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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name **THE OLD STONE HOUSE LIBRARY**

other names/site number Shipman-Swift House

2. Location

street & number 36 George Street [ ] not for publication

city or town Fort Ann [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Washington code 115 zip code 12827

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** _X_ **local**

Ruth A Pierpont DSHPO 1/11/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

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

___ other (explain:)

for Edson N. Beall 3.6.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

- [ ] private
- [X] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	3	objects
1	4	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: STONE

roof: METAL

other: BRICK, GLASS, WOOD

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph
The Old Stone House Library, originally built as a dwelling for Hiram Shipman, is located on George Street in the Village of Fort Ann, Washington County, New York. This load-bearing masonry building with small rear wing was constructed ca. 1825 and assumed its current civic function in the early 1920s. The building's two-story stone main block was distinguished by its five-bay façade, the locally quarried stone which composes this elevation having been laid up in regular courses with splayed lintels spanning the first-floor windows and an elliptical arch defining the primary entrance. It was erected with Potsdam sandstone from what is termed the Keeseville Member, drawn from a nearby quarry. A single-story frame ell, truncated from its previous extent, extends from the rear, or east elevation, of the building. Although converted to a public function in 1922, the building nevertheless remains in large measure interpretable to its earlier nineteenth-century domestic manifestation, when it was occupied by the Shipman family and in later years the Swift family. As originally built, the main block's interior was spatially organized on a pile-and-half first and second story plan characteristic of the early nineteenth century, with additional space afforded by a basement kitchen in the stone block and a rear wing. Finish work was characteristic of the prevailing Neoclassical taste of that period as interpreted locally. Intact first-phase Federal style features include the principal staircase; a wood mantel, along with its associated Rumford-type brick firebox; and areas of plaster on split-board lath and moulded wood trim. Alterations, notably the installation of replacement windows, the addition of an entrance porch, and the truncation of the service wing, have diminished the building's physical integrity to some extent; nevertheless, the building's original domestic characteristics can still be largely understood, and it retains any number of significant, character-defining features.

Narrative Description
The nominated building is located on the east side of George Street, or U.S. Route 4, and is situated north of Elizabeth Street, south of Ann Street (Route 149), and west of South Canal Street. Route 4 provides communication with Whitehall to the north and Hudson Falls to the south; Route 149 follows a southwesterly alignment from Fort Ann before eventually meeting Route 9 south of Lake George, in Warren County. The section of Fort Ann in which the library is located is characterized primarily by residential properties, the majority of which are of nineteenth-century age and which were aligned in close proximity to the road and oriented with their facades in relation to it. The nominated building was sited in order to allow its five-bay façade to front on the road; the ridge of the building's gable roof is aligned on a roughly north to south axis, parallel with the road and the building's longer east and west elevations. The associated parcel of land on which the library is situated is flat and planted with grass, with a few scattered trees located behind the building. It is rectangular in shape and includes .74 acres of land. A flagstone sidewalk aligns the front of the building and from it extends two walkways; one approaches the main entrance, while the other continues past the north gable end to access a wheelchair ramp, which provides access to the building via the rear ell. Two signs, a flagpole and a book return box are present in front of the building.

The Old Stone House Library consists of the masonry main block and a small rear frame ell. The load-bearing walls of the front section were formed of locally quarried Potsdam, or quartzite, sandstone and measure 20" thick above foundation level. This two-story section has a rectangular footprint and was erected above a raised basement that originally contained cooking facilities. The west facing facade is five-bays wide and the east elevation three bays wide; the north and south gable ends are blind. Nineteen regular courses of dressed stone were used to lay up the façade, along with three visible courses of stone corresponding with the raised basement. This coursing is consistent on the façade and north and south gable ends, with regular coursing of smaller-scale units used to form the gable fields. Splayed lintels are incorporated into the stone course which corresponds with the tops of the first-story windows. As for the stone that forms the rear wall, it was laid in a

random-range pattern with less attention paid to employing square and rectangular-shaped ashlar units. The stonework exhibits a range of hues but is largely defined by gray-blue, amber and tan tones; many of the ashlar units display the wavy surface texture characteristic of this type of stone. Multiple periods of pointing are evident. Iron anchor ties, present on the north and south elevations, serve to keep the interior frame flush with the masonry envelope. The gable roof, which is of medium pitch, is covered with standing-seam metal which replaced an earlier slate roof; the first-phase roof was wood shingle.

The façade has a total of thirteen windows—four windows at first-story level and five at second-story level, in addition to the four smaller windows which bring light into the basement—which, along with the main entrance, constitutes this elevation's fenestration. The first and second story window apertures are fitted with replacement sash in a six-over-six light configuration; the basement windows are also replacements and partly concealed behind lattice-work panels. Early photographs of the facade depict the larger windows as fitted with six-over-six wood sash and flanked by louvered shutters; the basement apertures are largely hidden from view by the shutters, though fitted with a similar window type. The entrance, now shielded beneath a non-historic porch, consists of a glazed-and-paneled Late Victorian-era door, which is flanked by two narrow sidelights composed of four lights each. Four plain pilasters define the spacing of the door and sidelights. Though now concealed beneath the roof of the porch, the entrance was at one time spanned by an elliptical panel above which is a stone arch of like form; "OLD STONE HOUSE LIBRARY" was once painted in this panel with black lettering against a white field, and the date "1825" was inscribed on the keystone. The west wall is terminated by an unmoulded fascia and moulded cornice which is not original to ca. 1825 but instead dates to the Greek Revival period, ca. 1840; the cornices appears to have contained built-in gutters. The fascia and corresponding cornice are terminated by returns on the north and south gable elevation, where there is additionally a section of raking moulding carried up the gables.

The north and south elevations are identical in conception; both lack fenestration and are embellished only by their respective cornice returns and raking mouldings. The north elevation retains its brick chimney, which is centered on the roof ridge and set nearly flush with the stone wall; the south chimney has been removed below the roofline though its remnant remains visible in the attic.

The wing extends from the rear elevation and is recessed some ten feet from the north stone wall of the main block. Given the evidence of the 1830 map in depicting the early configuration of the rear wing, the existing window on the rear wall of the main block, north of the ell, was likely the position of an earlier door. A covered stair now allows for basement access from grade below this window. The ell has a metal roof, novelty siding, and, in addition to the door corresponding with the ramp, two small windows and a second door on the south elevation.

The interior plan of the main block was originally predicated on a pile-and-a-half layout, with additional floor space contained in the wing which extended from behind the rear north room. The main block's plan is intact on the north side of the hallway; however, on the south side of the hall, it was altered to provide for two more evenly scaled rooms. It is not currently known whether this was an alteration made prior to 1922 and the building's initial use as a library and community center, or whether it occurred earlier. The basement contained finished space originally, unlike the attic, which was left unfinished. The second floor contained larger front and smaller rear bedrooms. Communication between the basement, first and second floors is provided for by a single central staircase; a steep ladder allows for access to the attic from the second-floor stair hall. As for the space within the small ell, it functions as the children's room of the library.

The principal entrance leads into the center hall, against the north wall of which is the staircase. It is of an open stringer type and retains its original oval-profiled handrail, square balusters and square newel with pyramidal cap; the corresponding upper section, in the second-floor hall, is also intact. The hall retains plaster wall and ceiling finishes, in addition to moulded wood baseboards, chair rails and architraves. The front room to the north has centered, against its end wall, an original fireplace. The firebox, of a shallow Rumford type, and associated hearth are of brick construction. The mantel is of a Federal style type, fashioned from wood, and has attenuated paneled pilasters and a three-part frieze which gives way to the mantel shelf. It is flanked by shelving units. The room on the opposite side of the plan lacks a fireplace and instead has a chimney for a stove; the majority of the wall space is given over to shelving units. The room behind this, which functions as a workroom and kitchen, contains a bathroom and adjacent closet space against the south wall. The stairs to the basement are also located here.

The basement shows evidence of having been finished at the time it was a kitchen, with plaster on split-board lath panels set between the floor joists, which remained exposed, and plaster-and-lath on vertical board walls. In the southeast corner is an enclosure formed with brick, presumably a storage area constructed to be vermin proof; it appears to have been erected after the original building campaign. Against the north wall is the now-deteriorated remains of a kitchen hearth.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

ca. 1825- 1962

Significant Dates

ca. 1825; ca. 1845; ca. 1890; ca. 1922

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, ca. 1825- ca. 1962, begins with the erection of the building and continues to the 50-year cutoff mark in relation to its ongoing use as a local public library.

Criteria Considerations

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Old Stone House Library, built ca. 1825 as a house for Hiram Shipman, has since the early 1920s functioned as the public library for the community of Fort Ann, New York. It nevertheless remains among the foremost examples of early Champlain Canal-era domestic architecture in Fort Ann, Washington County, with interpretable features dating to that period of its history and its occupancy by the Shipman and later the Swift families. The building, locally distinguished by virtue of its use of cut Potsdam sandstone walls and Federal style ornamentation, was erected for Shipman, who operated a tannery and was a principal partner in the local firm of Pike & Shipman. It was subsequently owned by Willis Swift, Sr., who, like Shipman, was a Vermont native and similarly engaged in tanning and shoe manufacturing industries based in Fort Ann. The building's history as a domicile ended in 1922. It was at that time that it was purchased from the heirs of the Swift family by George Owen Knapp, who donated it to the public for use as a community center and library. Knapp, a founding member and the first president of the Union Carbide Company, developed a large estate adjacent to Lake George and ranks among the foremost historic residents of Fort Ann; his purchase and donation of the building reflected his philanthropic interest in the community. The Old Stone House Library is being nominated at the local significance level in association with Criterion A, in the area of education, for its nearly century-long history as a public library serving the Fort Ann community. It is additionally being nominated under Criterion C, in the area of architecture, as an interpretable example of Champlain Canal-era domestic architecture, and one which shares salient associations with two prominent nineteenth century Fort Ann families.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Context

Fort Ann contains all of the land associated with Washington County's so-called Artillery Patent, 1765, which was granted to Joseph Walton and 23 other British officers at that date. Much of that land, which corresponds with the southern portion of the current town, was subsequently acquired in 1773 by Colonel George Wray, an important figure in the early development of this locale. The area north of the present-day village contains the geographic feature which bears the name Battle Hill. It was there, in July 1777, that an important military engagement between British and American forces occurred, one which was of no small consequence to the ultimate defeat of British General John Burgoyne's forces at the Battle of Saratoga the following autumn. The history of the nominated building is closely associated with the early nineteenth century history of the region and transportation developments, notably the completion, in 1823, of the Champlain Canal, which provided direct communication between Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. The canal, which aligned the hamlet to the east of present-day George Street, provided an immediate economic boost to the region. The hamlet of Fort Ann was transformed by its completion into a bustling center of activity, and its fortunes were further augmented by the subsequent arrival of the Saratoga & Whitehall railroad some time later. Among the industries which were developed during the early nineteenth century was tanning, an enterprise which shares direct associations with two early occupants of the nominated building, prior to its being acquired by George Knapp for the civic use which it continues to satisfy today. Fort Ann was formed as a township in 1786 and was originally known as Westfield. Prior to assuming its current extent, in 1806, it contained within its bounds the present-day towns of Putnam, Dresden and Hartford.

The nominated building was erected ca. 1825 for Hiram Shipman (1793-1847).[1] Shipman, who was engaged in local manufacturing and industrial enterprises, was born in the Montpelier area of Vermont and was residing in Fort Ann by the time the 1820 Federal census was recorded. He was the second son of Abraham Shipman (1764-1835), a native of Saybrook, Connecticut and veteran of the American Revolution, and Annis Rice (1763-

[1] "Fort Ann now has a Community House," *Salem Press*, 24 February 1922; "Mr. Knapp recently bought the old stone house, which was built by Hiram Shipman in 1825, from the heirs of Willis Swift, the owner for half a century."

1809), both of whom are buried in Northfield, Vermont. By the time of the 1830 Federal census the Shipman household, the nominated building, contained nine individuals. Among these was Hiram Shipman's wife, Mary Ann T. Bush, or Ter Bosch (1804-1836), the daughter of Lemuel T. Bush, a local farmer of Holland Dutch ancestry.[2] Shipman operated the first tannery at Fort Ann, which was located "across the [Champlain] canal, where the house of Myron Ingalsbe stands, but was removed soon after the canal was completed to the location where the present one is now situated."[3] Shipman was afterwards a partner in the firm of Pike & Shipman, which counted tanning and shoemaking among its principal endeavors. His partner, Matthias A. Pike, resided in an adjacent residence at the time of the 1830 census; Pike's wife, Sarah T. Bush Pike, was presumably a sister of Shipman's wife.[4]

An 1830 survey map prepared for the Champlain Canal shows the nominated house and an unidentified structure to the south under the ownership of Hiram Shipman; to the immediate north is a second dwelling, presumably that of Pike, which is shown on a parcel identified as "Pike & Shipman."[5] Two buildings are situated on the opposite side of the canal, across from the Shipman parcel, and given the 1894 description may well represent the original tannery location prior to its being moved to the west side of the canal prism. The 1866 Stone & Stewart atlas map of the village indicates a tannery on the adjacent property to the north of the house, behind the dwelling owned at that time by F.L. Brayton; it was accessible by a lane that ran between the two residential properties. The tannery building was demolished some time between 1909 and 1928, as indicated by Sanborn fire insurance maps.

Hiram Shipman served as a justice of the peace for Fort Ann in 1833. Three years earlier, in 1830, he was involved in a highly publicized trial conducted in Fort Ann, Calvin Cook vs. Harvey Cook, which related to the anti-Masonic excitement of that day.[6] Among his children was Hiram Abraham Shipman, Jr., who was born in 1834 and became an orphan at the age of 14, when Shipman, Sr. died, his wife Mary having predeceased him. Shipman, Jr., "an expert mine inspector who traveled extensively in two continents," journeyed by way of the Panama Isthmus to California in 1852 and there gained his first experience in the mining industry; he also served a brief stint as a bodyguard for Abraham Lincoln.[7] He returned to Fort Ann later in life and married Sarah Dewey Pike. In 1840 Hiram Shipman was nominated on the anti-slavery Washington County Freeman's Ticket for the position of Washington County Sheriff.[8]

Shipman's occupancy of the house was somewhat brief and concluded by the early 1830s, as in 1831 ownership was transferred to Matthias Pike. From 1834 to 1844 the dwelling was owned by members of the Mann, Baker, Farr and Broughton families. In October 1844 it was purchased by Willis Swift, Sr. (1815-1886), a Vermont-born farmer who was, like Shipman, also engaged in the tanning industry. He was listed in the 1850 industrial census for Fort Ann as the owner of a tannery which produced sole leather for shoes, the same enterprise Shipman and Pike had been invested in. The 1860 Federal census noted Swift, Sr. as a 45-year old "Farmer & Currier" with $21,500 in real estate and an additional $4,000 in personal estate. The household at that time also included his wife, Henrietta, 47, their sons Willis, 19, and Julius, 16, both of whom worked with their father, and

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[2] Rita Shipman, Angela Shipman and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Shipman, *The Shipman Family in America* (The Shipman Historical Society, 1962), 354.

[3] *History and Biography of Washington County and the Town of Queensbury, New York* (Richmond, Indiana: Gresham Publishing Company, 1894), 196-97.

[4] N.B. Sylvester, *History of Saratoga County, New York* (Richmond, Indiana: Gresham Publishing Company, 1893), 291.

[5] "Champlain Canal Survey, Fort Ann showing Halfway Creek, Wood Creek and the Village of Fort Ann," 1830, New York State Archives, A0848-77, Canal System Survey Maps, 1832-1843, Map no. CHAM1-19.

[6] "From the Anti-Masonic Champion. The Fort Ann Trial," *Jamestown Journal*, 7 July 1830.

[7] *History and Biography of Washington County*, 196-97.

[8] *The Emancipator*, 5 November 1840.

three younger school-age children. There was additionally a Luther Swift, age 27, listed in the household, though he was not a child but instead a relation of some sort. In 1870 Swift listed his occupation as "Tanner & Currier" and claimed $5,000 in real estate and $14,000 in personal estate. His wife, Henrietta, was keeping house, and their two younger sons were still at home; of these two, James, by then 20 years old, was working as a "boatman." The Swift household in 1870 also included their second son, Julius, who was residing there with his wife, Sarah, in addition to Emma Sherburn, a domestic servant. Willis Swift, Jr. had by that time taken up accommodations in the house of Charles Lewis, a Fort Ann tinsmith, along with his wife, Ellen. Both Willis, Jr. and Julius were engaged, like their father, in the tanning and leather manufacturing business. Willis Swift, Jr. served in the Union Army during the Civil War in Company D of the 123rd New York. He enlisted in Fort Ann at the age of 21 in August 1862 to serve three years. Swift mustered in as a private on August 14, 1862, was promoted to first sergeant on September 4, 1862, and mustered in as second lieutenant on May 21, 1863. He survived the war and mustered out with the company on June 8, 1865 near Washington D.C.

In early 1922 the house was purchased by George Owen Knapp and given to Fort Ann for use as a community center and library:

> Mr. Knapp recently bought the old stone house, which was built by Hiram Shipman in 1825, from the heirs of Willis Swift, the owner for over half a century. . . He has also refitted it and supplied every modern convenience. The north side, with its fine old stone fireplace will be used for a rest room and community home, and is expected to be very popular not only with the village folks but with those driving in from the country. The south side is occupied by the library.[9]

Knapp was born in Hatfield, Massachusetts, in 1855. A founder and first president of the Union Carbide Company, he was an exceptionally prominent figure in Fort Ann in the early twentieth century. Knapp developed a substantial estate in the Shelving Rock area of Fort Ann and there amassed land holdings amounting to some 7,500 acres, with ten miles of Lake George frontage. In 1908 he erected a large dwelling which communicated with the lake shore via a railway system, which conveyed his guests to the main house; many of these guests had traveled to the railroad station in Lake George and from there were transported to the east side of the lake by boat. The property was developed at great cost, with 30 miles of carriage roads, gardens, and wayside embellishments, and included within its bounds Black Mountain. Knapp, who first visited the area in the 1890s, developed the property in the first decade of the twentieth century; most of this vast estate was later sold to New York State and incorporated into the Adirondack Forest Preserve.[10] Though the main house burned in 1917, Knapp had a new edifice erected and was still listed as a resident of Shelving Rock in the 1925 State census.

Descendants of George Knapp indicated that his acquisition and donation of the library was based on a sincere appreciation for the community and the many employees from the area who worked for him. John Stiles, who was employed at the Knapp estate from 1907 to 1957, recalled the tremendous excitement that was generated by consequence of Knapp's gesture, as the Fort Ann community would have its own public library for the first time.[11]

Architectural Context

When erected for Hiram Shipman, the nominated building was one of a small number of prominent cut-stone dwellings in the Fort Ann area; it was one of only two which had its exterior photo-documented by the

[9]"Community House."
[10]Hal Burton, "Shelving Rock's Splendid Secret," The Scene/Lake George, *LIFE*, 20 October 1967.
[11]"Library Marks Anniversary," *Post-Star and Times* (Glens Falls), 15 November 1972.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in the 1930s.[12] It was, like those erected of brick in this era, among a small minority of masonry buildings in a county where frame construction predominated. The form of the building relates to established period types: a two-story main block with five-bay façade and center entrance, built on a pile-and-a-half plan, this principal section augmented with a rear wing. The 1830 map, in addition to a second survey map of that year, indicates the wing was of a different configuration then depicted on the Sanborn maps of 1909 and 1928, and larger.[13] On the earlier maps it is shown as having two parts; that section nearest the stone part had its roof ridge parallel to the main part, as per one of these maps, and from it extended a second smaller ell with ridge perpendicular to the other sections. The north wall of the larger section is shown flush with that of the stone section. By the time of the Sanborn maps the wing is shown as being of different configuration, and it has since been truncated to its current extent.

The two-story, gable-ended house type, erected on a rectangular-plan with center entrance and corresponding hall, emerged as a patent domestic form in New England during the later eighteenth century and was a preeminent vernacular housing form during the popularity of the Federal style in rural New York. This type supplanted other traditional forms, among them one and two-story center chimney dwellings, and redefined the disposition of interior space. By removing the massive central chimney mass from the center of the plan a transverse through-passage could be employed, with the corresponding relocation of the hearths to the end walls. An early example of this type in Washington County is the Edmund Wells house near Cambridge, erected in the later 1780s and built of brick. Unlike the Shipman house, the Wells house was built on a single-pile, or one-room deep, plan, though it appears to have had a rear lean-to at one time that provided for an additional range of rooms across the rear. The pile-and-a-half plan such as that used for the Shipman house was more characteristic of the first quarter of the nineteenth century, by which time the use of ells had become increasingly commonplace. In the Shipman dwelling the kitchen facilities were located in the basement although the building also had a rear wing as indicated on the 1830 map. In some variations of this general type the kitchen was located in the wing.

The building's erection with cut stone relates it to a small group of roughly contemporaneous buildings in the Fort Ann area. Among these is the stone dwelling further north on George Street which, along with the nominated building, was documented in the 1930s by HABS. It was built in 1821 and also employed stone sourced from a quarry in the vicinity. While erected with like stone and in similar fashion, that building was instead conceived and built to present its gable elevation, within which the primary entrance was centered, to the road, and was embellished in the gable field with a semi-circular fanlight and two quarter round windows; the latter features were partially obscured by mid-nineteenth century cornice. Regardless of differences in form, the two buildings, erected within a span of less then five years, may well represent the efforts of a single master mason active in the region at the time. Both featured Federal-period details representative of the work of a carpenter-joiner. The staircase of the Shipman house, with its oval handrail and delicate square balusters, relates to any number of period examples in the immediate area, among these the Dayton house in Middle Granville. These two stone houses, along with the three-story brick commercial building at the corner of George and Depot streets, are among the best surviving architectural representations of Fort Ann's early nineteenth century development. The nominated building and the brick commercial building post-date the completion of the Champlain Canal and as such form important architectural manifestations of that era of Fort Ann's history.

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[12]Documentation post-1933,"Old Stone House (Library)," HABS NY, 58-FORA, 3-; "Stone House," HABS NY, 58-FORA, 2-.

[13]"Village of Fort Ann," canal survey map dated July & August 1830 and noted as no. 32; this map is on display in the Old Stone House Library hallway.

The Fort Ann area is, geologically, marked by the presence of a number of stone formations which offered abundant opportunities to quarry various types of granite, sandstone, limestone and slate. Anecdotal tradition indicates that the stone for the Shipman house came from a small quarry on Dewey's Bridge Road, on property at one time owned by Robert Sherman. That property, owned earlier in its history by the Osborne family, also includes a house erected with stone quarried on the property. Quartzite or Potsdam sandstone, which in this region underlies calciferous sandstone, is present in Washington County in the region between Whitehall and Fort Ann; it is a hard silicious stone which could be quarried somewhat effectively but was nevertheless difficult to dress and was not extensively employed in the region.[14]

The facility was renovated at the time of its acquisition and again ca. 1964-65. At some point in the later 1930s the community house concept was abandoned and the building instead functioned solely as a library with residential quarters for the librarian.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

N/A

[14] *State of New York, No. 150, February 17, 1841*, 101-03. Reports relative to a geological survey of the State as transmitted to the New York State Assembly.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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"Fort Ann now has a Community House" in *Salem Press* (24 February 1922).

"From the Anti-Masonic Champion. The Fort Ann Trial" in *Jamestown Journal* (7 July 1830).

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State of New York, No. 150, February 17, 1841.

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Sylvester, N.B. *History of Saratoga County, New York.* Richmond, Indiana: Gresham Publishing Company, 1893.

"Village of Fort Ann," canal survey map dated July & August 1830 and noted as no. 32; collection of the Old Stone House Library.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
_X_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey **#HABS NY, 58-FORA, 3-**
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .74 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	622429	4807703	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description
The boundary is shown on the enclosed maps, entitled "Old Stone House Library, Fort Anne, Washington County, New York."

Boundary Justification
The boundary coincides with the current tax parcel for the property; all of this land is associated with the nominated property during the cited period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger

organization New York State Division for Historic Preservation date September 2012

street & number Peebles Island State Park, PO Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Photographs (TIFF format) by William E. Krattinger, December 2011

0001 Exterior, north elevation and façade, view looking roughly south
0002 Exterior, south elevation and façade, view looking roughly north
0003 Exterior, rear elevation and ell, view looking roughly west
0004 Interior, view of principal staircase showing newel post, balusters, handrail and stringer
0005 Interior, north parlor, view showing Rumford firebox and Federal-style mantel
0006 Interior, north chamber second floor, view showing plaster wall and ceiling surfaces and window casing

Property Owner:

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

name Town of Fort Ann, c/o Gayle Hall, Supervisor

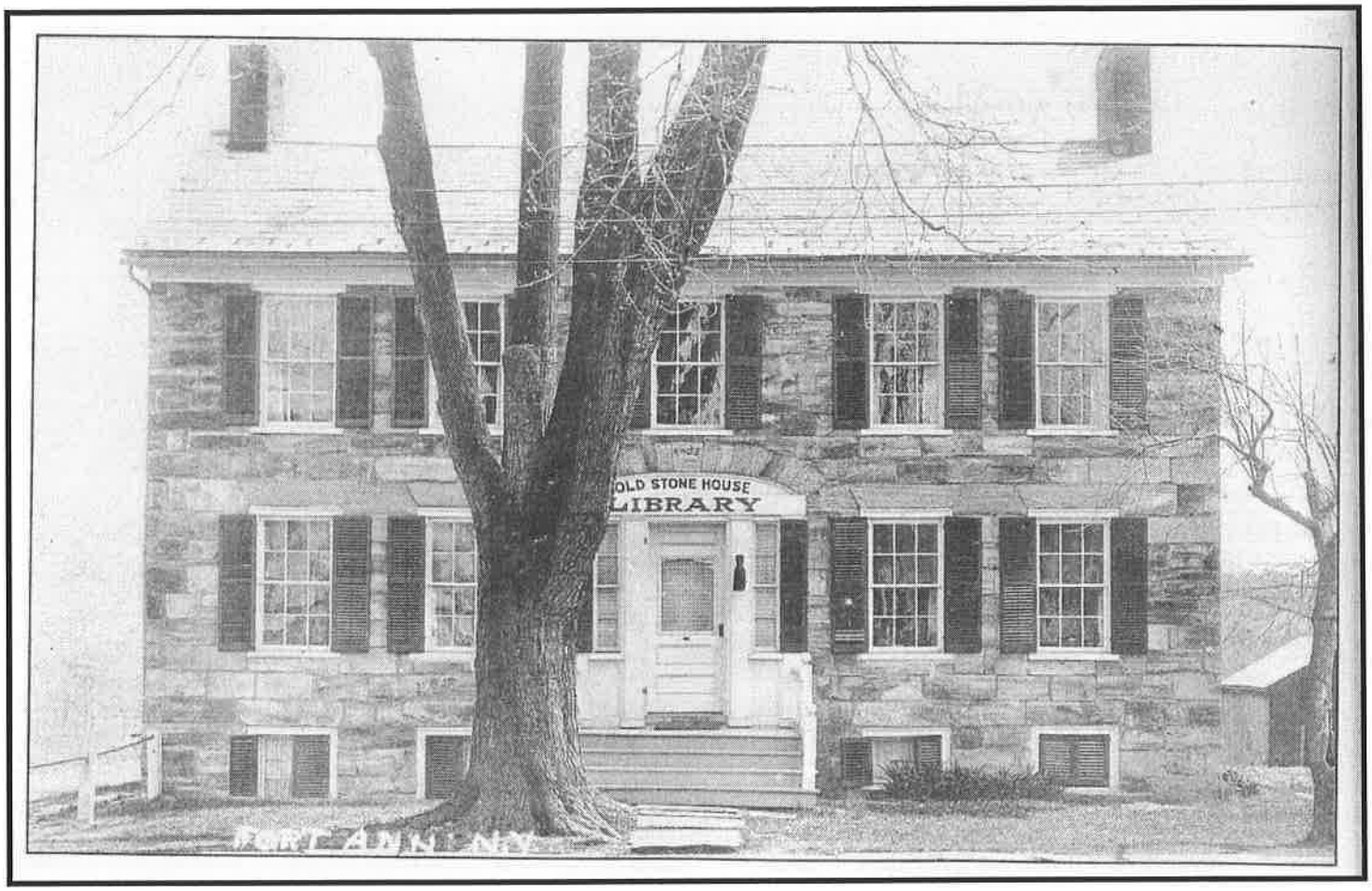
street & number 80 George Street telephone

city or town Fort Ann state NY zip code 12827

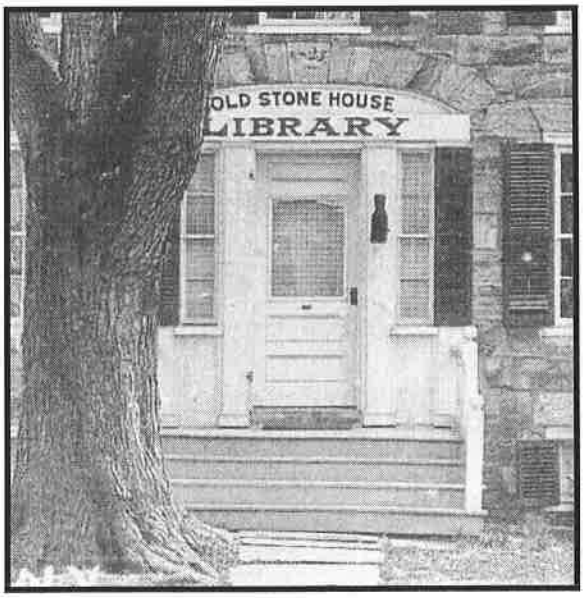
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

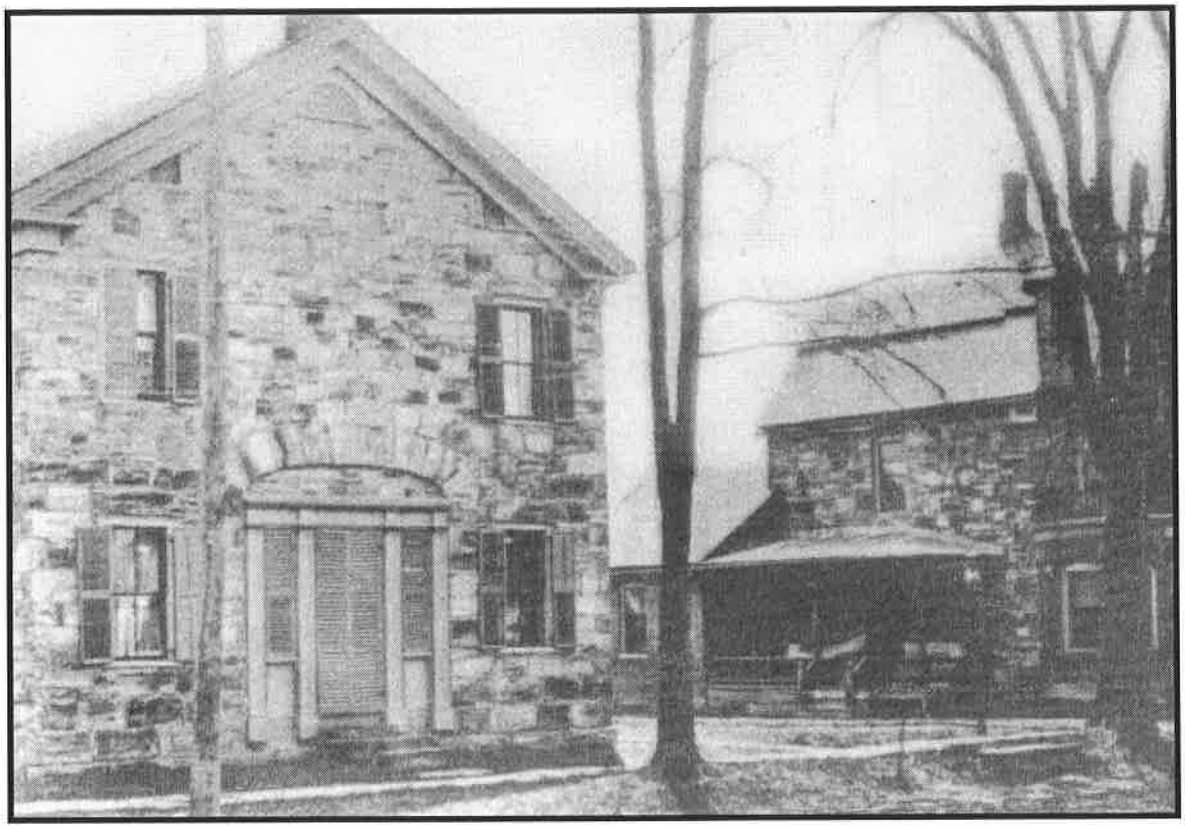
APPENDIX

Historic Images & maps

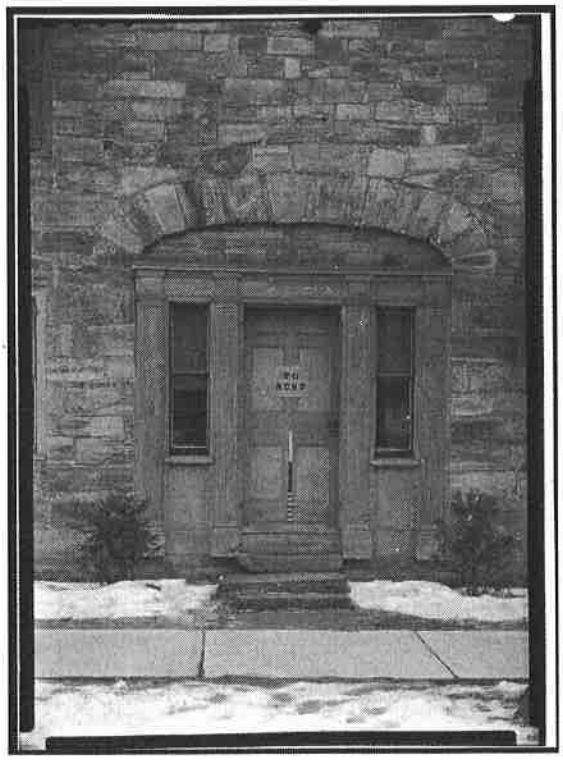


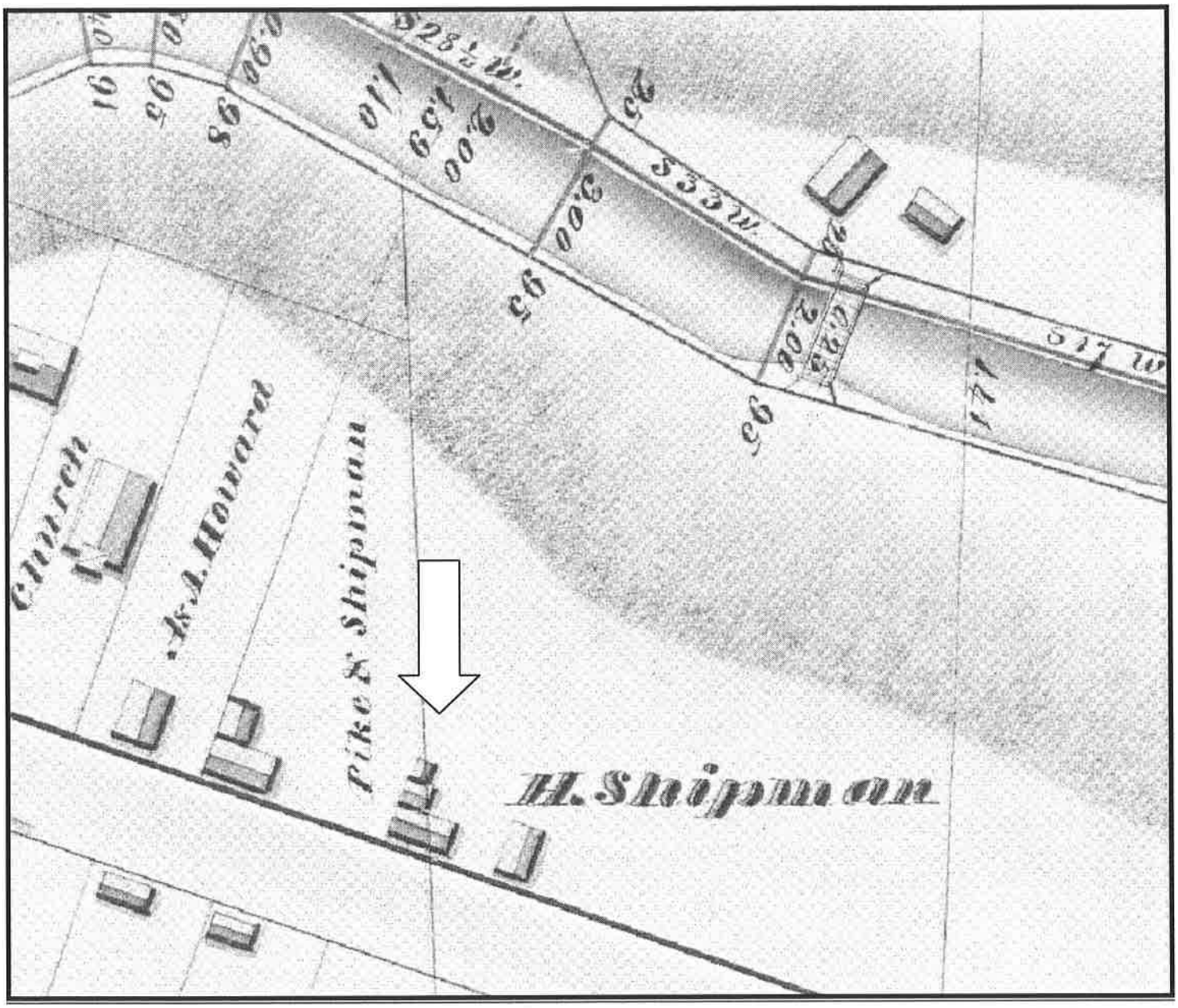
ABOVE & BELOW, historic view of library, post-1922



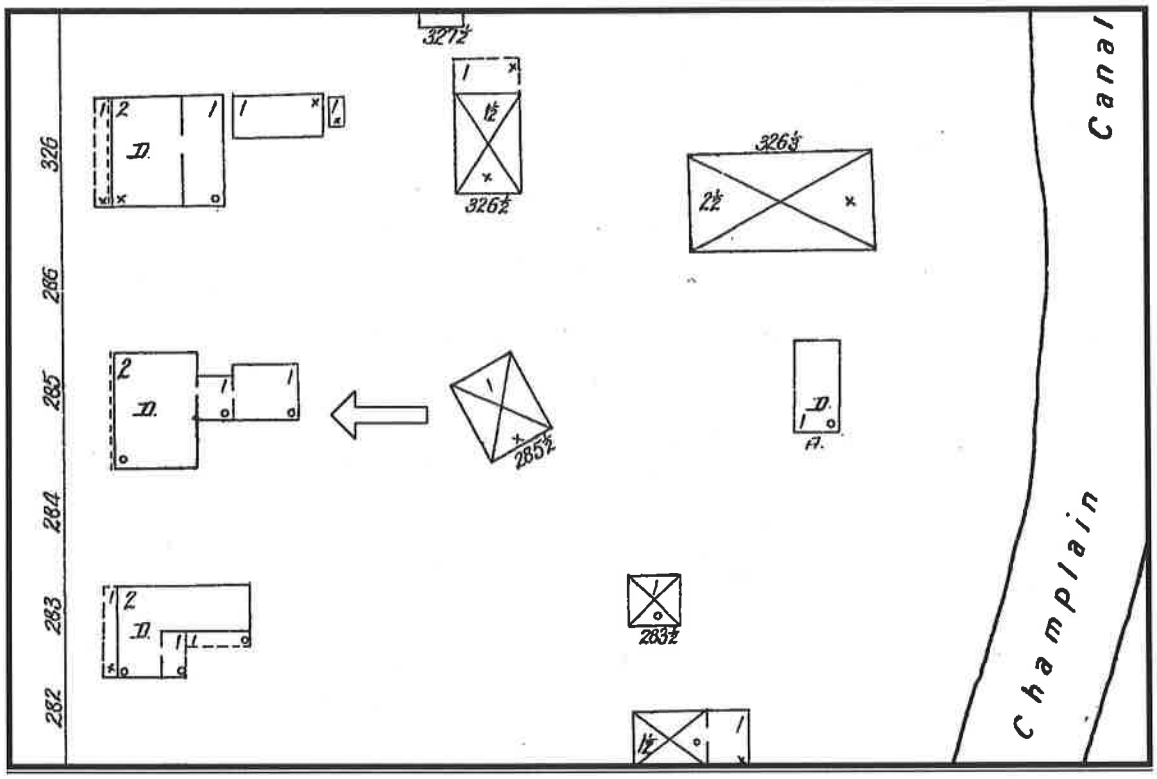


ABOVE & BELOW, images of a second stone house in Fort Ann, built ca. 1821; the view below is from HABS documentation, ca. 1930s

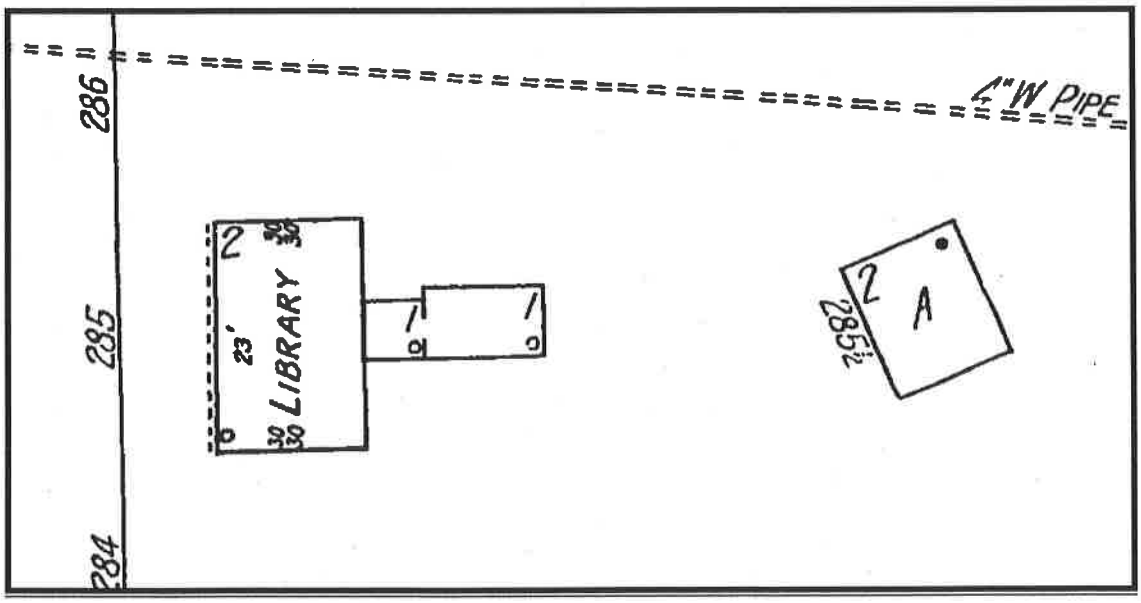




ABOVE, 1830 Champlain Canal survey map; house is indicated by arrow, along with unidentified building to right; to the left is the Pike & Shipman parcel. The buildings at the top of the map may represent the original tannery location prior to its removal to the parcel shown here as "Pike & Shipman."

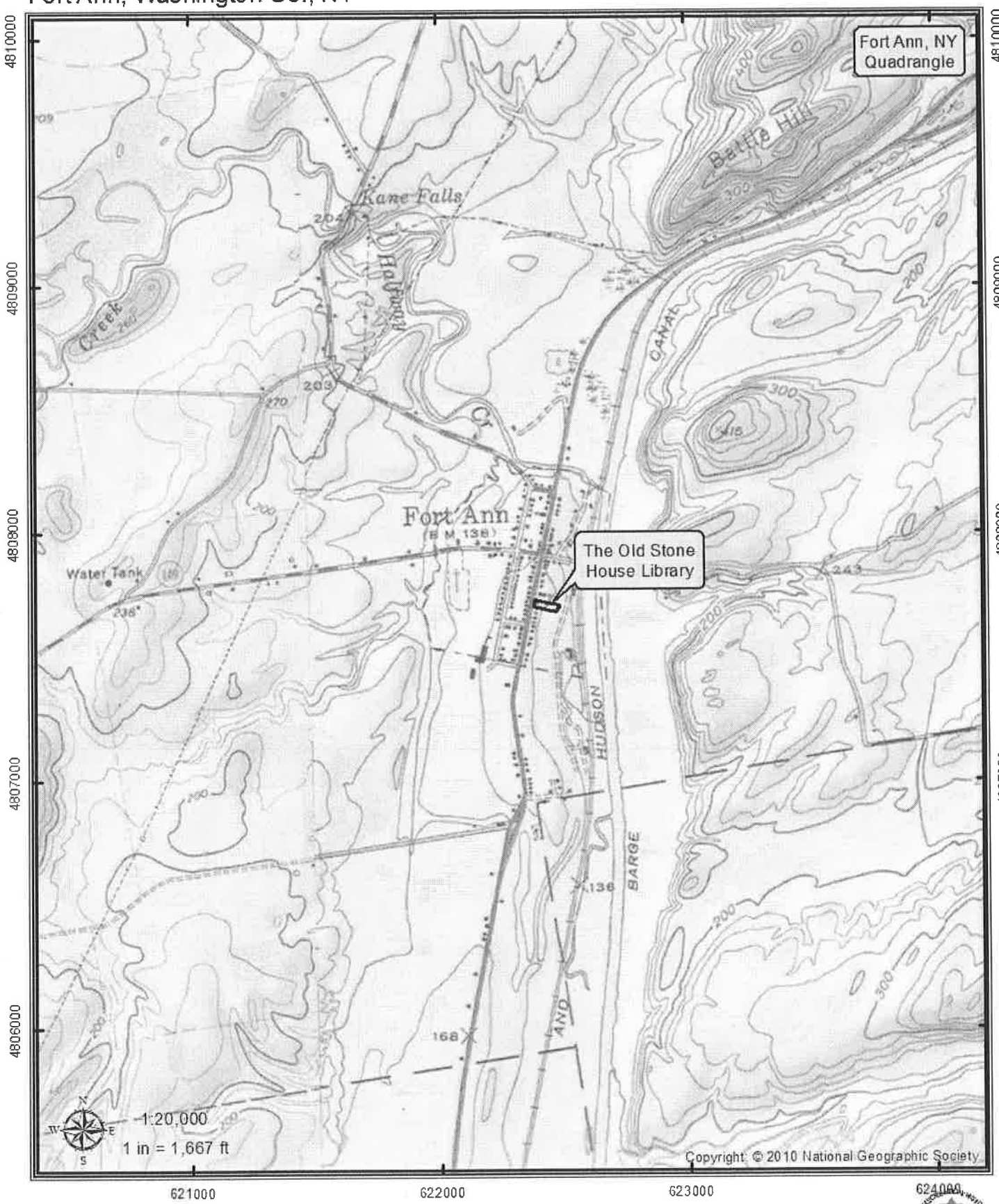


ABOVE, 1909 Sanborn map, building at middle left, tannery at top right; BELOW, 1928 Sanborn map, building with auto garage at rear



The Old Stone House Library
Fort Ann, Washington Co., NY

36 George Street
Fort Ann, NY 12827



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

Feet
0 550 1,100 2,200

Old Stone House Library

Tax Parcel Data:
Washington Co. GIS
http://gis.co.washington.ny.us

The Old Stone House Library
Fort Ann, Washington Co., NY

36 George Street
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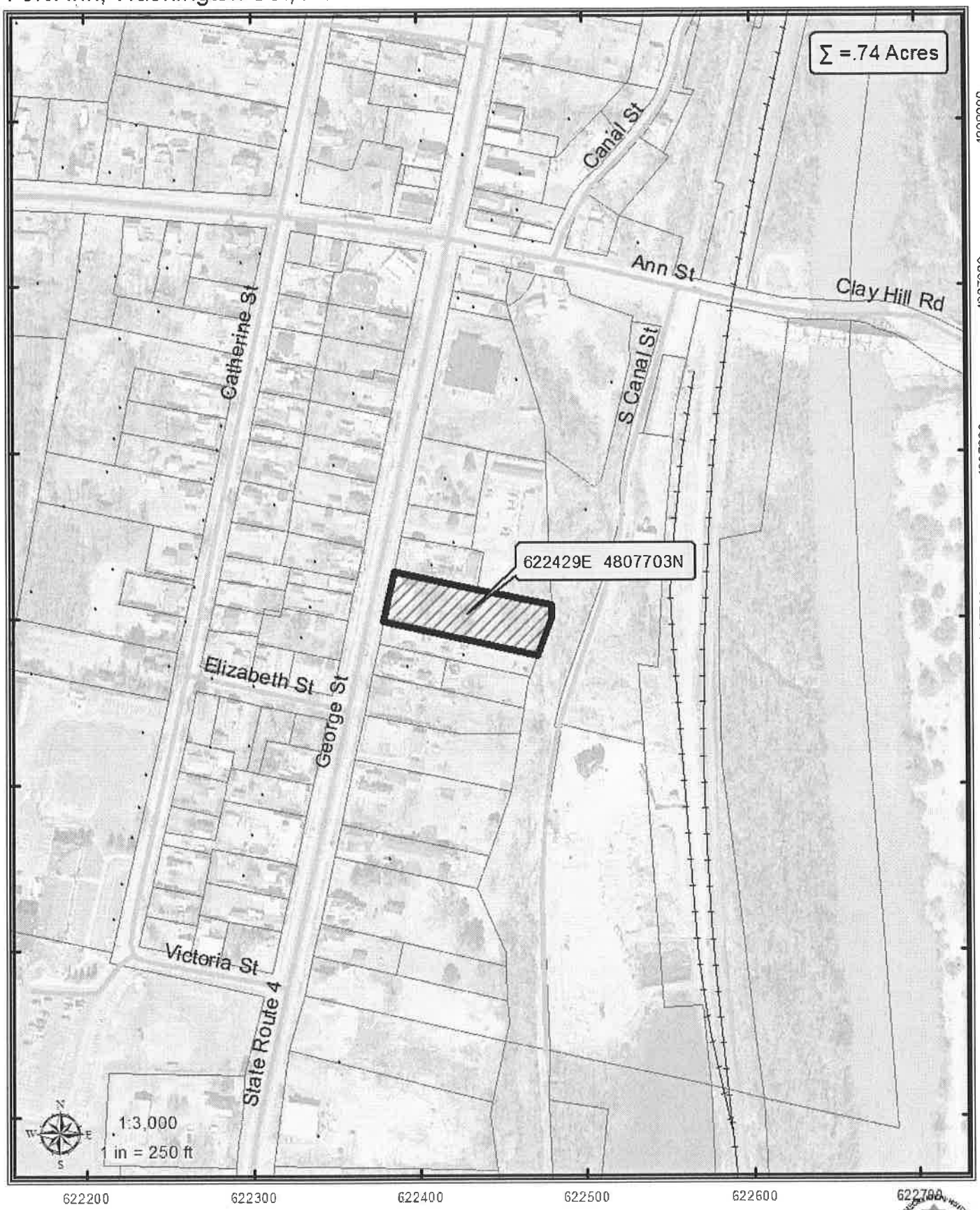

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

Feet
0 85 170 340

Old Stone House Library

Tax Parcel Data:
Washington Co. GIS
http://gis.co.washington.ny.us

LIBRARY

James A. Michener
The Novel
texas Charm

Proctor-Silex