



Greens Corners Solar LLC

# **Revised Appendix 9-A**

OPRHP Correspondence



## Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID  
Commissioner

### ARCHAEOLOGY COMMENTS

#### Phase IA/IB Archaeological Survey Recommendation for Solar Facilities

Project: Green Corners Solar/120MW/2,656 Acres

PR#: 20PR02674

Date: June 1, 2020

The State Historic Preservation Office/Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO/OPRHP) recommends a Phase IA archaeological survey, including recommendations for potential Phase IB archaeological field testing. A Phase IA: Literature Search and Sensitivity Study is the initial assessment of the overall sensitivity of a project area (*Area of Potential Effects or APE*) for the presence of archaeological sites and Native American sites of religious and cultural significance and to guide any subsequent field investigations. The Phase IA should be conducted early in project planning to allow the results to be used in developing project options. Research should be comprehensive, using the SHPO/OPRHP's site files and archeological library, as well as other sources such as universities, local libraries, museums, Indian Nations, historical societies, local informants or other pertinent sources. An initial field inspection of the project area must be conducted to assess the level of testing that may be necessary. This study should document the cultural history of the project area, relevant environmental and geological data, the boundaries and description of the proposed project, any previous ground disturbance, known archaeological sites and provide Phase IB field investigation recommendations.

To protect the archaeological record and to refine the Phase IB archaeological testing scope-of-work, the SHPO/OPRHP strongly encourages developers to reduce grubbing and grading activities, reduce the width of trenches to 3 feet or less, and reduce or eliminate grading for the construction of roadways and staging areas.

#### Recommendations for the Development of the Phase IB Archeological Scope of Work

Phase IB archaeological testing is not recommended for panel arrays, perimeter fencing and utility poles, if their associated posts are driven or drilled into the ground and no grubbing or grading is involved, and for excavations and grading less than six inches in depth. Phase IB testing is also not recommended for trenches less than three feet wide. However, if the installation of the panel array supports, fencing or utility poles requires grubbing and grading exceeding six inches in depth, then Phase IB archaeological testing is recommended.

Phase IB archaeological testing is recommended for areas of substantial proposed ground disturbance, which includes areas of grading and excavation more than six inches deep, grubbing, tree and stump removal, and trenches more than three feet wide, unless the archaeological sensitivity warrants greater effort.

If Native American cultural resources may be affected by a solar facility, the pertinent Indian Nations should be provided the Phase IA Report, including Phase IB archaeological testing scope-of-work, for review and comment. The SHPO/OPRHP can provide Indian Nations contact information upon request. Please request this information by contacting the archaeology reviewer responsible for the county in which your project is located. Contact information can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/contact/>.

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#### Division for Historic Preservation

P.O Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189 • (518) 237-8643 • <https://parks.ny.gov>

Our office does not conduct archaeological surveys. A 36 CFR 61 qualified archaeologist should be retained to conduct the Phase IA/IB survey.

If you have any questions concerning archaeology, please contact Nancy Herter at [nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov](mailto:nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov).



**Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

September 1, 2020

Gail Ostapczuk  
Archaeologist  
Tetra Tech  
6 Century Drive  
Suite 300  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Re: DPS  
Greens Corners Solar/120MW/2,656 Acres  
Towns of Hounsefield and Watertown, Jefferson County, NY  
20PR02674

Dear Mr. Ostapczuk:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the July 2020 Phase IA Archaeological Investigation (20SR00381), prepared by Tetra Tech, in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

Based upon this review, the SHPO recommends that Phase IB archaeological testing occur within areas of archaeological sensitivity, as defined on Figure 6, and where significant ground disturbing activities will occur. Significant ground disturbing activities consist of (1) trench excavations wider than 3 feet; (2) tree clearance, grubbing, and stump removal; and, (3) grading exceeding 6 inches in depth.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at [nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov](mailto:nancy.herter@parks.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Nancy Herter  
Archaeology Unit Program Coordinator



**Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation**

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

February 18, 2021

Gail Ostapczuk  
Tetra Tech  
6 Century Drive  
Suite 300  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Re: DPS  
Green Corners Solar/120MW/2,656 Acres  
Towns of Hounsfield and Watertown, Jefferson County, NY  
20PR02674

Dear Gail Ostapczuk:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

We have reviewed the Phase IB archaeological survey report (No. 21SR00102). No archaeological sites were identified and OPRHP concurs with the report recommendation that no additional archaeological work is necessary for the project. Please note that OPRHP's review of potential impacts to historic architectural resources has not been completed.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above. If you have any questions, please contact me via email.

Sincerely,

Tim Lloyd, Ph.D.  
Scientist - Archaeology  
timothy.lloyd@parks.ny.gov

via e-mail only

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items

New Submission  Amended Submission

**A. Name of Multiple Property Listing**

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County, New York, ca. 1800-1875**

**B. Associated Historic Contexts**

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

**Settlement from France**

**Settlement from New England, New York, the Middle Atlantic, and Great Britain**

**Historic Stone Architecture in Jefferson County**

**C. Form Prepared by**

name/title Claire Bonney and Maureen Hubbard Barros  
(arranged/edited by Daniel Bagrow and William Krattinger, DHP)

organization Stone Building Society of Northern New York Date March 2020

address PO Box 219c telephone 315-639-3582; 416-924-7068

city or town Dexter State NY zip code 13634

e-mail mabarros@sympatico.ca

**D. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

R Daniel Mackay | Date 3/15/2021  
Signature and title of certifying official

DSRPO  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875**

**New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

**Table of Contents for Written Narrative**

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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## **Stone Buildings of Jefferson County, New York, ca. 1800-1875**

### **E. Statement of Historic Contexts**

This Multiple Property Documentation Form is concerned with historic limestone and sandstone buildings erected in Jefferson County, New York, in the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century. The earliest resource identified to date in this context is the 1806 Leray Land Office or Chaumont House (NRHP 1990), while the most recent dates to 1872, when the Copley, Adams, Duford Stone Office was erected, and by which time traditional stone construction in Jefferson County was waning. These buildings reflect the two-fold character of this MPDF. On the one hand, the nomination includes buildings built for those early and preeminent French landowners of much of the county, James Le Ray de Chaumont and John LaFarge, and, on the other, nineteenth-century farmhouses and buildings built by English, Dutch and German settlers to the area, many of whom were recruited by Leray de Chaumont's land agents. What unites these buildings is not only the stone used in their construction, available in abundance in Jefferson County but also the aesthetic will to utilize it when timber was equally or even more plentiful in the area and certainly much easier to work with. At present, 108 extant nineteenth-century stone buildings have been documented.

Jefferson County encompasses roughly 1,800 square miles of an enormous tract of land deeded by the Oneida people to New York State in 1788 and opened to settlement as part of the Macomb Purchase in 1791. James Le Ray purchased most of the land north of the Black River, consisting of approximately 463,500 acres. South of the Black River the land was surveyed and divided into ten townships, which were sold to many individual investors. Settlers paid approximately \$3.00 for an acre of land with various stipulations for its clearing and "improvement."<sup>1</sup> Permanent European settlement of this once heavily forested region began with a few families in 1798 but had increased substantially by 1820, by which time it was populated by 33,388 people. New York State was fifth in population in the United States in 1790; by 1820, it was first, with a four-fold increase in residents.<sup>2</sup> The 1845 census of New York State, the first to enumerate the origins of its inhabitants, indicates that in Jefferson County, 50,502 residents were native-born New Yorkers; 7,528 came from New England; 4,200 from Great Britain; almost equal numbers from Germany (425) and France (424); and 99 from

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<sup>1</sup> Franklin B. Hough, *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, New York* (Albany: Little & Co., 1853), 218.

<sup>2</sup> S.E. Morrison, *The Oxford History of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1927). 16.

other European countries. The census of 1850 further refined the New England emigration as coming mostly from Vermont (2,055), followed by Massachusetts (1,877) and Connecticut (1,369).

Because the early settlers of Jefferson County made efforts to perpetuate the names of their former homes, it is possible at times to read into the origins of towns and villages by their given name. For example, Lyme was named for Lyme, Connecticut; Rutland for Rutland, Vermont; Philadelphia for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Similarly, Chaumont, Alexandria, Theresa, LaFargeville, Deferiet, and Le Ray were named for French settlers. Thus, the map of Jefferson County reveals that French settlers were mostly north of the Black River. There, English settlers mixed with French. As Emerson's roseate view expressed it:

The first settlers of Le Ray formed a mixed population of Yankees and Frenchmen, the former prevailing in point of numbers, and while their habits and customs were wholly unlike they worked in perfect unison and no unfriendliness existed; all being imbued with the same spirit of enterprise and progress.<sup>3</sup>

Due to disturbances to the homestead sites, excavations at Fort Drum in the Town of Le Ray were unable to confirm any substantial differences between the archeological remains of French and Anglo-American farms.<sup>4</sup> Perhaps indicative of his desire to blend with the predominant culture while remaining true to his own, French settler Guillaume Coupart anglicized his name to William "French" Cooper.

South of the Black River, English dominated the original Macomb Purchase lands. Divided into ten townships by Benjamin Wright's survey of 1796, they were sold to individual speculators who looked mostly to New England, New York, and the east coast states for settlers. As Hough recorded it: "The proprietors seldom made their tracts their homes, but their agents were generally from the eastern states, and men of influence in their localities, and we find that the first settlers in the several towns were often from the same neighborhoods."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Edgar C. Emerson, *Our County and its People, a descriptive work on Jefferson County, New York* (Boston: History Company Publishers, 1898), 672.

<sup>4</sup> Georgess, McHaergue, *Fort Drum Cultural Resources Series, The Archeology and History of Twelve Thousand Years at Fort Drum* (Littleton, MA: Timelines, Inc., 1998), 70.

<sup>5</sup> Hough, *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties*, ix.

## Settlement by the French

### Leray Family Settlement in Jefferson County

Jacques Leray de Chaumont (1724-1803), whose family's French château, Chaumont-sur-Loire, is located between Tours and Orléans, was a Frenchman who had been sympathetic to the cause of the American Revolution. While remaining a loyal monarchist, Leray had served without an official appointment as an advisor to Louis XVI, and many of the ambassadors of the young American government were entertained at Leray's townhouse near Paris, including Benjamin Franklin, who stayed there for nine years and outfitted the home with Europe's first lightning rod.<sup>6</sup> Leray was an adventurous businessman who supplied huge amounts of material—gunpowder, cloth for uniforms, saltpeter, and brass cannon, among other resources—to the American revolutionaries from both private funds and from the arsenals of which he had control, in the hopes of turning a profit and deterring the British from smothering the Revolution.<sup>7</sup> It was also Leray who outfitted John Paul Jones with a five-vessel fleet that carried a much-needed cargo of 2,000 barrels of gunpowder to battle the British navy.

After this sizable investment, Leray was, of course, intensely interested in seeing the success of the American cause. He was not motivated by mere mercenary interests, given that he assisted the Americans even when he stood to gain nothing personally. In February and April 1777, for example, he gave the commissioners memoirs outlining the types of stockings, blankets, uniforms, and related items that could be furnished by various French manufacturers. He recommended a type of cloak that could also serve as a blanket, as a cover for a trench, or as a camouflage to conceal troop maneuvers. He presented minute details of types of thread, weights, sizes, and prices; he also explained ways to avoid some French export duties.<sup>8</sup> Leray's great emotional and financial involvement with the American Revolution, conflated by his love of speculation, eventually led him into bankruptcy and ruin.

By 1785, Leray's financial situation warranted sending his only son, Jacques (James variously) Le Ray (1760-1840) to America to present to the United States Congress the case for his reimbursement on the devalued American money with which the American government had repaid him. In 1788, the younger Le Ray, hoping to better his chances for recompense, became

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<sup>6</sup> Jacques Leray de Chaumont spelled his name *Leray*. It was his son, James Le Ray de Chaumont, who initiated the more aristocratic-looking spelling *Le Ray*. We use the spellings each of these persons themselves used. See Schaeper, p. 108; Thomas J. Schaeper, *France and America in the Revolutionary Era: The Life of Jacques-Donatien LeRay de Chaumont 1725-1803* (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1995), 122.

<sup>7</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 81.

<sup>8</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 159.

an American citizen while still pleading his father's cause and representing other French citizens in their claims as well. In 1789, Franklin finally requested that George Washington intercede on behalf of his friend, and James Le Ray was able to return to France with a small payment that both parties agreed settled the debt owed.<sup>9</sup> In Philadelphia in 1789, Le Ray married Grace Coxe, a socially well-placed woman from New Jersey. By borrowing money and serving as an agent for others, James Le Ray was able to acquire huge holdings in New York State.

At that time, New York State Governor Clinton and the Board of Land Commissioners were proceeding with their efforts to see to the settlement of northern New York. A condition of land purchase was that, within the term of seven years, one family was to be settled on every land tract sold for each 640 acres thereof. Otherwise, land ownership would become void.<sup>10</sup> Alexander Macomb, a fur merchant, bought a tract of 1,920,000 acres in Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, and St. Lawrence counties from New York State. This tract is known as the Macomb Purchase. However, Macomb failed to make his payments and went into bankruptcy. His lands were disposed of by William Constable, who sold some tracts to friends, including James Le Ray, who already owned much land near Cooperstown, where many French emigrés had fled the Revolution, only to leave again when France was restored to peace. Since James was now an American citizen, Leray properties were re-deeded in his name, thus enabling the Lerays to circumvent confiscation of their lands by the French revolutionaries.<sup>11</sup> They were further aided by Jacques Leray de Chaumont's great popularity with the French peasants living on his land.

To map and settle his lands, James Le Ray, along with his brother-in-law, Pierre Chassanis, along with two other Frenchmen, formed *La Compagnie de New York*, better known as the Castorland Company, a name derived from the French word *castor*, or beaver.<sup>12</sup> Castorland lay between Rome and Watertown and between the Black River and Lake Ontario. Two cities were planned: one near the present village of Dexter, to be called Basle, and the other at Castorville, approximately at the location of Beaver Falls today. From 1796 to 1800, some twenty French families settled in Castorland. However, these villages were not successful, due to both financial and personal mismanagement. By 1804, the company was in debt and most of the settlers had returned to France. Nothing was left of Castorland except "eighty-two acres of cleared land, eighteen log cabins, a sawmill, and some useable roads."<sup>13</sup> After the scheme for *La*

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<sup>9</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 326.

<sup>10</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 45.

<sup>11</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 329.

<sup>12</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 330.

<sup>13</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 134-135.

*Compagnie de New York* failed, James Le Ray was able, in 1814, to acquire 220,500 acres of the holdings.<sup>14</sup> He added these to his previous land purchases: 220,000 acres from the Antwerp Company in 1802, the northwest part of Great Tract No. 4, and 23,000 acres in St. Lawrence County, which he had purchased with a loan in 1794.

In 1803 or 1804, Le Ray made his first trip to the North Country. In 1808 he and his family took up residence in a mansion near LeRaysville, at the time the site of a sawmill built by Benjamin Brown and now Fort Drum. Le Ray is eulogized in the pages of northern New York history for his remarkable contribution to the economic, social, and cultural development of the area. Like Macomb and Constable, he was, to be sure, a land agent and speculator. But emulating his father, his interest in humanitarian values was proportionately balanced with his financial interests.

Le Ray's investment included the construction of sawmills, gristmills, iron furnaces, and new roads in the region. He was the first president of the St. Lawrence Turnpike Company in 1810 and of the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, which held its first fair in 1819. At Slocumville, about a mile from LeRaysville, Le Ray brought in a young chemist from the *École Polytechnique* who had developed a new formula for gunpowder, to set up a factory. However, the powder was not a success and the operation was soon converted into a potato starch factory.

Although a Roman Catholic in faith, Le Ray gave 440 acres of land for a Quaker meeting house in Philadelphia, New York, and he supported Presbyterian churches for his settlers at LeRaysville and Cape Vincent. He also rebuilt the Baptist church at Evans Mills after it burned. To Catholics in the area, he gave churches at Clayton, Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Belfort.

The mansion at LeRaysville became a cultural center for French emigrés and charmed native northerners with its hospitality. Madame de Stael, a personal friend of the Leray's who had spent time in 1810 at their chateau at Chaumont-sur-Loire, was just one of the Romantics Leray hoped to entice to settle on his land. For years she spoke and wrote of traveling to the United States. At one time she wrote James Le Ray, "I understand you have managed your lands with great skill and that you have a fine establishment. I cannot imagine a more noble career than yours, and if I had not my European habits, I should delight to become an inmate at LeRaysville."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Alta M. Ralph, "The Chassanis or Castorland Settlement." *Proceedings of the New York State Historical Association*. vol. 28 (1929), 343.

<sup>15</sup> In November 1794, Madame de Stael's father, Jacques Neckar, purchased lands from Le Ray and Morris for the sum of \$38,000. (George Solovieff, *Madame de Stael, ses amis, ses correspondents, choix de lettres*. (Paris: 1970), 123).

An aide to General Jacob Brown, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, who visited at the Le Ray Mansion recorded one memorable evening in his diary:

Before dinner we were regaled with some of the finest music I ever heard by Madame [de] Feriet on the piano and Monsieur Quillard [who supervised the gunpowder factory at Slocumville] on the violin and the violincello, the latter of whom is the finest performer on these instruments I ever heard. After dinner we walked about the domain of M. Le Ray... I rambled about in the evening inspecting everything I could discover that was interesting and assisted Madame la Marquise de Gouvello [Theresa, James Le Ray's daughter] in watering her garden. Afterwards we were again favored by their musical performances.<sup>16</sup>

With all that he brought to northern New York in economic development, gentility, and social and cultural enrichment, the Le Ray's contributions remained ongoing. He was the connecting link between the early French enterprise, the Castorland Company, and a second period of French interest that followed the War of 1812.<sup>17</sup>

Thanks to Le Ray's sustained connections with French society, he was able to convince several prominent compatriots, who were hoping to avoid reprisal after the fall of Napoleon, to purchase land. In 1815, Le Ray disposed of a large tract consisting of about 26,840 acres of land in the Adirondack region, near Natural Bridge, to Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother. It was also Le Ray who sold land in the town of Lyme to Napoleon's Marshal, Emanuel Comte de Grouchy (1766-1840) in 1818.<sup>18</sup> Nearly 5,000 acres in the town of Cape Vincent went to Count Pierre-François Réal (1757-1834), the Prefect of Police under Napoleon, who consequently lived in the United States from 1816 to 1827, and to General Desfurieux.<sup>19</sup> Smaller parcels were sold to other refugees fleeing France after Napoleon's resounding defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.<sup>20</sup>

In 1823, Le Ray, unable to meet land payments, ran into financial difficulties and transferred his lands to his son, Vincent (1790-1875), in trust for his creditors.<sup>21</sup> His hopes that the Erie Canal would pass through his lands were dashed and his land value plummeted. At that time,

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<sup>16</sup> Quoted in Thomas F. Powell, *Penet's Square* (Lakemont, NY: North Country Books, 1976), 142.

<sup>17</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 142.

<sup>18</sup> Georges Bertin, *Joseph Bonaparte en Amérique* (Paris, 1893), 204. Grouchy's land purchase is not mentioned in the *Mémoires* written by his grandson. However, letters from him attest to a friendship with David Parish in 1816, suggesting that Grouchy had been in the North Country by this time, after arriving in the United States in autumn 1815. From May 1817 until his pardon by Louis XVIII in late 1819 and his subsequent departure for France in spring 1820, Grouchy seems to have lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Grouchy, 1873.

<sup>19</sup> According to Child, 40, this land, a tract of 4,840 acres near Millen's Bay, was originally sold by Le Ray to Louis Augustin de Caulincourt, Duc de Vincence, in 1805. De Caulincourt then transferred it to Réal, according to Child, in 1825. Bigard, 174, maintains that the transfer took place in 1814, a date which makes more sense; Pierre-François Réal, *Les indiscretions d'un Préfet de Napoléon*, vols. 1 & 2 (Paris: Tallencher, 1986), xviii.

<sup>20</sup> Franklin B. Hough, *History of Jefferson County of the State of New York* (Albany: Joel Munsell, Watertown, New York: Sterling & Riddell, 1854), 113.

<sup>21</sup> Emerson, *Our Country*, 51; Schaeper, *France and America*, 338.

the Le Ray's owned 143,500 acres in Jefferson County, only one-eighth of which had been contracted by settlers. There were also three gristmills, three sawmills, and various clearings with buildings.<sup>22</sup> In 1836, James Le Ray returned to France, leaving his land under Vincent's management.<sup>23</sup> He died in 1840. While James Le Ray's other son, Alexander, "was an adventurer rather than a businessman" who "obtained a commission as captain in the Texan army of Sam Houston and was killed in a duel on 17 October 1837," Vincent Le Ray continued to sell off his father's lands while traveling back and forth between American and France, where he eventually settled permanently.<sup>24</sup>

The Le Ray family, despite all its connections, had difficulty in finding farmers to work its land. In 1824, Le Ray wrote to his neighbor, George Parish, that he had sold land to 360 settlers in the amount of 23,668 acres at the average price of \$5.67 an acre. Although he had lowered his prices and had to begin taking payment-in-kind, rather than hard cash, he was still far below the roughly 2,200 settlers he was required to have by the terms of the Macomb Purchase. Beginning about 1810, the Le Rays had advertising handbills printed up and distributed them through their agents in eastern France, Germany, and Switzerland. The handbills were successful in bringing a new wave of European immigrants to both Lewis and Jefferson counties.<sup>25</sup> The following is a translated handbill, from 1848, now in the collection of the Lewis County Historical Society:

#### NOTICE TO EMIGRANTS

This is mainly addressed to people who wish to emigrate and settle on my land in the county of Lewis, state of New York.

Upon arriving in New York City, the best thing for Emigrants to do is to go immediately to the steamer that leaves for Albany every day at five o'clock in the afternoon. It will cost fifty sous per cart to transport their luggage from the place of landing to the steamer where they will be asked for fifty sous per person to take them to Albany. Half fare for children; no fare, or else very little, will be asked for infants. They will arrive in Albany at five o'clock in the morning; at seven o'clock they will leave Albany, by train, for Rome, where they will arrive at two o'clock in the afternoon. It will cost \$2.44 which permits each passenger to take along, without charge, 150 pounds of baggage. From Rome they will go to New Bremen, by way of Lowville, traveling by carriage, on a road made of boards. If they leave Rome early in the morning, they will arrive in New Bremen the same evening; and also, the hiring of a two-horse carriage will vary from three to five piastres depending on the circumstances involved.

If, upon arriving in New York, they prefer to stop at an inn, it will cost fifty sous per day, or twenty-five sous per meal: the transporting of baggage, from the place of landing to the inn, or from the inn to the steamer, is set at fifty sous per carriage. Those are the prices as they were in the year 1848, and they will not increase in the

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<sup>22</sup> Hamilton Child, *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County, New York* (Syracuse Journal Co., 1890), 42-43.

<sup>23</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 338.

<sup>24</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 338.

<sup>25</sup> Lewis S. Van Arnam, *Beaver Falls Cavalcade* (Beaver Falls, New York, 1979), 15-17.

following year,

From New York to Albany  
by steamer.....145 miles or 48 leagues  
From Albany to Rome  
by train.....109 miles or 36 leagues  
From Rome to New Bremen  
by wooden road.....42 miles or 14 leagues

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294 miles or 99 leagues

This trip can be made in two days or one night; in other words, in thirty-two hours at the most.

More detailed information may be obtained in writing, either to my address, 23 Anjou Street, St. Honoré, in Paris, or to my agent M.P.S. Stewart in Carthage, Jefferson County, New York State.

In cases where three families or less would want to settle on my land, they have only to find out, as mentioned above, the name of the ship, the time and place of departure, and an authorized person will be waiting for them when they land in New York and will escort them to my properties. When they write to Mr. Stewart, they will have to send their letter by steamers.

There are already several hundred French, Swiss and Dutch families on my properties. The land is sound and fertile. It is therefore infinitely better to stop here, rather than to go fifteen hundred miles further West, into a country that is still uncertain, at least with regard to conduciveness to health, and to take a risk on the great lakes of North America, with a navigation that is much more dangerous than that of the ocean itself. Several families have already returned from the West and have settled on my properties. Furthermore, if these properties aren't suitable, there is nothing easier than moving elsewhere since they are only one day away from the train in Rome.

1 November 1848

V. LERAY DE CHAUMONT<sup>26</sup>

The remarkable journal written by North Country settler John Wiley Bedford from 1810 to 1844 provides considerable insight into the Le Ray family's problems in settling their lands.<sup>27</sup> Vincent Le Ray had obtained a charter to build a turnpike road from Watertown to Cape Vincent and thus opened a large area for new settlement. Bedford relates that the first takers of Le Ray lands bought up large tracts of white oak and pine timber at the rate of six dollars per acre, with no down payment, to be paid in five annual installments and six-percent interest per annum on the mortgage financed by Le Ray. After stripping their parcels of the best timber and shipping it off at a profit, they skipped town, leaving Vincent Le Ray with no money, no settlers, and diminished land values. Time and again, it appears, Vincent Le Ray offered his lands for

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<sup>26</sup> An original handbill, "Avis aux Emigrants," collection of the Lewis County Historical Society. It was translated into English in Van Arnam, *Beaver Falls Calvacade*, 15-17.

<sup>27</sup> Phyllis Putnam (ed), *Bedford Journal 1810 to 1844 by John Wiley Bedford* (Chaumont, NY: Lyme Heritage Center, 1998), 64-66.

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sale at more favorable conditions, often foregoing any profit for years. The year 1827 seems to have been a particularly bad one with too much rain, a wheat blight, and many cases of the fever and ague that plagued early settlers.

These catastrophes seem to have induced Vincent Le Ray to come up with a new plan. He returned to Europe, where for two years he drummed up settlers among the small farmers of his family's native northeastern France. In the spring of 1830, Le Ray returned with his settlers, whom he placed with previous inhabitants until log cabins could be provided for them. He offered new lands at inexpensive terms to the experienced settlers, moving them to the Kent's Creek and Fox Creek areas of Cape Vincent. While the new French settlers to Jefferson County were accustomed to clustered villages with rowhouses and attached barns, outlying fields and small plots, Le Ray offered them partially cleared, 100-acre parcels to which, Bedford relates, he added eighteen- by twenty-four-foot log cabins. To make the French feel more at home, Le Ray had a church built at the center of the colony and a tavern erected across from it. Although the new French settlers had come from the harsh climate of windy Haute-Saône, the newcomers could hardly have been prepared for Jefferson County's notoriously snowy winters.<sup>28</sup>

Ethnocentric as it is, Bedford's journal describes French children arriving at the English-language school then in operation in the hamlet of Rosiere:

They were dressed exclusively in blue and white striped twilled cotton cloth and no shred of wool cloth about them. They wore a shirt and loose slouching pants and a loose blouse and a kind of turban made of fustian [a thick twilled cloth] on their head. Their shoes were made of basswood, thick and clumsy with a piece of sheep skin tacked in front to keep from chaffing the ankle.

There was between 30 and 40 of these European savages, that did not know a word of English, came to this school (with English spelling books in their hands) to be civilized. When these children went out or came in their wooden shoes made a clatter like a flock of sheep running over a pile of loose shingles. When they were out in the snow it would get into their shoes and when they came in they old[sic] go to the fire and pull of [sic] their shoes and scoop up embers from under the fire stick and shake them around till they melted the snow out and then put them on again and take their seats.<sup>29</sup>

Bedford's description of the French settlers to Jefferson County continues with his observations on the adult population.

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<sup>28</sup> See Claire Bonney, "Comparing Pre- and Post-Emigration French Homes in Jefferson County, New York and the Haute-Saône," *New York Folklore*, vol. XVII, nos. 1- 2, 1992), 99-120 and Claire Bonney, *French Émigré Architecture in Jefferson County* (Basel, revised edition 2015), 200-223, for a complete analysis of the differences in French and Jefferson County architecture.

<sup>29</sup> Putnam, *Bedford Journal 1810 to 1844*, 117-118.

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The French soon established themselves in their new homes. They brought the manners and customs of their native country with them. They are a remarkably social people and were very anxious that the Yankees should learn their language so as to save themselves the trouble of learning English. They would always greet you on meeting with a majestic bow and *Bonjour Mosier* or *Bonswar Mosier* or *Mansal* and were always telling what this and that thing was in French. But they did not succeed to learn the Yankees to speak the French language but had to submit and speak English as well they could...

The old ladies, heads of families, made Mondays washing and baking day. They would all get together on Monday morning and get their dirty clothes together in baskets and their dough all mixed for baking and take their baskets in hand and their bread troughs on their heads and march down to Mud [or Kent's] Creek where they had several large outdoor ovens where they would bake their bread. Their loaves were all made with a hole in the centre, in the form of a ring and they were in a good shape to carry. They would slip these loaves on their arms and hold them to carry easily. But in a few years they gave up all these peculiarities and submitted to the ways of the American people.<sup>30</sup>

However, this stream of new European immigration was only a short remission in a gradual process of downward economic slides in the history of the North Country. Although, in the early 1800s, Jefferson County was regarded as prime farmland and although the War of 1812 greatly stimulated the local economy—"bringing not only boom prices for produce but an influx of government funds that created many local fortunes"<sup>31</sup>—declining fortunes lay ahead. Although lumbering was flourishing and new roads were being built, the Erie Canal, paradoxically supported by the Le Rays, was finished just south of Jefferson County. The canal sustained trade across New York State to the Midwest, mostly bypassing the North Country and thus spelling the area's economic doom. Cut off from what became the most important trade route in a westward-expanding country, the North Country could not compete with low canal shipping prices and declined rapidly in importance. This, combined with the peace that once again reigned in France, encouraged many Jefferson County settlers either to return home or to seek their fortunes elsewhere in America. However, some French farmers and settlers continued to stay on:

They raised large families. The French population was increased over a period of perhaps forty years. The Yankee settlers continued to predominate... but the influence of the French throughout the entire area was distinctively beneficial in innumerable ways. It left an impression that has continued down to the present time. The New England pioneer native civilization was strong and aggressive, admirably determined, and admirably cruel perhaps. Life in France was more complacent and there was no such battle with the wilderness as had been going on here for six or eight generations.

Therefore, in France there had been permitted to develop a certain fineness which our civilization did not then possess. The French who

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<sup>30</sup> Putnam, *Bedford Journal 1810 to 1844*, 121-122.

<sup>31</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 183.

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came here had an eye for the beautiful in furniture, in art, in home handicraft, and in handiwork. All of this was brought through indirect ways to our own Yankee pioneers of Jefferson County.

An attractive and distinctive form of French architecture prevailed. Most of the houses were surrounded by picket fences, and there were extensive flower gardens. Many of the farmers and villagers were particularly proud of the pictures on the walls of their homes... As a people, they emphasized the niceties of life.<sup>32</sup>

Although the Le Ray land office in Carthage was closed in 1914, the Le Ray family has continued to play a role in the development of northern New York to the present day. Vincent Le Ray's grandson, Charles Le Ray de Chaumont, Marquis de St. Paul, was a guest of the United States government during centennial celebrations in 1876. When Charles died in 1917, the Le Ray holdings were willed to a nephew, the Marquis de Bausset-Roquefort de Sully-sur-Loire, who apparently signed quit claims to Le Ray property rights for the nominal sum of \$5.00 per claim.<sup>33</sup> As late as 1951, the New York *Daily News* was still reporting on the Marquis's attempts to gain some profit from the Le Ray North Country land. In the meantime, however, businesses such as J.B. Wise Plumbing of Watertown and corporations such as Crown-Zellerbach and Niagara Mohawk had established clear rights to these properties and their water.<sup>34</sup> Former Le Ray family holdings were now firmly in American hands.

In 1968, Philippe de Bausset, representing the Le Ray family, came to northern New York and lectured on his family history at the Jefferson County Historical Society. Monsieur de Bausset, who died in 2018, was then Washington correspondent for *Paris Match*. Thus for many years, the Le Ray family retained a role in the area it did so much to develop more than a century earlier.

The names of Le Ray and his family still mark many localities in the North Country. Jamesville was the original name of the hamlet now known as Redwood. Cape Vincent, Theresa, and Alexandria Bay are named for James's three children; Gouvello Street in Cape Vincent is named for his son-in-law, the Marquis Hippolyte de Gouvello; and the hamlet of Plessis, allegedly, for his dog. Juhelville was named after Cornelia Juhel, Vincent Le Ray's wife.<sup>35</sup> Families of Vincent Le Ray's recruits for settlement – among them the Aubertines, Favrets, and Docteurs— are still active community members, especially in the Cape Vincent area. Gosier Road, Voitra Road and Swallia Road bear the now-Anglicized names of the Gaugien, Vautrin, and Chevalier families. The Jefferson County Fair, founded in 1818 by James Le Ray, who was then President of the

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<sup>32</sup> Harold B. Johnson, "Story of Early French in Jefferson County," *Watertown Daily Times*, August 19, 1947, n.p.

<sup>33</sup> Glenn Hawkins, *The Historical Le Ray Mansion* (Watertown, 1968), 14-15.

<sup>34</sup> *Daily News* [New York, NY] January 14, 1951, 20.

<sup>35</sup> J.H. French, *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State 1860* (Syracuse: R. Pearsall Smith, 1860), 360, and Charles Dunham, Chaumont.

Jefferson County Agricultural Society, is among the oldest continuously running agricultural fairs in the United States.<sup>36</sup>

### Penet's Square and LaFarge

John Frédéric LaFarge was born in Charente, France in 1786. He made his fortune by running Napoleon's blockade between France and England and with a West Indies trade firm he held in partnership with Pierre Penet, a French merchant who, like Leray, supplied the American cause during the Revolution.<sup>37</sup> LaFarge, apparently learning of the area from his partner, who had owned land there, began to take an interest in Jefferson County after the War of 1812, by which time he was located in New York City and making money in real estate.<sup>38</sup> This tract, known as "Penet's Square," was 64,000 acres in area, ten miles long and ten miles wide, extending from the mouth of French Creek at the northwest corner beyond the end of Perch Lake to the southeast. It had been a gift to Penet from the Oneida Indians, in exchange for his negotiations for them at the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1788. According to Powell, Penet visited the land in 1789 and chose the tract for its good access to the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario.<sup>39</sup> The area was much in legal dispute before LaFarge arrived in Jefferson County in 1817 and purchased part of those holdings. From then until 1825, LaFarge continued to buy land with questionable titles in Penet's Square, until he owned virtually all of it.

Conflicting claims on the part of large-scale buyers and developers naturally generated uneasiness among ordinary settlers, and in the early 1820s they sought through the Legislature a new arrangement under which the State itself would grant lands directly to those who lived on them. A select committee of the Legislature was constituted to investigate claims in Penet's Square.<sup>40</sup>

The Attorney-General of New York State was not able to determine the rightful landowner. In the meantime, LaFarge moved in and the village of Log Mills was renamed LaFargeville in 1823.

When LaFarge arrived, he found that his land "was inhabited by 'squatters' who had located where they pleased, bought and sold claims, cut down the timber, manufactured potash, and settled the country."<sup>41</sup> Although LaFarge met with much resistance from these small farmers who had assumed squatters' rights to his land, he continued to assert his claims. When he discovered that no taxes had been paid on Penet's Square, he raised the funds and repurchased

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<sup>36</sup> S. W. Durant and H. B. Pierce, *History of Jefferson County, New York, 1792-1878* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co. 1978), 92.

<sup>37</sup> Schaeper, *France and America*, 54.

<sup>38</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 167.

<sup>39</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 73ff.

<sup>40</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 166.

<sup>41</sup> Louis S. Lansing, "John Frederic LaFarge," *Bulletin of the Jefferson County Historical Society*, vol. 10, no. 3 (April 1969), 7.

his own land for back taxes in 1839 and thus acquired a sound legal title to it. Thomas Powell's history of the Square tells of LaFarge's rigid contract system, unpleasant to settlers but ultimately efficient in bringing order to the area. [LaFarge] "... attempted to convey small parcels of land by firm deed as often as possible, operating on the belief that excessive indulgence to tenants was no favor to them or anyone, and that the lower classes had to be held to prompt payment.<sup>42</sup>

In 1835, when Joseph Bonaparte's lands came up for sale, LaFarge bought those as well, and he became acquainted with Le Ray and other French refugees. He did not appear to be accepted into their more noble society because he was a self-made businessman with no connections to the French court. LaFarge was equally unpopular with his tenants for his stiff expulsion policies for those who did not meet his demands. Many tales mention LaFarge being hounded out of the first mansion he built for himself on Perch Lake by resentful tenants. However, Lafarge was determined to succeed in his endeavors in Jefferson County, and thus he abandoned the site and set about building a new mansion near LaFargeville. At age 47 he married nineteen-year-old Louisa Binsse de St. Victor and set up residence in a new dwelling in 1833.<sup>43</sup> Binsse de St. Victor felt alienated by local hostility and, four years later, they sold the house. John LaFarge resettled his family on Long Island and did not return to the North Country.

But LaFarge was by no means the complete scoundrel some have made him out to be, and the settlers with whom he clashed were just as conniving in their efforts to hold onto their land as Mr. LaFarge and his agents were in their attempts to collect their debts.

A woman came, and told a pitiful tale of the loss of two cows, and sickness in her family, which prevented her from having the interest ready. This so touched the heart of the agent, who was Dr. John Binsse, that he remitted the interest, as he had been instructed to do in such cases, by Mr. LaFarge, and gave the woman the necessary papers. After everything was secure, the woman calmly drew forth a small bag from her bosom and laid down fifty dollars in gold to be applied to the principal.<sup>44</sup>

Unlike Le Ray, LaFarge was a hard-headed businessman, lacking both the romance of nobility and the community involvement that the Leray family had demonstrated.<sup>45</sup> This alienated the local population to a degree that made his situation unbearable. However, LaFarge did succeed in bringing some order to the area known as Penet's Square that was previously infamous as a

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<sup>42</sup> Powell, *Penet's Square*, 175-176.

<sup>43</sup> Louisa Binsse de St. Victor was born in New York city, the daughter of French emigré artist Louis Binsse de St. Victor, formerly of Haiti. John and Louisa LaFarge were the parents of painter and stained-glass artist John LaFarge (1835-1910).

<sup>44</sup> Lansing, "John Frederic LaFarge," 7-8.

<sup>45</sup> LaFarge did, however, donate land for local schools and for St. John's Catholic Church in LaFargeville.

haven for lawlessness. He left behind eight buildings connected to his estate, five of which remain extant.

## **Settlement from New England, New York, the Middle Atlantic, and Great Britain**

### Native-born New Yorkers and New Englanders

Most residents born in Jefferson County in the first decades of the nineteenth century were of English lineage via established New England settlements or the eastern states. Many New Englanders were moving into southern New York and the Mohawk Valley at the turn of the nineteenth century mainly on account of the drop in productivity of their farms. After years of cultivation, the yield from New England's notoriously stony soils was declining, while its population was increasing. The low price per acre of land and the long-term credit opportunities in Jefferson County were a major draw. Fertile soil was the prime attraction, but social, religious, or political conditions were also considerations for the New Englander.<sup>46</sup> Taxes were a point of contention in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, while "Others wished to escape the stern keepers of the New England conscience."<sup>47</sup> A post-Revolution optimism and self-confidence also fueled the westward movement of people. Yale's Timothy Dwight, who traveled widely in New England and New York, recorded in 1815 that New York was becoming a colony of New England.<sup>48</sup> Jefferson County's newly opened lands were especially attractive to New Englanders. Edgar Emerson wrote:

...many [pioneers of Jefferson County] had seen service during the Revolution, and were now prepared to face new dangers and possible death in the hope that they might establish fortunes for their own and their families' comfort which they could not gain in the rugged, chilly regions of New England.<sup>49</sup>

Historian Franklin Hough also noted that "during the years between 1802 and 1807, the tide of emigration from that prolific hive, *New England*, poured into the valleys of the Black and St. Lawrence rivers."<sup>50</sup>

Noadiah Hubbard and Lyman Ellis vied for the honor of being Jefferson County's first settler. Both were of English descent and arrived in 1797. Hubbard was born in Middletown,

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<sup>46</sup> L.K. Matthews, *The Expansion of New England 1620-1865* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909), 259.

<sup>47</sup> David M. Ellis et al, *A History of New York State* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1967), 190.

<sup>48</sup> Timothy Dwight, *Travels in New-England and New-York*. Vol. 2 (London: William Baynes Sons, 1823), 251.

<sup>49</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 74.

<sup>50</sup> Hough, *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties*, ix.

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Connecticut, lived for a time in Steuben, Herkimer County, then settled the community of Champion. Ellis came into southern Jefferson County from Troy, Rensselaer County. In 1805, the prominent settler Elijah Fields, with his family of nine sons and three daughters, moved directly from Woodstock, Vermont, and established the Fields Settlement near Watertown. The English background of these early settlers explains the cultural homogeneity in most Jefferson County communities, which copied the practices of New England towns and villages. According to historian Samuel Eliot Morison, New England had established political institutions where town meetings, held in town halls overlooking village greens, made decisions governing everyday life.<sup>51</sup> The minutes of early town meetings in Champion and Watertown describe similar concern with electing officers to take charge of building roads and bridges, viewing fences, collecting taxes, caring for stray livestock, and overseeing schools, jails, and orphanages.<sup>52</sup> According to Morison, the Yankee was in essence an American Scot whose values revolved around education, frugality, ingenuity, and righteousness. Settlers valued practicality and hard work. Women not only ran the domestic realm of children and food preparation, but they spun, wove, tailored the family's woolen and linen garments, and made cloth to sell.<sup>53</sup> Men worked the land as both farmers and lumbermen, were regularly called up for militia duty, and to help repair roads and bridges. Some called these Yankees shrewdly calculating.<sup>54, 55</sup> James Fenimore Cooper's descriptions show them in quite a disagreeable light. Isaac L. Hunt suggested that the books brought by the pioneers to Jefferson County give an idea of the "trend of their minds." They brought the Bible, Shakespeare, Milton, Pilgrim's Progress, the English Reader, Spelling Book, and a few others.<sup>56</sup> Hough wrote that the development of the resources of the country was perhaps traced to the "progressive spirit characteristic of New England, from whence the mass of our population is derived."<sup>57</sup>

Although Ulysses Hedrick suggested that religion did not have as firm a hold on people in rural New York as in Congregational New England, Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal,

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<sup>51</sup> Morison, *The Oxford History of the United States*, 10.

<sup>52</sup> Child, *Geographical Gazetteer*, 337.

<sup>53</sup> Elvira O. Wood Finn, Journal, 1856, transcribed by Beverly Joan Washburn Ramsey. Copy in possession of John DeWitt, Ellisburg, NY.

<sup>54</sup> Ellis, *A History of New York State*, 167.

<sup>55</sup> Ulysses P. Hedrick, *A History of Agriculture in the State of New York* (New York State Agricultural Society, 1933), 93.

<sup>56</sup> Hon. Isaac L. Hunt, *Pioneers of the County (Jefferson County)* Jefferson County Centennial, 1905. Compiled by Jere Coughlin, Sec., Hungerford-Holbrooke Co., Watertown, NY. [www.history.rays-place.com/ny/jeff-pioneers.htm](http://www.history.rays-place.com/ny/jeff-pioneers.htm), n.p.

<sup>57</sup> Hough, *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties*, xi.

Methodist, Baptist, and Unitarian churches were established throughout the county during the nineteenth century.<sup>58</sup> The first Catholic church was set up in 1819. Local communities also supported education in the form of common schools. By the mid-nineteenth century, the county boasted 357 common schools—sixty of which were built of stone—for its 15,659 children to attend. Civil society followed Anglo-American common law and New York State's county government system. Villages and towns were incorporated, trustees elected, and courts, jailhouses, and poorhouses were established. Beginning in 1807 with the *Black River Gazette*, newspapers provided local news and reflected the varied political affiliations of the population.

The common good was a priority. For example, in a move perhaps born of their Yankee roots, Watertown's early "settlers 'had it in wind' to follow the invariable New England custom of laying out their land regularly, and in its central portion establish a 'village green' or 'public square', probably donated and laid out during 1805."<sup>59</sup> Watertown's first landowners also allotted space for a broad thoroughfare, Washington Street, running south from the public square. They modeled the design and details of the tower of Trinity Church (1833) after a church in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

While most early settlers were self-sufficient farmers, others brought their Puritan work ethic to more commercial enterprises. Craftsmen, artisans, and industrialists migrated westward to operate gristmills and forges, and to construct new dwellings and buildings. In 1814, local businessmen built a cotton factory of limestone in Watertown at the astronomical cost of \$72,000 (destroyed by flood in 1869).<sup>60</sup> According to Ellis, "New Englanders dominated the commercial life of these upstate cities."<sup>61</sup> Public advertisements invited New England contractors and laborers to build turnpikes and bridges.

### Settlers from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland

After settlers from New England and New York, the largest group (4,200) came from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. A group of ten Scottish families settled in the Town of Henderson. Emerson described them as being "poor in purse but rich in physical strength, and well calculated by nature to withstand all the hardships and privations of pioneer life in an

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<sup>58</sup> Hedrick, *A History of Agriculture*, 271.

<sup>59</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 275.

<sup>60</sup> Durant, *History of Jefferson County*, 147.

<sup>61</sup> Ellis, *A History of New York State*, 191.

underdeveloped country.”<sup>62</sup> Nearby, Thomas Dobson Jr., a farmer and stonemason from Monmouthshire, Wales, settled in 1816 and built a sizeable stone farmhouse. As a result of their perseverance, “the lands were cleared and well-cultivated farms appeared all along the bay shore in the northern part of the town [of Henderson].”<sup>63</sup>

The 1850 census shows an increase in immigration from Ireland (2,546). Of those migrants, some were farmers, but others became factory workers in the more densely populated villages.

### Quaker Settlers

One of the largest groups of English-origin settlers from other states were Quakers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As in many other cases in the county, they came due to the personal contacts and the influence of a land agent. In this instance, Jacob Jennings Brown, a Quaker from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was an agent for James Le Ray until 1807, encouraged Quakers from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to settle in Brownville. Brown’s advertisement in the *Utica Patriot*, published in April 1803, attests to the desirability of the Quaker settlers:

#### LANDS FOR SALE,

Situated on the *Black-River, Pleasant-River, Peach-River* and the  
*Oswegatche-River*

This is a large and very excellent tract of land. It is well watered, well situated, and well timbered. The title is indisputable. *It is now offered for sale* at a low price, and upon an extensive credit—the greater part for the first year without interest. A better opportunity is certainly not afforded in any part of the state, to all good settlers desirous of purchasing first-rate Farms.

The settlements on this tract have for some time past proceeded with unprecedented rapidity. Sales have been made to a great amount to respectable settlers from various part of this and the eastern states. To *Friends or Quakers*, principally from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, within the last six months, to the amount of sixty thousand dollars; and there is good cause to believe that nearly the whole of this extensive tract will be taken up in the course of the next season by these best citizens. They pay for the land they purchase, and are rich in cash to make improvements. Roads are already opened, and more will be opened this season—one of which will run from the great bend of the Black-River in the town of Champion thro’ the centre of the tract to the St-Lawrence—mills are already built and more are building—also bridges across the Black-River for the convenience, ease and benefit of the settlers, and every exertion shall be made by the subscribers to

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<sup>62</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 615.

<sup>63</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 615.

promote the interests of all those who may become purchasers of these lands.—The subscribers intend to clear two hundred acres of land between this and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September next. Any person or persons wishing to contract to do this business, will find themselves accommodated by applying in the course of the next month.

BROWN, HOW & CO.

duly authorized for *James D. Le Ray de Chaumont*.

Brownville, March 26, 1803<sup>64</sup>

In 1802, Brown had contacted friends and former neighbors near Penn's Manor in Pennsylvania to tell them of the opportunity for settlers to purchase first-rate farms. Quakers, "being members of that plain and unpretending sect," were known for their discipline, "rigid honesty and simplicity," and hence were valued as pioneers in a new country.<sup>65</sup> Possibly because farmland in Bucks County was becoming more expensive or unavailable, Quaker families were looking for opportunities elsewhere. Some like Musgrove Evans, brother-in-law of Jacob Brown, settled in Chaumont for a few years and then moved further west. Evans, with a group from Jefferson County, settled Tecumseh, Michigan, in 1824.

In 1804, at Burlington, New Jersey, where James Le Ray was in residence, Le Ray signed an agreement with eleven members of the Quaker Community and one non-Quaker to purchase 16 lots, totaling 7,040 acres of land, north of the Black River at \$3 per acre. Le Ray gifted a central lot of 440 acres "for the promotion of religion and learning," for the establishment of a meeting house and school. A wagon road was also to be constructed from the St. Lawrence River to the post road at Champion, running through the conveyed tract.<sup>66</sup> Originally called "Quaker Settlement," by 1821, the village and township were named Philadelphia because many of its inhabitants had come from the heavily Quaker-settled City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or its vicinity.

Another well-known Quaker settler, John Strickland Sr., exchanged with Le Ray his farm of 300 acres in Bucks County for a larger tract in Philadelphia, New York, where he came to own 5,000 acres. Along with Edmund Tucker, he became a local leader of the Hicksite Quakers, a national group that broke from the Orthodox Quakers in 1828. This division in the group may explain why there were two meetinghouses listed in the 1845 census – one in Le Ray and one in

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<sup>64</sup> Advertisement, *Utica Patriot*, April 16, 1804.

<sup>65</sup> Durant, *History of Jefferson County*, 483, 485.

<sup>66</sup> Hough, *History of Jefferson County*, 218-19.

Philadelphia. The first was built of stone in 1816 and situated northwest of the village of Leraysville.<sup>67</sup> The second, of wood-frame construction, was erected by the Hicksite branch at the Friends Settlement in 1828.<sup>68</sup>

Aside from being respected for their “rigid honesty and simplicity,” Quakers were also known for their influence on the penal, charitable, and educational institutions of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,<sup>69</sup> which in 1800 still ranked as America’s most important city for commerce, architecture, and culture. Perhaps because their numbers were small—about 55 families in 1824— it is difficult to determine Quaker influence on early Jefferson County institutions. Emerson notes that the Quakers scorned personal ambition and came to the region that “they might be surrounded with the common comforts of life and rear their children to useful pursuits under the religious teachings” that were central to their existence.<sup>70</sup> Their conservative customs and manners did not attract people of other religions to the town of Philadelphia until after the dissension initiated by Hicks divided the community and it began to decline. Writing in 1854, Hough said there were twenty-five Quaker families in Le Ray. But by the mid-1860s the religious Society of Friends had passed out of existence in Philadelphia, and in 1869 the meetinghouse was sold to the school district.

French botanist Jacques Milbert visited Jefferson County in the early 1820s and captured some of the Quaker presence:

I was walking towards the village of Brown-Ville and then on to Chaumont Bay, when a Quaker who lived there offered me a ride in his carriage... We stopped at a pretty tavern that my driver owned, and where I was given a charming room with an excellent bed... When we sat for dinner I was asked my family and given names, and I was not a little surprised when the daughter of the house presented me with a piece of her cake saying, “Here, Jacques, take thy part.” The lake’s southern shore provides a fine limestone used in construction and the making of excellent lime. Many of the lime kilns in this region are owned and operated by Quakers who make up a large part of the local population. Most are engaged in farming and fishing.<sup>71</sup>

The limestone-walled tavern visited by Milbert, Chaumont House, was originally built by James Le Ray and run by two Quakers, Amos Evans and A. Pitman. Across the road stood the two-

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<sup>67</sup> McHaergue, *Fort Drum Cultural Resources Series*, 37.

<sup>68</sup> Hough, *History of Jefferson County*, 395.

<sup>69</sup> Morison, *The Oxford History of the United States*, 21.

<sup>70</sup> Emerson, *Our County and its People*, 756.

<sup>71</sup> J. Milbert, *Itinéraire Pittoresque du Fleuve Hudson et des Parties Latérales de l’Amérique du Nord* (Paris: Henri Gaugain et Cie., 1828. Trans. A. Barros), 36.

story limestone house of Musgrove Evans, the ca. 1820 Evans-Gaige- Dillenback House (NRHP 1990). Evans, a Quaker from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had been entrusted with laying out the village of Chaumont by James Le Ray.

The most influential Quaker in the early settlement of Jefferson County was Jacob Jennings Brown. In 1799, he arrived as a young man in his twenties with his extended family and made the first settlement in the county north of the Black River. Known for his resourcefulness, he cleared land, surveyed roads and bridges, and lobbied for them to be built. Brown married the non-Quaker, Pamela (Pamela variously) Williams of Williamstown, Massachusetts, and in so doing broke official ties with the Quakers or Society of Friends.

Although born a Quaker, Brown's strong leadership qualities led to his appointment as a brigadier general in the New York Militia at the beginning of the War of 1812. He defeated the British forces three times in 1813, and according to historian and biographer, John D. Morris, he was the nation's most successful battlefield commander. His bravery, self-confidence, and concern for his soldiers' welfare were widely recognized.<sup>72</sup> After the war, in recognition of his abilities, he was made commander-in-chief of the Army. He advised President Monroe on military matters and instigated changes to professionalize the army. In great part due to his and his family's entrepreneurial spirit, Brownville grew quickly in population and vied with Champion and Watertown for the county seat in 1805.

### Dutch and German Settlers

Several New Yorkers of Dutch and German descent, mainly from the Hudson and Mohawk valleys, also found Jefferson County attractive. The Dutch, along with the Palatine Germans, French Huguenots, and others, formed a cultural cohort, the New World Dutch, in earlier settled regions of New York State. Emerson notes that a group of Dutch from the Mohawk Valley settled in the village of Watertown, but then moved further westward, into Ohio. Folts Hill near Watertown was named for a shrewd Mohawk Dutch farmer known for running potash to Canada during the Embargo of 1808.<sup>73</sup> A "Dutch Settlement" was delineated on the map of the Town of Le Ray until as late as 1980.

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<sup>72</sup> John D. Morris, *Sword of the Border: Major General Jacob Jennings Brown 1775-1828* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press), ix.

<sup>73</sup> Durant, *History of Jefferson County*, 231.

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From their early seventeenth century settlement of New Amsterdam and the Hudson River Valley, the Dutch left an imprint on the affairs of New York State. Albany was still a very Dutch locale in 1790, its affairs dominated in large measure by affluent and influential merchants. The 1845 census of New York State documents three Dutch Reformed Churches in Jefferson County, located in Clayton, Ellisburg, and Orleans. By 1851, another was erected in Alexandria Bay with the help of fellow Dutch Reformed churches. Before 1822, the earliest Dutch settlers lacked churches and often returned to Montgomery County to the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Herkimer for baptisms and marriages. From that church's records, it was concluded that around sixteen families of Dutch settlers in Jefferson County came to Herkimer in wintertime, when the rivers were iced over and farm work less pressing. Those lengthy visits back home allowed the sixteen families from Le Ray and Brownville to stay connected with their relations in Herkimer.<sup>74</sup>

The 425 German-born settlers noted in the 1845 New York State census in the county were likely joined by direct descendants of the early eighteenth-century German Palatine migration into the Hudson Valley, which preceded German settlement of the Mohawk and Schoharie valleys. The 1850 census indicates a low German-born population, consisting at that time of 585 residents. Ernest G. Cook, writing in the *Watertown Daily Times* in the 1920s, noted that German settlers were not well-recorded in the county histories. In one of a series of articles, he wrote about the pioneer German families who settled on rich farming land near LaFargeville, Town of Orleans. Before 1841, religious services were held in the German schoolhouse there. After that, two churches - the German Evangelical Lutheran Church and the German Evangelical Church - were established. The German Evangelical Church was stricter and less worldly than the Lutheran church. LaFarge donated land for the nearby cemetery which both groups shared amicably. According to Cook, the German settlement gradually changed as the young people associated with youths from other churches in the villages of LaFargeville and Depauville. Soon services in the Evangelical Church were held less often and finally, the property was abandoned.<sup>75</sup> Hough tallied about 185 Lutheran congregants in the Town of Orleans in 1854.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Jefferson County Genweb, "German Flats Dutch Reformed", Accessed March 3, 2021, <http://jefferson.nygenweb.net/vrecfond.htm>.

<sup>75</sup> Ernest G. Cook, "German Settlers," IV, *Watertown Daily Times*. n.d. (available at Genealogy Department, Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, Watertown), n.p.

<sup>76</sup> Hough, *History of Jefferson County*, 395.

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Several German families settled farms in the central portion of the Town of Cape Vincent, alongside French immigrants, sometime after 1816. Those Germans were Catholic and shared the St. Vincent de Paul Church in Rosiere, where services were conducted in both French and German. Many former congregants are interred in the cemetery behind the church. Notable is the grave of the stonemason, Ignatious (Ignatz) Wiley, who was born in Baden in 1809 and arrived in 1833 in Cape Vincent, where he erected many stone buildings.

By Morison's account, German farmers had a reputation as the best husbandmen in America. They used crop rotation and planted clover and root crops. Their houses were typically of stone construction.<sup>77</sup>

**Historic Stone Architecture in Jefferson County**

The abundance of limestone and sandstone in Jefferson County helped to sustain the region's rich tradition of masonry construction during the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century. Stone was a premium building material for many reasons, aside from just its availability. In an area of upstate New York known for severely cold winters, the risk of fire made stone masonry a desirable construction material, especially for public buildings like churches and schoolhouses. In addition to providing some measure of fire retardance and for its durability, stone was also a status indicator, and its use reflected the early settlers' desire for permanence. As an architectural material, it stood in stark contrast to the impermanent log houses and simple-frame dwellings of the first pioneers. To farmers, stone was often a practical choice for agricultural outbuildings, particularly smokehouses, which were often built of stone and if not, brick. Of the dozen or so known stonemasons working in the first half of the nineteenth century in Jefferson County, most were trained elsewhere – in Canada, Germany, England, or earlier-settled areas of downstate New York. Some learned stonecrafting and cutting skills from the construction of canal locks and other canal features, or via apprenticeship to an experienced mason.

Prominent early settlers like James Le Ray, Jacob Brown, Noadiah Hubbard, and John LaFarge set a precedent by building their homes and churches with native limestone. Le Ray's three stone houses in Jefferson County are examples of fine construction in park-like settings. The first, Chaumont House (NR-listed in 1990) begun in 1806 and completed in 1818, was a place

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<sup>77</sup> Morison, *The Oxford History of the United States*, 22.

to entertain distinguished guests like Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon.<sup>78</sup> The Le Ray Mansion of 1827 (NR-listed in 1974) was compared with the chateaus of France for its elegance and luxury.<sup>79</sup>

In two articles written for a French magazine, Vincent, James Le Ray's son, expressed his pleasure in watching the progress of French settlers with their homes. Le Ray wrote about his settlers organizing raisings with their neighbors to build frame or stone houses after originally having built log cabins.<sup>80</sup> Aside from the practical concerns related to building with stone, French settlers may have tried to define themselves as a cultural group through their stone architecture. As D. J. Jones and J. T. Turner have pointed out: "In most societies a house is more than a physical structure - it has social and cultural significance. Its very shape is often determined by cultural tradition, and it is saturated with cultural memories. In this sense the household as a physical structure contributes to a sense of historical and cultural continuity."<sup>81</sup>

In Champion, Noadiah Hubbard's daughter Parnelle recorded in her diary that her father preferred to build with the "local bluestone" (limestone which appeared blue when wet) quarried about three miles away.<sup>82</sup> Hubbard gained experience with stone construction when, in 1793, he accepted a contract to build canal locks at Little Falls, New York. Following his initial log house and wood frame house in 1800, Hubbard built several stone buildings including a cider mill, potashery, meeting house, distillery, schoolhouse, and store. In 1820, he built a second house in stone, and in 1832, a third even more imposing stone house to rival that of a neighbor a mile away.<sup>83</sup>

With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, skilled stonemasons were more readily available for work in the region, and they may have contributed to the boom in stone buildings

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<sup>78</sup> Clara Van Doren, *Stone and Brick Buildings in the Town of Lyme* (Lyme Heritage Center, 2000), n.p.

<sup>79</sup> J. Milbert, *Itinéraire Pittoresque*, 146.

<sup>80</sup> Walter Guest Kellogg, *Memories of the United States by Vincent Le Ray de Chaumont*, Brochure reprinted from the Watertown Daily Times, Watertown: Hungerford-Holbrook Co., n.d., located in collections of Jefferson County Historical Society, Watertown. (The brochure actually contains Kellogg's translation of two articles originally published by Le Ray in *La Semaine des Familles*, a French weekly magazine, that were then reprinted in pamphlet form in 1859. Pamphlets in French are located in the New York State Library in Albany and the New York Public Library.)

<sup>81</sup> Delmos J. Jones and Joan T. Turner, "Housing and the Material Basis of Social Reproduction: Political Conflict and the Quality of Life in New York City" in Low and Chambers, *Housing, Culture and Design*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989), 13-29, 27.

<sup>82</sup> Parnelle Hubbard, *Diary*, Jefferson County Historical Society, Watertown, NY.

<sup>83</sup> Lynn M. Thornton, *Family: Impacts on a Community, Contributions of Hubbard Family to Development of Champion NY*, *4 Rivers Journal*, 4 River Valleys Historical Society, Vol. 32, Jan-June (2009): 1076.

that occurred in the twenty years from 1820 to 1840. In the 1850 Census for the Town of Lyme (where there were several limestone quarries) twelve men are listed as stone cutters or masons. Aged between 18 and 52, they came from Canada, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New York. The first known instance of stone masonry construction occurred in 1806, in the Town of Lyme, when construction on the Chaumont House was initiated, possibly by Canadian stonemasons. However, it was only after the War of 1812 that a level of affluence and stability led to the widespread use of stone for new buildings.

Many of the stonemasons working in the first half of the nineteenth century in Jefferson County are unknown, as they were itinerant craftsmen. Approximately twelve stonemasons are identifiable, and most were trained elsewhere. One exception was Hial Cook who built the LaFarge Mansion and apprenticed under Alexander Cummings in Watertown.<sup>84</sup>

Canadians are said to have sought work as masons and carpenters along the St. Lawrence River.<sup>85</sup> Hugh MacPherson, originally from Scotland, came from Canada in 1815 to build the Stone House of Vincent Le Ray that faces the St. Lawrence River in Cape Vincent.<sup>86</sup> Other masons were of European origin. Ignatius (Ignatz) Wiley who built a church, mill, and many houses in Cape Vincent, came from Germany.<sup>87</sup> Asa Eggleston, a stonemason of English descent came to Champion around 1820, to work for Noadiah Hubbard.<sup>88</sup>

Thomas Dobson, Jr., a farmer and stonemason born in the late eighteenth century in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales, built his own home in Henderson around 1820 from stone he quarried nearby.<sup>89</sup> Likewise, John O'Connor, a British deserter from the War of 1812, built himself a small limestone house overlooking Lake Ontario in the Town of Lyme between 1816 and 1819.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Bessie Walldroff, *LaFarge and His Mansion* (Town of Orleans Historical Room, LaFargeville, 1981).

<sup>85</sup> J. Milbert, *Picturesque Itinerary of the Hudson River, 1826*, translated by Constance D. Sherman, The Gregg Press, 1968), 166.

<sup>86</sup> David Lane, "Old Mansions and Houses of the North Country" series. *Watertown Daily Times*, 1939-56, No. 355, 1944.

<sup>87</sup> Bonney, *French Émigré Architecture*, 113.

<sup>88</sup> Thornton, *Family: Impacts*, 1076.

<sup>89</sup> Maureen H. Barros, Brian Gorman, and Robert A. Uhlig (eds), *Stone Houses of Jefferson County* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015), 56.

<sup>90</sup> Clara Van Doren, *Stone and Brick Buildings in the Town of Lyme* (Lyme Heritage Center, 2000), n.p.

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Outside the village of Champion, Joseph Peck, Jr., built the family stone house himself in 1827. He quarried limestone from a nearby ledge.<sup>91</sup> It is not known where Peck learned his skill, but he served in the War of 1812 and might have received some training while in the military. An engraved plaque on the Stone Row officers' quarters at Madison Barracks in Sackets Harbor credits soldiers of the 2nd Infantry, US Army, with master mason Orin Ives, for erecting the row under the direction of their Deputy Quartermaster General, Thomas Tupper, from 1816 to 1819.

The 1855 census of New York State lists Jefferson County as having 429 stone dwellings at that date, a category inclusive of houses, hotels, garrisons, hospitals, asylums, and jails, as well as a remarkable sixty stone schoolhouses. Mills and religious buildings were unfortunately not counted. Stone dwellings outnumbered brick by two to one and represented about four percent of all constructs – brick, frame, and log – for a population of about 66,000 people. The average stone house was valued at around \$1,000 at the time of the census. The Town of Watertown had the greatest number of stone buildings (63), followed by the Towns of Le Ray (54), Brownville (49), Pamela (34), and Cape Vincent and Hounsfield with 30 each. In the sandstone-rich area of Antwerp there were 20 stone buildings. Contrasted with the other counties in New York State, Jefferson County ranked fourth in the number of stone buildings in 1855. Only the earlier settled counties of New York, Ulster, and Kings exceeded Jefferson in the number of stone dwellings. Based on the survey by David F. Lane, entitled "Old Mansions and Houses of the North Country," *Watertown Daily Times*, 1939-45, approximately one-third to one-half of Jefferson County's nineteenth-century stone buildings are extant today.

Most of Jefferson County is underlain with Ordovician limestone, the remains of an ancient seabed of tiny marine creatures. Although generically called limestone, this sedimentary rock has various compositions ranging from the Trenton Group, with its numerous fossil inclusions, to the Black River Group, with its fine, dense texture and blue-grey color. The limestone deposits are thus divided into two main categories, the Black River Group and the Trenton Group, which are further subdivided into various formations.

Black River Group limestones are typically found in beds 250 to 270 feet thick and contain many fossils, burrows of invertebrate animals, and sedimentary structures. These indicate a warm, shallow seawater environment. Limestones of this group have a fine texture and a

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<sup>91</sup> David Lane, "Old Houses of the North Country," *Watertown Daily Times*, No. 126 (1944).

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lighter color, are sparsely fossiliferous, and turn dove-gray when weathered. Some call them “birdseye” stone because of the fossil worm furrows (tubes) that have been filled with clear calcite (CaCO<sub>3</sub>). Trenton Group Limestone beds are 475 feet to 500 feet thick and indicate a land-derived mud environment (silt and clay). This group is coarser in texture, darker in color, and highly fossiliferous.

Geological maps published by the New York State Museum/Geological Survey show a total of 128 historic limestone quarries in Jefferson County. The first commercial limestone quarry began operation ca. 1825 in Chaumont; seven quarries were ultimately worked there, but all had ceased operation by 1929. These quarries were located adjacent to Lake Ontario, allowing for cut-stone to be easily shipped to places like Oswego, where it was used for building docks and other infrastructure.

A limestone bed is naturally divided into blocks by seams and joints at regular angles to each other. Sometimes these seams run straight and parallel for many feet. Stone workers used a method called plug-and-feather to cut the limestone. The quarryman bore holes at intervals in a line to be cut, then inserted metal wedges and tapped them evenly until the stone fractured. Besides selling blocks of stone, the industry used odd cuts of limestone for producing lime (calcium carbonate), which could be used for agricultural purposes, or as mortar and plaster for construction.

The Chaumont industry involved not only extracting, cutting, and shaping stone, and making lime, but also ancillary jobs in shipping, blacksmithing, forestry, and railroading. By 1872, its architectural diversity was well represented on Chaumont’s Main Street by the extant Copley, Adams, Duford Stone Office, the stone of which came from Du Fort & Son’s Quarry, about a half-mile away. Its architecture is a veritable sampler of limestone techniques and finishes, ranging from the rough dressed to smooth cut limestone that the office was selling. The interior also displayed lumber from the Copley lumber business in a wood-appointed office.

Other quarries in the county were smaller and, depending on their location, provided different types of limestone. In one of three quarries near Champion, possibly used for the ca. 1820 Hiram Hubbard house (NRHP 2009), the beds were deep and of differing heights with layers of shale separating the beds of Black River limestone. Remains can be seen of the quarry office and the shack used to store dynamite for blasting. Most small quarries were worked until the

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good stone was exhausted, ranging from a few months to many years. Aside from the quarries, limestone was also available in an abundance of outcroppings and ledges that offered easier access.

In Jefferson County's northern townships of Clayton, Alexandria, Orleans, Theresa, LeRay, and Antwerp, sandstone was the prevailing material. Created from particles of rocks and sand, sandstone is held together by a natural cement, such as silica. The region has two primary formations: Theresa, which is located at a higher stratum, and Potsdam, which is deeper. The Theresa formation consists of somewhat calcareous, sandy dolomites with interbedded weak sandstones, especially near the base. The thickness of this formation ranges from 20 to 70 feet. It is very closely related to the underlying Potsdam sandstone and was formerly included with it in the Potsdam classification.

The Potsdam formation is a medium to thick-bedded, tan to grayish-white quartz sandstone. Stratified, with a striped appearance, it is often seen in abrupt precipices and surface outcroppings. At deeper depths, the bedding planes provide thicker blocks. When wet, the stone can be cut or split fairly easily with hand tools, but with exposure to air, it hardens. Potsdam sandstone extends through northern Jefferson County into St. Lawrence, Clinton, Franklin, and Essex counties in New York State. In the Potsdam area it has been especially valued as a building material. According to John C. Smock's survey of building stone in New York State in 1888, there was only one small sandstone quarry in Jefferson County, located near the St. Lawrence River in Clayton; it only provided stone locally. Other small quarries or outcroppings in the northern part of the county supplied sandstone for the several extant buildings there.

Stone, whether quarried or collected from ledges and outcrops, could either be laid up as rubble in a bed of mortar or otherwise dressed into ashlar and laid up in more regular courses with more precise joints. The same limestone sources that provided a ready supply of foundation and wall material also supplied lime mortar for exterior wall construction and plaster for interior wall and ceiling finish. Load-bearing foundation and superstructure walls were constructed by masons using familiar dimensions and standard wall thicknesses, learned through apprenticeship and professional experience. Large door and window openings were typically spanned with flat, or jack, arches formed of gauged stone, and later by rectangular-shaped lintels, sometimes with incised detail. Round or elliptically arched doorways were

commonly employed during the first quarter of the century, after which flat, rectangular-shaped lintels became more customary. Water tables, belt courses, and other such dressings were typically given a smooth finish, sometimes in contrast to a more highly textured wall plane. Quoins, while providing a decorative accent, were important structurally, as they served to stabilize corners. In some examples, the rake of an end-gable roof was concealed behind a parapet into which the chimneys were integrated. The construction of a stone building required close coordination between mason and carpenter, to ensure the timely progression of the project and to ensure the building was erected as specified.

## **F. Associated Property Types**

### **Stone Buildings in Jefferson County, ca. 1800-1875**

Primary Property Type: There is one property type eligible for inclusion in this NRHP Multiple Property submission: buildings of load-bearing limestone or sandstone construction that are located in Jefferson County, New York, and that were erected in the ca. 1800-1875 period. The unifying theme that associates these resources with one another and forms the basis for the group's eligibility for NRHP nomination is their traditional stone construction and craftsmanship. One hundred and eight buildings were included in the study list prepared in association with this MPDF, their dates of construction establishing the cited ca. 1800-1875 date range. The principal property type is domestic, consisting of both vernacular and high-style dwellings, and representing a diverse range of types and forms. Other building types, though far less prevalent in number within the larger group, represent historic civic, educational, commercial, industrial, and religious uses. The following subtypes constitute the full range of represented building types and will be considered within the context of three periods of historic development, 1800-30, 1830-50, 1850-1875, which correspond to some extent with national architectural trends and the successive Federal, Greek Revival, and Picturesque styles:

#### Subtypes

(A) Domestic: Houses, Taverns, Hotels, Military Barracks

(B) Commercial/Industrial: Banks, Stores, Blacksmith Shops, Land Offices, Mills

(C) Civic/Educational: Schools, Jails, Hospitals

(D) Religious: Meetinghouses and Churches

In most instances, buildings are cited in the following narrative by name and date of construction, but not by location or address; specific individual property addresses and municipal locations are cited in the study list.

### **1800- 1830 Period**

This period includes houses that represent early vernacular building traditions, as well as those of more heightened architectural character inspired by the Neoclassical movement and characterized by the use of forms and decorative motifs derived from the architecture of classical Rome. The houses of many prominent early residents and families are represented, as are those that are associated with people of more ordinary experience. The prevailing architectural fashion of this period was the Federal style, popular in New York State in the ca. 1800-30 period, and in rural areas into the early 1830s. The period ca. 1825-35 was a transitional one between these two classical modes. The influence of the Federal style is apparent in exterior and interior work in many of the larger houses, and while less apparent in the simpler farmhouses conceived on smaller terms, is nevertheless typically present. In addition to housing built for single or extended families, it was also constructed for other purposes, such as military housing and short-term lodging, both of which are represented in this period.

A prominent outlier to the prevailing stylistic theme of the Federal style is the Le Ray Mansion, a ca. 1825 rebuilding of an earlier 1806-08 dwelling lost to fire. Both the original and subsequent designs have been attributed to the French émigré architect, Joseph Ramée, designer of the Union College campus in Schenectady, New York.<sup>92</sup> Such a design pedigree would directly link it to the rational phase of Neoclassicism in Europe that influenced, among others, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin H. Latrobe in America. Ramée's professional presence in this region is well-established, given his connection to David Parish, a wealthy patron with considerable land holdings in northern New York.<sup>93</sup> The Le Ray Mansion is distinguished by its temple-fronted main block with recessed wings and stucco-rendered limestone exterior, along with its sophisticated and rationally conceived floor plan. It remains among the preeminent houses of this period in the county.

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<sup>92</sup> Bonney, *French Émigré Architecture*, 142-47; for Union College, see Paul V. Turner, *The Grand Design: Joseph Ramee's Drawings for the Union College Campus* (Schenectady, NY: Union College, 2013).

<sup>93</sup> Bonney, *French Émigré Architecture*, 143.

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Roughly contemporaneous in age with the Le Ray Mansion is the John Felt Mansion, erected in 1827. It is of more conventional design than the Le Ray Mansion, being a two-story, end-gabled building with a symmetrical five-bay façade. The center of the façade is distinguished by an intersecting gable, thereby highlighting the entrance bay, in place of a full projecting pavilion. Stylistically the house is generally of Federal-style conception, though its sober, chaste exterior treatments intimate the onset of the Greek Revival. The Felt Mansion is characterized by a sense of monumentality, and its exceptionally well-executed stonework—rendered in coursed limestone ashlar—includes bold, paneled lintels. Other examples from this period, among them the Dorwin (ca. 1823), Horton (ca. 1819), and Ryder (ca. 1820) houses, also employ coursed stone, which was typically quarried nearby, and are two-story houses with five-bay facades, central entrances, and gable-end chimneys. This type of house was, by the early nineteenth century, often equipped with an attached ell to accommodate a kitchen, wood storage, and other domestic or farm functions. It was a common type in rural New York State in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and one commonly employed during the popularity of the Federal style.

Typically, the facades of the better class of houses featured stone laid up in courses, while the secondary elevations were either coursed or otherwise of rubble construction. In houses such as Sterling Mansion, ca. 1826, cut ashlar limestone was employed; in another example, the Henry Brown Mansion, ca. 1830, large blocks of cut stone in contrasting shades of gray were employed. Typical features include corner quoins, which helped to stabilize the walls, along with stone water tables, projecting sills, and splayed or rectangular lintels. The main entrance was most often highlighted by an arched fanlight spanned by a stone surround, frequently with a keystone, and often in combination with sidelights. Entrances are often a keynote feature, enriched with engaged columns and delicate tracery in the fanlight and sidelights.

Inside, a center-hall plan is most typical of the larger houses, whether a room-and-a-half or two-rooms deep. Kitchens, once housed within the core of the dwelling or sometimes in the basement, were, by this time and in this type of house, frequently located in an attached ell—a feature arranged with its roof ridge perpendicular to the main section—or a wing, with its roof ridge aligned parallel to that the main block. These typically provided ready access to water and wood storage. Many basements have cisterns for water storage.

Among those dwellings erected in the 1810s is the Vincent Le Ray House, 1813-15, another example of the two-story, five-bay house, but in this instance is covered by a low-hipped, and not a gabled, roof, screened by a low balustrade. It is a more architecturally sophisticated character, in both exterior treatment and plan, and has a low, horizontal emphasis accentuated by its water table and molded wood cornice. The design has also been attributed by some to the French architect, Joseph Ramée, in part on account of the elegant treatment of its arched and keystone first-story windows. Some similarities are to be found with drawings Rameé made for work at Union College in 1813.

Also of two-story, hip-roofed design with cubic massing is the ca. 1816 Copeland House. Unlike the Le Ray house, with its full five-bay façade, it instead has a four-bay façade with the entrance placed, somewhat uncharacteristically, in an outer bay. The walls lack the refinement and exacting craftsmanship evident in other examples dating to this period; the corners are stabilized by quoins and the door and window openings spanned by stone jack arches.

Another distinctive type is two-story houses of the three-bay type with side hall plans, gable-ended. The Noadiah Hubbard House, ca. 1820, is of this type, an established form that was also much employed in the period in New York. Stonework is coursed and lintels are of the rectangular type with splayed ends; the entrance is spanned by a low elliptical stone arch with keystone. The Hubbard house is an excellent representation of this type and the Federal aesthetic as expressed in stone construction. The Membery Homestead, ca. 1818, is another example of this type, though perhaps less elegant in its treatments than the Hubbard house. Houses of the side-hall type would continue to be built in the ensuing period, though by that time the preference for a gable-front orientation had been more widely adopted.

In addition to larger two-story houses of the center hall or side-hall type are houses of lesser scale, these often employing the same balanced five-bay façade with center entrance, but in a story-and-a-half format. The relative ease of accessibility to stone allowed for its use in these less architecturally sophisticated but durable constructs. These houses often employed one-and-one-half room deep plans, along with space in attached wings or ells, with enclosed staircases and end-wall fireplaces. Often, the stone on the principal elevation was dressed and coursed, with rubble work on the side and rear elevations; in other instances, all rubble work might be employed. The Samuel F. Ballard House, ca. 1825, offers an excellent representation of the type. It is a story-and-a-half stone house with balanced five-bay façade, the openings

spanned by splayed lintels. The interior was arranged with a one-and-one-half room deep plan and enclosed staircase. The space within the stone block was augmented by an attached wing, aligned with its roof ridge parallel to the main section, and slightly set back from it. Another way that usable domestic space could be expanded within the existing stone footprint is to be found in the Ira Hinsdale House, ca. 1820, a smaller five-bay house with a center entrance, constructed in a banked fashion to provide at-grade access to a basement kitchen.

Another variant from this period and expressive of vernacular traditions is the story-and-a-half house type with four-bay façade, as represented in the 1826-27 Asa Newman house. As with the Ballard house, it is a gable-ended building, the entrance arranged in offset fashion given the bay arrangement. Stonework is uncoursed and apertures are spanned by splayed lintels.

Two large hotels date to this period: the ca. 1825 Orleans Hotel (NRHP 1996) and the ca. 1816-17 Union Hotel, as well as the ca. 1821 Hoover Tavern. The hotels are both three-story buildings with symmetrical window arrangements, central transverse hallways, and doorways with transoms and sidelights. Aside from smooth stone lintels and sills, the Union Hotel has an ashlar belt course. The tavern is a two-story, side-gabled building of unusually well-laid, large smooth-cut limestone, which was laid up in a coursed ashlar pattern. There are elliptical arches with keystones over the front and side entrances and over a second-floor doorway. There is, in addition, a second tavern, a humbler two-story farmhouse later converted to tavern use.

The stone row at Madison Barracks housed officers stationed at Sackets Harbor and was erected ca. 1816, immediately after the tensions of the War of 1812, which had brought warfare directly to the region. The quarters were originally one floor inside with an attic that formed a continuously open space. The end buildings are characterized by a mix of rubble and cut limestone, ashlar quoins, and massive stepped parapets into which are incorporated the chimney stacks. An attic fanlight with keystone affiliates the otherwise straightforward exterior with the Federal style.

Christ Episcopal Church at Sackets Harbor, begun in 1823 but not completed until 1832, in its form embodies distinctive characteristics of the Wren-Gibbs meetinghouse type, an iconic New England architectural form. Rectangular in plan with gable-front orientation, it has a multi-stage bell tower rising from its roof ridge and a freestanding portico across its façade. The Gothic-arched windows relate the building to Anglican architectural traditions and, despite its

classical form and treatments, intimate the coming revival of interest in medieval Gothic forms by American Episcopalians. The stone was laid up in regular courses with quoins employed at the corners and rusticated door and window jambs.

Commercial buildings dating to this period include the mid-1820s Irwin Brothers Store (NRHP 1983). The original section, two stories and gable-fronted, is of characteristic conception for a commercial building in this period, having a three-bay façade with a second-story loading bay that was once serviced by a ridge-mounted hoist. The stone was laid in regular courses with quoins employed at the corners, with an arched fanlight in the gable field and smooth-cut lintels and sills. This building was aggrandized subsequently with the addition of cross-gabled limestone wings to either side, expressing expanded commercial functions.

### **1830-50 Period**

This period of development is characterized by the emergence and sustained popularity of the Greek Revival style, which reached rural areas of New York in the early 1830s and predominated in the early to mid-1840s. By this time the county's stone building culture had become well established, as demonstrated by the proliferation of construction activity in the preceding two decades. Resources dating to this period include dwellings that portray both national and more regional and localized design trends, in addition to buildings that speak to educational, commercial, and other historic functions. Period dwelling types include the two-story, front-gable type with corresponding side-hall plans and attached ells. Both this gable orientation and floor plan represent mainstream period design preferences. Other established types also continued to be built, among them the full two-story, end-gable type, as well as smaller story-and-a-half, gable-end houses of the five-bay type and others of more modest vernacular characteristics.

The two-story house with front-gable orientation, side hall floor plan, and attached ell was one variant of the upright-and-ell type house. In other examples, a rear wing with parallel roof ridge might instead be employed to accommodate service functions outside of the main section. Houses of the two-story type with front-gable orientation and side entrance include the ca. 1835 Russell B. Biddlecom House (NRHP 1996), the contemporaneous Gideon Budlong House (NRHP 1996), and the Hugunin House, erected ca. 1836. The latter has walls of rough-cut limestone with smooth-dressed lintels, sills, and water table. The lintel over the front door is conspicuous for its large scale, while the oval-shaped louvered wood vent in the gable field

represents a holdover feature of the Federal style. The Azariah Walton House, erected ca. 1835, is also of the two-story, gable-front type with three-bay facade. The ca. 1831 Jesse Smith house, another example of this form, employs the same decorative gable motif, but in its arched transom demonstrates the lingering persistence of the Federal aesthetic into the early 1830s. An example from later in the decade, the ca. 1839 Charles Wilcox House, is an excellent example of stone craftsmanship. The entire house, which includes a stone ell, is built of small cut limestone with smooth dressings, inclusive of a continuous band of stone above the first-story, into which the lintels are incorporated.

Another type, representing the smaller upright-and-wing type, is the David Dodge House, ca. 1835, which lacks a doorway on the narrow façade of its two-bay-wide upright section. Smaller houses of this type sometimes employed this form, with entrance to the main block made from the side of the main block, and not via a gable entrance. It is notable for its tannish-gray limestone walls, which have inclusions of geodes, crystals, and trilobites.

The limestone-walled Asa Clark Mansion, erected ca. 1835, consists of a conventional end-gabled block, two stories, the center three bays of which are fronted by a monumental four-columned portico. The attenuated proportions of the fluted Ionic columns, as well as the narrow cornices and tympanum fanlight, are more Roman than Greek in derivation and mark the building as transitional in its stylistic vocabulary. The ca. 1837-40 Louis Peugnet House (NRHP 1985) also employs a conventional gable-ended block, five bays, with coursed ashlar façade and side walls and rubble-laid rear wall. The front elevation is spanned by a tall columned porch that forms a continuation of the roof plane, suggestive of French or Hudson Valley Dutch building traditions. The ca. 1830 Dye-Fitch House (NRHP 1985) is similar in form, with a full-width front porch spanning its main block, though it is of far lesser scale and architectural sophistication.

Smaller story-and-a-half, gable-end houses of the five-bay type continued to be built in this period, as did full two-story houses, despite the increasing fashion for gable-front orientations and upright-and-ell houses. The ca. 1835 George Cough Jr. House, the ca. 1835 Daniel Ackerman House and the ca. 1838 Rogers Homestead (NRHP 1998) represent the continued use of the former, while the latter is represented by examples such as the ca. 1833/40 Countryman House and the 1830s Ostrander House, the exteriors of which rely more on their stone construction than ornamental work for effect.

This period includes a somewhat rare period typology, the Hospital at Madison Barracks, Sackets Harbor, ca. 1838 (NRHP 1974), erected for health-care purposes. This large two-story building was erected on a high raised basement with flanking one-story wings. It has a high hipped roof that accommodated a central skylight. The stonework of the building is exemplary, and includes a cornice, water table, quoins, lintels and sills, all rendered in smooth-cut limestone. Though lacking an overt stylistic vocabulary, the Greek Revival style is inferred in the hospital's austere lines and straightforward treatments.

Among the utilitarian buildings from this period are the Three Mile Bay blacksmith shop, ca. 1838. Given the building's function, the use of stone, with its fire-retardant properties, was particularly desirable. It bears resemblance to the Charles Wilcox House in its use of quarry-dressed ashlar limestone on the façade with a continuous band above first-story level that incorporates the lintels. Fenestration is arranged asymmetrically, with two large recessed bays serving as the original entrances. As with the hospital, it is more in the severity of its treatments that it can be associated with the Greek Revival style.

Representing industrial pursuits is the Old Mill in Sackets Harbor, ca. 1838 (NRHP 1983), which was erected by Elisha Camp to function as a sawmill. Window and door openings are spanned by lintels and a water table extends across the principal elevation. The limestone walls are five-feet thick at the building's base, built to accommodate heavy interior loading and the reverberations created by the milling process. The rear of the building abuts Black River Bay and was constructed to receive logs floated down the river.

The ca. 1834 Sacketts Harbor Bank building (NRHP 1983) is a mixed-use building that was conceived and built to function both as a bank and a place of residence. There are technically two facades: one, consisting of four bays, corresponded with the bank, while the other, a full five bays with a center entrance, provided entry to the house. Notable is the distinction between the finer, more smoothly dressed business front, and that corresponding with the dwelling, which consists of rougher stone set off by smoothly cut dressings.

The county's educational history, and that of its town district school system, is portrayed by the Allen Road schoolhouse, erected ca. 1840. Of the one-room schoolhouse type, it consists of a gable-fronted main block with smaller rear wing accommodating bathrooms. The four-bay

façade was symmetrically conceived and features dual entrances, located in the outer bays. The stone walls were roughly dressed and laid in regular courses and has a stone in the gable field that was meant to bear the school's number but which remains blank. Despite its arrangement with separate doors for boys and girls, it is of a highly recognizable type.

Similarly scaled but more utilitarian nature is the ca. 1840s Theresa jail, a small hip-roofed building with cupola measuring twenty-feet square. Constructed of sandstone, it retains its barred windows and is a seemingly rare example of this building type.

### **1850-1875 Period**

This period represents the final quarter-century of stone construction in Jefferson County. It corresponds with major paradigm shifts in architecture at the national level, as the classical motives of the Federal and Greek Revival styles had given way to the newer Picturesque modes, namely the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. Advances in construction technology also attended the period, though these had limited bearing on the county's stone masonry tradition. Construction was more limited in this period, with fewer houses and new stone buildings being constructed. This period includes expressions of the Gothic Revival style as applied to domestic construction, among them the ca. 1853 Angel House. Modestly scaled, it nevertheless conveys, in its story-and-a-half, cross-gabled form with steeply-pitched roofline, the concept of the English Gothic cottage as introduced to a broad American audience by author Andrew Jackson Downing. The seven-bay wide façade is spanned by a three-part porch with understated Gothic detail that recalls Downing's influential examples. Similarities are also to be found in the Gothic cottage architecture across the St. Lawrence River, in Ontario, Canada.

Among the more architecturally advanced buildings included in this survey, and one representing post-Civil War design trends, is the ca. 1872 Copley, Adams, Duford Stone Office (NRHP 1990) is a small stone store built to display a range of limestone techniques and finishes. As the sales office for a limestone and lumber business, it features lancet-arched windows, walls of rough-dressed limestone, and smooth-cut water table, quoins, and trim. The wood interior would have provided samples for lumber cuts and trim. It is a building of heightened architectural effect and one rendered in a distinctive Gothic idiom that is an outlier to the large study group.

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875****New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

The ca. 1856 Duvillard Mill (NRHP 1985) is an impressively scaled four-story mill building, designed for the use of steam power with an attached powerhouse with shed-roof. The massive walls are three-feet-thick at the base, and these step inwards six inches on each floor. Iron rods tie the gable end walls together and hand-hewn framing supports the floors, which are set on cast-iron interior columns; as such, the building employs technology that was coming into broader use by the mid-century point. Decorative work, such as that highlighting the end gables, was added subsequently.

Trends in religious design are apparent in two houses of worship dating to this period. The Reformed Church of the Thousand Isles, erected ca. 1848-1851, was built with dolomitic limestone and was in part financed by Dutch Reformed congregations in other parts of the state. It recalls the characteristic meetinghouse form with engaged central belltower; however, the detailing is of an Italianate nature inclusive of round-arched windows and the compounded cornice that terminates the tower. It is the only building within the study group that has decorative features of the Italianate style. Also, of this period is the ca. 1851 St. Vincent of Paul Church, erected for a Catholic parish. More conventional in design, it shows the lingering influence of the Wren-Gibbs type, with an engaged belltower and Gothic detailing.

**Significance**

Viewed collectively, the buildings that are associated with this MPDF context form a significant group related by material and geographic proximity. Some form expressions of the prosperity of a once-flourishing agricultural region, while others are compelling for their associations with significant families, settling groups, or as expressions of prevailing architectural fashions. Most all of these buildings exhibit an awareness of national stylistic trends and an ambition to express them architecturally. Of note is the desire of individuals to build in stone, although it was more costly and demanded more skill than utilizing the abundant timber in the area, beyond that needed for framing, flooring and finish material. This characteristic extends from the stately Le Ray Mansion to the smallest vernacular houses, some of which replaced log-walled dwellings as soon as the means could be found. Stone was the chosen material of choice for a range of reasons, among them personal prestige and stature, and durability and fire-retardance. In the case of civic, religious, and military architecture, by nature it embodied solidity and stability.

To qualify for NRHP designation within this MPDF, a building must be of limestone or sandstone construction, be located within Jefferson County, New York, and it must retain and possess physical sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey a reasonable semblance of the original architectural intent. Stone buildings may be significant for the following reasons:

- For their association with a historic theme within the larger ca. 1800-1875 temporal parameter, i.e. the early settlement of the county; agricultural prosperity; commercial development as manifested in hotels, mills, taverns, and stores; for their association with religion or education; or for their association with the events of the War of 1812, as delineated in NRHP Criterion A;
- For their association with important historical figures in the county's history and nineteenth-century development, such as LeRay de Chaumont and General Jacob Brown, as delineated in NRHP Criterion B;
- For their documentable association with particular early builders or masons;
- For the quality of their architectural design, stone craftsmanship, or as examples of a particular typology, as delineated in NRHP Criterion C;
- For their relative rarity;

### **Registration Requirements**

To qualify for listing on the NRHP, a nominated building or structure must satisfy the following requirements:

1. The primary building material is limestone or sandstone quarried in Jefferson County;
2. The building was constructed in Jefferson County;
3. The stone must be structural, laid up as a load-bearing membrane, and not merely used as facing or veneer;
4. Stone walls should be largely intact and visible, except in instances where, historically, they were stuccoed;
5. The overall form of the stone building or structure should remain largely unchanged from the period of significance. Both the façade and exposed gabled elevation (opposite the wing end) should remain substantially intact and the stone block should remain largely unaltered. Additions should not overwhelm the original building in size or placement. It is acknowledged that many residences had original wood wings or ells for

kitchen and storage; in some instances, these have been aggrandized from their original form. Nominated resources should demonstrate a minimum of recent alterations, such as the addition of non-historic-period porches, decks, and dormers;

6. The fenestration should remain largely intact, with the retention of stone lintels and sills. Minor alterations, such as blocking up a window or doorway, or adding replacement windows, are acceptable;
7. The mortar should remain mostly intact, though repointing may show color and style changes;
8. The building or structure should retain key character-defining elements of its original style or typology;
9. The building interior should retain integrity of plan and finish to convey its historic character, though the stone exterior remains the preeminent factor upon which eligibility will be determined;

The above criteria apply to every property type in this nomination, whether a private home or a community building.

### **G. Geographical Data**

The geographical boundaries for the stone buildings MPDF encompass all of Jefferson County.

### **H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

Among the earliest efforts to raise the visibility of the county's legacy of historic stone architecture was David Lane's series, "Old Houses of the North Country," printed in the *Watertown Daily Times* during the 1940s and 1950s, was, in essence, a survey that captured most of the stone houses of Jefferson County. Lane's work included a photograph of the subject house, its location, and narratives based on deed research. From Lane, it is calculated that in the middle of the twentieth century there were approximately 250 stone houses, or roughly half, remaining from the 1855 census count of about 500.

The 1985 publication of architectural historian Claire Bonney's *French Emigré Houses in Jefferson County*, was the first attempt to describe, in systematic terms, the buildings of early French settlers to the area. Its revised second edition, *French Emigré Architecture in Jefferson County New York*, appeared in 2015, and expands her research into the county's French heritage, and provides a full analysis of the prominent early landowners – Jacques Leray and

John LaFarge. Bonney draws interesting connections between buildings in the settlers' place of origin in Haute-Saône, France, and those in Jefferson County. This work included floor plans for the 50 houses considered, mostly built of limestone, that she studied.

In 2016, Maureen H. Barros, Brian Gorman, and Robert H. Uhlig edited *Stone Houses of Jefferson County*. They invited town historians, a photographer, and a geologist to help identify and study 88 stone buildings and their first owners throughout the county. The book also discussed the geology of the region, stone buildings that are no longer extant, and the care and preservation of existing buildings.

Considered together, these two books and Lane's earlier work provide considerable insight into Jefferson County's stone building tradition and its adaptation by the two main settling cultures – the French and the Anglo-European. Combined, the two books cover 110 stone buildings and structures, from which the study list was generated (excluding two stone bridges, resulting in the 108 buildings in the study list).

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**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875**

**New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

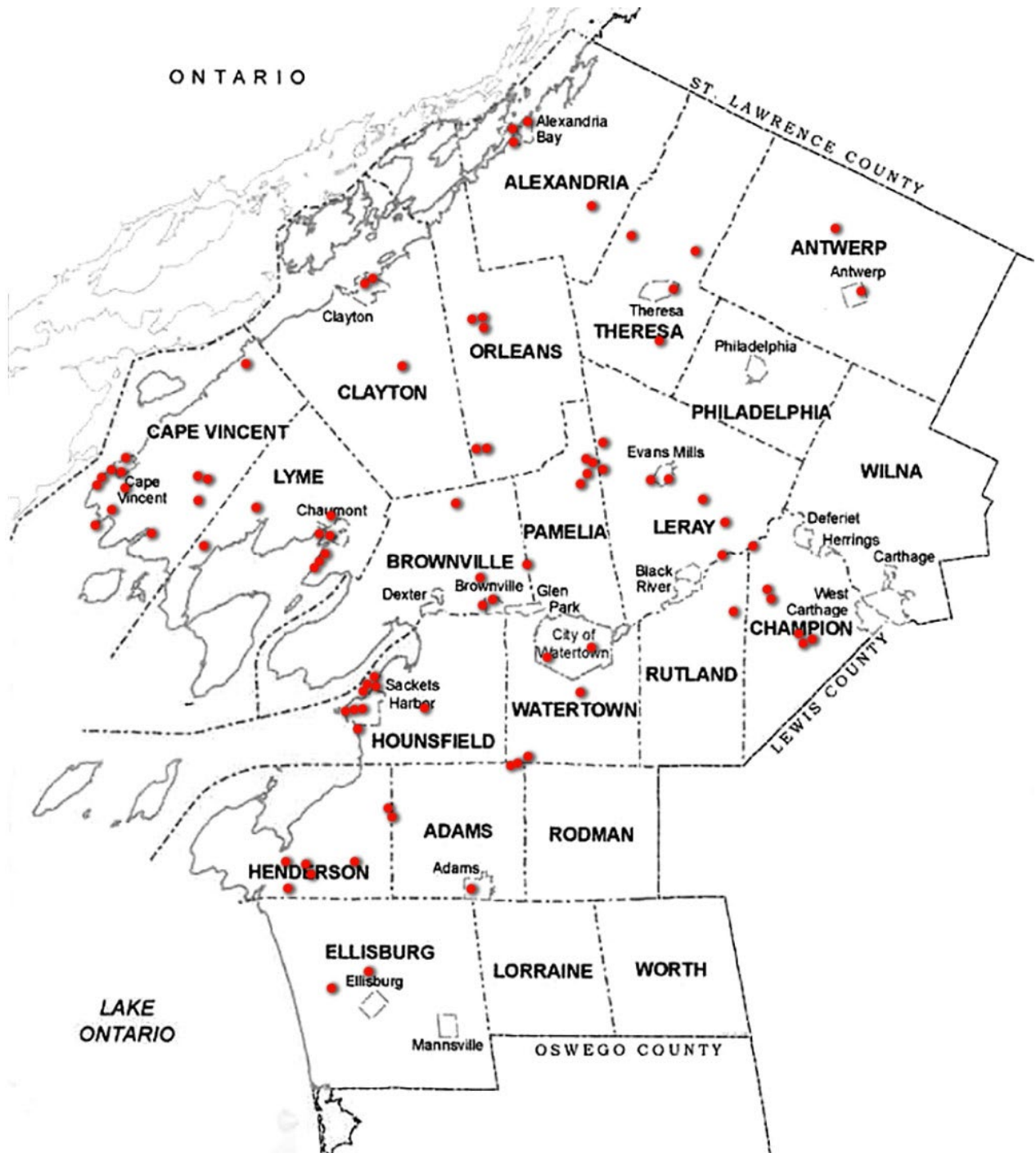


Figure 1 – Distribution of 94 of 108 stone buildings listed in Appendix A – Building Study List. The map is based on resources identified in: Barros, Maureen H., Brian Gorman, and Robert A. Uhlig (eds). *Stone Houses of Jefferson County*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2015.

## Appendix A – Building Study List

No.	Historic Name	Approximate Address	Year Built	Stories	Plan	NR status
1	William Dorwin House	Rte. 126, Carthage	1823	2	center-hall	unevaluated
2	John Felt Mansion	Boot Jack Hill, Felts Mills	1827	2	center-hall	unevaluated
3	James Horton House	County Rte. 125, Chaumont	1819	2	center-hall	unevaluated
4	Le Ray Mansion	Fort Drum Military Base	1825-1827	2	center-hall	NRHP 1974
5	Joseph Ryder House	County Rte. 125, Chaumont	1820	2	center-hall	unevaluated
6	Allen Road Schoolhouse	Allen Rd., Brownville	ca. 1840	1	one-room	unevaluated
7	Willard Ainsworth Farm	Pleasant Valley Rd., Cape Vincent	ca. 1811	2	side-hall	unevaluated
8	Jacob Brown Mansion	Brown Blvd., Brownville	1811-1815	2	center-hall	NRHP 1974
9	Henry Brown Mansion	Military Rd., Brownville	1830	2	center-hall	unevaluated
10	Calvin Britton House	County Rte. 54, Brownville	1815-1816	2	center-hall	unevaluated
11	Chaumont House	Main St., Chaumont	1806-1818	2	center-hall	NRHP 1974
12	Christ Episcopal Church	E. Main St., Sackets Harbor	1812-1832	1		NRHP 1983, Sacketts Harbor HD NRHP 2001
13	Copeland House	Antwerp	1816	2	side-hall	Antwerp HD
14	Henry Countryman House	NYS Rte. 37, Pamelia	1833 or 1840	2	center-hall	unevaluated
15	Samuel Cronkhite House	NYS Rte. 37, Le Ray	1820	2	center-hall	unevaluated
16	Thomas Dobson House	County Rte. 123, Henderson	ca. 1820	2	center-hall	unevaluated
17	Musgrove Evans, Philip Gaige, E. Dillenback House	Main Street, Chaumont	1829	2	side-hall	NRHP 1990
18	Asa Gates House	NYS Rte. 126, Champion	1828	2	center-hall	unevaluated
19	Greystone Inn	County Rte. 5, Clayton Center	ca. 1815	2	center-hall	unevaluated
20	Charles Harger Mansion	NYS Rte. 37, Pamelia	1839 or 1849	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
21	Elijah Horr House	NYS Rte. 180, Stone Mills	ca. 1835	2	center-hall	NRHP 1996
22	Hiram Hubbard House	NYS Rte. 126, Champion	1820	2	side-hall	NRHP 2009
23	Noadiah Hubbard House	NYS Rte. 126, Champion	1831	2	center-hall	unevaluated
24	Orville Hungerford Mansion	Flower Ave. W., Watertown	1826	2	center-hall	disassembled/rebuilt
25	Jefferson Hotel	Great Bend NYS Rte 12E,	1842	2	center-hall	unevaluated
26	Isaac Jones House	Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	2	center-hall	unevaluated

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875****New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

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27	James Jones, Elton Miller House	NYS Rte. 37, Pamelia	1838	2	center-hall	interior rebuilt
28	Thomas L. Knap Mansion	E. Main St., Brownville	1826-1838	2	side-hall	unevaluated
29	John LaFarge Land Office or Orleans Hotel	NYS Rte 180, LaFargeville	1825	2	center-hall	NRHP 1996
30	John LaFarge Overseer House	NYS Rte 180, LaFargeville	1834-1836	2	side-hall	NRHP 1996
31	Vincent Le Ray Stone House	Broadway, Cape Vincent County Rte	1813-1815	2	center-hall	NRHP 1973
32	John Losee House Chester Norton, Nathan Burnham	155, Watertown Rt. 178, Henderson	ca. 1828	2	center-hall	NRHP 2014
33	House	NYS Rte. 26, Theresa	ca. 1820	2	center-hall	NRHP 2016
34	Byron Ostrander House	County Rte. 16, Theresa	1825	2	center-hall	unevaluated
35	John Parrish House	Pamelia Cemetery Rd,	ca. 1815	2	center-hall	unevaluated
36	Aaron Root House	Evans Mills NYS Rte. 180,	1830	2	center-hall	unevaluated
37	John N. Rottiers House	LaFargeville County Rte. 46,	1832	2	side-hall	NRHP 1996
38	James Shurtleff House Stephen Simmons,	Theresa Camp Mill Rd,	ca. 1821	2	center-hall	unevaluated
39	Membery House	Sacketts Harbor Winthrop St.,	1818	2	side-hall	NRHP MRA 1989
40	Micah Sterling Mansion	Watertown Fuller Rd,	1826	2	center-hall	unevaluated
41	Talcott Tavern	Adams Center US Rte. 11,	1824-1825	2		NRHP 1974
42	John Thompson House	Watertown W. Washington St., Sackets	1823	2	center-hall	unevaluated
43	George Tisdale Mansion	Harbor Mason Rd,	1812	2	center-hall	NRHP 1983, Sacketts Harbor HD
44	Claude Vautrin	Cape Vincent Bridge St.,	ca. 1855	2		NRHP 1985
45	Holland Weeks House	Henderson Main St., Evans	ca. 1811	2	center-hall	unevaluated
46	Hoover Tavern	Mills NYS Rte. 180,	ca. 1821	2		unevaluated
47	Irwin Brothers Store	Stone Mills West Main St.,	1825	2	center-hall	NRHP 1983 NRHP 1983,
48	Sacketts Harbor Bank St. Vincent of Paul	Sacketts Harbor N. Kanady St.,	1834	2	center-hall	Sacketts Harbor HD NRHP 1985, Cape
49	Church	Cape Vincent Madison Barracks,	1851	1	entrance	Vincent MRA NRHP 1974, Madison Barracks
50	Stone Row	Sacketts Harbor Commercial St.,	1816-1819	2		
51	Theresa Jail	Theresa W. Main St.,	1800s	1	one-room	unevaluated
52	Union Hotel Russell B. Biddlecom	Sacketts Harbor NYS Rte. 180,	1816-1817	3	center-hall	NRHP 1972
53	House	LaFargeville	ca. 1835	2	side-hall	NRHP 1996

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875****New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

54	Gideon Budlong House	NYS Rte. 180, LaFargeville County Rte. 49,	ca. 1835	2	side-hall	NRHP 1996
55	Asa Clark Mansion	Rutland	1835	2	center-hall	unevaluated
56	Nicolas Cocaigne House	NYS Rte. 12E, Cape Vincent Hugunin St.,	1848	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1985
57	Hugunin House	Clayton County Rte. 75,	ca. 1836	2	side-hall	unevaluated
58	Jesse Smith House	Adams Madison Barracks,	1831	2	side-hall	unevaluated
59	Stone Hospital	Sackets Harbor James St.,	1838	2	center-hall	NRHP 1974, Madison Barracks
60	Azariah Walton House	Alexandria Bay County Rte. 57,	1835	2	side-hall	unevaluated
61	Charles Wilcox House	Three Mile Bay James St.,	1839	2	side-hall	NRHP 1990, Lyme MRA
62	Angel House	Clayton	ca. 1853	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
63	Hiram Copley, Adams, Duford Stone Office	Main St., Chaumont	1872	1		NRHP 1990
64	Reformed Church of the Thousand Islands	Church St, Alexandria Bay	1848-1851			unevaluated
65	Daniel Ackerman House	Baldwin Rd., Dexter	ca. 1835	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated/burned 1979
66	Samuel F. Ballard House	County Rte 64, Watertown	1827	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
67	Oliver Bates House	NYS Rte. 3, Henderson	ca. 1820	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 2004
68	Xavier Chevalier House	Gosier Rd., Cape Vincent	ca. 1855	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1985
69	Cornwall Brothers Store	Market St., Alexandria Bay	1865	2	center-hall	NRHP 1975
70	George Cough House	Dablon Point, Cape Vincent	ca. 1835	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
71	Henry Cough House	Stoney Point, Cape Vincent	ca. 1835	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated, burned 2015
72	Rémy Dezegremel House	Dezegremel Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1859	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1985
73	Joseph Docteur House	County Rte. 4, Cape Vincent	ca. 1845	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
74	David Dodge House	NYS Rte 12E, Cape Vincent	1833-1854?	2		unevaluated
75	Madame du Fort House	Pleasant Valley Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1830	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated/partly destroyed
76	Duvillard Mill	Broadway, Cape Vincent	1856	4		NRHP 1985
77	Reuben Dye or Daniel Fitch House	County Rte. 4, Cape Vincent	1830s	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1985
78	Etienne Edus House	Hell Street, Cape Vincent	ca. 1855	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
79	Simon Edus House	Burnt Rock Road, Cape Vincent	ca. 1850	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
80	Charles Harger House	NYS Rte. 37, Pamelia	1831 or 1832	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875****New York**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

81	Ira Hinsdale House	County Rte. 24, Antwerp	1820	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
82	Absalom House	County Rte. 16, Pamelia	1838-1840	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
83	Harry Hunt House	County Rte. 22, Theresa	1830s	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
84	James Irvine House	Old Millen's Bay Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1832	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
85	Johnson or Charles Wilson II	Tibbetts Point Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
86	Eber Kelsey, Deerlick Farm	Deerlick Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1832- 1835	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
87	John Laird House	NYS Rte 12E, Cape Vincent	ca. 1835	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
88	Asa Newman House	County Rte 3, Plessis	1826-1827	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
89	John O'Connor or William Johnson	10986 County Rte. 125, Chaumont	1818-1819	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
90	Old Mill	Gen. Smith Dr., Sacketts Harbor	1808-1818	3		unevaluated NRHP 1983, Sacketts Harbor HD
91	Old Stone Shop	County Rte. 12E, Three Mile Bay	1838	1.5	two-room	NRHP 1990, Lyme MRA
92	Louis Peugnet House	County Rte. 6, Cape Vincent	ca. 1825	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1985
93	William Rice Parish	Constance Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1858	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
94	Hyacinthe Peugnet House	James St., Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	2	side-hall	unevaluated
95	Samuel Read House	County Rte. 59, Dexter	1827	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
96	George Reynolds House	NYS Rte. 12E, Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
97	Austin Robbins House	County Rte. 75, Adams	1830	1.5	side-hall	unevaluated
98	Austin Rogers Homestead	Merchant Rd, Cape Vincent	1838	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 1998
99	Jean B. Rousseau House	Hell St., Cape Vincent	ca. 1855	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
100	Edward S. Salisbury House	Machold Rd., Mannsville	ca. 1833	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
101	William Schafer House	Favret Rd., Cape Vincent	ca. 1850	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
102	Harvey Smith House	Bishop St., Adams	ca. 1839	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
103	Ignatious Wiley House	County Rte. 4, Cape Vincent	1847	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
104	Charles Wilson House I	Wilson's Point Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1825	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
105	James G. Wilson House	Wilson's Bay Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated
106	Warren Wilson House	Favret Rd., Cape Vincent	ca. 1840	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated

**Stone Buildings of Jefferson County ca. 1800-1875****New York****51**

Name of Multiple Property Listing

State

107	Amos Eastman Wood House	County Rte. 120, Woodville Tibbets Point Rd, Cape Vincent	ca. 1825	1.5	center-hall	NRHP 2012
108	Buel Fuller House		ca. 1830	1.5	center-hall	unevaluated



**Parks, Recreation,  
and Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

October 6, 2021

Gail Ostapczuk  
Tetra Tech  
6 Century Drive  
Suite 300  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Re: ORES  
Greens Corners Solar/120MW/2,656 Acres  
Towns of Hounsfield and Watertown, Jefferson County, NY  
20PR02674

Dear Gail Ostapczuk:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Division for Historic Preservation of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the submitted materials in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to Executive Law Section 94-c and its implementing regulations (19 NYCRR Part 900).

We have reviewed your recent submission, dated September 13, 2021, for this project. This submission includes a visual impact study and other information regarding the proposed solar installation and potential impacts to historic resources.

Based on our review of the submitted materials, we are concerned with potential visual/ setting impacts to the National Register (NR) listed Hounsfield Christian Church (19137 NY Rt 3), the NR eligible stone house at 20141 Buetel Road in Watertown, and the NR eligible stone house at 18319 Old Rome Rd in Watertown.

In order for our office to fully evaluate potential impacts to these resources, please provide the following additional documentation:

1. A detailed site plan showing the solar panels, access roads, and other features in the immediate vicinity of the three historic resources.

Documentation requested in this letter should be provided via our Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) at <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/>. Once on the CRIS site, you can log in as a guest

and choose "submit" at the very top menu. Go to "Other Options" and choose "submit new information for an existing project". You will need this project number and your e-mail address.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 268-2164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Davey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Weston Davey  
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator  
Weston.davey@parks.ny.gov

**From:** [New York State Parks CRIS Application](#)  
**To:** [Ostapczuk, Gail](#)  
**Cc:** [Marshall, Sydne](#); [Jacoby, Rob](#); [jbergevin@oneida-nation.org](mailto:jbergevin@oneida-nation.org); [jasmine.matley@dps.ny.gov](mailto:jasmine.matley@dps.ny.gov); [Moaveni, Houtan \(ORES\)](#); [eugene.boesch@arcadis.com](mailto:eugene.boesch@arcadis.com); [Jacoby, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** NY SHPO: Unrequested Submission VD9VHXT52BUQ Accepted for Consultation Project 20PR02674  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:55:49 PM

**CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. Verify the source before opening links or attachments.

## Unrequested Submission Accepted

The New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has accepted the following unrequested submission.

**Unrequested Submission Token:** VD9VHXT52BUQ

**New Submission Number:** 20PR02674.013

**Project Number:** 20PR02674

**Project Type:** Consultation

**Project Name:** Greens Corners Solar/120MW/2,656 Acres

**Submission Description:** Site plans of proposed solar arrays and vegetative screening in the vicinity of three NRHP historic properties (20141 Beutel Rd., Watertown, NY; 18319 Old Rome Rd., Watertown, NY; and, Hounsfield Christian Church, 19137 NY Rt 3, Hounsfield, NY).

### New York State Historic Preservation Office

Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189

518-237-8643 | <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo>

CRIS: <https://cris.parks.ny.gov>

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### Who sent this email?

This email is a notification from the [New York State Cultural Resource Information System \(CRIS\)](#). CRIS is an online service administered by the [New York State Division for Historic Preservation](#), also known as the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which is a division of [New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation](#).

This message pertains to a submission for a consultation project. Please see SHPO's [Environmental Review](#) web page for more information about the consultation process.

## **Why did I receive this email?**

The contact list for the project includes your email address, or you were the submitter of the unrequested submission.

## **What do I need to do?**

You do not need to take any action at this time. The unrequested submission is now under SHPO review as project submission 20PR02674.013.

## **What will happen next?**

SHPO will review the submission. If SHPO sends comments or questions in response to this submission, the project contacts will receive an email notification with a link to SHPO's correspondence.

## **What else can I do?**

Please see the following help topics for more information about unrequested submissions and projects in CRIS:

- [How do I check the review status of my project?](#)
- [How long does SHPO take to review projects?](#)
- [Submit New Information for an Existing Project](#)

## **Where can I get help?**

Please visit the CRIS Online Help System: <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/CRISHelp>

If you still have questions about CRIS, please contact CRIS Help at [CRISHelp@parks.ny.gov](mailto:CRISHelp@parks.ny.gov).

For any other questions, please call SHPO at 518-237-8643.