of second-floor bathroom looking north.
- 0019 of 0030: View of second-floor passage with stairs to belvedere and view into rear stair hall.
- 0020 of 0030: View of interior of belvedere roof.
- 0021 of 0030: Detail of belvedere balustrade.
- 0022 of 0030: View of grout wall in basement.
- 0023 of 0030: Detail of floor framing in basement.
- 0024 of 0030: View looking east of house from roof.
- 0025 of 0030: View looking west of house from roof.
- 0026 of 0030: View looking northeast from house.
- 0027 of 0030: View of garage looking north from house.
- 0028 of 0030: View north on east side of US Rt.9 at intersection with NY Rt.9J. Octagon house out of view on right. Original story-and-a-half Smith dwelling in mid-view.
- 0029 of 0030: View of original Smith dwelling from northwest. (Not included in nomination.)
- 0030 of 0030: View of Hexagon house on adjacent property. (Not included in nomination.)

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PHOTO 0001: View of house from west.



PHOTO 0002: View of facade from west.

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PHOTO 0003: View of exterior from southwest.



PHOTO 0004: View of exterior from south.

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PHOTO 0005: View of exterior from east.



PHOTO 0006: View of exterior from north.

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PHOTO 0007: View of first-floor entry hall looking west.

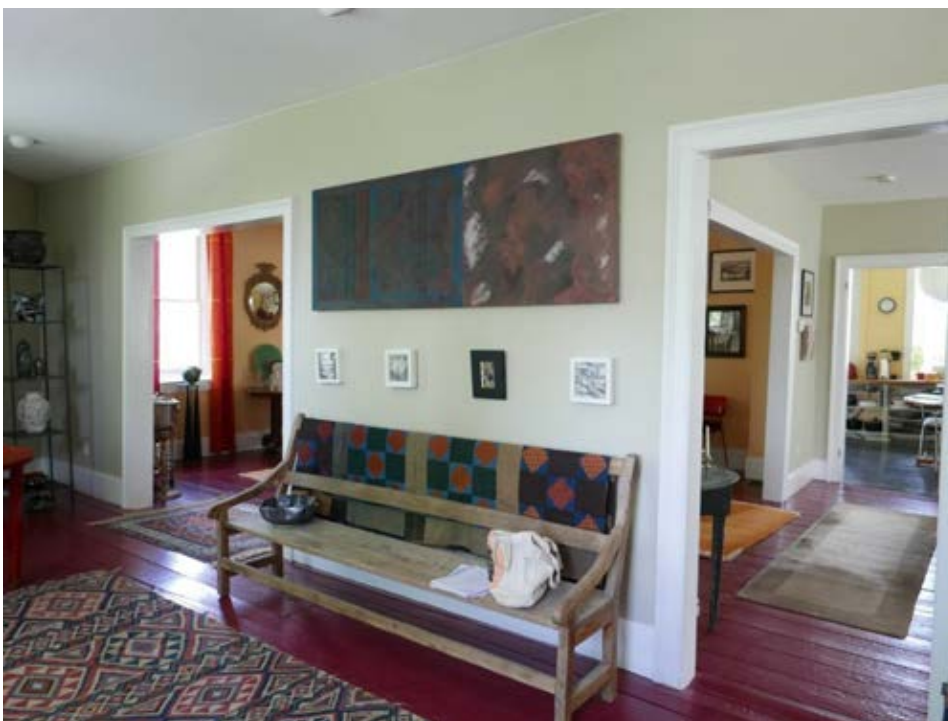


PHOTO 0008: View of first-floor entry hall looking northeast.

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PHOTO 0009: View of first-floor living room looking south.



PHOTO 0010: Detail of floor and woodwork in first-floor living room.

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PHOTO 0011: View of first-floor dining room looking north.



PHOTO 0012: View of first-floor kitchen looking north.

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PHOTO 0013: View of first-floor kitchen looking south.



PHOTO 0014: Detail of woodwork in first-floor kitchen with pencil inscription.

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PHOTO 0015: View of second-floor front room looking south.



PHOTO 0016: View of second-floor north bedroom looking northeast.

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PHOTO 0017: View of second-floor south bedroom looking south.



PHOTO 0018: View of second-floor bathroom looking north.

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PHOTO 0019: View of second-floor passage with stairs to belvedere and view into rear stair hall.



PHOTO 0020: View of interior of belvedere roof.

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PHOTO 0021: Detail of belvedere balustrade.



PHOTO 0022: View of grout wall in basement.

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PHOTO 0023: Detail of floor framing in basement.



PHOTO 0024: View looking east of house from roof.

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PHOTO 0025: View looking west of house from roof.



PHOTO 0026: View looking northeast from house.

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PHOTO 0027: View of garage looking north from house.



PHOTO 0028: View north on east side of US Rt.9 at intersection with NY Rt.9J. Octagon house out of view on right. Original story-and-a-half Smith dwelling in mid-view.

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PHOTO 0029: View of original Smith dwelling from NW. (Not included in nomination.)



PHOTO 0030: View of Hexagon house on adjacent property. (Not included in nomination.)