Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

1090

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property:

historic name James Keith House AND Brown-Morey-Davis Farm

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2615 Newport Rd AND 2608 Newport Rd ☐ not for publication

city or town Newport ☒ vicinity

state New York code NY county Herkimer code 043 zip code 13416

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Ruth Pierpont DSHPO 11/18/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Alexis Abernathy 1-15-14

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)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	2	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See continuation Sheet

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
c1815-1870; c1815-1963

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data

[x] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal agency
[ ] Local government
[ ] University
[ ] Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 22.5 acres; 161.4 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18			3			
2				4			

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Travis Bowman, Historic Preservation Program Analyst

organization New York State Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation date 5/29/2013

street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 x 3259

city or town Waterford state New York zip code 12188

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Various

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.470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 from to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description:

Setting

The James Keith House and the Brown-Morey-Davis Farm are two adjacent properties being nominated individually on the same form. Although not copies of one another, the two houses are roughly contemporary, and share similar styles, construction type and architectural significance. Both properties occupy irregularly shaped parcels fronting Newport Road, in the town of Newport, Herkimer County, NY. The properties are located in the upland regions of the Kuyahoora Valley (Kuyahoora is an interpretation of an Iroquoian name for the West Canada Creek), which was renowned for its natural scenery—steep drops, cataracts, gorges, eddies, etc—and its large, and easily-accessible, limestone deposits. The West Canada Creek is a major drainage basin of the Adirondack Mountains, a primary tribute of the Mohawk River, and was part of a well-established natural route from the Mohawk to Lake Ontario.

James Keith House, Description

The James Keith house is located on a 22 acre parcel, west of Newport Road with its gable ridgeline paralleling, giving it an alignment running roughly southeast to northwest. The main house and ell are covered in standing seam metal roofs, the shed porches off the ell are covered in asphalt shingle roofs. A non-contributing barn (twentieth century) is included within the boundary of the nomination.

James Keith House, Main House (c1815, *contributing*)

The house consists of a two story rectangular limestone dwelling with an attached one and half story rear frame ell. The limestone portion is a five bay, double pile form with a side-facing gable roof, and rests on a limestone foundation. Both the foundation and walls are constructed of cut limestone blocks laid in regular courses, except the rear elevation which consists of irregularly sized blocks laid in rubble coursing. Fenestration varies by block, elevation and story and will be described separately. Ornamentation includes corner limestone quoins, a decorative course of larger limestone blocks separating the lower and upper story, a large frieze band ornamented with decorative brackets, and moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable ends. The ornamental brackets are scroll sawn and have drop finials. There is an exterior concrete block chimney on the south-southwest elevation. The frame ell is a one and half stories in height, covered by a gable roof, and rests on a cut limestone block foundation; it is clad in vinyl siding over the original wooden clapboards. Two shed-roofed porches project off of each of the side elevations (northeast and southwest) of the ell. Visible framing in the basement show flattened log joists, hewn only on the top, joined by butt cog joints.

James Keith House, Entrance elevation (southeast)

Fenestration on the main elevation is regular and symmetrical and consists of five openings on each story, totaling nine windows and a center entrance. All windows openings are 6/6 wood frame, double hung windows set into simple wooden surrounds with projecting limestone sills. Window openings on the lower story have large limestone set into the decorative stone course that visually separates the two stories. The main entrance is a four-paneled wooden door with strap iron hardware, set into a simple moulded wooden surround. The door is recessed into the masonry and surmounted by a large limestone lintel.

James Keith House, Side elevations, main block (northeast, southwest)

Fenestration and ornamentation is the same on both side elevations and will be described concurrently. It consists of four symmetrically placed, double-hung, 6/6, wood framed windows set into moulded wooden surrounds, matching those on the main elevation. All windows have projecting stone sills and large limestone lintels. As

described on the main elevation, the lintels of the lower story windows are set into the decorative stone course that visually separates the two stories. Paired, small, square openings on the attic story of both gable ends are covered by wooden louvers.

James Keith House, Rear elevation (southeast) and ell
Most of the rear elevation is subsumed by the intersection with the ell and there are no visible openings on the main block, although the bracketed cornice does continue onto the rear. Fenestration on the ell is irregularly placed. Lighting the lower story of the elevations are 6/6 wood frame windows in moulded wooden surrounds, placed individually or in triples, and an entrance; lighting the upper half story are small, rectangular, three-light frieze band windows.

James Keith House, Interior.
In plan the main block has four rooms and a stair hall on the first floor and four chambers organized around a central hall on the upper floor. The ell has a small foyer and two rooms on the lower story and two rooms on the upper, and has a separate stair accessing the rear rooms. Finishes in the main block include lath and plaster walls and ceilings and wide plank floors (now varnished). Fragments of stenciling have been preserved in situ in the front parlor. Ornamentation includes moulded wooden door and window surrounds, beaded baseboard, and paneled window boxes and aprons. Doors throughout the house are six-paneled with wrought hardware and consistent with the early nineteenth century construction date. An interior door, behind the main entrance, is paneled with arched glazing. The newel and balustrade are heavy, turned and ornamental and more consistent with later nineteenth century tastes. The lath and plaster walls and ceilings on the upper story of the main block have been replaced with non-historic gypsum board, but the floors and surrounds have been preserved. Finishes in the ell include lath and plaster walls and ceilings and varnished plank floors. Ornamentation includes moulded door and window surrounds (simpler than those seen in the main block), and a wood paneled treatment on the rear stair. Doors in the ell are flat with wrought hardware.

James Keith House, Barn/Garage (twentieth century, *non-contributing*).
Situated to the north of the house is a large outbuilding. It is frame construction, clad in vertical wood boards and covered by a standing seam metal roof. The interior is divided into several unfinished rooms.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Description

The Brown-Morey-Davis farm is located on a large, 161 acre parcel, east of Newport Road and west of the West Canada Creek, in the Town of Newport, Herkimer County, New York. The nominated farm itself consists of the main house (c 1815), a large dairy barn (c1920), a chicken breeding building (c1900) and two non-contributing buildings, a garage and cheese factory, both dating to the late twentieth century. The house fronts nearby Newport Road, with its gable ridgeline paralleling, giving it an alignment running roughly southwest to northeast.

Brown-Morey-Davis Farm, Main House (c1815, *contributing*)
The house consists of a two story rectangular limestone dwelling with an attached rear frame ell. The limestone portion is a five bay, double pile form with a side-facing gable roof, and rests on a limestone foundation. Both the foundation and walls are constructed of cut limestone blocks laid in regular courses, except the rear elevation which consists of irregularly sized blocks laid in rubble coursing. The frame ell is a single story, "L" plan addition, covered by an intersecting gable roof, and rests on a concrete foundation; it is clad painted fiber cement boards. Fenestration varies by block, elevation and story and will be described separately. Ornamentation includes corner limestone

quoins, a decorative course of larger limestone blocks separating the lower and upper story, a tripartite window on the main entrance elevation and an unadorned frieze band and moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable ends. There are two large brick chimneys near the gable ends.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Entrance elevation (northwest)
Fenestration on the main elevation is regular and symmetrical and consists of five openings on each story. The center openings on each story (entrance and tripartite window) are flanked by two double-hung, 6/6, wood framed windows set into moulded wooden surrounds. All four of the 6/6 windows have projecting limestone sills; those on the lower story have large limestone lintels set into the decorative stone course that visually separates the two stories, while those on the upper story are surmounted directly by the moulded wooden cornice. The main entrance is a six-paneled wooden door recessed into a moulded wood surround; it is emphasized with fluted pilasters, a semi-elliptical fanlight surmounted by an arched limestone architrave with a projecting keystone. The whole is accessed by a set of broad limestone steps. A rectangular tripartite window lights the center hall in the upper story; this window is set into a moulded wooden surround, has a projecting limestone sill and moulded wooden panels.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Side elevations (northeast, southwest)
Fenestration and ornamentation is the same on both side elevations and will be described concurrently. It consists of four symmetrically placed, double-hung, 6/6, wood framed windows set into moulded wooden surrounds, matching those on the main elevation. All windows have projecting stone sills and large limestone windows. As described on the main elevation, the lintels of the lower story windows are set into the decorative stone course that visually separates the two stories. Lighting the attic story on both gable ends are a pair of four light, square, wood-framed, fixed windows.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Rear elevation (southeast)
Most of the rear elevation is subsumed by the intersection with the ell. Only two openings in the limestone envelope are visible on the exterior and they are not symmetrically placed. Lighting the lower story is an 8/8 double hung, wood framed window set into a wooden surround. Unlike other windows described, this example does not have a projecting sill, but is does have a large lintel stone. Lighting the upper story is a narrow 2/2 wood framed window with neither sill nor lintel.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Interior.
In plan the first floor is three rooms, including a stair hall, a north corner room and kitchen/living room. The upstairs' plan consists of four chambers organized around a central hall. Finishes on the lower story are replacements based on the originals; these include gypsum board with plastered surface on the walls and ceilings, wide plank floors (now varnished) and moulded wood surrounds. Finishes on the upper story are a mixture of originals and replacements based on the originals. The plank floors and some casings date to the early nineteenth century construction period, but the original plaster walls and ceilings have been replaced with gypsum board and plaster. Doors throughout the house are six-paneled with wrought hardware and consistent with the early nineteenth century construction date. The hall and stair have been replaced in their original location after being boxed in the 1960s. The upper stair hall has an original oval-profile railing, which was replicated for the lower stair. The ell, constructed in 2003, accesses the front block via an original exterior opening.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Dairy Barn (c1920, *contributing*).
Situated to the southwest of the house is a massive dairy barn. The two story barn is long and rectangular in plan (85 x 35'), with an attached shed-roofed milk parlor, three aluminum silos and a long (65 x 35') single-story gable-roofed rear addition. It rests on a concrete foundation, is wood framed, clad in vertical wooded siding and covered by a gambrel roof. Fenestration varies by bay and elevation, but it is irregular and related to function rather than aesthetics. For example the rear livestock housing area has banks of large windows, while the hay mow has smaller square openings for ventilation. The interiors of the barn spaces are generally unfinished except for the milk shed, which has a poured concrete floor.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Poultry breeding building (mid-20th century, *contributing*).
Located to the southeast of the house is a square frame outbuilding. The building is clad in vertical wooden board and covered by a low pitch gable roof. The interior is unfinished.

Brown-Morey-Davis farm, Cheese Factory and Garage (late 20th century, non-contributing).
Off the south corner of the ell are two non-historic buildings. The cheese factory is a one and half story frame building, clad in vertical wooden boards, and covered by a gable roof. The factory has a shed-roofed ell off the southeast elevation and is attached to the nearby garage via a passageway. The garage is a one and half story frame building, clad in painted fiber cement boards, covered by a gambrel roof.

Statement of Significance:
The James Keith house and the Brown-Morey-Davis farmhouse are architecturally significant as distinctive early National Period examples of domestic architecture in the town of Newport, New York. Both houses stand as chronicles of the vernacular architecture of the immediate post-settlement era of the region and as part of a regional building tradition of stone construction in the Kuyahoora Valley. As the region's farmers prospered in decades after the American Revolution, they began to replace their settlement-era dwellings with more fashionable architectural residences. Local craftsmen took advantage of the Kuyahoora Valley's abundant and readily-available limestone sources to construct houses in a form and type familiar to the New England settlers of Newport—five bay, double pile with a symmetrically-composed entrance elevation. This established typology was then embellished with detailing and features related to the emerging Federal style, which increasingly emphasized the primary elevation's interrelationship with the adjacent road.

James Keith House
The house was probably built ca. 1815 for James Keith Sr. (1758-1837) and subsequently embellished during the mid-nineteenth century with Greek Revival, and later Italianate, style ornamentation. The exact date of James Keith's immigration to Newport is not known, but deed research indicates Keith obtained the nominated land in 1801; in addition, Keith's sister Mary is recorded has having arrived in Newport in 1802 with her husband Uriah Hawkins, and Mary and James' father, Capt. Stephen Keith, died in Newport in 1808. James Keith, his father Stephen, and brother-in-law Uriah Hawkins were all veterans of the Revolution, and his sister's kinsman, Christopher Hawkins, is listed in many sources as the earliest permanent European settler in Newport (c1791).

The period of significance, ca. 1815 to ca. 1870 has been framed to include the likely construction date of the house (1815) and the last contributing architectural changes to the house.

Brown-Morey-Davis Farm
The Brown-Morey-Davis farm is historically significant as an assemblage of resources that represents the agricultural growth and development of the town of Newport. Taken as a group the buildings symbolize a change in agricultural production, technology and methods of construction from the early nineteenth century to the mid twentieth century. The area transformed from one focused on local and subsistence-level agriculture to being part of a world-renowned cheese-producing region a few generations later. By the late nineteenth century Newport was supplying dairy products to major resort and tourist destinations in New York's Adirondack Mountains and by World War II most of the region's farms had converted to large-scale, mechanized dairy production. Agricultural outbuildings on the Brown-Morey-Davis farm were modified or replaced over time to keep up with these evolving agricultural practices and period farm arrangements. Today, the house and outbuildings are situated in a highly intact, rural, agrarian setting, and the surrounding landscape remains in active agricultural use. The stone farmhouse was probably built ca.1815, but neither its builder nor its original owner has been established.

The period of significance, ca. 1815 to 1963, has been framed to include the likely construction date of the house (1815) and brought to a fifty year cutoff date (1963) to encompasses the longest period of agricultural operations on the farm (it is still currently being farmed). This date range encompasses the construction and all of the extant contributing buildings and features on the farm.

History and Development of the Newport area
The Newport area included several pre-Revolutionary War patents, and both nominated houses are located in Lot 7 of Peter Hansenclever's 18,000 acre patent, granted in 1769. Hansenclever owned several large patents in New

York and New Jersey, and was noted for his efforts to develop industry within his holdings. He operated iron forges, mines, furnaces, mills and pot & pearl ash factories on several of his lands, and recruited hundreds of immigrants (predominately Germans) to work in his various enterprises. A pot and pearl ash manufactory operated on the Mohawk River in the southern portion of Hasenclever's Patent, but settlement of Newport and other upland regions of the Kuyahoora Valley was not attempted until after the Revolutionary War, when post-war conditions removed every pre-war impediment to settlement. The Revolution simultaneously pushed the threat of international war farther west towards the central Great Lakes region and ended the dominance of the Iroquois Confederacy in the northern frontier. The cash-strapped and debt-heavy states of New York and Massachusetts suddenly found themselves in possession of massive amounts of land unfettered by Indian title or Imperial control; where the Crown had sought to carefully manage western movement, the new states saw only the potential for revenue. New York and Massachusetts quickly settled their centuries' old boundary dispute by exchanging proceeds from land sales for a precisely defined border. Land was quickly sold and the lure of cheap and available land in New York was the perfect outlet for New Englanders who had been running low on land for generations. By the late 1780s speculators were purchasing lands in and around the town and village of Newport, which had previously been part of at least three colonial land patents—Walton's Patent, Crosby's Patent, and the Hansenclever Patent (where the nominated property is located). For example, Daniel Campbell, one of the richest men in New York, obtained portions of the Walton Patent from the Commissioners of Forfeiture and quickly resold the lands to William, Ephraim and Benjamin Bowen. The Bowens were interested in developing industrial and milling operations on the fast-flowing West Canada Creek and were among the earliest settlers of Newport. During the early national period, the future town and village of Newport experienced a rapid population growth, primarily from New England families. The town of Newport itself was formed in 1806 and was named for Newport, Rhode Island, because of the large number of early New England settlers, including the Bowens, were from that colonial seaport.

History of Occupation, James Keith House

An 1879 history of Herkimer County noted that: "Churchill, Coffin, Green, Bowen and Nelson" owned the lands on the west side of the creek, and deed research indicates that Benjamin Bowen sold the nominated land to James Keith Sr. in 1801. James Sr.'s son, James Jr. (1788-1852), married into the Bowen family as well. Research has not established a builder or a construction date for the James Keith house, but it shares many similarities with other stone houses in the area (see architectural analysis below). Keith's son James Jr. appears to have inherited the house after his father's death in 1837 and the latter was likely living in the house in 1852, when an issue of the *American Cultivator* magazine referenced the nominated property:

> I wish to make a statement through your columns, of the amount of cheese made per cow, from some of the dairies in the town of Newport in the county of Herkimer. James Keith keeps a dairy of thirty-one cows; and in 1850, made 20,000 pounds of cheese. He also sold one firkin of butter, besides furnishing milk, butter and cheese for a family of nine persons. The cows had a little extra feed in the spring of the year. This will give about 650 pounds per cow.[1]

The house remained in the Keith family's possession for decades. Published nineteenth century histories and obituaries established that James Keith Jr.'s sons Stephen and Charles F. inherited the nominated house and an adjacent property to the north (no longer extant) after the former's death in 1852. Charles F. Keith moved to nearby Rome, Oneida County, NY in the 1840s but returned to the "homestead farm" in Newport a few years after buying a harness business in Rome in 1849. The 1855 New York State census enumerated Charles and his widowed mother Betsy living in a stone house, and his brother Stephen (and wife Sarah) as living in a frame house. R.F. O'Connor's

[1] "Amount of Cheese per Cow," New York State Agricultural Society, *The Cultivator* Volume 9. (Luther Tucker: Albany, NY, 1852), 143. www.books.google.com.

"Map of Herkimer County, New York," published in 1857, labeled the nominated house as "C Keith" and the adjacent house as "S Keith."[2] Stephen Keith (1815-1860) subsequently died a few years after the map was published, and his widow Sarah was enumerated in Charles Keith's household in the 1860 federal census; it, however, cannot be determined if Charles and his sister-in-law are living in the nominated house or the frame house.

James Keith Sr.'s original farm was divided in the mid-nineteenth century and his descendants no longer occupied either the nominated stone house or the adjacent frame house. The Keiths were not living in the house in June of 1865, when the New York State census was taken; this census enumerated William Thomas—a renter—in the house. Deed research indicates Charles Keith sold a portion of the nominated property to Mason C. Morey in 1866. An 1868 published map of Herkimer County, the nominated house was labeled as being owned by "MC Morey" and the adjacent house as by "J Crossett." Mason C. Morey (1814-1882), along with his brothers David H. and William, all moved to Newport in the mid-nineteenth century. Originally immigrating to New York from New England (specifically Rhode Island), the Morey family initially settled in Fairfield, the West Canada Creek settlement southeast of Newport.[3] Mason's brother, David H., bought the stone house across the street from the nominated house (the co-nominated Brown-Morey-Davis farm) and his nephews and their descendants continued to live in that property until the 1920s. Mason C. Morey was listed as a "dairyman and farmer" with 150 acres in the 1869 *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Herkimer County*, giving the Morey family control of over 400 acres at that time. It is likely that Mason C Morey added the Italianate updates to the house; these included the decorative brackets in the cornice, alterations to the front entry and side entry porches, the interior stair and Italianate interior main door.

The 1875 New York State census enumerated the Morey family in the nominated house, but they family had moved by the time of the 1880 federal census. At that time the house was likely occupied by Charles Cole (1825-1888) and his family; subsequently, a note in the December 3, 1889 issue of the *Little Falls Journal and Courier* newspaper recorded that Dennis Maxwell purchased a farm belong to the heirs of Charles Cole. The Maxwell family continued to own the house for nearly a century.

History of Occupation, Brown-Morey-Davis farm

Research has not established who actually had the Brown-Morey-Davis stone house constructed, or when. The first land ownership map available for the town of Newport was R.F. O'Connor's "Map of Herkimer County, New York," published in 1857.[4] The O'Connor map labeled the nominated house "O. Brown," likely Orrin Brown (1797-1872). Brown moved to Newport with his parents, Eseck (1757-1819) and Ruth (1761-1841) sometime in the first decade of the nineteenth century; Eseck is enumerated in the 1800 federal census in Chester, Berkshire Co., MA and the in 1810 federal census in the town of Newport, Herkimer Co., NY. It is possible that Eseck Brown had the nominated house constructed after arriving in Newport, but it is unknown. Eseck's 1819 will did reference a "dwelling house" and provided his wife an income "out of the profits of the farm on which we now live," including half of the profits from the farm's "eight good milk cows and thirty good sheep." Eseck's son Orrin inherited the dwelling house referred to in his father's will, and this may be the nominated house, which Orrin owned according to the 1857 map. Brown, however, was a large landholder in the Newport area; "O Brown" is labeled on a total of three houses on the 1857 map (see continuation sheet), and there is a period of almost forty years between inheriting a house from his father (1819) and the publishing of the map showing his ownership of the nominated house. At the time of the publishing of an 1868 map of Herkimer County, Brown no longer owned the nominated

[2] Map of Herkimer County, New York, Surveyed and published by R.F. O'Connor, Little Falls, NY, 1857.
[3] George A. Hardin, *ed. History of Herkimer County, New York* (D. Mason & Co., Publishers: Syracuse, NY, 1893).
[4] Map of Herkimer County, New York, Surveyed and published by R.F. O'Connor, Little Falls, NY, 1857.

property; instead the house is labeled "heirs of D Morey" and adjacent building (no longer extant) as "N Morey Cheese Fact[ory]."

David H. Morey, along with his wife Elsie and several children moved to Newport in 1859, but David died that same year.[5] After his death, the farm was operated by two of David's sons, Newell (1836-1920) and Milo (1847-1945), and then by Milo's son Grover until at least the 1920s. Like the Brown family, the Moreys immigrated to New York from New England, specifically Rhode Island. The family initially settled in Fairfield, the West Canada Creek settlement southeast of Newport, but by the mid-nineteenth century, several Moreys were living in Newport. In addition to David H. and his family, David's brothers William and Mason C. also owned property nearby. Mason C. purchased the stone house across the road from his brother's farm (the James Keith Jr. farm, nominated concurrently) and another house south of the two nominated stone houses, which was owned by Orrin Brown according to the 1857 map. Mason C. was listed as a "dairyman and farmer" with 150 acres in the 1869 *Gazetteer and Business Directory*, so the Morey family controlled over 400 acres at that time.

During the Morey period of ownership, at least two buildings (one extant) were constructed on the nominated property, each representing an economic shift in the region (see agricultural context section, below). Newell Morey had a cheese factory built on the property sometime during the 1860s (it appears on the 1868 map, see continuation sheet), and he operated it until at least 1875; this building is no longer extant. In the early twentieth century, the large gambrel-roofed large dairy barn was added to the property, likely by Milo Morey or his son Grover.

The Morey family sold the property in the 1920s to the Moore/Davis family, whose descendants owned the property until the end of the twentieth century. By the 1940s, the barn had two silos and a concrete milk shed, and in 1945 Francis M. Davis (1920-1994) began processing, bottling and delivering milk from the Davis Farm Dairy. In the 1950s Davis began raising broiler chickens in the low-pitched outbuilding to the rear of the house.

Agricultural Context

Cattle raising and husbandry was recognized as a profitable endeavor from the earliest European settlement of the Kuyahoora Valley. While potash and grains (mostly for distilling) were staple cash crops of the lower, more fertile bottomlands of the Mohawk River, the limestone rich soils of the upland hilly regions were more suited to animal grazing and the growing of feed crops. As previously noted, Eseck Brown's 1819 will mentioned "eight good milk cows and thirty good sheep," and profits from the dairy, In addition to the profits from beef (and later cheese), Newport and several other Kuyahoora Valley settlements had established tannery operations; the two essential ingredients for tanning—water and hemlock—were plentiful in the area and the natural route of the West Canada to the Mohawk gave the region a transportation connection with the Erie Canal.[6] One of first plank roads in Herkimer County, likely built of Hemlock planks, was established in the Kayahoora Valley, running from Newport to Herkimer.

The Morey family is specifically mentioned in nineteenth century histories as greatly contributing to the development of the town, especially in the area of agriculture. Hardin's 1893 *History of Herkimer County* noted that Newell Morey started farming and cattle-raising at age 21 (c1859, when the family moved to the nominated farmstead) and that the Moreys were regional leaders in both dairy and beef farming. Morey was not just involved in

[5] George A. Hardin, *ed. History of Herkimer County, New York* (D. Mason & Co., Publishers: Syracuse, NY, 1893).
[6] Hugh O. Canham, "Hemlock and Hide: The Tanbark Industry in Old New York," *Northern Woodlands*, Issue 69. (Center for Northern Woodlands Education: Corinth, VT, Summer, 2011). http://northernwoodlands.org.

the raising of cattle, he also worked on the retail side; he operated a grocery and meat market with his partners James Crossett and Perry Kimball for more than twenty years.

The *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Herkimer County, N.Y. 1869-70* listed Newell Morey as a "farmer 70, manager of the estate of the late David H. Morey, 200, also prop. of Newport Cheese Factory." Multiple sources make note of the fact that Newell Morey started the first cheese factory in Newport, and as the 1868 map indicates, it was on the nominated property. By the mid nineteenth century, dairying and cheese were the dominant economic pursuit in upstate New York, as the cereal farmers of upstate New York were facing unbeatable competition from farmers farther west. According to nineteenth century histories, Nathan Arnold began making cheese in Herkimer County around 1800 and by the 1830s Herkimer County had gained an international reputation as a cheese producing region. In 1851 Jessie Williams brought the concept of the "cheese factory" to nearby Rome, NY. Under the factory system, farmers brought their milk to a centralized location, where an expert cheesemaker produced a uniform, quality cheese. Williams's facility was the forerunner of the cheese factory system that still exists today. Within ten years there were over 500 cheese factories set up under Williams's system in New York and almost double that number a decade later. The consistency of the cheeses produced under the factory system helped stabilize prices. In 1861 a group of Herkimer County farmers and cheese makers coordinated their efforts in an open-air, centralized market in Little Falls. Around the time of the establishment of the Little Falls market, French's *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York* was published—providing a snapshot of how incredibly successful Herkimer County's cheese industry was. French calculated that New York State produced roughly 38 million pounds of cheese per year, and Herkimer County produced 9 million pounds of that—almost a quarter of the state's total—and three times higher than any other county in the state.[7] By the mid-1860s, "hundreds" of wagonloads of cheese could be seen at the Little Falls market; as a consequence Little Falls dairyman Harry Burrell became one of the leading cheese buyers and exporters in the country, shipping a thousand boxes a week with aggregate purchases in the millions of dollars.[8] Cheese made with milk from the nominated farm and at Newell Morey's factory almost assuredly made its way into the famous Little Falls cheese market. Newell Morey sold his interests in the Newport Cheese Factory in 1875 to its cheese-maker, Charles Guiteau Babcock; Babcock bought seven local cheese factories in the late nineteenth century, a testament to the success of the industry Newell Morey had started in Newport.[9] Beers' 1879 *History of Herkimer County* reported the town of Newport's agricultural output for the year 1875; Newport's 2,554 cows produced 39,682 pounds of butter and 192,205 pounds of cheese.

In 1870 the *Utica Herald* began reporting weekly market reports from Little Falls, and the price reported at the Little Falls cheese market quickly became the standard for the commodity, broadcast around the world as indexes. In January of 1871, the open air cheese market was formally organized into the New York State Dairyman's Association and Board of Trade, the first of its kind in the United States. A telegraph line connected the headquarters of the association with New York City so the commodities market could directly receive the most up to date prices.[10] The 1870 census for the immediate area showed at least four individuals connected to cheese making—Charles G. Babcock was listed a "cheesemaker," and Mason Morey's son Charles, Adelbert White, and Kate Mahond all listed their professions as "works in cheese factory."

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[7] JH French, *Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State*, (R Pearsall Smith: Syracuse, NY, 1860), 107-8 and 340. http://archive.org.
[8] Josiah Bushnell Grinnell and Joseph H. Reall, "The cattle industries of the United States—Dairying and Dairy Improvements," *Agricultural Review and Journal of the American Agricultural Association*. (Joseph Reall: New York, 1882), 36-7. www.googlebooks.com.
[9] *History of Herkimer County, N.Y.*(F. W. Beers & Co., Publishers, 1879).
[10] Neil Davis, "Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey PIN 2009.13.121, BIN 4-03892-0, BIN 4-03892-0A, BIN 4-03892-0B NYS Route 167/Mohawk River, Route 5 & Conrail Railroad, City of Little Falls, Herkimer County, New York." (New York State Museum: Albany, NY, 1997), 44; Edward Cooney, *ed. Little Falls Sesqui-Centennial 1811-1961: One Hundred Fifty Years of Progress*, (Journal & Courier Press: Little Falls, NY, 1961). As excerpted on http://www.threeriversshms.com/lf2.htm.

The upstate New York cheese boon was short-lived. As had been the case with cereal crops generations earlier, upstate New York dairy and beef farms faced unbeatable competition from the west. Massive improvements in railroad infrastructure during the late nineteenth century allowed western and southwestern ranchers to easily and quickly get their beef to meat packing facilities in the Midwest. Similarly, Wisconsin cheeses found their way to eastern markets and soon the Dairy State surpassed New York in cheese production. By the 1890s, the eastern lakeshore region of Wisconsin, specifically Plymouth in Sheboygan County, superseded Little Falls as the price quoting center of the industry.[11] By the 1920s, Wisconsin had almost three times as many cheese factories as New York and was producing more cheese than New York had ever had.[12] The 1905 New York State Census reflected the economic impact of western competition; Babcock, the cheesemaker, still lived in the immediate vicinity of the nominated farmstead, but he no longer had any employees enumerated in his household; likewise, none of the family members living in the two Morey households, or in the Maxwell house across the street, listed cheesemaking as part of their professions.

Dairy farming, however, remained a viable economic pursuit in the region, and farmers discovered that the regional cheese factory co-op model worked equally well for creameries. Regional creameries could produce butter, cream, cream cheese, condensed milk and, ultimately, fresh fluid milk. Meals of the period were heavy and often laden with butter and cream, and rapid railroad and steamboat development during the Gilded Age expanded the viable retail range of these products. Milk was recognized as an important food and form of nourishment, especially in children, but by the 1840s reformers were attempting to raise awareness of the fact that urban-produced milk was a major health hazard. Exposés in Frank *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and Robert Milham Hartley's *An Historical, Scientific, and Practical Essay on Milk* brought to light the horrible conditions of "swill milk"—produced by dirty, disease-infested urban dairies, where cows were fed hot distillery slop waste. The swill milk was so inferior that it was blamed for the deaths of thousands of infants, predominantly among the poorer classes. Efforts at producing a stable canned milk product had begun in the early nineteenth century, but it was not until 1856 that Gail Borden perfected a method capable of creating a canned milk product with a stable shelf life. Borden's sweetened condensed milk in a can gained popularity among troops during the Civil War and the enthusiasm carried through in the decades following. Finally, increased governmental regulation, coupled with pressure from medical authorities and concerned citizens' groups, helped create a safer fluid milk product by improving the stock and care of milk cattle and the handling of milk at the farm and during transport.[13] Scientific testing of dairy products, coolers, and milk pasteurization systems ensured a purer and safer product, and refinements and improvements in refrigerated rail cars greatly expanded the "milksheds" of larger urban centers like New York City. By the early twentieth century, upstate New York's dairy country was supplying ⅔ of the 4,000,000 daily quarts of milk consumed in the city.[14]

The development of the nominated Brown-Morey-Davis farmstead during the 70+ year period of Morey ownership reflected the shift away from cheese and into other dairy produce. As noted, by the 1905 NYS census, none of the Moreys were directly involved in cheesemaking, but Milo Morey's daughter, Bella, was recorded as working in the "Milk condensing factory," which must have referred to the Clover Leaf Creamery. The Clover Leaf creamery opened in the village of Newport 1881, and was one of several regional creameries serving the Kuyahoora Valley. At the time, Newport's creamery was too far geographically to service New York City's milkshed, but it was perfectly suited to benefit from the tourism boom that occurred in the Adirondack Mountains during the latter half of the

[11] Loyal Durand, Jr., "The Cheese Manufacturing Regions of Wisconsin, 1850-1950," *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters* Vol. 42 (1953: 109-130), 116. http://images.library.wisc.edu.
[12] Ibid., 121.
[13] Eric Brunger, "Dairying and Urban Development in New York State, 1850-1900," *Agricultural History* Vol. 29, No. 4 (1955, 169-174). http://www.jstor.org; Loyal Durand, Jr., "The Historical and Economic Geography of Dairying in the North Country of New York State," *Geographical Review* Vol. 57, No. 1 (1967, 24-47). http://www.jstor.org.
[14] "Milk without Honey," *Time* Vol. XXXIV No. 9, August 28, 1939. www.time.com.

nineteenth century. Architect-designed grand resorts were meant to be self-contained tourist destinations, and the clientele at these fashionable resorts demanded the varied and ample meals that had become a staple of modern mass society.[15] An 1896 *Utica Journal* newspaper article about the Clover Leaf creamery clearly specified why the business had been successful:

> The daily output of the establishment is upwards of 350 pounds [of cream]. Butter is put up in packages ranging from five to 60 pounds. The product is sold to the leading hotels on the line of the Adirondack & St Lawrence railroad. During the summer months a part of the milk is also made into fancy cream cheese to supply hotels and special customers. A large quantity of cream is also shipped to Adirondack resorts…The demand is continually on the increase, which serves as the best possible assurance of their solid merits and uniform excellence.[16]

The author's contention that demand was on the increase was not hyperbolic. In 1865, the number of hotels in the Adirondacks was estimated at 40, with a capacity to hold about 2,000 guests. Early railroad development increased that number to 120 hotels, with capacity for over 7,000 guests, by 1875. By 1900 the number increased to 180 hotels with a capacity for over 17,000—this growth was in spite of the creation of Adirondack Forest Preserve (1885) and the "forever Wild" clause in the 1894 New York State constitution, which actually forced the removal some of the man-made hotels from protected areas.[17] The summer population of the Adirondacks exploded from 3,000 in 1869 to a massive 250,000 in 1900.[18] Undoubtedly, milk from her father's and uncle's farms went to Clover Leaf creamery where Bella Morey worked. By the 1910 census Milo had retired and his son Grover had taken over the nominated farm; Grover and several of his neighbors listed their professions specifically as "dairy farm[ers]." The Clover Leaf Creamery had been bought out by the Michigan Condensed Milk Co., by this time, and the latter made large improvements to the facility; a 1910 write-up in the *Utica Herald* remarked the success of the new creamery, when it noted "Patrons of the Newport condensary have received over $220,000 for their milk during the past year."[19] The Borden Company acquired the complex in 1916 and continued to make dairy products (caramels and a malted milk powered drink) at the facility until World War II, when the facility switched to instant coffee production.

Like many upstate New York farmers, the Moreys adapted their property to the new realities of mechanized, large-scale dairy farming. As the retail market for dairy products expanded hundreds of miles beyond a farmer's immediate vicinity, new techniques were also sought to increase yields. The massive dairy barn on the nominated property was likely installed in the first decades of the twentieth century. Silos, which could preserve easily digestible livestock feed for year-round milking, were probably added at the same time. A concrete milk house was also added at some point before WWII.

Sometime between 1920 and 1930 the Moreys sold the nominated farm to the Moore-Davis family. The reasons for the sale of the family's farm are not known. The oldest son of David H. Morey, Newell, died in 1919 but he does not appear to have lived on the farm since the 1880s and nothing in the historic record indicates his nephew, Grover, was struggling. Farmers of the area, however, were facing an economic crisis during the period. Reliance on fluid milk as a single commodity left farmers and farm families vulnerable to fluctuations in the market price. The initial success of the fluid milk market led many farmers to seek improvements in their stock and in their facilities—

[15] Joel Shrock, *The Gilded Age*. (Greenwood Publishing Group: Westport, CT, 2004), 97-104.
[16] "Clover Leaf Creamery/Brown Brothers, Proprietors," *Utica Journal*, May 31, 1896. www.fultonhistory.com.
[17] Bryant Tolles, *Resort Hotels of the Adirondacks* (University Press of New England: Lebanon, NH), 1865 figures: 15-16; 1875 figures: 19; 1900 figures: 24.
[18] David Strauss, "Toward a Consumer Culture: 'Adirondack Murray' and the Wilderness Vacation." *American Quarterly* [Summer]: Vol. 39, No. 2:270-286. (John Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, Maryland, 1897), 281. www.jstor.org.
[19] "Newport ," *Utica Herald* January 4, 1910. www.fultonhistory.com.

barns became bigger, automated milking and processing machines were installed, and herd sizes were increased. Increased production, however, turned into overproduction when supply outstripped demand. By the 1920s, the agricultural sector of the US economy was experiencing a severe depression. The real average income of farms fell over 72.6 percent and many farmers could not afford to keep their farms.[20] Although the US economy grew during the 1920s, the agricultural sector remained weak, and farm foreclosures remained high. The onset of the Great Depression worsened the issue further as farm milk prices repeatedly fell below the cost of production. In 1933 the average price per hundredweight (c.w.t.) of milk fell to 99¢, down from $2.25 for the same amount two years earlier.[21] In addition to overproduction and lower prices, dairy farmers faced two other major obstacles during the Depression. The first was high transportation and distribution costs, reducing the farmer's bottom line. The second was the destructive practices of large, commercial milk dealers, who cut retail prices in the New York City market in order to maintain control.[22] Farmers in upstate New York unionized and even participated in milk strikes and boycotts during the 1930s, often with mixed results. Farmers in Poland, the Kuyahoora Valley town adjacent to Newport, started their own Milk Producers' Co-Op in the 1930s in an effort to get better prices by handling and processing it themselves. Although it attracted area farmers from several Kuyahoora Valley towns, it is unknown if the Moore-Davis family directly participated in the Poland effort.[23]

The 1940s and 50s brought stability to market. Francis M. Davis Jr. (1920-1994), a graduate of Cornell's State College of Agriculture [now the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences], likely brought Cornell's modern approach to mid-twentieth century farming methods to the nominated property. Davis began a program of breeding broiler chickens for sale, and frequently served as an officer and director of the Herkimer County Farm Bureau, part of the New York Farm Bureau—a NGO that deals with economic and public policy issues in the agricultural industry. Davis also began processing and bottling milk onsite and began a delivery route; iconic 1950s glass "Davis Farm Dairy" milk bottles have become a collectible.

Dairy farming remains a mainstay of upstate New York's economy. According to a recent report from the office of New York State Senator Catherine Young, chair of the NYS Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture:

> New York is the nation's third-largest dairy state, generating $2.3 billion annually, over half of the state's total agricultural receipts. New York's 6,200 dairy farmers produce 1.4 billion gallons of milk annually. The average dairy farm in New York State is family owned...[24]

Farming operations at the Brown-Morey-Davis Farm continue to this day, under the direction of the Felio family. The Felios have even reinstated cheesemaking operations onsite; the Three Village Cheese Company uses raw cow's milk from the nominated farmstead to produce a variety of cheeses for retail sale and use in local restaurants.

Architectural Analysis and Integrity of the James Keith and the Brown-Morey-Davis Houses

Both nominated houses embody design precepts of Classicism, as interpreted by New England immigrants during the Federal period. These stylistic choices range from the overall form and massing of the houses' two-and-half

[20] Gene Smiley, "US Economy in the 1920s," *EH.Net Encyclopedia* (Economic History Association, Santa Clara University: Santa Clara, CA., 2008). http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/Smiley.1920s.final.

[21] Thomas J. Kriger, "The 1939 Dairy Farmers Union Milk Strike in Heuvelton and Canton, New York: The Story in Words and Pictures," *The Journal for MultiMediaHistory* Vol. 1, No. 1 (University at Albany: 1998). http://www.albany.edu/jmmh/vol1no1/dairy1.html#fn10; Workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Progress Administration in the State of New York, *New York: A Guide to the Empire State*. (New York State Historical Association: 1940), 87. www.googlebooks.com.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Kuyahoora Valley Historical Society, Images of America Kuyahoora Towns, (Arcadia Publishing: Charleston, SC, 2003), 30.

[24] Catherine Young, "Dairy Farmers Plea for Support from Legislative Leaders," (New York State Senate, 2009). http://www.nysenate.gov.

story, five-bay, double-pile, center hall compositions to the builders' emphasis of symmetry through regular fenestration, matching chimneys and highlighted recessed entranceways.

On the Keith house, the ornamentation reflecting classical tastes include large lintels over the openings, corner quoins, and the frieze band and moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable ends. Integrity of design and materials on the main block of the exterior is exceptionally high, and virtually unchanged since its construction. Principles of Federal design are reflected in the interior as well, most notably in the moulded door surrounds, the six-panel doors, and the paneled window boxes with decorative aprons. Integrity on the interior is good with original lath and plaster walls and wide planks floors; the plan is intact and portions of rarely-surviving stenciling are evident. While some materials were clearly replaced in the mid nineteenth century (the stairs and newel, some doors, and a few windows), they are within the period of significance and represent contributing architectural changes through time. A late nineteenth century photograph of the house shows an Italianate entry porch with scroll sawn brackets, compound columns, and decorative arches, but this is no longer extant. The rear ell has undergone some changes. Its original appearance, function and date of construction are unknown as the framing members are not exposed. These structures (often called back-houses) evolved as a form to incorporate more work spaces important to the domestic operations of a rural farmstead; made possible by advancements in stove technology, it could be easily added onto as needed for dairying, laundering, weaving, storage, and could even incorporate the privy.[25] Elements of the Greek Revival period are extant on the ell, specifically the frieze band windows, as is the Italianate bracketed cornice, but most of the ornamentation in the historic photo has been lost. The fenestration was also altered on the ell. The original James Keith parcel was probably very large, but was subdivided by least the 1850s when his grandsons Charles and Stephen were occupying the land. Further subdivisions must have occurred during the short Morey family occupation. Although the current 22 acre parcel is not actively farmed, the setting remains a compelling factor in the historical significance of the nominated farmstead. The house and outbuildings are situated in an intact, rural setting. The adjacent Newport road appears to be in the same alignment as on historic maps. Although there are a few non-historic structures in the landscape, the still-used agricultural fields, surrounding highlands, and the setbacks and the placement of neighboring farms on the road provide a pastoral setting that would have been easily recognizable to previous occupants of the house.

On the Brown-Morey-Davis house classical interpretations include a recessed entranceway set off by attenuated, fluted pilasters, an elliptical fanlight above the door, a projecting keystone in the moulded arch, large lintels over the openings, corner quoins, a tripartite window, and the unadorned frieze band and moulded cornice terminating in returns on the gable ends. Integrity of design and materials on the exterior is exceptionally high, and virtually unchanged since its construction. Historic photos (see continuation sheet) show the Brown-Morey-Davis house had a one-story rear ell, with Greek Revival period fenestration and detailing; the ell was connected to rear barn complex along the lines of a traditional New England connected farmstead. According to Morey family descendants, the historic ell had rotted and was torn down during the Morey family occupation. The current owners built the current rear ell in 2002 with a block similarly massed and proportioned to the historic one. Echoing the period arrangement of the earlier farmstead, the rear ell of the Brown-Morey-Davis farm was recently connected to a small retail space that the current owners use for their cheesemaking operations. Principles of Federal design are reflected in the interior of the Brown-Morey-Davis house as well, most notably in the moulded surrounds, the six-panel doors an oval-profile stair railing. Integrity of materials is not as strong on the interior as was previously noted on the exterior. During the last decades of the twentieth century, all interior walls and ceilings were stripped of their lath

[25] Thomas Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England*, (University Press of New England: Hanover NH 1984); Thomas C. Hubka, "The New England Farmhouse Ell: Fact and Symbol of Nineteenth Century Farm Improvement," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Vol. 2* (Vernacular Architecture Forum: Harrisonburg, VA, 1986), www.jstor.com.

and plaster and replaced with non-historic gypsum board, as were the floors on the lower levels; the current owner undertook the renovation because of the severe deterioration of the original materials. Integrity of design, however, was preserved as the interior was visually restored to reflect the original finishes. Similarly, mouldings and surrounds were left intact where possible and sensitive copies of the originals were used in heavily-damaged areas. Floors on the upper story, as well as the doors and hardware throughout the house, all date to the original construction. Fireplace mantels were not extant when the current owner purchased the home; they were likely removed when previous owners converted to heating by stoves or forced hot air. The floorplan is unchanged except for the conversion of a lower story room into a more open kitchen and the addition of small bathrooms on each floor.

Kuyahoora Valey Stone Building Tradition.

As noted, the Kuyahoora Valley region has a rich tradition of limestone construction, including several examples listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both the town and village of Newport in particular have a large number of surviving nineteenth century limestone buildings, extending through five decades and numerous styles. Many of the dwellings in Newport and the surrounding rural towns share enough similarity in terms of form and vocabularies that one can speculate they were either all constructed by a limited number of builders or at the very least, influenced one another. In form and construction details, the James Keith and the Brown-Morey-Davis houses are similar to the 1812 Benjamin Bowen House, known as "What Cheer Hall" (National Register listed, 1998). While not exact copies of one another, all three houses are five-bay, double pile, two and a half story forms, with similar construction detail—corner quoins, projecting sills, large stone block lintels, a straight course of limestone blocks visually separating the upper and lower stories and the builder of all used coursed ashlar on the three visible elevations, and random on rear. All three houses are oriented towards the street, forsaking a southern exposure on the long axis, but the Keith house and the Brown-Morey-Davis house have side facing gable roofs, while the Bowen house has a hipped one. The Keith house has the least ornamented main entrance—the Bowen house and the Brown-Morey-Davis have elliptical fanlights over the main entrance, and the latter has a tripartite window lighting the center bay of the upper story on the main façade.

Stone continued to be a popular building material in Newport, even as architectural tastes and aesthetics changed. The 1835 upright & wing Linus Yale house, the 1840s Stuart Perry & William Swezey villas (NR listed, 2012) were built to designs supplied by Alexander J. Davis, the c1850 Yale-Cady octagon House (NR listed, 2007) and the 1853 four segmental arch stone bridge (NR listed, 1992) all represent this local stone building tradition adapted for a vernacular interpretation of the popular principles, vocabularies and aesthetics of the various periods.

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"Clover Leaf Creamery/Brown Brothers, Proprietors." Utica Journal, May 31, 1896.

"Newport." Utica Herald, January 4, 1910.

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

James Keith House
As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot number 094.3-1-14.1 in the Town of Newport, Herkimer County, NY.

Brown-Morey-Davis Farm
As indicated by the heavy black line on the attached boundary map, the nominated property consists entirely of tax parcel lot number 094.3-1-12.2 in the Town of Newport, Herkimer County, NY.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

James Keith House
The nominated property includes the entire parcel (22.5 acres) under current ownership and includes the construction man house, the non-contributing barn and the immediate surroundings.

Brown-Morey-Davis Farm
The nominated property includes the entire parcel (161.40 acres) under current ownership and includes the farmhouse and all of the contributing outbuildings.

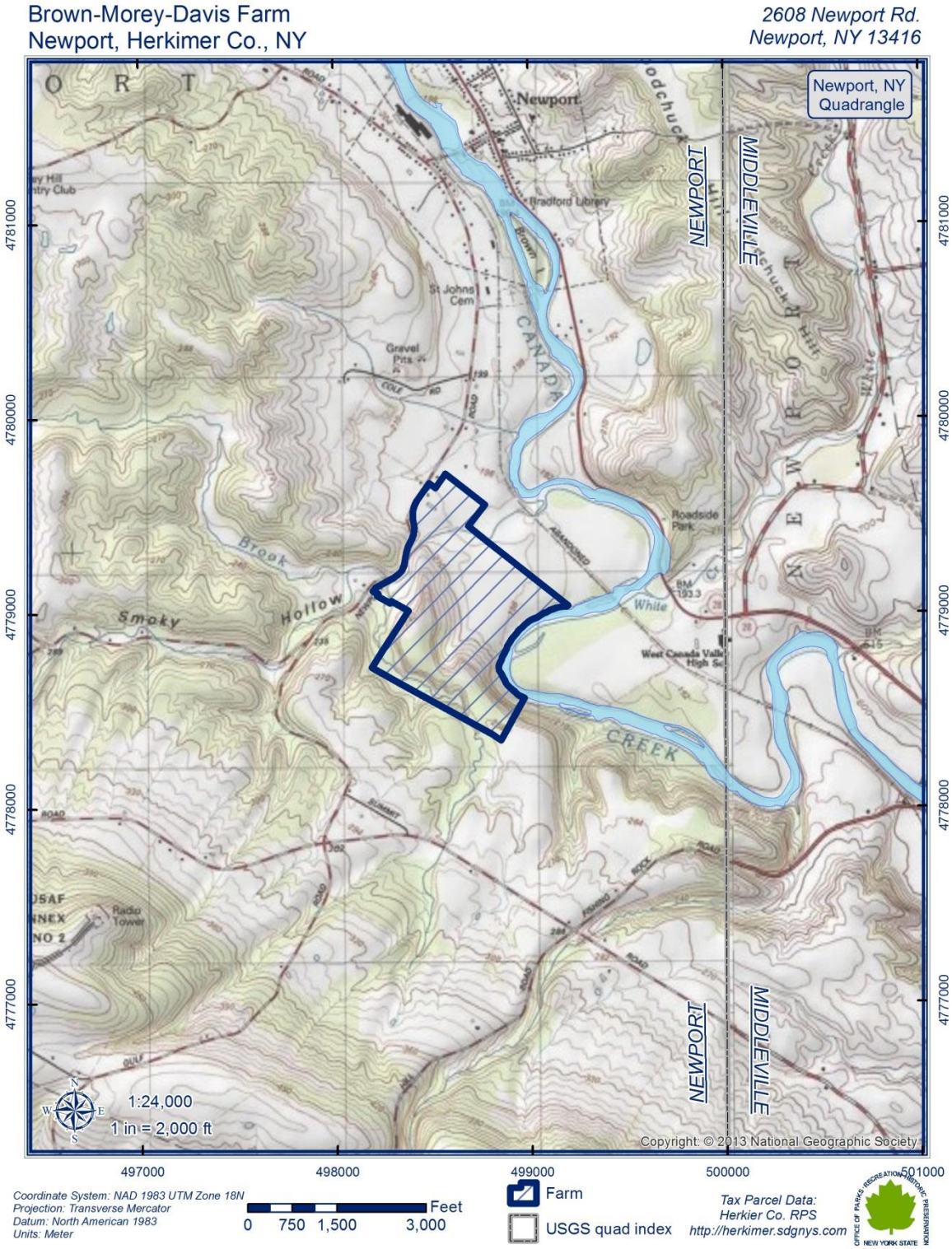
UTMs

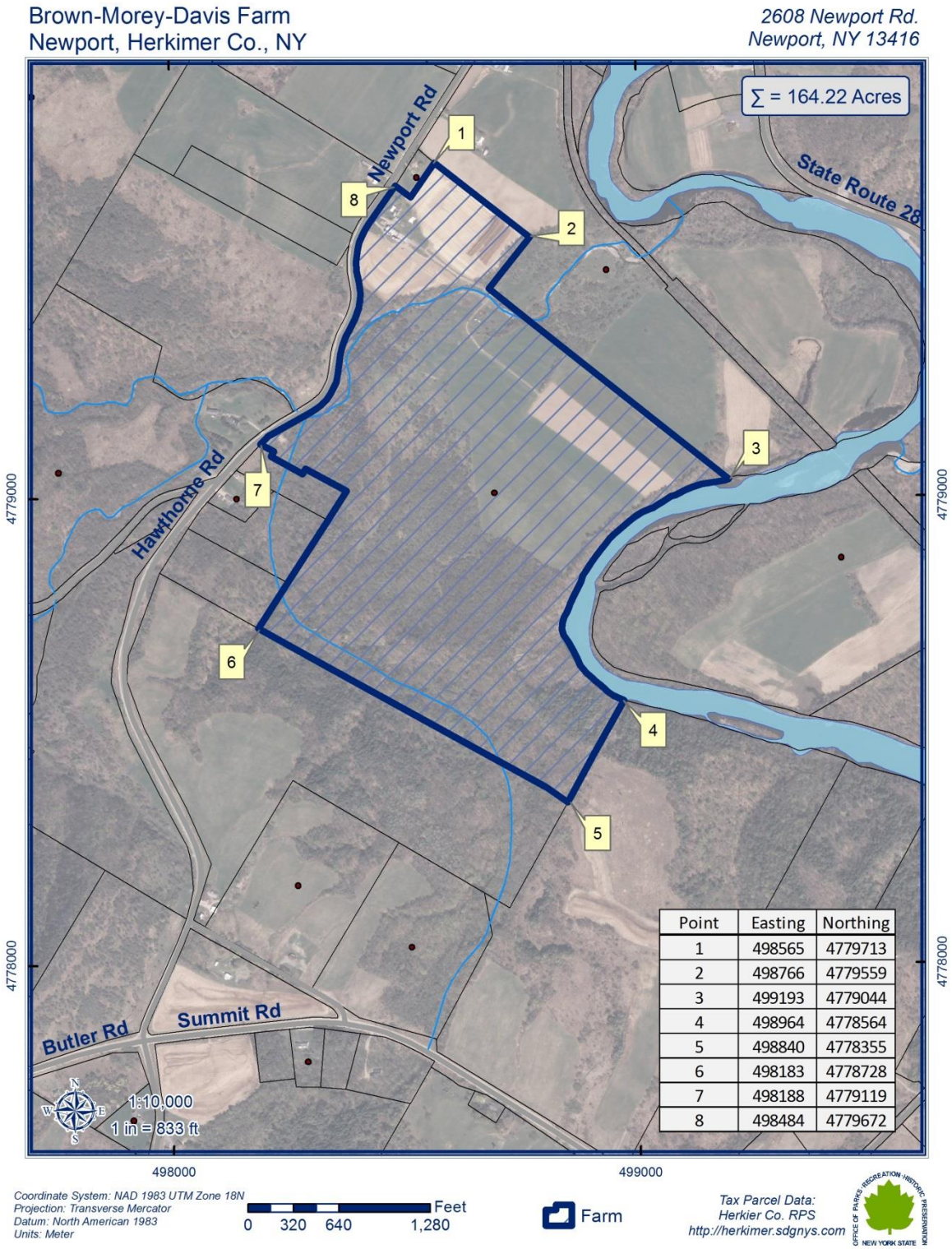
James Keith House

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	498053	4779956
2	18	498476	4779697
3	18	498389	4779572
4	18	498004	4779697
5	18	497923	4779736

Brown-Morey-Davis Farm

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	498565	4779713
2	18	498766	4779559
3	18	499193	4779044
4	18	498964	4778564
5	18	498840	4778355
6	18	498183	4778728
7	18	498188	4779119
8	18	498484	4779672


Brown-Morey-Davis Farm
Newport, Herkimer Co., NY
2608 Newport Rd.
Newport, NY 13416
Newport, NY Quadrangle
Newport
Bradford Library
St Johns Cem
Gravel Pits
Roadside Park
West Canada Valley High Sc
Radio Tower
NEWPORT
MIDDLEVILLE
4781000
4780000
4779000
4778000
4777000
497000
498000
499000
500000
501000
1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft
Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 750 1,500 3,000
Farm
USGS quad index
Tax Parcel Data:
Herkier Co. RPS
http://herkimer.sdgnys.com



Point	Easting	Northing
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2	498766	4779559
3	499193	4779044
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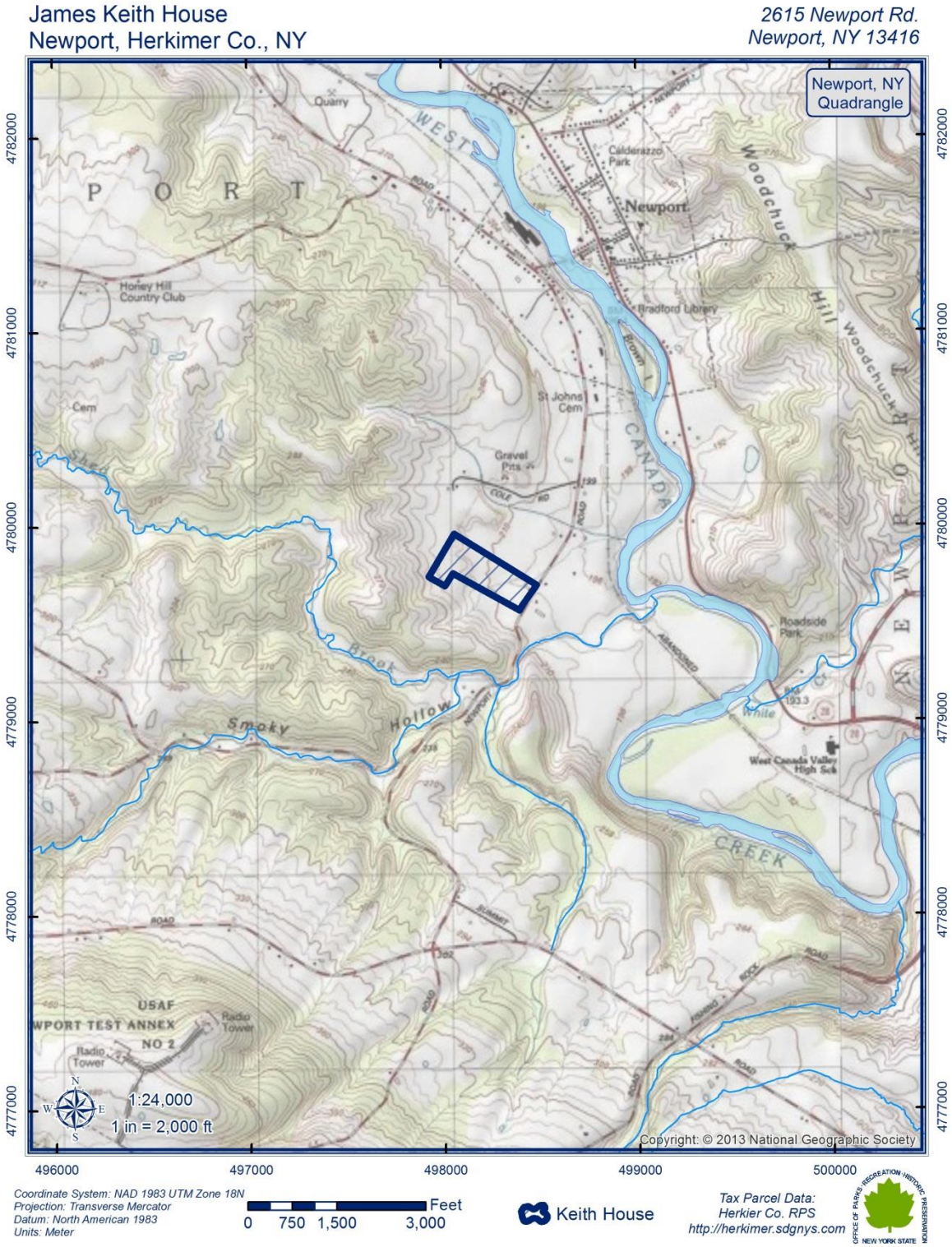
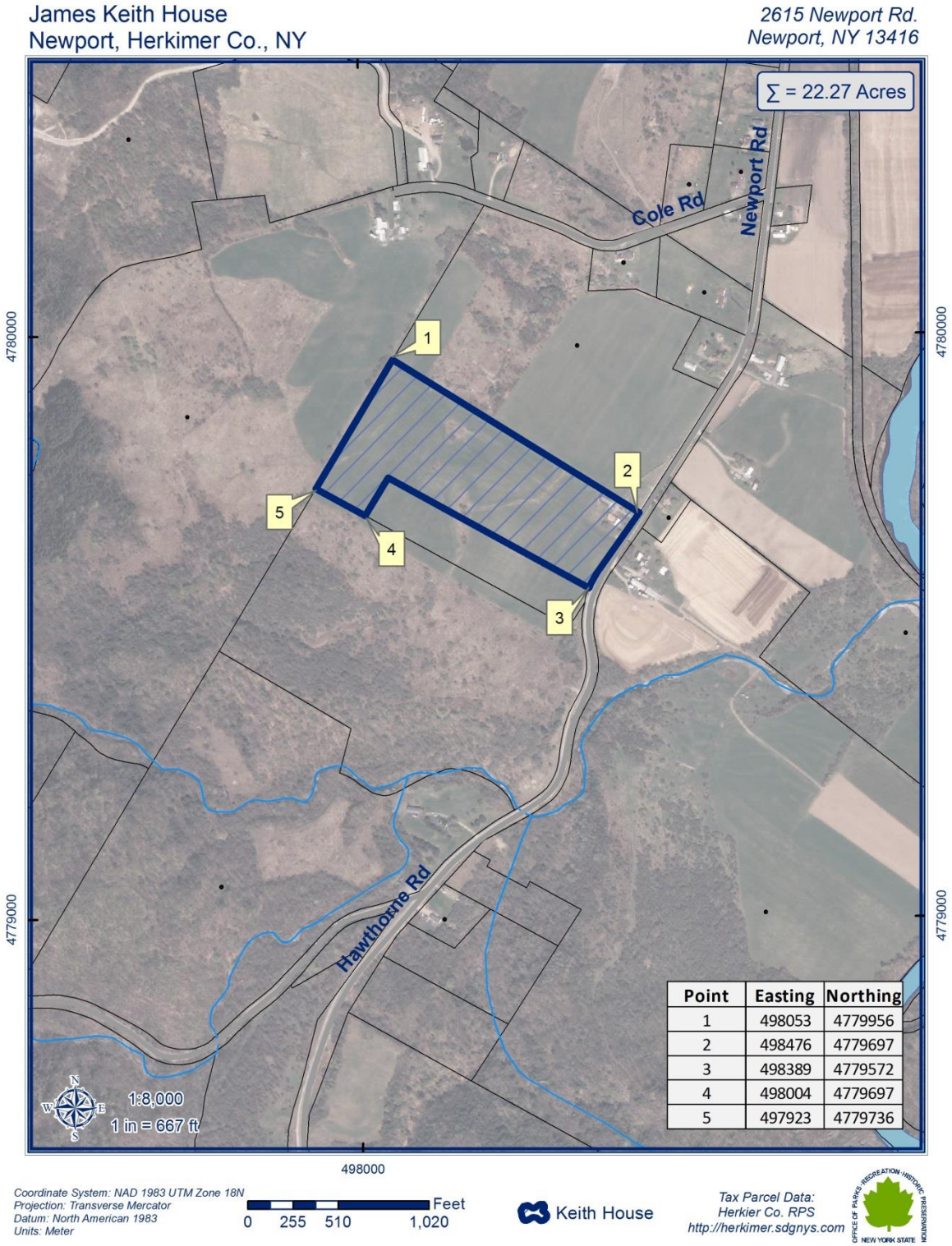
5	498840	4778355
6	498183	4778728
7	498188	4779119
8	498484	4779672


James Keith House
Newport, Herkimer Co., NY
2615 Newport Rd.
Newport, NY 13416
Newport, NY Quadrangle
Quarry
WEST
Calderazzo Park
Newport
Woodchuck Hill
Honey Hill Country Club
Bradford Library
Brown
St Johns Cem
Cem
Gravel Pits
CANADA
Roadside Park
Brook
Smoky Hollow
White
West Canada Valley High Sch
CREEK
USAF
WPORT TEST ANNEX NO 2
Radio Tower
Radio Tower
1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft
Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society
4782000
4781000
4780000
4779000
4778000
4777000
496000
497000
498000
499000
500000
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 750 1,500 3,000
Keith House
Tax Parcel Data:
Herkier Co. RPS
http://herkimer.sdgnys.com



Point	Easting	Northing
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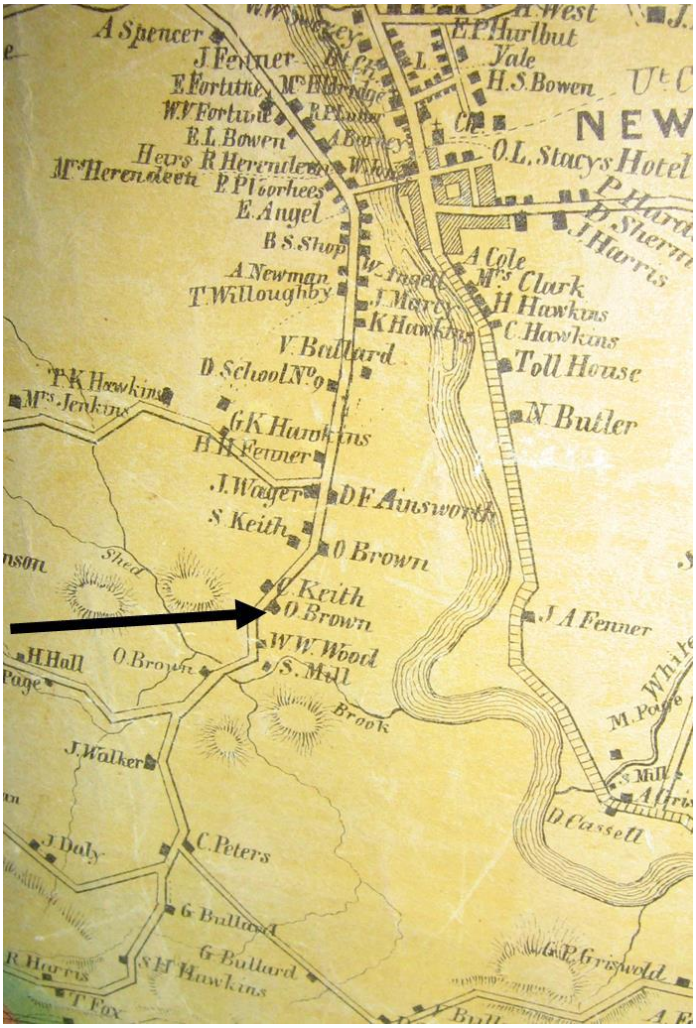
3	498389	4779572
4	498004	4779697
5	497923	4779736

R.F. O'Connor 1857 "Map of Herkimer County, New York."



Jay Stranahan & Beach Nichols 1868 "Atlas of Herkimer County, NY."

Undated photograph of Brown-Morey-Davis Farm

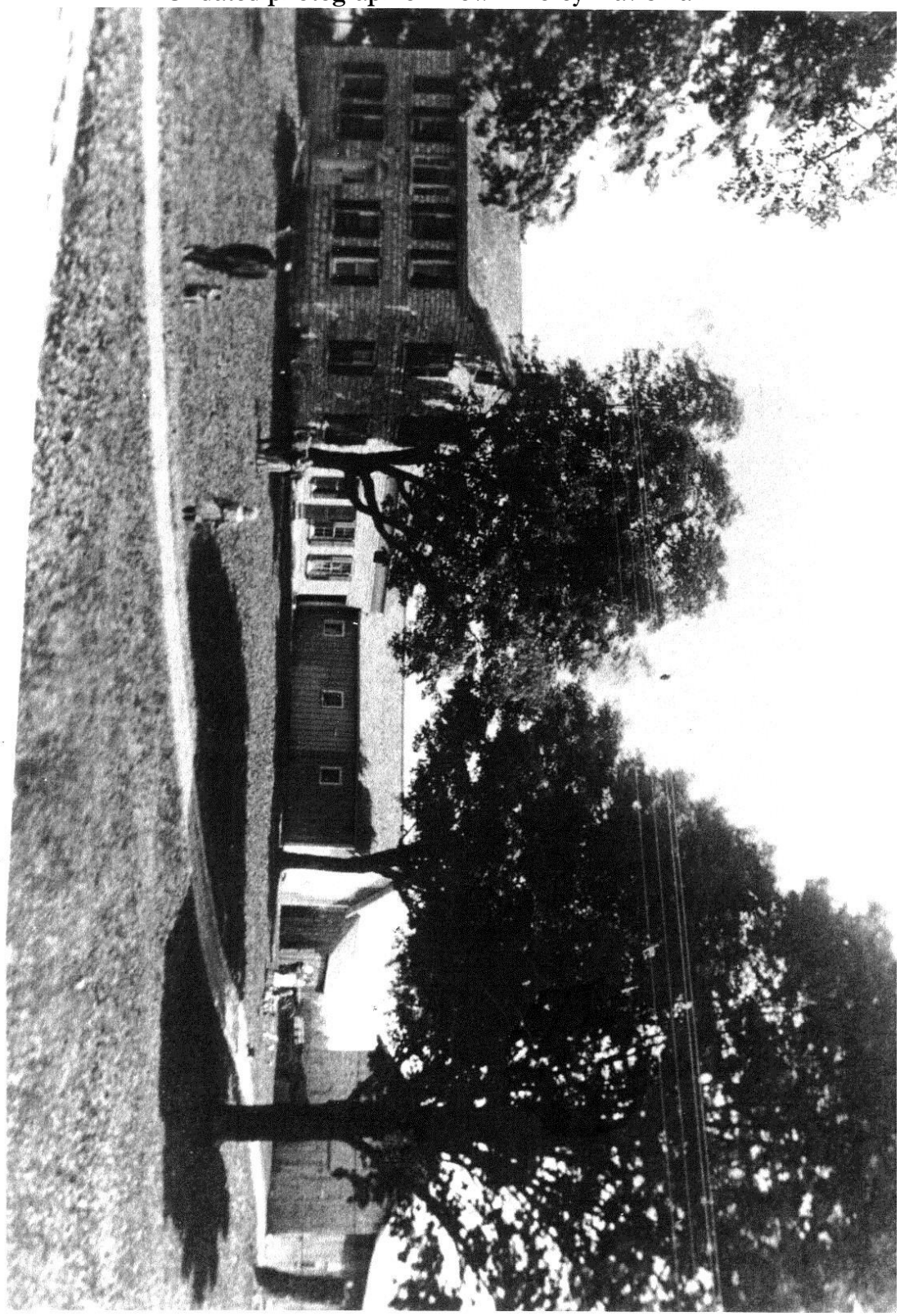


Photo Log for James Keith House AND Brown-Morey-Davis Farm

Name of Property: James Keith House AND Brown-Morey-Davis Farm

Location: Herkimer County, New York

Photographer: Travis Bowman

Date: January 18, 2013

Location of Negatives: CD-R Included

NY_HerkCo_JKaBMD

PHOTO LOG For James Keith House

PHOTO	DESCRIPTION
NY_Herkimer Co_James Keith House_0001	Exterior view, N; ¾ View
NY_Herkimer Co_James Keith House_0002	Exterior view, NW; Main entrance detail.
NY_Herkimer Co_James Keith House_0003	Interior view; Parlor window surround and protected stenciling.
NY_Herkimer Co_James Keith House_0004	Interior view; Upstairs Chamber in ell, door to main block.
NY_Herkimer Co_Brown-Morey-Davis Farm_0005	Exterior view, SE; House, dairy barn, setting on Newport Rd.
NY_Herkimer Co_Brown-Morey-Davis Farm_0006	Exterior view, S; ¾ View.
NY_Herkimer Co_Brown-Morey-Davis Farm_0007	Interior view; Stair Hall and main entrance.
NY_Herkimer Co_Brown-Morey-Davis Farm_0008	Interior view; Typical upstairs Chamber.
NY_Herkimer Co_Brown-Morey-Davis Farm_0009	Interior view; Stair handrail detail.

2615