



360

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Auclair-Button Farmstead

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 80 Auclair Way

not for publication

city or town Melrose

vicinity

state New York code 083 county Rensselaer code 09 zip code 12121

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national  statewide  local

Ruth A. Purpant DSHPO 4/10/13  
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:)

Edson W. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

6-5-13  
Date of Action

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	5	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
12	5	<b>Total</b>

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

Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown, New York

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC, single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE, storage
- AGRICULTURE, agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE, animal facility
- AGRICULTURE, agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC, single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE, agricultural field
- VACANT, not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- EARLY REPUBLIC
- MID-19th CENTURY
- OTHER: vernacular

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: stone, concrete
- walls: wood, concrete block, metal
- roof: slate, asphalt shingle, metal
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

**Summary**

The Auclair-Button Farmstead is located in a fairly narrow, nearly north-south running valley (about 580' above sea level) in the Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County. The nomination encompasses the land that formed the Button farm from the 1790s through 1967, when the Auclairs purchased the farm and added more adjacent land to the property. The historic boundary coincides with the current boundary on the east and the current south line east of Button Rd. On the north it can be picked out in a prominent break between open land and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

woods. On the west boundary, a similar break between open land and woods runs north from Button Rd to the historic north line. About 175 acres of the approximately 210-acre historic property is open land planted in corn and hay; the remainder is wooded. Three unnamed watercourses descend the valley and meet below the property's outbuildings.

Except for the tenant house, all other buildings on the Auclair-Button Farm stand on the west side of a private road called Auclair Way, which now ends near the main house at its junction with the farm drive. Until 1980, this route—formerly part of Button Rd, a town highway—continued north through the property to Cushman Rd. Old Button Rd, a short dead end road north of the property and running south from Cushman Rd was once the north end of the highway. Button Rd is now rerouted to wrap west of the valley and the historic Button Farm. The farm drive diverges northwest from Auclair Way at a point south of the tenant house and passes the large dairy barn built in 1980 on the right and a slightly older cattle and hay barn on the left. The drive then runs north between the historic buildings—the corn crib on the left and a trio of barns arranged in an east-facing U-plan yard—on the right. Just beyond that, the drive turns east, passing south in front of the stable, hen house, and main house. It then crosses a culvert over a stream and meets the top end of Auclair Way.

The historic period outbuildings all stand west and southwest of the house. The horse and dairy barns face each other at the bend in the drive. The hen house is east of the horse barn, and the milk house stands next to the dairy barn's east gable wall. Two older and smaller barns form the south and west sides of a U-shaped, east-facing yard sheltered on the north side by the dairy barn. The south barn of the group is called the shop barn; the western barn is the sheep barn. Additional smaller outbuildings include a corn crib west of the drive and a garage and ice house east of the house.

---

### Building List

**House** (80 Auclair Way, built in phases, possibly beginning ca.1785; main block built 1849, contributing): The two-story, side-gabled, five-bay, frame house stands on a slightly raised site. A shed-roofed and screened open porch spans the front façade. The current porch replicates an earlier one, which was probably added ca.1900, when the center entrance was updated with a slightly recessed door casing incorporating paneled side walls, sidelights, and a single door with a single glazed upper panel. This doorway and door are made of oak with a clear finish. The beadboard ceiling of the porch roof is probably of similar date, but the posts and railing are recent replacements. The house retains its regular period fenestration plan, but the sash are all replaced, mostly with one-over-one aluminum ones. These are flanked by louvered vinyl shutters. The house retains partial returns and corner pilasters on the main block, wood clapboard siding, and an asphalt shingle roof. An interior brick chimney is located at the east gable end of the main block. The house suffered a fire in 1993, and the interior is largely remodeled with an open plan. During this renovation, the back ell was raised to two stories. Otherwise, the house retains the form, massing, and location of its historic appearance.

**Garage associated with main house** (built ca.1930, contributing): The garage is a small, single-bay, frontal-gable frame building with clapboard siding and a slate roof. It has corner boards and narrow frieze boards as well as a decorative full return made of matching stock. It is lit by paired six-light sash in the eave walls.

**Icehouse** (built ca.1900; contributing): A gable-roofed frame icehouse faces the east side of the back ell of the house across the house driveway. A later shed-roofed, frame addition abuts the north long wall of the ice house. The building retains wood clapboard siding.

**Tenant house** (built ca.1805-40; contributing): The tenant house, now on a separate 1.3-acre parcel, is included

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

in this nomination. It is a small, frame house composed of a low one-and-a-half-story, three-bay, side-gabled main block (built ca.1805-40); a single-story, gabled back ell (added during nineteenth century) centered on the back wall of main block; and a taller, one-and-a-half-story side-gabled wing (built post-1960) added to its south gable wall. Open deck porches built of dimensional lumber span the front of the main block and the south side of the wing. A gabled dormer window with paired openings, probably an early twentieth century addition, projects from the front roof face of the main block. The house retains a generally regular fenestration plan, but most sash are one-over-one vinyl replacements; there are single-light casements in the wing. The back ell retains older wood sash with three vertical lights in upper sash over single-light lower ones. These are probably of similar date to the dormer window in the main block, as well as interior finishes including a staircase and doors. Louvered vinyl shutters flank most openings. The center entrance in the front of the main block has a recently replaced door; sliding doors open from the south wall of the wing onto the porch deck. The house has vinyl siding. The main block and back ell rest on stone foundations; the wing is on a poured concrete one. A brick chimney is located on the ridgeline of the ell.

**Garage associated with tenant house** (built ca.1930, contributing): This single-story, side-gabled, frame outbuilding is southeast of the tenant house. It has wood siding and horizontally sliding doors made up of vertical boards placed in west eave wall. It stands on a concrete block foundation.

**Garage associated with tenant house** (built ca.1965, non-contributing): This single-story, frontal-gable, frame outbuilding is located south of the tenant house and southwest of the older garage. It has clapboards made of a laminated material and upward sliding doors in the north gable wall. This garage stands on a poured concrete foundation.

**Shop barn** (built 1810-1830; contributing): The shop barn is a three-bay, gable-roofed building with a hewn frame, sawn braces and studs, and common pole rafters. It now has a poured concrete floor and its extant sills rest on concrete footers. The sill on the west gable wall, where a single large upward sliding door opens, was partially removed to accommodate the building's most recent use as a shop. Two vertically oriented six-light sash are placed in the east gable wall on the main floor of the barn. The barn has a footprint with rough 3:4 proportions and large paired doors in the center bay of the north eave wall. These are covered by later wallboard hung on dimensional lumber studs. Crossbeams at waist height on the center two bents, now cut out, may have served as rails flanking a central threshing floor. This barn has fairly wide wood clapboards laid up with neither corner nor frieze boards. The barn appears to have been retrofitted as a shop around the turn of the twentieth century; later still, it housed cows in its east bay.

**Sheep barn** (built 1830-1850; contributing): The sheep barn is a narrow, four-bay, side-gabled frame building. Its southeast corner is now attached to the northwest corner of the shop barn to create an L-plan. The sheep barn has a hewn frame with sawn (up-and-down kerfs) braces and pole rafters. The mow was retrofitted for a hay track late in the nineteenth century, and a large door hinged along its bottom edge is located in the peak of the north wall to allow the building to be loaded from the outside using the hoist beam projecting from the peak overhead. At ground level, three of the four bays are open on the east long wall to allow animals to come and go. Two sliding doors open into the mow on the wall above. The sheep barn has horizontal board siding with corner boards and narrow frieze boards. The clapboards are nailed to studs, which may date to the barn's current location and relationship to the dairy barn. It has a slate roof laid over an older wood shingle roof visible from the interior of the mow.

**Dairy barn** (built 1901; contributing): The two-level, gable-roofed dairy barn encloses the north side of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

barnyard. The barn is built entirely of circular sawn lumber using traditional post-and-beam construction with a trussed roof system allowing a clear span wide enough to allow a hay harpoon free passage along the track hanging below the ridgeline. The foundation is banked to the west and south, with the west gable wall of the main block resting on mortared stone. The east wall is framed down to the basement floor. On the south and east sides, sliding doors enter the stanchion area of the barn. Six-light sash illuminate the basement from the south; windows with six-over-six wood sash are located in the east gable wall, two in the basement and two on the main floor. There are no windows on either the west or north walls. The mow is entered through two large sliding doors of vertical boards located on the north eave wall and accessed by poured concrete ramps. The slate roof is surmounted by a louvered cupola with a bracketed cornice and pyramidal roof. The dairy barn has wood novelty siding and a deep raking cornice. The framing to connect an exterior silo remains on the west gable wall. Inside the barn, in the second bay from the east end, a circular stave silo rises from the basement floor through the mow, where it was loaded from the main floor.

**Milk house** (built ca.1910; contributing): A square-plan milk house built of rusticated concrete blocks and capped by a pyramidal slate roof stands near the southeast corner of the dairy barn. A later frame addition partially obscures the original section of the milk house.

**Horse barn** (east section built ca.1820-40 and moved to present location ca.1900; west section built 1894; contributing): The horse barn stands on the far side of the drive from the dairy barn. It is composed of two post-and-beam buildings of different ages resting on a banked stone foundation also built in two phases. The joint between the two frame sections is evident on the outside as a break in the siding on the long walls marked by a vertical board. The interior framing reveals that the east half is an earlier wagon barn constructed of hewn main timbers. Based on the lumber preparation of the granary and corn crib in its upper story, this part of the building appears to have been retrofitted when was moved to its present location.

The west end of the building is constructed entirely of sawn lumber. Slip stalls with factory-made iron mesh dividers capping the stall walls and a grain room occupy the main floor. The hay mow above is open to the rafters. This part of the building was apparently constructed on the current, slightly banked stone foundation, and the older barn drawn up to it later as the yellow painted clapboard siding on the east wall of the newer building is protected by the older barn. The latter building has three wagon bays accessed through doors in the east gable wall: the outer bays have sliding doors and the center bay has paired ones on heavy strap hinges. Two hinged mow doors are set one above the other over the center door and flanked by windows with six-over-six wood sash in the upper story. Additional similar windows are spaced along the north eave wall of both sections and the south eave wall. The horse barn exterior is sided in clapboards of varying widths and roofed with corrugated sheet iron similar to that on the shop barn.

**Hen house** (built ca.1910; contributing): The hen house is a long, narrow, single-story, gable-roofed building on a mortared stone foundation. It has regularly spaced fenestration of seven windows with six-over-six wood sash along the south façade, a metal roof with metal ventilators, and wood novelty siding.

**Corn crib** (built ca.1900; contributing): A frame corn crib with outwardly sloping sides stands on the west side of the farm drive, opposite the shop barn and sheep barn. Its end walls are clad in clapboards, and the north gable end has a large door hung on hinges flanked by smaller ones. Another small door opens in the peak. All are made up of vertical boards. The crib rests on concrete piers and has a metal roof.

**Equipment shed** (built 1970; non-contributing): The equipment shed, or tractor barn, is a pole barn with metal siding. It is west of the corn crib on the far side of the creek.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

**Dairy barn** (built 1981; non-contributing): The dairy barn is a long, gable-roofed single-story building. Its ridgeline is oriented directly north-south to catch the prevailing breeze and to light the barn through regularly placed windows along its side walls. It is clad entirely in wood siding with a metal roof. The barn has a poured concrete floor and tie stalls.

**Cattle and hay barn** (built 1970s; non-contributing): The hay barn stands on the opposite side of the drive. This is a very large gable-roofed building with an identical orientation to the dairy barn. An open area divided into five fenced sections runs from the barn to the drive.

**House trailer** (placed 1993; non-contributing): A house trailer with vinyl siding stands southeast of the dairy barn built in 1981.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

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.)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca.1785-1960

Significant Dates

ca. 1785; ca. 1791, 1803-05, 1849, 1894, 1901

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

Surviving account books maintained by Simeon and Lyman Button suggest that the Auclair-Button Farmstead was under improvement by the Button family by ca.1791; it is possible that the oldest portion of the main house dates to the mid-1780s and predates the Button family's tenure. The period of significance extends to the 50-year mark to encompass continued agricultural use in historic buildings through this date. The buildings are now disused.

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

## Statement of Significance

### Summary Paragraph

The Auclair-Button Farmstead, located in the Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County, New York, satisfies National Register of Historic Places Criterion C as an intact and representative example of an historic farmstead in the Town of Pittstown. It is additionally significant under Criterion A, in the area of agriculture, for the historic agricultural activities undertaken there. This property is being nominated in association with the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) entitled "Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown, New York." The Auclair-Button Farmstead retains an intact assemblage of historic agricultural outbuildings and a house embodying characteristic construction features of the region during the cited period of significance and which exhibit distinctive and qualifying attributes as outlined in the associated MPDF context. Among the farmstead's contributing resources are two historic period houses, each with associated garages and one also associated with an ice house; a dairy barn, a horse barn, a hen house, a sheep barn, a shop barn, a corncrib, a milk house, and an equipment shed. Additional non-contributing resources include a second dairy barn, a hay barn, a second equipment shed, and a house trailer. These resources survive in an intact rural setting, which provides an appropriate context for this substantially intact Rensselaer County farm.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### Ownership of the Auclair-Button farmstead, ca.1790-2013

The Auclair-Button farmstead is located in the southwestern part of Pittstown in a section known historically as Sawyer's Second Tract. This irregularly shaped parcel of approximately 2,500 acres adjoined the Schaghticoke town line on its western boundary and the Brunswick town line, also the north line of Rensselaer Manor (a.k.a. Rensselaerwyck), on the south just west of the hamlet of Raymerstown. It remains unclear whether this tract was settled in the pre-Revolutionary period even though parts of Schaghticoke to the west, Cooksborough to the southwest, and Rensselaerwyck were occupied during that time. Simeon Button (1757-1836), the first documented owner of lands comprising the Auclair-Button farmstead, was among those New Englanders who moved west from Bristol County, Massachusetts, to Rensselaer County in the 1780s. Button was the son of Rufus Button and was born in Swansea. He married Ruth Eddy (1759-1855), daughter of Constant Eddy (d.1784 at New London, Connecticut) and Mary Winslow, also of Swansea, Massachusetts, on 27 June 1782.<sup>1</sup> It appears that they moved to Pittstown soon after as the birth of their eldest child, Betsey, was recorded there on 1 March 1783.<sup>2</sup>

At least two of Ruth Eddy's siblings also lived in Pittstown: brother Devotion (1734/37-1813/15) and sister Mary Eddy Spicer (1750-1828).<sup>3</sup> Devotion was probably among Constant and Mary's eldest children, while Ruth must have been among the youngest. Devotion and his brother-in-law Cyrus Spicer were both listed in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Genealogical information located using ancestry.com in 2010 searching for Simeon Button and members of the Eddy family. Quite a number of people, including several Quakers, came to Pittstown from the Bristol County in southeastern Massachusetts bordering Rhode Island.

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by current property owner, Walter Auclair, and published in his articles in the Pittstown Historical Society newsletter at [http://pittstown.us/historical\\_society/pittstown\\_historical\\_society.htm](http://pittstown.us/historical_society/pittstown_historical_society.htm).

<sup>3</sup> The birth and death dates of Simeon and Ruth Eddy Button are taken from gravestone records located at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/pittscem.htm>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

tax assessment compiled in the southerly part of the Schaghticoke district in October 1788.<sup>4</sup> Property values in the southerly part of the tax district suggest that many living there had well-established farms in comparison to the northeast section. The northwest section, adjacent to the Hoosick River and the Schaghticoke settlement share similarly high values, mainly among individuals with German and Dutch surnames. Those with English names like Eddy and Spicer were generally assessed for less, possibly because many were newcomers with few buildings and little cleared land. Simeon Button was not assessed in 1788. Eleven years later in 1799, he was assessed \$2.40 on \$2,242 of real estate and \$164 of personal estate.<sup>5</sup>

In the intervening decade, Simeon acquired property and established himself as a farmer of middling success relative to his neighbors. He was recorded as head of a household consisting of three males under age 16 (his sons Simeon Pitt (1786-1830), Jesse Loudon (1789-1840), and Lyman (1792-1869) and three females (his wife Ruth, daughter Betsey, and another female).<sup>6</sup> The household of Cyrus Spicer, Ruth's brother-in-law, with four men over age 16, one younger, and five females was listed five entries away. Her brother Devotion was listed as the head of household with four men, two boys, and two females.<sup>7</sup> An 1870 deed refers to a parcel of 160 acres with exceptions totaling 56 acres sold by Devotion Eddy to Stephen Ketcham, which is probably the farm numbering 100 acres owned by Simeon's descendants and recorded in the agricultural schedules of the state and federal censuses beginning in 1850.<sup>8</sup> Devotion, being about twenty years Simeon and Ruth's senior, may have helped them as well as a second sister, Mary, and her husband, Cyrus Spicer, get established in Pittstown. This might account for Simeon's absence in the 1788 tax assessment rolls; possibly they resided with Devotion or the Spicers for a period after arriving in Pittstown, part of Albany County until 1791. Reliance on family members amongst those who left home and established family ties behind was especially common among New Englanders throughout this period.

Simeon's appointment as a Justice of the Peace in Rensselaer County by Governor George C. Clinton on 29 September 1791 is probably a measure of his increased status as a respected member in the community.<sup>9</sup> In addition to being a justice, he also served as a lieutenant in the county militia beginning in 1791 and as a school commissioner from 1796.<sup>10</sup>

Alongside the ledger he kept for his accounts as a justice, Simeon's farm accounts from 1791 through ca.1830 survive. A notable proportion of these accounts detail his agreements with men and a few women who labored on his property from the early 1790s through the 1820s. Beginning about 1815, several of these laborers were recorded as "moving into my house," sometimes with their families. As part of the arrangement, these men

<sup>4</sup> Treasurer Assessment Rolls, SARA Collection 217, NYS Archives A-1201-78, Box 2, Folder 10. Transcription by Anita Lustenberger, CG, and Roger D. Joslyn, FASG. Copy located in Pittstown Historical Society Collection, Pittstown, New York.

<sup>5</sup> Assessment Roll of Real and Personal Estates in Pittstown, compiled by the Commissioners of Taxes, December 13, 1799. Transcription of manuscript in PHS collections made by Constance Kheel. Devotion Eddy, apparently in partnership with Tisdell, was assessed \$2.33 on \$2,800 real property and \$130 personal property. Cyrus Spicer (1751-1826) was apparently not assessed, even though he is buried in Pittstown.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/pittscem.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census. *Heads of Families at First Census of the United States taken in the Year 1790, New York* (Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1908): 32-33. Spellings for these three heads of household are Devotion Eady (Eddy), Simon Buller (Button), and Cyrus Spicar (Spicer).

<sup>8</sup> Parcel 1 of deed recorded at *Book of Deeds 1182/481*; 1870 reference is to 174/159. Ketcham is not recorded in either the 1788 or 1799 tax assessments. Subsequent deed references use format ##/##. All deeds references are located in Rensselaer County Clerk's Office, Troy, New York.

<sup>9</sup> Simeon Button, *Account Books*, two manuscript volumes, one mainly for farm accounts and one for accounts related to civil service. Private collection. Digital copy in collections of Pittstown Historical Society, Pittstown, New York. Subsequent references made to: Button, [page number]. Page references use Button's page numbers, which differ from the pagination of the digital version.

<sup>10</sup> Auclair, Pittstown Historical Society newsletter articles.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

paid rent. The credit accounts in foodstuffs suggest they maintained their own board at least part of the time. Abraham Walter worked under such an agreement from 1818 through 1820, when the census recorded him as the head of a separate household. This may indicate that he and his wife, who spent part of that year spinning and weaving for Button, lived in a second house still standing within the compass of the historic property. The same census also records two slaves under Button's roof: a woman aged 26-45 and a boy under the age of ten.<sup>11</sup> The latter may be Daniel, for whom clothing was made by Mrs. Walter in 1820 and by Mrs. Robinson in 1821.<sup>12</sup>

Lyman Button began managing the farm accounts in 1830. A few years earlier, in 1826, he married Mercy Downing. Before Simeon's death in 1836, she had borne him three grandchildren who achieved majority: Lyman D. (1828-1875), John H. (1829-1878), and Lucinda B. (1836-1903).<sup>13</sup> The 1850 and 1855 censuses record Ruth Eddy Button residing with them until her death at age 94 in 1855. These and the 1860 census list three different unmarried Irish women living in Lyman's household as maidservants: Mary Markham, 34 (1850), Margaret Kinney, 17 (1855), and Bridget McCarty, 30 (1860). Live-in Irish servants were very common throughout rural Pittstown in this period. Transiency was typical, and Lyman's more abbreviated accounts list several additional Irish women, none working for more than a year, in this era. Irish and German laborers were also typical, but since Lyman listed his sons, John H. and Lyman D., as such, he apparently deemed additional regular help unnecessary. For a period around 1855, his widowed sister-in-law, Selina Snyder, 66, also lived in his household.<sup>14</sup>

Lyman lived on the farm until his death in 1869. By this time, both John H. and Lyman D. had married. It seems that Lucinda never married, but continued to live on the farm with Lyman and his wife Sarah Lansing (1837-1920) from Albany County, who he married at age 44 in 1871. In the settlement of their father's estate, John and Lucinda conveyed their share of the land to Lyman on 22 March 1870.<sup>15</sup> Sarah bore one child, a son named Elihu (1872-1965), before her husband died in 1875. By the time the census was enumerated that year, Stephen and Matilda Dearstyn were living in the house with Sarah and Elihu, and Dearstyn was listed as the farm's manager in the agricultural schedule. The Dearstyns had two children close to Elihu in age.<sup>16</sup>

During Elihu Button's youth, he and his mother lived in Lansingburgh in winter so he could attend Lansingburgh Academy. They spent their summers on the farm in Pittstown, which was worked by various farmers on lease. In 1892, two years after his graduation from Lansingburgh Academy, Elihu moved to Pittstown permanently and took over management of the farm. He married Minnie Gibbs (1873-1956) in 1895. Beginning in 1894, he began buying land adjoining the original acreage on the south from the Perrys. In the 1916 *American Agriculturalist's Farm Directory*, the Buttons were recorded living on a 210-acre property, denoted as Maple Valley Farm, with three minor children. These were Florence G. (1898-1970), Ralph L. (1900-1985), and

<sup>11</sup> *United States Census for 1820*, Town of Pittstown, New York.

<sup>12</sup> Button, 226 (Walter) and 232 (Robinson). All subsequent references are to this volume rather than the book detailing his civil service accounts. Page references use Button's page numbers, which differ from the pagination of the digital version.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/pittscem.htm>. The cemetery records also show a Lyman, Jr, who died 1831 aged 2 years, 6 months, 18 days with Lyman and Mercy parents. This may be an error as Lyman B. was born earlier, and it seems unlikely they would have named two living children the same name.

<sup>14</sup> Selina is recorded born in Massachusetts and moving to New York 30 years before, a life history differing from Mercy Downing's. Perhaps Selina and Mercy were stepsisters, and the former's mother was widowed and married Mercy's father after moving from Massachusetts.

<sup>15</sup> 1182/481 references deed recorded at 174/159.

<sup>16</sup> *New York Census for 1875*, Town of Pittstown, New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> election district. Population schedule 28, Household 254, and Agricultural Schedule, 13-16, Line 6.

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

Chester "Chet" H. (1901-1988).<sup>17</sup>

Elihu Button died in 1965. His son Chester worked the farm with him for many years, and he and his wife lived in the small house on a separate parcel on what is now Auclair Way. This dirt road was the town highway named Button Rd, which bisected the property, until DATE. Walter and Paula Auclair bought the 210-acre property in 1967.<sup>18</sup> They remodeled the large main house, while Chester and Mary Perry Button (1907-1985) continued to live in the small house.<sup>19</sup> The Auclairs significantly expanded the property when they bought surrounding adjacent land to farm during the 1970s and 1980s. They still live on the property; the small house is now owned by Mark Brock, who first came to the property as a farm laborer in 1967.

### Architectural and agricultural development of the Auclair-Button farmstead

The account books that Simeon Button maintained for his farm beginning in 1791 reveal the economic and physical details of running the property including the crops he raised, his labor force, the goods and services for which he traded farm produce, and his building activities on the property. As was characteristic of the time, he raised hay and grain—mainly rye, buckwheat and Indian corn, but also some wheat and oats—as cash crops beyond the requirements of his own domestic use and also flax and potatoes. Livestock included sheep for meat and some wool; pigs for meat; and cattle for beef and dairy. As was characteristic in the early republic, goods and services were traded mainly amongst neighbors. These relationships formed the finest tendrils of the larger commercial network connecting family farms with the global trade that brought items from near and far to nearly every person of any means.

Simeon's assessment for taxes in 1799 combined with his record of civil service beginning in the 1790s indicates that he had probably established a successful farm. The layout of Simeon's property, however, is uncertain as few buildings dating to his tenure remain. In 1799, he made a passing mention to his barn in his accounts.<sup>20</sup> This might be the building now called the shop barn, which displays details typical of a pre-1825 threshing barn typical of properties settled by New Englanders in Pittstown. These include its three-bay post-and-beam construction, its side-gabled form, and timber preparation. Its current foundation and its orientation, with its eave walls facing north and south do not date to its construction period and may indicate that it stood somewhere else when it was first built.

Parts of both dwelling houses on the Auclair-Button property may also date to Simeon's management. The account books list building materials in two periods, one running from 1798 through 1799 and a second set of expenses, mainly in 1803 with additional costs as late as 1809. In July 1798, Button paid William Teachout twelve pounds for making sash, setting glass, building a seller [sic.] door, and making the fan over the front door.<sup>21</sup> He settled an account with Abiel Bugbey for Spanish brown, linseed oil, three boxes of 9 x 7 glass, and 28 pounds of putty about the same time.<sup>22</sup> In 1799, William Beshear spent five days plastering a house described by an illegible adjective, possibly "Red."<sup>23</sup> In 1802, Simeon bought 2,600 bricks from Abel White. The following year,

<sup>17</sup> *American Agriculturalist Farm Directory and Reference Book of Albany and Rensselaer Counties* (New York: Orange Judd, 1916): 141.  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/pittscem.htm> provides birth and death dates recorded in cemetery records.

<sup>18</sup> 1182/481.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/pittscem.htm>. Cemetery lists provide Mary Perry Button's dates.

<sup>20</sup> Button, 56.

<sup>21</sup> Button, 33.

<sup>22</sup> Button, 47.

<sup>23</sup> Button, 80.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

he bought smaller quantities and then 1,000 soft bricks, the latter possibly for nogging walls.<sup>24</sup> His account the same year with Thomas Averill lists cherry timber for two bedsteds [sic.], 20 lights of glass broke out of the house, mending up the fence, a pine tree 28' long, mending one sash, and mending the shed.<sup>25</sup>

During the first quarter of 1803, Simeon's account with Solomon Man listed hewing 168 feet of pine at tuppence per foot and 600 feet of oak at 1s.4d. per foot; for two hands as well as Man working one day each to hew rafters; twelve pounds for framing the house; and 25 pounds for "covering and glazing the house as agreed."<sup>26</sup> Calvin Barker's account of the same year listed glazing supplies (four boxes of glass at 52 shillings per box and putty), plaster, white paint, and, finally, painting the house in June 1804. This debt was settled in July 1805.<sup>27</sup> In February of the latter year, Joseph Horn made a cubbord [sic.] for one pound four shillings and a stovehole cubbord for eight shillings. A year later, he worked three days laying floors.<sup>28</sup>

It is unclear how to interpret these accounts and their relationship with the extant buildings. The expenses incurred in 1798-99, none of which suggests structural work, might all be related to remodeling a dwelling that already existed when Simeon acquired the property in the 1780s. The expenses incurred beginning in 1803 are clearly structural as they specify framing and covering—presumably roofing—the house. The brick purchased in 1802 might indicate work preliminary to building. It appears that this dwelling was then finished over the course of several additional seasons, a pattern that was described later by writers suggesting that Yankees built more house than they could actually finish. In addition, Simeon's accounts began to record before 1810 that some of the men he hired contractually, roughly for the period March through November, "moved into my house" and paid rent, which was deducted from their pay. Some of these men had families. Some agreements included garden space, and Simeon recorded time lost that the men spent working their own gardens. In 1820, the census recorded one of them, Abraham Walter, maintaining a separate household adjacent to Button.<sup>29</sup>

Relating the surviving architectural records of the two dwellings on the Auclair-Button property to the documentary record is muddled by fire and several remodelings. It may be that the older house was used as a tenant house after the new house was built in the years 1803 through about 1805. Whether the older house is part of one of the two existing dwellings, or if both buildings have sections dating to Simeon's ownership is unclear due to considerable later change covering or removing construction technologies, hardware, and finishes. Further, if portions of both buildings predate 1810, which is which? Without greater knowledge of the interior framing of the smaller house, which might narrow its construction period, it remains unclear whether it dates to Simeon's or Lyman's tenure. Its three-bay, side-gabled symmetrical main block with a half-story would have been a typical modest dwelling house throughout the period from 1790 and well into the 1800s. If its older section is more neatly constructed and also characteristic of the early 1800s than the back ell of the main house, it might be Simeon's new house, which was superseded as the owner's house a generation later. This might further indicate that the back ell of the main house is part of a house dating to the 1780s or 1790s that was partially remodeled in the late 1790s and used as a tenant house in the 1810s.

The very intact four-bay sheep barn now adjacent to the shop barn displays building technology characteristic for a long period in the southwest part of Pittstown, from the early 1800s into the 1840s. Simeon Button's accounts show that mutton and lamb were common items of trade even before the introduction of merino sheep increased wool raising in New York and New England in the early 1810s. With decreasing numbers

<sup>24</sup> Button, 5.

<sup>25</sup> Button, 81.

<sup>26</sup> Button, 92.

<sup>27</sup> Button, 95.

<sup>28</sup> Button, 127.

<sup>29</sup> Button, 225-6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

of large predators and the less frequent care required for ovines than cows and horses, sheep barns were often built in locations more remote than this one's current site. No record of its construction is indicated in the account book, which Lyman kept incompletely when he took it over in 1830. Pittstown farmers kept herds in varying numbers throughout the period.

Lyman managed the farm until the 1860s, and he constructed at least two more buildings. These include the two-story, five-bay main block of the house. He recorded the materials for this project in 1849. The building's symmetrical side-gabled form, used as early as the late 1700s, remained characteristic of vernacular dwelling houses constructed in the region into the mid-1800s. Typical of the later decades, the house has broad corner pilasters and partial returns drawn from pattern books of the 1830s and 1840s illustrating details drawn from ancient Greek buildings. The 1860 census valued this house at a \$1,000, a figure at the high end of the middle range of farm dwellings in Pittstown. The house occupies a prominent site looking down the narrow valley; until the latter part of the twentieth century, it also retained its historic location near the town highway.

Lyman married Mercy Downing in 1826. Lyman, his brother Jesse Loudon (called Loudon in the accounts), and their father, Simeon, were all recorded heading separate households in Pittstown in the 1830 federal census. These may indicate separate households kept in separate houses. By this time, possibly Lyman lived in the second house on the property. He seems a more likely candidate than his brothers as he was managing the farm accounts in 1830. Further details about Jesse are so far undiscovered except that he is buried in Pittstown. The third brother, Simeon Pitt, may be the Simeon Button enumerated in the Town of Van Buren, Onondaga County, as he does not appear to be buried in Pittstown or enumerated as a head of household in Pittstown censuses.

The detailed agricultural schedules of the censuses of the 1850s and 1860s show that Lyman managed a farm similar in size and production to that of many of his neighbors, raising a diversity of stock and crops. In 1850, the latter included hay (40 tons), rye (125 bushels), corn (150 bushels), oats (500 bushels), potatoes (100 pounds), buckwheat (30 bushels), flax (1,500 pounds), and flax seed (70 bushels). Flax was widely grown in Pittstown, where there were small water-powered mills processing flax fiber, or stem, which was then bought by larger mills on the Hoosick River. Many Pittstown farmers grew flax into the 1870s and some into the 1880s. It required only a few acres to produce enough to warrant raising it. Seed was threshed on the main floors of barns and stored in bins or barrels until sold, so it required no special infrastructure. The flax stem and seed were probably sold to mills in the region, which processed both fiber and seed into a variety of products. He also recorded both butter (400 pounds) and cheese (100 pounds) from his four dairy cows and wool (20 pounds) from his 11 sheep. His personal estate included \$200 in implements. In 1850, he still relied mainly on four oxen for draught work; he kept only one horse. He also listed 22 swine—important for the domestic meat supply and also for occasional sale.<sup>30</sup> These statistics depict a traditionally diverse 100-acre family farm characteristic of the region, especially one owned by a man of New English descent. He relied on an array of crops essential to the larger commodities economy. If a crop failed in a particular year, he had many others to rely on.

The 1860 federal census shows that Lyman Button, by then 67, had had a successful decade. His real estate had risen from \$6,000 to \$8,000 in value; he had personal estate of \$2,500.<sup>31</sup> He kept a team of horses and a single team of oxen, probably reflecting his increased use of the horse-drawn implements commonly used by this period. Indeed, his personal estate included \$300 in implements. By 1860, he had surely constructed the eastern portion of the present horse barn. This large, frontal gable, two-story building with three wagon bays on the main floor was constructed as a tool barn to house the implements and horse with storage above. He milked

<sup>30</sup> *United States Census for 1850*, Town of Pittstown, agricultural schedule, 13, Line 15.

<sup>31</sup> *United States Census for 1860*, Town of Pittstown, population schedule, 41, Household 310.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

nearly double the number of cows (seven) as in 1850, and now kept a flock of 78 sheep. His field crop harvests included 50 bushels wheat, 100 bushels rye, 100 bushels corn, 500 bushels oats, and 400 bushels potatoes. He also cut 35 tons of hay. A large portion of this last would have been sold for use in urban areas. The 50 pounds of honey he collected probably indicates that he had planted the apple orchard that began bearing fruit a few years later.<sup>32</sup> The bees were necessary to pollinate the trees.

Lyman died in 1869, leaving his widow and at least two of their three children, Lyman D. and Lucinda, still residing on the farm. Lyman D. probably managed the farm in the intervening period between his father's death and his acquisition of his sibling's shares in 1870. He died only a few years later in 1875. By the time the 1875 state census was taken, his widow Sarah had hired 29-year-old Stephen Dearstyn to manage the farm. Despite the second dwelling on the property, the census records him and his wife Matilda, 28, and their young children Willie, 2 yrs, 3 mos; and Lina M., 7 mos., sharing the house valued at \$2,000 with Mrs. Button and her two-year-old son Elihu. Like Sarah Lansing Button, the Dearstyns came from Albany County, and she may have relied on family there to choose him.<sup>33</sup>

The 100-acre farm (by then 90 acres improved land and only 10 unimproved, all woodlot) had risen to \$10,000 in value. This figure and the above median valuations of \$700 in outbuildings, \$1,000 in stock, and \$500 in tools show that both Lyman D. and his son Lyman had managed their birthright well. The improved acreage included 36 plowed, 20 pasture, and 30 meadow, which yielded 40 tons of hay in 1874. In 1875, the balance was shifted to 40 acres plowed land, pasture to 25, and 20 in meadow. Dearstyn increased the acreage planted in potatoes and oats in 1875. In 1874, Lyman Button had milked five cows, which produced 600 pounds of butter. He kept swine for meat, a smaller flock of wool sheep, and a team of oxen, and added a single horse in addition to his team. He also sold poultry and eggs totaling \$25, probably to buyers in Troy, where many Pittstown farmers regularly carried eggs. The now mature orchard of 25 trees bore 100 bushels of apples and two barrels of cider.<sup>34</sup>

Soon after Elihu began managing the property following his schooling at Lansingburgh, he began adding land adjacent to the farm owned and worked by three previous generations of his family. He married Minnie Gibbs, also of Pittstown, in 1895. About that time, he undertook remodeling the main house with a new Queen Anne front door flanked by sidelights and an open porch in the same taste spanning the front façade. There may have been additional interior renovations, but these were mostly removed by the present owners from 1967 through 1969. A fire in 1993 led to further interior alterations.

Between 1894 and 1913, Elihu added three parcels bought from the Perry farm bordering Button on the south, roughly doubling the farm acreage. Also beginning in 1894, he both constructed new buildings and moved older ones, reconfiguring the existing outbuildings following ideas proposed to make farms more efficient. In 1894, he built a new horse barn, now the west half of the horse and wagon barn. This incorporated slip stalls, a grain room, and a large mow loaded with a harpoon through exterior doors. Not very long after, he doubled its footprint by moving his grandfather's tool and grain barn to the east gable end of the new horse barn. This created a very large horse and wagon barn. It appears that each building was clad separately in clapboards, the most common siding material for all buildings in this era, before they were joined, as a vertical board covers the join between the two structures. The bins and the corn crib upstairs in the old wagon barn as well as north and south doors in the east main floor date to this period.

Elihu's new purpose-built dairy barn constructed in 1901 also had clapboard siding. This gable-roofed

<sup>32</sup> *United States Census for 1860*, Town of Pittstown, agricultural schedule, 7-8, Line 33.

<sup>33</sup> *New York Census for 1875*, Town of Pittstown, 2<sup>nd</sup> election district, population schedule, 28, Household 254.

<sup>34</sup> *New York Census for 1875*, Town of Pittstown, 2<sup>nd</sup> election district, agricultural schedule, 13-16, Line 6.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

building incorporates an interior stave silo, which was loaded from the main floor of the mow. The roof framing was designed to allow a hay harpoon to run the length of the ridgeline unobstructed. To provide a sheltered yard, Elihu placed the former sheep barn at the southwest corner of the new dairy barn. An old threshing barn was moved to the sheep barn's southeast corner to shelter the south side of the east-facing yard.

He also built the state-of-the-art single-story chicken house in 1900. This building incorporated a ribbon of large south-facing windows and small ventilators along its ridgeline. The neat concrete block milk house with its standing seam pyramidal roof located at the east end of the dairy barn was built a little later, probably by 1915. Fluid milk was chilled and kept cold until it was shipped to the creamery or to the railroad. The ice house near the house may also have been built about the same time, but its location suggests domestic use rather than for cooling milk, as the buildings are not conveniently near each other. By about 1905, all of the extant historic outbuildings except the milk house probably stood in their current locations.

In 1916, the *American Agriculturalist's Farm Directory* listed Elihu's chief crops as grain, corn, and Ayrshire cattle, a Scottish dairy breed. Elihu Button was among the very few Pittstown farmers who listed dairy stock as a chief crop—most, including his neighbors the Douglasses on the former Perry farm, listed field crops as their chief specialty and made no mention of dairy. John Empie, nephew of the Douglasses who lived with them in the 1910s and 1920s, relates that his uncle and Elihu shared labor over the two properties. Douglass had one hired man, and the Buttons provided two men. This allowed them to use two teams for each task, making both more efficient. Throughout this period, neither property probably had more than 30 acres of arable land. Managing these fields and haymaking formed a large part of the shared work.<sup>35</sup>

Elihu and Minnie's youngest son, Chester, married Mary Perry, and they lived in the small house, or tenant house, on the Button farm. Chester worked the property in much the same manner as his father until after World War II, when tractor power allowed him to make some changes. He added an equipment shed to house the tractor and its implements, but otherwise made few other changes to the infrastructure of the property. After his parents' deaths and the sale of the property to Walter (b.1933) and Paula (b.1934) Auclair in March 1967, Chester, who asked to be always welcome on the property, helped the Auclairs.

The Auclairs met at the University of Connecticut and married in 1954. Walter earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry at New York University in 1960 and taught at several academic institutions. While at the University of Cincinnati, the couple decided they wanted to live in a more rural location, and he took a teaching position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy in 1965. They lived in the city while looking for a farm to buy. When they bought the Button farm in 1967, they also purchased the next farm north, owned by Gonsowski, to protect their property from adjacent adverse development. Combined with the 130-acre Gonsowski property abutting its north line, the Auclairs own 340 acres; only the 210 acres accrued by Elihu Button is nominated. For the first two years, they rented the property to a horse farmer, but Walter planned to develop an embryo implantation business using beef cattle. They built a new barn for this enterprise and started haying to feed the stock in 1969.

In February 1969, the new barn burned, taking with it equipment and 13,000 bales of hay. The Auclairs determined they would go into dairying instead and started by using the existing historic buildings for part of the operation. They built a new barn for hay storage and soiling stock. This barn includes a large mow with a chute system to large interior hayracks. The east side is open to the yard, which is divided into sections, which were used for different ages and genders of stock.

The Auclairs wanted a milking barn, and they traveled throughout New England and New York searching for a dairy barn to replicate. Walter believed that ventilation was of overriding importance, and in the end, designed the barn himself with the help of the Cornell University's Department of Agricultural Engineering. This

<sup>35</sup> Interview of John Empie by author, 15 April 2009.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead

Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York

County and State

building is perfectly aligned on a north-south axis, with double-pane windows in its long walls. It had an interior milk room in the southeast corner and a small office. In 1981, they started milking a Holstein herd of 38 cows bought from Clifford Jordan of Merrymaid Farms in Meridale, New York. They increased to 62 and also kept veal calves on an average of 6 to 12 months. The Auclairs were among the early farms to trial bovine somatotropin (BST, or rGBH) to enhance milk yields, and they were milking three times a day. In 1995, the Auclairs sold the herd.

In 1993, the house suffered a fire, which destroyed the roof and attic. Fighting the fire caused water damage to the main part of the building. Rehabilitating it took two years. The structural beams are now exposed through most of the house, but the ca.1895 front door and sidelights are intact. As part of the rehabilitation, the Auclairs added a second story to the rear ell.<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>36</sup> Information about the Auclair tenure acquired in interview with author, 8 May 2009.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please refer to bibliography for the Pittstown Farmsteads MPDF. Additional sources used in preparation of this nomination are cited in the Statement of Significance (Item 8).

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  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 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

Acreege of Property 157.05 acres

UTM References

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>617099</u> Easting	<u>4742098</u> Northing	4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616269</u> Easting	<u>4741190</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>617172</u> Easting	<u>4741479</u> Northing	5	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616177</u> Easting	<u>4741859</u> Northing
3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>617030</u> Easting	<u>4741327</u> Northing	6	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>616851</u> Easting	<u>4742061</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on two maps entitled "Auclair-Button Farmstead, Melrose, Rensselaer Co., NY." These maps depict the boundary at a scale of 1:24,000 and 1: 12,000. There is additionally a site map which shows the boundary as well as the interrelationship of the various resources; this map is entitled "Auclair-Button Farmstead" and was drawn by Jessie Ravage in December 2012.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Auclair-Button Farmstead is drawn to encompass the 157.05-acre farm assembled by generations of the Eddy and Button families during the nineteenth century. By the time the present owners, Walter and Paula Auclair, bought the property in 1967, the 50-acre "Ketcham lot" sold by Devotion Eddy in the eighteenth century was purchased back and a parcel of approximately 43 acres bought from the adjacent Perry farm was added. The first of these parcels is part of this nomination; the latter (tax parcel no.69-2-19.12), which has no buildings and was recently sold off, is not. This leaves the parcel of approximately 160 acres, apparently acquired by Simeon Button from relations of his wife, Ruth Eddy. This parcel can be traced visually using field and forest lines on the landscape, which delineate the nineteenth century boundary. The nomination incorporates a 1.38-acre parcel (tax parcel no.62-2-19.2) located within the larger tract. This is owned by a former tenant farmer of the Auclair family, who lives in a nineteenth-century tenant house on that parcel.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, New York  
County and State

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jessie A. Ravage  
organization Preservation consultant date 15 January 2013  
street & number 34 Delaware St telephone 607-547-9507  
city or town Cooperstown state New York zip code 13326  
e-mail jravage@stny.rr.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Photographs:**

List of digital photographs for NY\_Rensselaer County\_Pittstown Farmsteads MPS\_Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Photographs (contemporary) of property shot by Jessie A. Ravage (34 Delaware Street, Cooperstown, NY, 13326, 607-547-9507, jravage@stny.rr.com), December 2012

- 0001: Overview of historic building cluster from Auclair Way (camera facing north)  
0002: House, front or south façade, and east gable end (camera facing northwest)  
0003: Main barn group from east end of farm drive showing U-plan yard (camera facing west)  
0004: Main barn group and stable on north side of farm drive (camera facing southwest)  
0005: Main barn group and stable viewed from farm drive (camera facing north)  
0006: Hen house (camera facing north)  
0007: Tenant house and associated outbuildings (camera facing northeast)  
0008: Barns built in post-historic period viewed from farm drive (camera facing south)

**Property Owner:**

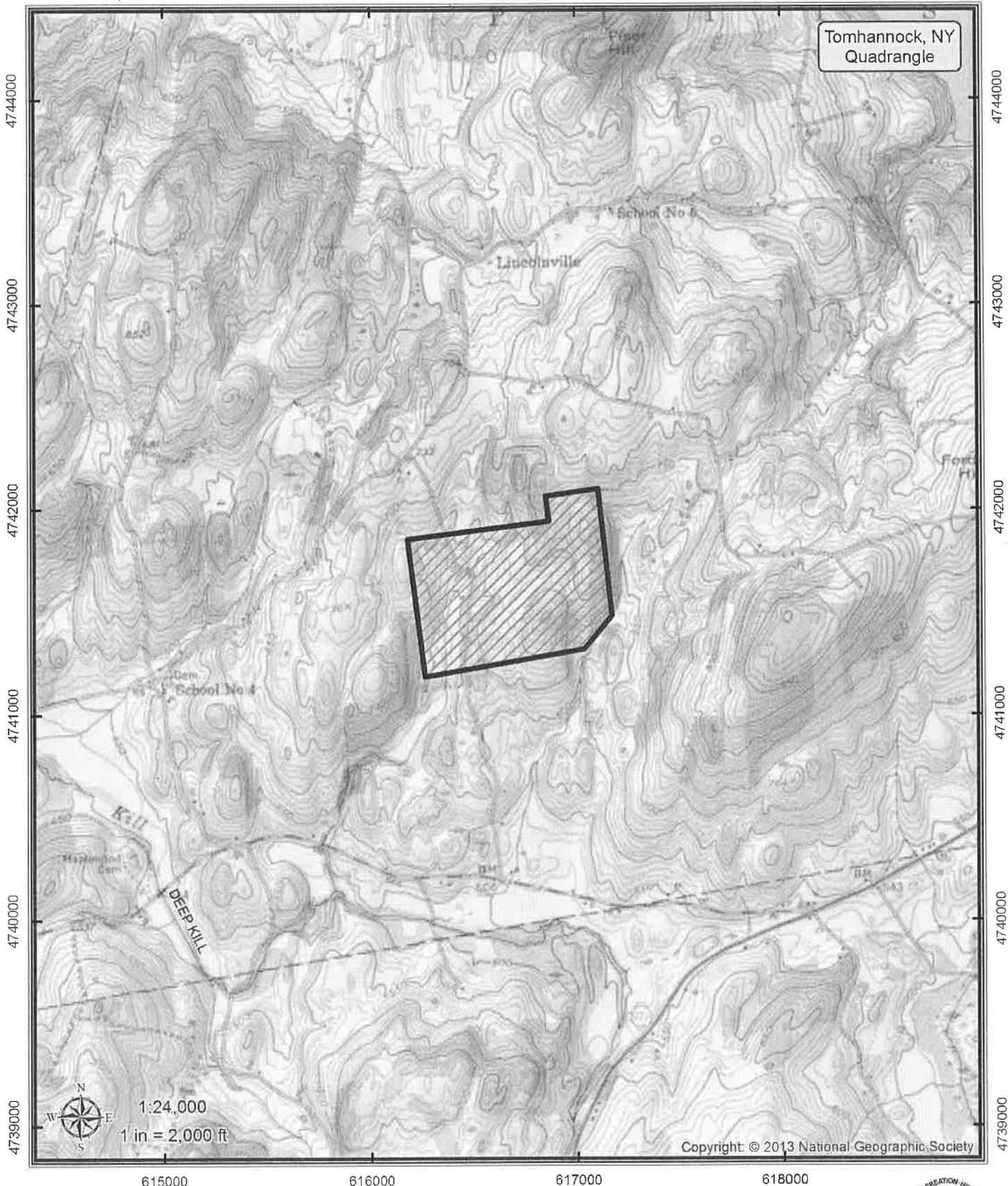
name Walter and Paula Auclair  
street & number 52 Auclair Way telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Melrose state New York 12121

**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.

Auclair-Button Farmstead  
Melrose, Rensselaer Co., NY

80 Auclair Way  
Melrose, NY 12121



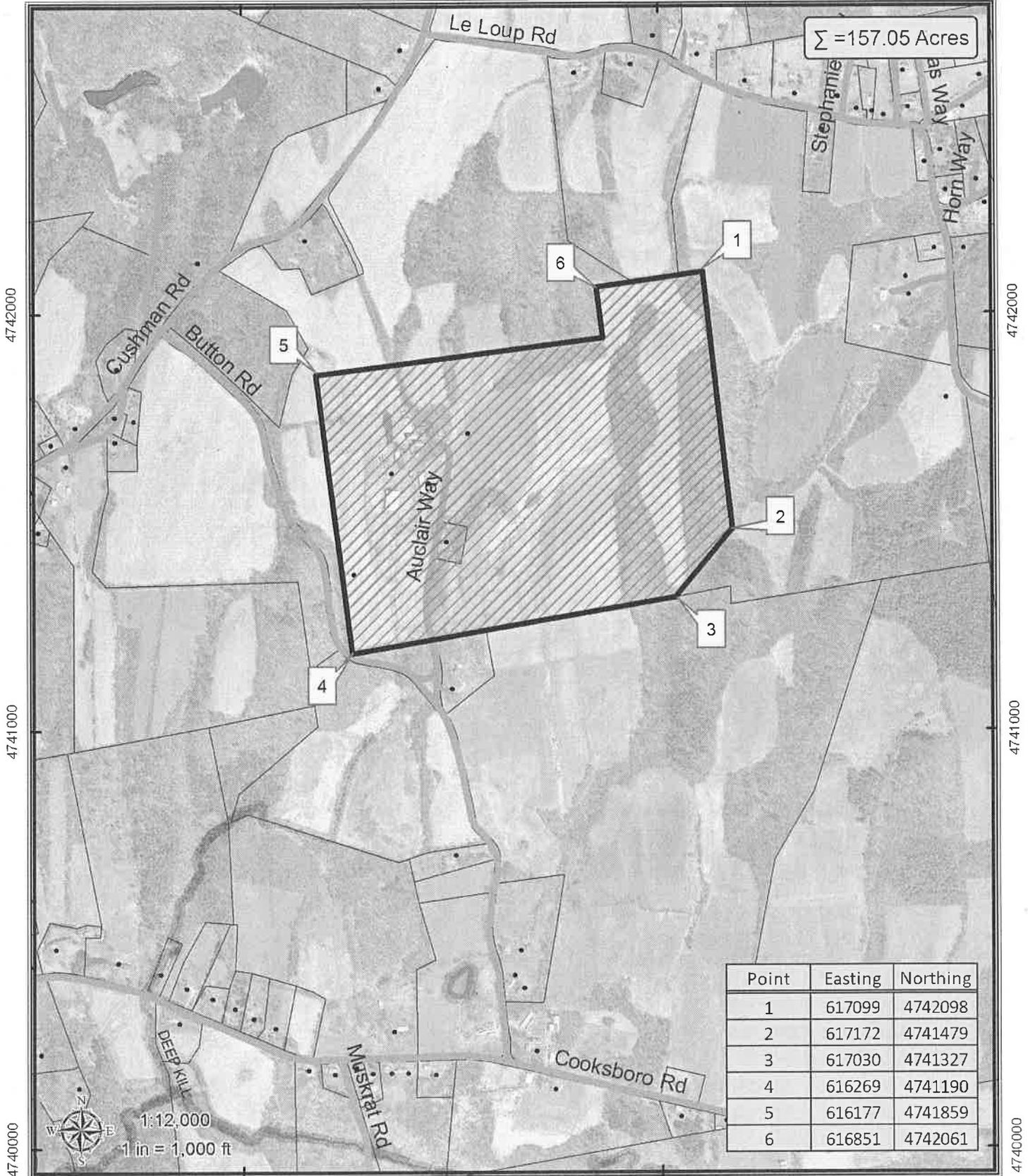
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



 Auclair-Button

Tax Parcel Data:  
Rensselaer Co. RPS  
<http://www.rensco.com/countymaps.asp>





Σ = 157.05 Acres

Point	Easting	Northing
1	617099	4742098
2	617172	4741479
3	617030	4741327
4	616269	4741190
5	616177	4741859
6	616851	4742061

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



Auclair-Button

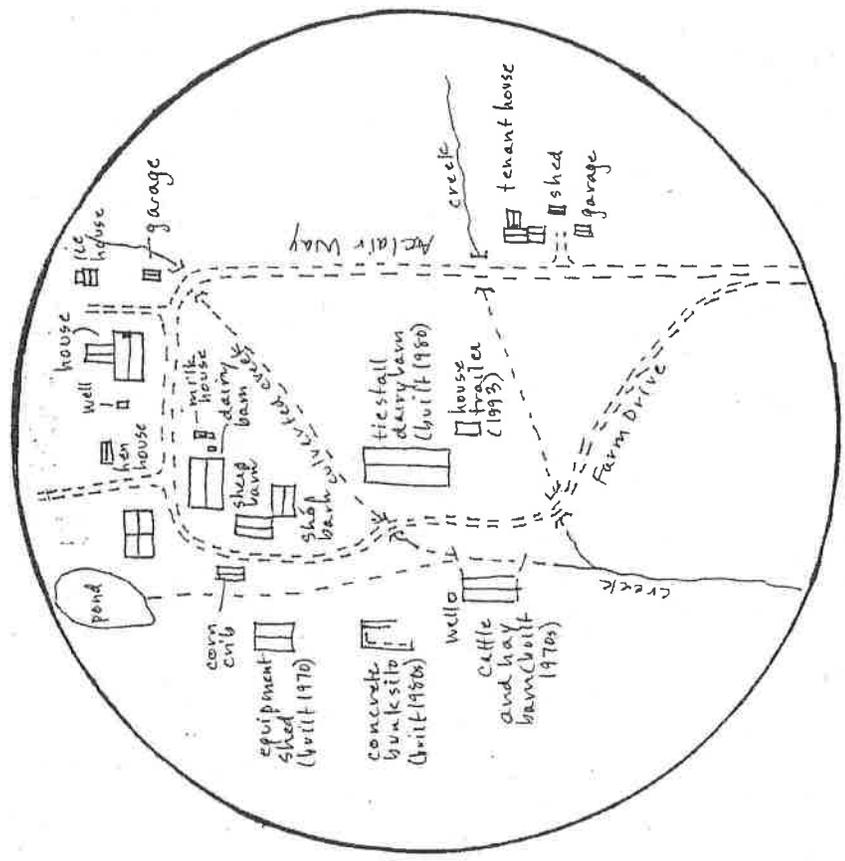
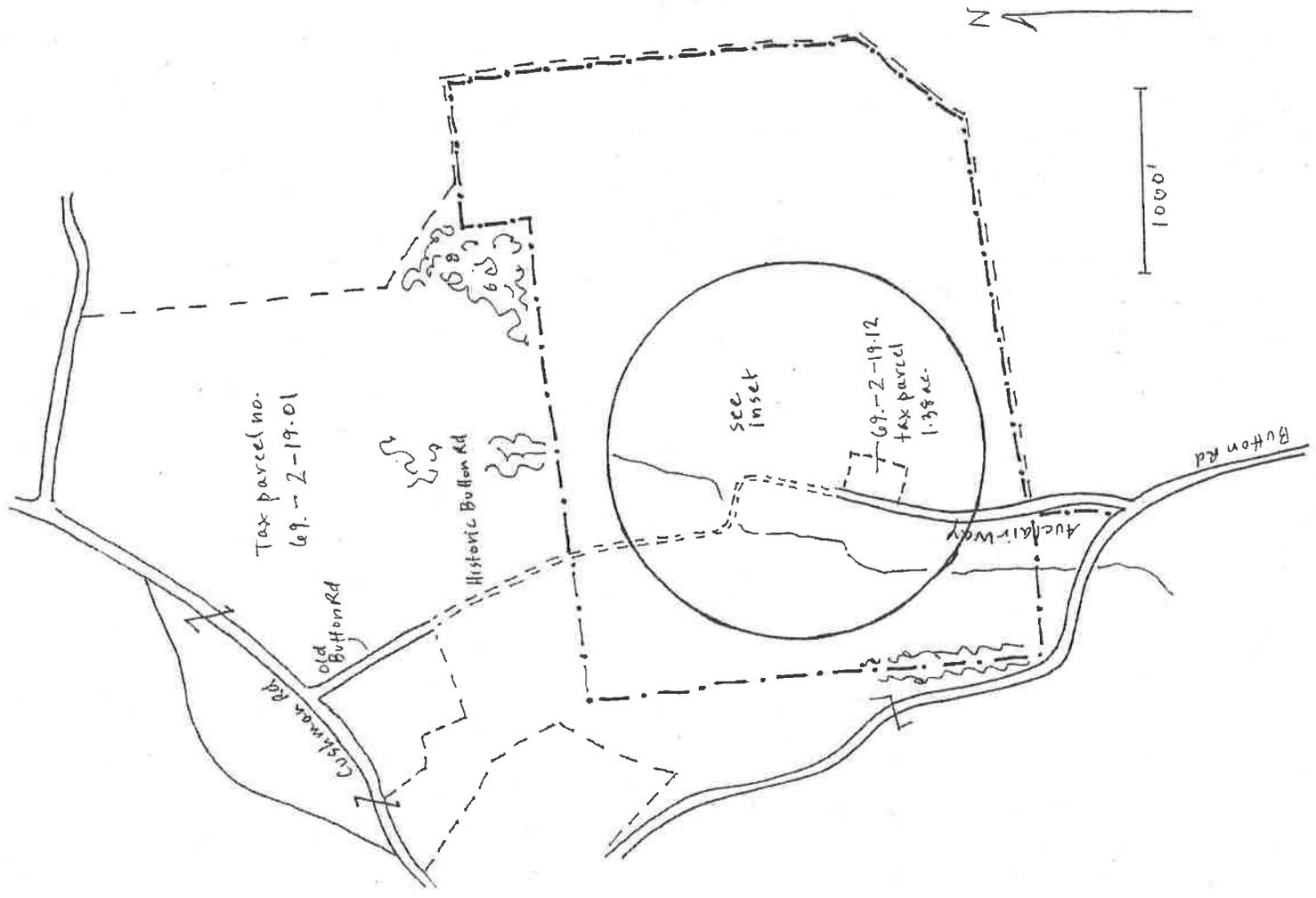
Tax Parcel Data:  
 Rensselaer Co. RPS  
<http://www.rensco.com/countymaps.asp>



Aveclair-Button Farmstead - 52 Aveclair Way  
 - Pittstown, Rensselaer Co.,  
 New York

- - - - NR boundary and historic boundary
- - - - Current property boundary (non-historic)

Wooded



Jessie Ravage  
 December 2012















