United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

629

1. Name of Property

historic name Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 314 Stover Rd [ ] not for publication

city or town Valley Falls [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Rensselaer code ~~089~~ 83 zip code 12185

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 7/3/13
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 W. Beall 8·23·13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

x	private
	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

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

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
12	0	**Total**

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

Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown MPDF

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
AGRICULTURE, animal facility
VACANT, not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC
MID–19th CENTURY: Greek Revival
OTHER: vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: stone, masonry (concrete block recently replaced failing stone foundation), parging covers several stone foundations
walls: wood
roof: slate, wood shingle, metal
other:

Narrative Description

Summary

The Adams–Myers–Bryan farmstead is located on rolling upland (about 440' above sea level) at a dip in Stover Rd about a half–mile south of the Village of Valley Falls in the Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County. The property encompasses approximately

112 acres in three parcels (32–5–6.1; 6.21, and 6.22), and the agricultural land is fenced using posts and wire. A portion of the acreage is in tillage, mainly hay, but natural reforestation has reclaimed the highest elevation of the property during the past 40 years. The farmstead encompasses a large, late Greek Revival–style dwelling and a small, much remodeled tenant house with features suggesting an early nineteenth–century construction date. The main house is set off from the road by a white picket fence and mature sugar maple trees shade the front façade. A second, much smaller, gable–roofed frame house, known as the tenant house and now separately owned (tax parcel no.32–5–6.22), is located on the west side of the highway, set back on a long driveway.

The farm outbuildings stand in an L–plan group behind (east and south) of the main house. Additional picket fence runs perpendicular to the road, enclosing roughly an acre of house yard south and east of the house. The fence runs past the north side of a small frame outhouse with a louvered door, called "The Waldorf." This overlooks a garden plot on the south side of the picket fence. The garden's south line is enclosed by wire fencing on the east side and picket fence on other three sides. Another run of picket fence parallels the drive on the north side of the house. An apple orchard of large, mature trees planted in straight lines is located on the north side of the drive beyond the fence. A cast iron hand pump and a concrete horse trough stand in the house yard, south of the back ell.

A short, diagonal run of fence sets the house yard off from the yard around which the farm outbuildings stand. The outbuildings form two groups. One group stands around an L–plan yard directly behind the house. A carriage barn with an icehouse added to its west gable wall faces south. At its southeast corner, a frontal gable, frame tool barn, later (early twentieth century) used as a pig house, faces the house. A three–bay, side–gabled, frame horse barn is adjacent to, but not attached to, the south wall of the pig house. A corn crib stands behind the south end of the horse barn. The main barn—a bank barn on a new concrete block foundation—adjoins a shed–roofed, four–bay barn to form a second L-plan configuration, this with a southeast-facing yard. A pump house and a free–standing milk house stand near the southwest corner of the west wing, the four-bay section, of the main barn group.

Building List

Main house (built ca.1855, contributing): The frame house is composed of three blocks. The two–story, three–bay, frontal–gable main block and side–gabled wing (built as a one–and–a–half–story wing and raised to two stories in the mid–1930s) retain a well–developed scheme of Greek Revival–style details. These include a full return on the main block, broad corner pilasters on the main block and wing, and heavy cornices with deep friezes. An open porch supported by square Doric–style columns spans the front. The south portion of this was glazed in the 1930s during renovations to the house. When the roof was raised, the cornice and partial returns on the wing were moved to cap the now two–story roofline. Above the porch, the wing was extended forward, and a second partial return surmounts the new corner.

A one–and–a–half–story kitchen and wood shed ell projects from the main block's rear wall, continuing the roof axis of the main block. This part of the house has very plain details and a roofline suggestive of its being an earlier structure reused here.

The main entrance to the house, with its heavy Greek Revival entablature, flanking pilasters, side lights, and transom lights, is asymmetrically placed in the main block and retains a period door. The regular period fenestration retains six–over–six wood sash throughout. The house retains wood clapboard siding and a slate roof.

There is a deep, mortared stone cellar. The low cellar windows are set in brick, squared bricks being easier to use to make up square openings that can be framed for sash. The walls of the house are nogged with brick for insulation.

Tenant house (built 1800–1825; contributing): The earlier house located across Stover Road was used as a tenant house for many years. It is a small, one–and–a–half–story, gable–roofed frame building with a later (added 1994–95) gable–roofed kitchen ell set at the northwest corner of the older block. The entire building has wood novelty siding, probably dating to the construction of the ell, and rests on a banked stone foundation falling away to the south and east. An open, hip–roofed porch spans the front (east) and south façades. The house retains two–over–two wood sash in an altered fenestration plan. The older main block has hewn H–frames characteristic of Dutch framing, lapped and pegged hewn rafters, and unusually heavy hewn purlins resting on purlin posts mortised into the H–frames. The main floor retains Federal–era trim including wainscot in the main room made of wide, horizontal boards and a simply designed mantel, now placed against the wall of the staircase to the upper story. The banked basement retains evidence of having been a finished room, probably a kitchen, although there is no hearth or oven. The beams have beaded edges, and the ceiling is composed of fairly wide but consistent and cleanly prepared boards, also with beaded edges. A root cellar is set in the north end of the basement, this section being entirely below grade. A large exterior door on strap hinges is located in the south wall of the basement, near the southeast corner.

Main barn group (north wing built ca.1860; west wing built in two phases, ca.1880–1930; contributing): The main barn group is composed of a north wing built as a bank barn, probably on its current site and a four–bay, shed–roofed barn attached to the southwest corner of the main barn forming the west wing. This section has east–facing walk out bays and a mow above. An enclosed diagonal walkway connects the mow of the main barn with the mow of the west wing. The original wide clapboard siding of the main barn is

preserved under the roof of the west wing. The two wings form an L–plan enclosing a south–facing barnyard protected on its west side by the sheep barn. The entire barn group has clapboard siding.

The gabled ridge of the north wing runs east–west, and wide paired doors hung on large strap hinges in the north eave wall are reached by a low earthen ramp. These doors open onto the central threshing floor. The main timbers of the threshing barn are hewn, as are its rafters, which are butted at the ridge. The queen posts are slanted outward to the purlins. This feature allowed the mows to be loaded using a hay fork; its track still runs under the ridgeline. A large proportion of the lumber used in the barn displays evidence of having been used in an earlier building and carefully reused to construct this barn. A smaller door opens next to the large doors on the north wall. The barn has wood clapboard siding hung on studs and a slate roof laid over roofboards with sawn edges. The roof incorporate courses of scalloped and straight–edged slates on the north roof face. The banked basement underneath has recently been rebuilt with concrete blocks, which replaced walls made of massive stones.

The four–bay, shed–roofed west wing is attached to the south wall of the threshing barn. The west wing is constructed of equally varied, but more roughly cut, timbers than the threshing barn. Many of the timbers appear to have been prepared for a different building and reused for this one, which lacks a symmetrical frame. This wing appears to have been built in two stages, the northern two bays being older than the southern two. Where it is attached to the older bank barn, the older, wide and heavy clapboards of the bank barn are protected by the later west wing. This shows that the current exterior siding is at least the second siding episode of the north wing. The lower level of the west wing is fitted as a cow barn with metal stanchions for ten cows still hanging over a poured concrete floor with a gutter. Older vertical board siding can be seen on the south wall of the north wing where the two barns are joined. The west wing has a slate roof, but this one lacks the scalloped detail of the bank barn.

The two wings of the barn group are connected by an enclosed walkway overhanging the inside corner of the barnyard. This is roofed and sided to match the finishes of the north and west wings. On the west side of the wing, a circular poured concrete foundation marks the former location of a silo.

Pump house (built ca.1920–40, contributing): The small, gable–roofed, frame pump house has board–and–batten siding and an asphalt shingle roof.

Milk house (built ca.1920–40, contributing): The frame milk house has a shed roof and stands on a high poured concrete foundation housing the storage tank for milk cans.

Horse barn (built ca.1850; contributing): The L–plan horse barn is composed of a gable–roofed, one–and–and–a–half–story, three–bay, post–and–beam building, its roof axis running north–south, and a later gable–roofed stable ell (built ca.1880–1900) added to the back (east) wall of its northernmost bay. Both the north and south bays of the older section have sliding doors facing the house across the yard. A hinged loading door to the mow in the upper story is centered over the middle bay. The mow has a large louvered vent in the south gable end, and a small hay track projects from the peak above, suggesting the vent can be removed to load the barn.

Like the main barn, the horse barn appears to reuse timbers prepared for an older building. The main timbers of the three–bay building are hewn; the posts in the south corners appear to be reused posts from a Dutch–framed building as earlier mortises, not used in this structure, run through the posts. The common rafters with bird's–mouth ends resting on the plate are hewn, lapped, and pegged at the ridgeline. Studs and braces have up–and–down saw kerfs. The horse barn has wood clapboard siding, a metal roof, and its stone foundation is reinforced with concrete. An earlier wood shingle roof is preserved under the gable–roofed stable wing added to north bay on the east wall. A leanto roof attached to the south wall of stable portion of the horse barn creates an open tractor shed.

Corn house (built ca.1850; contributing): The single–bay, frontal–gable corn house stands at the east end of the yard enclosed by the horse barn's L–plan. It is a small, single–story, frontal–gable frame building with a door in the end wall. The building's main timbers are hewn. Later bins made of circular sawn lumber are inserted into the interior. The wood clapboard siding may replace earlier slatted siding typical of corn storage buildings. The corn house has a slate roof. Its door is centered in the south–facing gable end and is similar to the person–width door on the north side of the bank barn opposite.

Pig house (built as tool barn/grain house, mid–1800s; reused as a pig house, early 1900s; contributing): The oldest part of this one–and–a–half–story, frontal–gable frame building, which appears to have been built as a tool barn with grain bins in the upper half story, has hewn main timbers and sawn secondary ones. A single–story, shed–roofed leanto added to the rear wall ca.1900 houses the pig pens. The brick chimney and base for the scalding kettle stand in the northeast corner of the main building. A door with heavy strap hinges opens in the gable end of the half–story. The building is sided with wood clapboards. The older gable–roofed section has a slate roof.

Carriage barn (built ca.1860–1875; contributing): The two–bay, side–gabled, frame carriage barn stands barely a foot from the northwest corner of the pig house. This single–story building has two sets of paired doors sharing a common center post. It has hewn main timbers and common rafters made of poles and butted at the ridgeline. A decorative quatrefoil in the west peak, facing the

highway, is hidden by the later–added icehouse (ca.1900). The carriage barn and adjoining ice house share a corrugated metal roof.

Icehouse (built ca.1900; contributing): The ice house is attached to the west gable wall of the carriage barn and continues the roof axis and pitch of the carriage barn. The ice house is built using circular sawn dimensional lumber. The entire building has wood novelty siding; its corrugated metal roof rest on pole rafters.

Outhouse (built ca.1900, contributing): Small, single-story, side-gable frame outhouse constructed of dimensional lumber, known by the owners as the "Waldorf." This unusually decorative building has louvered panels flanking the door centered in the eave wall facing the house.

Horse and carriage barn (built 1994-95, non–contributing): This two-story, two-bay, frontal-gable frame building is associated with the tenant house and probably was built at roughly the same time as the later wing attached to that house. The carriage barn retains wood novelty siding similar to the finish of the tenant house.

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.)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca.1800 - 1963

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Adams–Myers–Bryan 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, Rensselaer County, New York. It additionally satisfies Criterion A, in the area of agriculture, for its association with regional farming practices during the cited period of significance. This property is being nominated in association with the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) entitled

"Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown, New York." The Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead retains an intact assemblage of historic agricultural outbuildings and two historic-era houses embodying characteristic construction features of the region during the cited period of significance. These exhibit distinctive and qualifying attributes as outlined in the associated MPDF context. The large main house on the east side of Stover Road, built in the mid-nineteenth century, is associated with an L–plan main barn group composed of a bank barn and wing; a carriage barn with a later ice house attached; a tool barn used more recently as a pig house; in addition to a horse barn and a corn house. Smaller buildings include a privy, a milk house, and a pump house. The tenant house across the highway is associated with a late nineteenth–century horse barn. These resources survive in an intact rural setting which provides an appropriate context for this substantially intact Rensselaer County farm, which also retains the context of its surrounding landscape.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Ownership of the Adams–Myers–Bryan farmstead, ca.1775–2013

Ownership of the Adams–Bryan–Myers farmstead before the mid–1800s is uncertain. Two factors suggest that the property was occupied for at least a half–century earlier than that. A number of the existing buildings incorporate hewn timbers prepared for earlier structures using Dutch and English scribe and square rule techniques. The sources for these building materials were probably close at hand, prepared for older buildings demolished for the ones now on the property. Further, the property is located in Lot 43 in the Hoosick Patent, a tract settled during the eighteenth century by people of Dutch and German extraction coming from places farther south in the Hudson Valley. Many settlers in this section leased the land they occupied from landlords, and leases were rarely recorded publicly.

At least three earlier deeds were recorded for larger tracts in this vicinity of which this property may form a part. The earliest record specifically describing the 102.16–acre portion of the property east of Stover Road transferred this parcel from Nathan and Orpha Brownell to Henry Kinyon of Cambridge, Washington County, in 1851 for $5,850.[1] Five years earlier, Nathan Brownell acquired 182 acres from the heirs of Garrardus Stover, including land in Lot 43.[2] Nathan Brownell resided on a large farm with a brick house and capacious barns located along Otter Creek, which he had bought in 1840. His son Moses lived there later on, but in 1850, the census—usually recorded house by house along highways in particular locales—recorded Moses Brownell on a 122–acre farm in a part of Pittstown with owner names matching those of the properties surrounding the Adams–Myers–Bryan farm on the 1854 map. Moses might have lived on this property owned by his father in 1850. If so, the property included 20 more acres not yet traced in the deed record.

Nathan Brownell bought and sold a few properties in Pittstown in a pattern suggestive of opportunistic rather than regular speculative activity. During this period, his neighbors in the census match with his brick house and associated farm on Otter Creek Road, and he probably bought the Stover property intending to eventually sell it. Before him, Garrardus Stover acquired the 182–acre property in 1823 from Samuel and Susanna Rowland for $5,476.50.[3] In the 1846 deed, one heir was named Rowland, which may indicate that the Stovers had Rowlands intermarried earlier. By a 1775 deed referenced in a release deed dated 1795, a man

[1] *Book of Deeds* 80/276. (Troy, New York: Office of the County Clerk). Subsequent deed references will use the following format: [*Liber number*/page number].

[2] 70/370. The parties of the first part included Peter R. and Eliza Stover, Ensign and Barbary Stover, Catherine Stover (widow of Garrardus), Samuel and Margaret Stover, Mynard and Phebe Groesbeck, and William, Peter and Ensign Stover acting as guardians for Rowland, John, and Mary Stover.

[3] *51*/179.

named Samuel Rowland bought 200 acres for £215 from Jonathan Sever of Lansingburgh.[4] It is unclear whether this last deed is related to the property.

Henry Kinyon, who executed a deed for 102 acres bought from Nathan Brownell in 1851, lived in Pittstown when he sold that acreage to Stoughton H. Bryan of Easton, Washington County, in 1863 for $9,194.90.[5] This price surely reflects considerable improvement to the property during Kinyon's ownership and residency. The 1855 census listed Kinyon, a widower, living in Pittstown with four children, Sarah, 13; Pernal, 11; Elmer, 7; and Margaret, 5; and servant Anna Ferman, 60.[6] Bryan added a 12–acre parcel on the opposite side of Stover Road bought from George W. and Louisa B. Finch in 1871 for $1,867.20.[7] The tenant house of the Adams–Myers–Bryan farm stands on this parcel. The rather high purchase price suggests that it was associated with additional outbuildings at the time.

In 1875, Stoton [*sic.*] Bryan (or Brayne), age 43, was listed as the farmer living on property with his wife Amanda, age 41. Both were born in Rensselaer County. The frame house was valued at $2,000. The tenant house on the property may have been occupied by John, 26, and Mary, 25, McGovern—an Irish couple—and Mary's sister, Bessie Quinn, 22. John was listed as a laborer, and their frame dwelling was valued at $200. [8] Stoughton Bryan (1831–1897) and his wife Amanda Stover (1833–1903) were childless, and his nephew Abram Myers (1852–1934)[9] on Bryan's mother's side acquired the property comprising 114 acres in two parcels by deed in 1893 for $8,500.[10] The current owners are Myers's lineal descendants.[11] In 1916, he and his wife Alida (1849–1923) were listed in the *American Agriculturalist's* directory for Rensselaer and Albany counties living on 114 acres with one adult child.

Abram and Alida had three children: Chester, Elizabeth "Bess", and Helen (m.Jack Coughran). All three went to college. Chester, who acquired the property, graduated from Williams College and went on to earn a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in biochemistry. This led to his being known locally as Dr. Myers. He and his wife Charlotte Elizabeth had one daughter, also Charlotte Elizabeth. Chester's wife took ill in the influenza epidemic of 1918 and developed encephalitis, which affected her reason, and she was institutionalized. Their daughter was raised mainly by her father and an African–American woman called Daisy who acted as housekeeper and surrogate mother. Chester worked as a research chemist for Bayer, and they lived in Yonkers, New York. They spent summers on the farm, which was managed by a tenant after Abram's death in 1934.

Chester's daughter went to Wellesley College, where she met her future husband, Edgar Adams, who graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She went on to a year of graduate school at McGill University, but then married and left McGill. Like her father, she also hired a tenant farmer because she and her husband lived in the metropolitan New York City area. They eventually settled in Morris County, New Jersey. They raised three sons: Randall W. (b.1943), Bruce (b.1949) and Robert (b.1952). In the mid–1940s, Chester signed over the property to his daughter, keeping a life estate for himself. Edgar Adams, a lawyer and an electrical engineer, retired about 1993. He and Charlotte kept their house in New Jersey

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[4] *2/10.*

[5] *130/247.*

[6] "New York, State Census, 1855," index and images, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/K63Z–C4X : accessed 29 Apr 2013), Henry Kinion, 1855.

[7] *151/430.*

[8] *New York Census*, 1875, Pittstown, 1st election district, population schedule, Households 389 and 384. (Troy, New York: Office of the County Clerk)

[9] http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/cemm17.htm. This site provides death dates for both Abraham B. and Alida Myers and Stoughton and Amanda Stover Bryan.

[10] *240/399.*

[11] Randall W. Adams, Interview with author, 12 May 2009.

for about four or five more years, but they had determined to retire to the Pittstown property. Edgar died in May 2006, only a few years after they moved to Pittstown full time; his wife died in 2006, and the property was divided up amongst their sons. Their son Randall and his children own the portion east of Stover Road; part of the 12-acre parcel is jointly owned by the other two brothers; and the parcel with the tenant house is now owned by Justin and Sarah Frisino.

Architectural and agricultural development of the Adams-Myers-Bryan farmstead

The architectural record of the Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead encompasses one dwelling, the tenant house, constructed during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Evidence of additional early buildings is incorporated into several outbuildings on the property. Based on construction techniques and massing, all of these have forms and characteristics typical of the mid-1800s. This matches the ownership history of the property, which Henry Kinyon bought in 1851. Based on this physical evidence of buildings neatly constructed using many older timbers, it appears that Kinyon built the bank barn now forming the north wing of the main barn group and the main block of the horse barn before selling the property to Bryan in 1863. The hewn bird's-mouth rafters of the latter building appear to be earlier than the mid-1800s, but their butted ends at the ridgeline are more typical of the mid-century. The corn house and the tool barn may also date to Kinyon's ownership.

The Adams family believes, based on research done by Elizabeth Louise Myers that the present house was built about 1859. Kinyon probably found an earlier house when he bought the property in 1851, which he replaced. Even though the large, well-developed Greek Revival-style dwelling seems a little old-fashioned for this date, people in Pittstown continued to construct such houses even into the 1860s.[12] Since he added the land with the old tenant house a little later, that dwelling was probably not the older house. The back ell of the large house displays characteristics more typical of the early 1800s, and family lore maintains that it was dragged from a property on nearby Brundige Road.

Stoughton Bryan, great-great-uncle of the current owner, assembled the current property via two deeds, the first dated 1863 from Kinyon for the former Brownell parcel of 102 acres and the second in 1871 for 12 acres from the Finches for the parcel that includes the much older tenant house. Bryan's census record for 1875 lists $2,000 worth of outbuildings on a farm with an overall valuation of $11,000. This may indicate that he had added the carriage barn and tool barn (known as the pig house by the family because of the later pig pen and scalding kettle added to it) to those already built by Kinyon. Bryan's record reveals that he had expanded his holdings (possibly not contiguous) to over 200 acres. Less than half (99 acres) of the property remained improved; 13 acres were woodlot. He was raising a variety of stock—dairy cows, pigs, and sheep for wool—valued at $655. His crops were typical of many Pittstown farmers—hay, rye, oats, potatoes, and hay—who tended to consider themselves as commodities farmers. He valued his implements at $500, a figure well above the mean in the town.[13]

Bryan's nephew, Abram Myers, who took over the property in 1893, probably oversaw the addition of the west wing of the main barn group in two phases. This would have housed livestock—dairy cattle and possibly sheep—and their feed as well as provide centralized storage for his crops. Based on construction materials and techniques, it appears that Myers probably also built the stable block addition to the rear of the horse barn and the pig pen added to the back of the older tool barn. The wood shingle roofs hidden under the roof of the newer

[12] A very similar dwelling stood on the Cartin-Snyder-Overacker Farmstead (NR listed March 2013) until it burned in 1974.

[13] New York Census for 1875, Pittstown, 1st election district, agricultural schedule, p.13, line 22. (Troy, New York: Office of the County Clerk)

block probably date the slate roofs added to most of the older buildings as a change made after that, probably in the early 1900s.

In 1916, Abram Myers listed his chief crops as grain and potatoes in the *American Agriculturalist* directory for Rensselaer and Albany counties. His great–grand–nephew Randall remarks that Abram was a "real farmer" in the traditional sense of the word.[14] He kept a diversified farm typical of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in this area, with a small milking herd, a flock of wool sheep, and hogs. He raised potatoes and had land in tillage to both sell grain and hay and to support his livestock. Since the farm is located less than a mile from Valley Falls and a railroad, he shipped fluid milk into the Boston milk shed, and he probably built the two southern bays of the west wing of the main barn group to meet new regulations in the second quarter of the twentieth century. By this period, many farmers were shipping fluid milk by rail, and the ice house and later milk house both indicate his participation in this market. But, like many of his Pittstown neighbors, dairying was one of many activities carried out on his farm, and he may never have considered it his primary one.

During his father's life, Chester Myers had always pushed Abram to "improve" the operation. After his father died, however, Chester ran the property as a "hobby farm," and he did not keep up with changing thinking in agriculture of the mid–1900s. His 15 acres of woodlot on the east side of the highway was nearly identical to the 13 acres noted in the 1870s by Stoughton Bryan. He raised fewer row crops, however, with about 87 acres of hay instead. A part of the former "Meadow Farm" on the west side of the road made up the remaining acreage, and a tenant farmer living in the much older house managed the property. Chester, however, did buy a cement mixer, and he reinforced the stone foundations of several outbuildings and poured ones for the silo and the milk house. He abandoned farming in the period before changing regulations often led to sweeping alterations to agricultural outbuildings.

In the mid–1930s, Chester undertook a remodeling of the family house on the property. The wing was raised a half story and section of the open porch spanning the wing was glazed as a sun porch. A bathroom, which retains plumbing fixtures dating to that period, was inserted on the upstairs rear of the wing. The interior remodeling consisted mainly of hanging wallpaper and painting virtually all of the trim save some doors white. A pantry off the family parlor at the back of the main block was apparently untouched in the 1930s remodel. His daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Myers Adams remodeled the bedroom above the back stairs as a children's room for her grandchildren, whom she like to have come and visit in the summers.

The farm was not electrified until the Korean War era. After Chester's death in 1954, several people tried to talk his daughter into selling the property, but she determined to hold on to it and ran the farm much as it had been run through the 1930s and 1940s. She and her husband fixed up the tenant house on the property, which was rented from the early 1960s through 1912, but not to people who worked the farm. The Adamses managed the farm, raising grain and hay and keeping a few beef cattle. For a short time early on, a local acquaintance kept heifers on the property. Dick Andrew of Valley Falls helped when they needed a hand. Over time, the stone walls that subdivided the fields on the east side of the highway were removed to reduce the number of turns the tractor needed to make, and the stave silo was taken down.

These activities had little impact on the buildings' overall appearance and their configurations after the first quarter of the twentieth century, except for Chester's parging of foundations with concrete. Recently, the banked foundation of the north wing of the main barn, which was made of enormous rounded stones, was replaced with new masonry using concrete blocks to stabilize the building. As a group, the Adams farm retains a high degree of historic integrity as well as a wide range of buildings designed for specific functions on an agricultural property in Pittstown from about 1825 to 1925.

[14]Subsequent information presented in this discussion provided in an interview of Randy Adams, 12 May 2009, by the author.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please refer to bibliography prepared for the associated MPDF, Historic Farmsteads of Pittstown, New York

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:

__x__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 **112.07**
(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**	**617881**	**4750335**	5	**18**	**617245**	**4749381**
2	**18**	**617939**	**4749733**	6	**18**	**617405**	**4750177**
3	**18**	**617534**	**4749285**	7	**18**	**617821**	**4750361**
4	**18**	**617369**	**4749169**				

Verbal Boundary Description Please refer to attached mapping.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Adams-Myers-Bryan farmstead uses the boundary established by the early 1860s for the property and retained until only recently when the property was divided into three parcels. All three parcels are included in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jessie A. Ravage
organization Preservation Consultant date 1 May 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

- 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

List of digital photographs for **NY_Rensselaer County_Pittstown Farmsteads MPS_Adams–Myers–Bryan Farmstead**
Photographs (contemporary) of property shot by Jessie A. Ravage (34 Delaware Street, Cooperstown, NY, 13326, 607-547-9507, jravage@stny.rr.com), April 2013

0001: Overview of historic building cluster on east side of Stover Rd (camera facing northeast)

0002: Main house, front or west façade (camera facing east)

0003: L-plan group of ice house and carriage barn, tool barn (later pig house), and horse barn behind main house (camera facing northeast)

0004: Corn house and backs of horse barn and pig house (camera facing northwest)

0005: Main barn group (camera facing southeast)

0006: Main barn group from lower drive off Stover Rd (camera facing northeast)

0007: Main barn group showing yard (camera facing northwest)

0008: Tenant house, older section (camera facing southwest)

0009: Tenant house showing newer section and garage (camera facing southwest)

Property Owner:

name Multiple owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

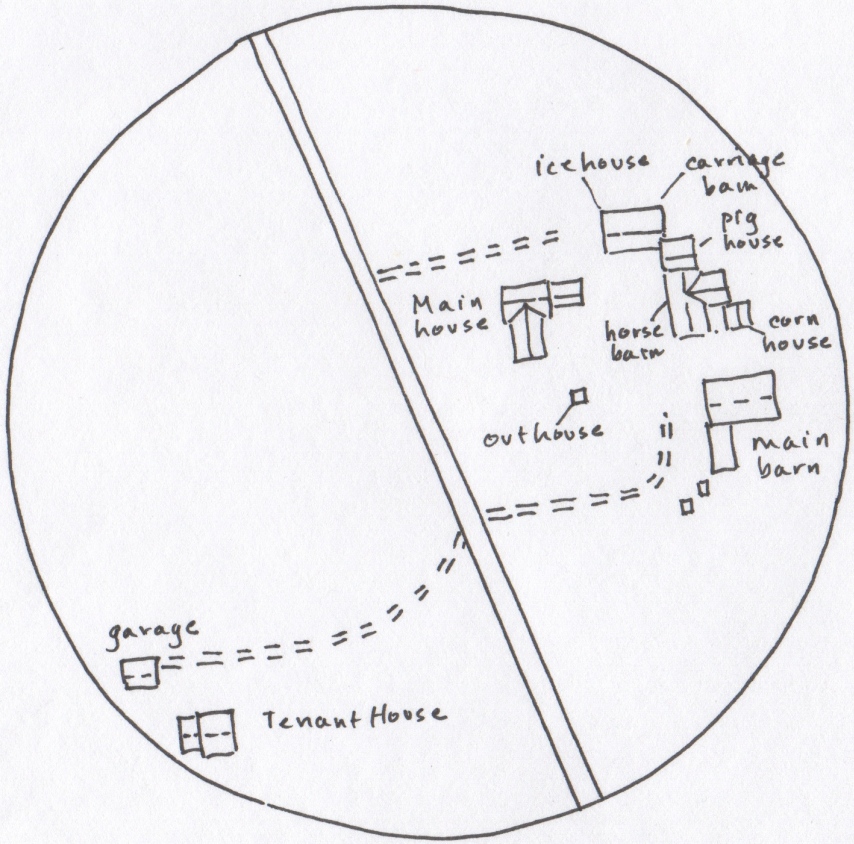
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

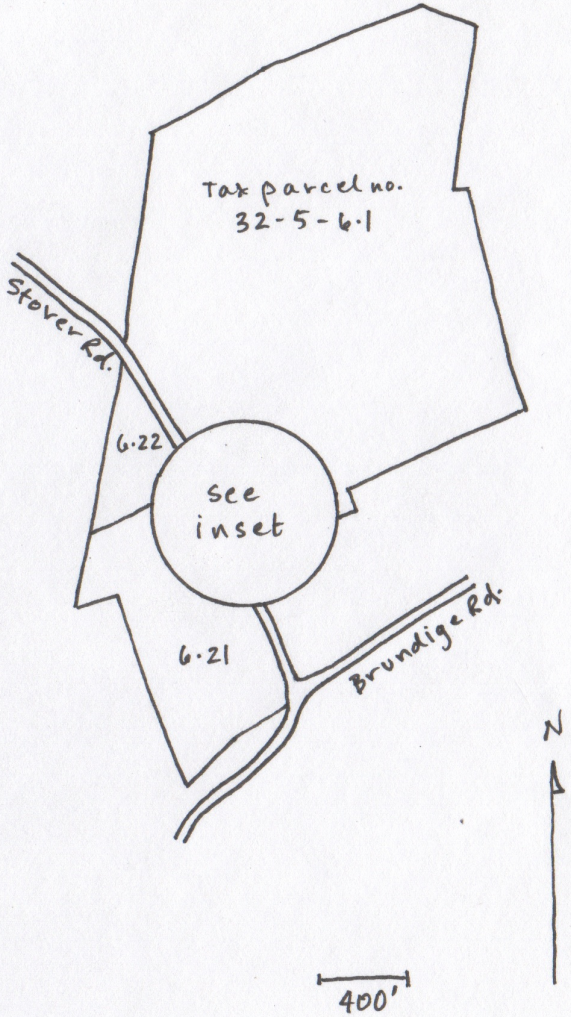
Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead

314 Stover Rd, Pittstown, Rensselaer County
New York

— Property boundary

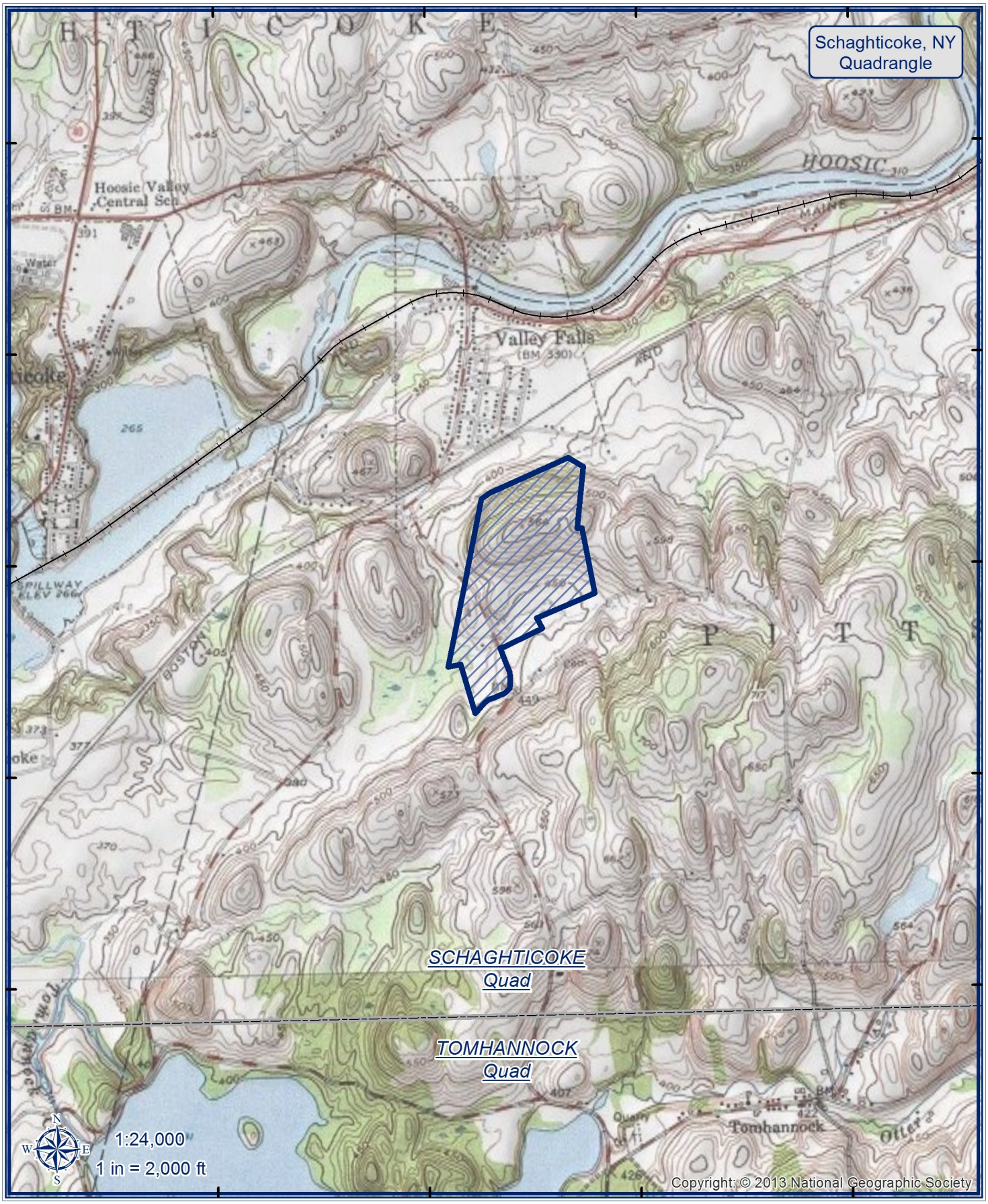
Jessie Ravage
June 2013





Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead
Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., NY

314 Stover Rd.
Valley Falls, NY 12185



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

Feet
0 5501,100 2,200

Farmstead
USGS quad index

Tax Parcel Data:
Rensselaer County RPS
rensco.com/countymaps.asp

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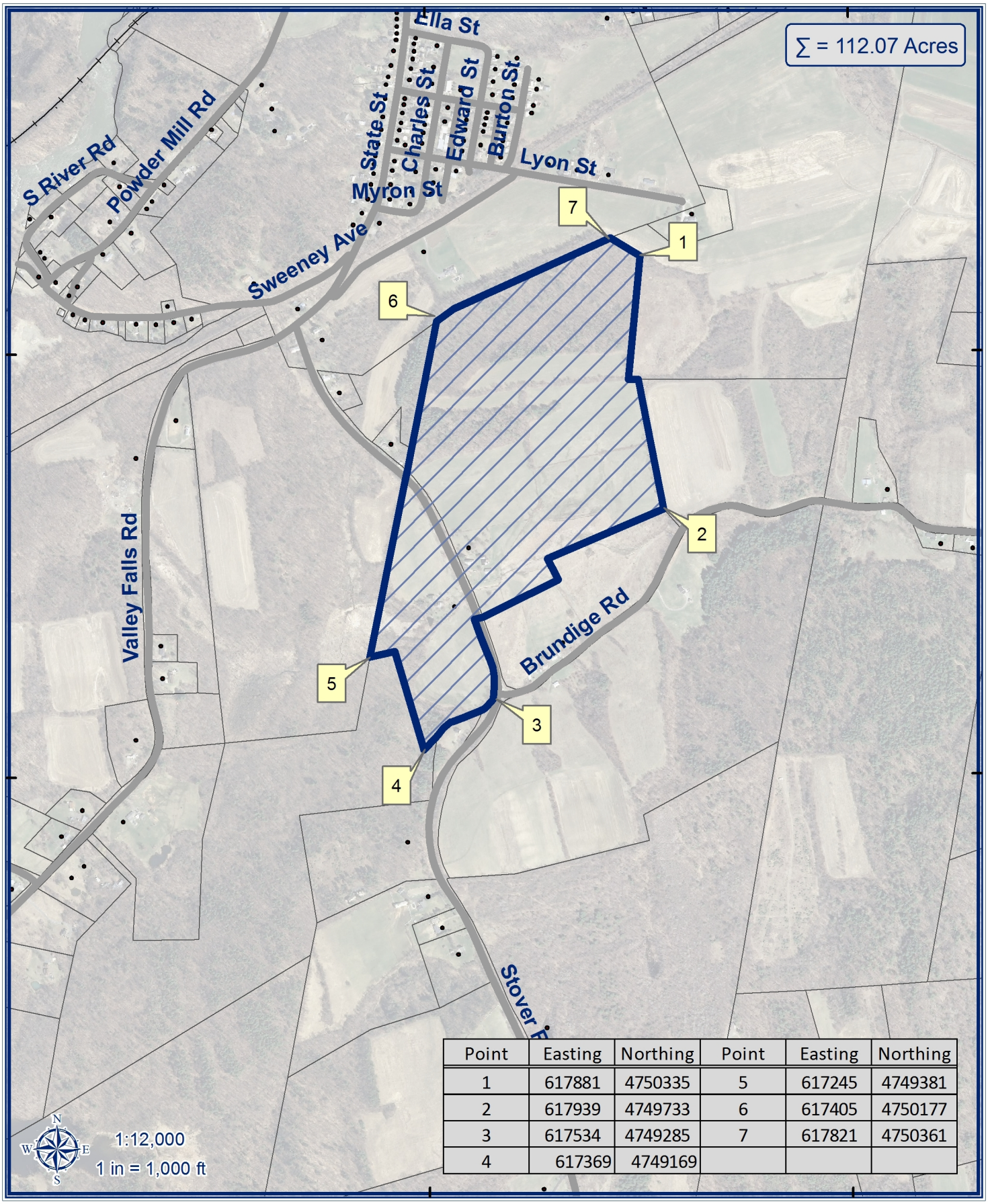
NEW YORK STATE

Adams-Myers-Bryan Farmstead
Pittstown, Rensselaer Co., NY

314 Stover Rd.
Valley Falls, NY 12185



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

0 290 580 1,160 Feet

Farmstead

Tax Parcel Data:
Rensselaer County RPS
rensco.com/countymaps.asp

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NEW YORK STATE

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