NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

223

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *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 from 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 Tryon, Frank and Eliza, House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 8976 North Seneca Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Weedsport [N/A] vicinity

state New York code NY county Cayuga code 011 zip code 13166

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 as 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 [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert Pierpont DSHPO 3/18/14
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 the property is:

[X] 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 Edson H. Beall date of action 5.19.14

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	**0**	**TOTAL**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling
DOMESTIC / secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling
DOMESTIC / secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sto
walls Clapboard
roof Asphalt
other

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

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 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 that 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 boxes that apply.)

[ ] **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)

Commerce
Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Period of Significance:

1883-1948

Significant Dates:

1883, ca. 1887, 1919

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

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 Building Survey
_____
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
_____

Primary location of additional data:

[ ] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State agency
[ ] Federal Agency
[ ] Local Government
[ ] University
[X] Other repository: Private collection

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18N	387291	4767516	3	18		
2	18			4	18		

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 Jennifer Betsworth

organization New York State Historic Preservation Office date 12/11/13

street & number P.O. Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643 ext. 3296

city or town Waterford state NY 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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name Therese M. and Bart A. Wasilenko

street & number 8976 North Seneca Street telephone 315-834-8633

city or town Weedsport state NY zip code 13166

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 form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

Narrative Description of Property

The Frank and Eliza Tryon home is located on the east side of North Seneca Street in the village of Weedsport, in Cayuga County. It is several blocks north of the historic commercial center, which is at the intersection of Seneca and Brutus streets. Running just east of the former Erie Canal (now Erie Drive), North Seneca Street forms a boundary between the residential property to the east and industrial and commercial property to the west. Though few of the industrial buildings are historic, the land use is consistent with historic patterns. Many of the residences around the Tryon home date to the late nineteenth century. After the route for the Erie Canal was changed, the land was opened for development during the late 1860s. The nomination includes the entire parcel associated with the Tryon home. The property includes the residence and a ca. 1920 outbuilding.

The Tryon home is a two-story, Italianate residence with a one-story rear section. The frame building is covered in clapboard. The two-story residence rests upon a ca. 1870 stone foundation. Pilasters with square capitals are located on each corner of the building, and extend from the elevation to the wide band under the roofline. The design of the pilasters is repeated in the wooden crowns over the windows and doors. The shallow hipped roof has wide, overhanging eaves. The rear section is covered in slightly wider clapboard than the main residence, has a front-gabled roof, and is over a crawlspace.

A one-story, shallow hipped roof porch extends across the entire façade and wraps around to the south elevation. Underneath the roofline, each of the rafter ends are carved to look like rounded, wave-like brackets. A wooden frieze made up of repeated rectangular panels with a floral cut-out pattern is set in from the brackets under the roofline. The porch is supported by turned spindles; each spindle has a circular motif located on its square base just under the turned section. Two small decorative brackets connect each spindle to the upper frieze. Originally, a second frieze screen ran along the base of the spindles. It was made up of repeated, rectangular panels with a geometric cut-out pattern and had small spindles connecting to a lower rail. This screen was damaged in 2011 by a runaway truck tire; it has been removed and is stored on site. A third wooden screen with three tiers of cut-outs – a diamond/teardrop design, an X, and a star – runs around the base of the porch. A section of the porch on the south elevation was enclosed by the mid-twentieth century; the exterior to door to this enclosed porch was moved in 1995 and replaced with a window to create a sunroom.

The entrance door, which is covered by a turn-of-the-century screen door with jigsaw details, is located on the north side of the façade (west elevation). It is flanked to the south by a single pane window with an original stained glass transom. Two one-over-one replacement windows are located on the second floor. On the south elevation, four modern windows are located on the enclosed porch. Two one-over-one windows light both the first and second story of the house, and a door is located in the one-story rear section. Fenestration is irregular on the north elevation. A rectangular bay window projects from the first floor on the eastern end of the elevation. The bay window has a brick foundation, and has flat pilasters with square capitals extending to a wide frieze band and shallow hipped roof. The bay window is lighted by a set of one-over-one narrow paired windows and narrow one-over-one windows on each side. An exterior brick chimney is located to the east of the bay window. A single one-over-one window lights the eastern end of the second floor; another one-over-one window lights the rear section. On the east elevation, two one-over-one windows are visible on the second floor

of the house. The rear, one-story section is accessed by a porch. It has a central doorway which is flanked by a one-over-one window to the north.

The house has two stories and a basement. On the first floor, the space is divided into a stair hall, two parlors, a dining room, and a kitchen and bathroom in the rear section. The main entrance door opens into the stair hall. The staircase has turned balusters and a large square newel post with circular motifs and a ball on top. A hallway runs alongside the staircase to French doors opening into the dining room. A doorway to the right of the staircase leads to the first parlor. It connects to the second parlor to the east via a wide entranceway surrounded by a wide molding. The entranceway originally had a small turned wood detail at the top; as it shortened the height of the doorway, it was removed and installed elsewhere in the house. Within the second parlor, a former doorway to the west has been modified into a bookshelf. It retains its original turned wood detailing and wide molding. Each of these two rooms retain their original, white-painted trim. The entrance to the enclosed porch/sunroom is located in the southwest corner of the parlor. The parlor connects to the dining room on the north. During the early twentieth century, two Colonial Revival-style round columns were added to the entranceway. The dining room features its original light and dark patterned wood floor. The door to the stair hall, and another door to the basement are on the west end of the room. The kitchen is to the west of the dining room. The kitchen retains its original plank floors, and has simple dark wood trim. A full bath is located south of the kitchen. This room originally served as a study or guest bedroom, and was modified in 1989.

The second floor has three bedrooms and a small half bath. The half bath is located to the north of the staircase. The space originally served as a linen closet, and was modified during the 1930s. Each of the three bedrooms retain their original doors and trim. The original plaster ceilings are obscured by slightly dropped tile ceilings; these were added during the late 1980s to provide additional space for insulation.

The ca. 1920 two-story clapboard barn has a front gable roof and a concrete foundation. The west elevation has a garage door on the first floor, and a hayloft door on the second floor. A shed roof porch addition is located on the south elevation. Two two-over-two wood sash windows light the first floor on the south elevation; an additional two-over-two window is located on the north. On the interior, a wooden staircase provides access from the open first floor to the loft. The building is used for storage. Originally, a two-story, hipped roof barn was located on this part of the lot. It likely also included a small summer kitchen. In 1919, an accidental fire occurred in the summer kitchen after the oil stove exploded. The outbuilding was completely destroyed, but aside from some fire damage to the rear section of the house, the house was saved. The current barn first appears on the Sanborn maps in 1929.[1]

[1] "Local Firemen Do Great Work," *Cayuga Chief*, August 22, 1919; *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1911, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York"; *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1929, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York."

Statement of Significance

The Frank and Eliza Tryon house, built ca. 1887, is significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its association with the mid-to-late nineteenth century growth of Weedsport and with the Tryon family's involvement in Weedsport's commercial and civic life at the turn of the twentieth century. Weedsport developed into a thriving commercial town due to its proximity to the Erie Canal and later several railroads. After the canal was rerouted during the late 1850s, a large section north of Weedsport was opened to commercial, industrial, and residential development. The Tryon house, built in this section, was an early, and relatively refined, single-family residence on a street that was dominated by modest rental property and commercial and industrial enterprises. Frank Tryon worked for decades at his ice business and meat market and as the Town of Brutus' Overseer of the Poor. His wife, Eliza was a well-known seamstress and participated in a number of social and religious organizations. The middle-class couple was locally well known and respected for their contributions to the village. The Tryon house is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent local example of late Italianate architecture. The style, which had become popular in the mid-nineteenth century, was flexible enough to accommodate small cottages as well as rambling villas. Built toward the end of the Italianate style's common use, the design of the Tryon house reflects the young couple's means and aspirations.

Early History of Weedsport

Several decades before Weedsport developed as a canal town, a small community had developed in the area. Early settlement began in 1795 when Aaron Frost built a home in the northwest part of the town of Brutus. As more settlers arrived, they named their small hamlet Macedonia. Macedonia prospered and grew rapidly between 1800-1819 as settlers such as Jonah Rude, Frank Mack, Fred Lanphere and Abel Powers established their homes in Macedonia. In 1809 Frost operated the first gristmill in the area. In the early days, Macedonia had a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop and two taverns. After the completion of the Erie Canal nearby, the residents of Macedonia began to develop a new community focused on the canal.[2]

Weedsport received its name from brothers Elihu and Edward Weed in 1821. The Weed brothers built a basin on the Erie Canal where boats could be built, repaired, loaded and unloaded, moored and returned to the canal. At that time the basin extended from the canal to South Street. Elihu Weed established the first post office in 1822 and became the first postmaster of Weed's Port, no longer Weed's Basin. Weedsport was incorporated as a village on April 26, 1831. The village was a busy and prosperous place in the 1830s. There were sidewalks, three wooden bridges crossing the Erie Canal, line boats and packets loaded with passengers and freight on the canal, several canal grocery stores, six hotels, a change stable for stage horses, a packet barn, two line boat change stables, two potasheries and a steam mill.[3]

Traffic continued on the Erie Canal and was at its peak in 1848, but the canal faced competition over the next several decades as railroads were completed nearby. The New York Central Railroad was completed to the north of Weedsport in 1853. Soon after, the Southern Central, a smaller railroad, built another line east of the

[2] Lazelle Hopkins, "Facts Regarding Weedsport," 1933. Reprint. (Weedsport: Tallcott Bookshop, 1988), 7, 8, 10-15.
[3] Hopkins, "Facts," 7, 8, 10-15.

town. Many businesses in Weedsport, Port Byron and Auburn took advantage of the faster transportation offered by the railroad. Others, particularly those built along the edge of the canal, were less flexible; Giles and McQuigg established a grain storehouse in 1853 but the business was short-lived. New businesses, such as A.E. Rheubottom's hoop-skirt factory, the Brutus Mills, and other textile-related companies were established in their place. In the years following the Civil War, Weedsport recovered from a disastrous fire and an economic depression and continued to thrive. The canal was struggling to remain viable by 1882, when the West Shore railroad built its line through the center of Weedsport, a few streets south of the commercial district. That year, the canal corporation abolished all tolls in an attempt to attract business. Though the canal was still used, the railroad had truly become Weedsport's primary form of commercial and passenger transportation.[4]

Development of the North Seneca Street Neighborhood

The original Erie Canal came into Weedsport from the northeast. Seneca Street ran north alongside the canal until Green Street, where a bridge crossed to the west side of the canal. James Storms, a wagon maker, successfully operated a shop on the east side of the bridge. Close to the canal and the road into town, Storms catered to travelers on both routes. Though it was beneficial for Storms, the canal's meandering halted Weedsport's expansion north and slowed boats with unnecessary turns. A plan to straighten the path of the Erie Canal through Weedsport had been developed by 1853 and was completed by 1859.[5]

This new route opened up over 32 acres on the north side of Weedsport for development. Within the next decade, new businesses, including a malt house, brewery, marble works, lumber yard, planing mill and sash blind factory, sprung up along the east side of the canal. Companies like these, which dealt in heavy or water-intensive goods, took advantage of the low freight rates offered by the canal. To the east, land was divided into smaller lots for residential parcels. Businessmen and speculators bought and subdivided the lots, anticipating the need for more housing. In 1875, most of the empty lots were owned by J. Cogan, W.B. Mills, and H.McCarty. McCarty owned the nearby marble works, and may have been building for his employees. The occupied lots were generally small, and had modest houses; it is likely that many were built as rental property.[6]

James and Mary Storms also took advantage of the opportunity presented by the opening of new land. They purchased a small lot north of their business and home – the future Tryon property. The Storms built a one-and-a-half story frame house on the lot by 1875. Located across from the marble works, malt house and brewery, the property was well-suited for use as rental property. James and Mary, at age 78 and 70 respectively in 1870,

[4] Hopkins, "Facts," 38-40, 51-59; F.W. Beers, *1875 County Atlas of Cayuga New York from Recent & Actual Surveys and Records* (New York: Walker & Jewett, 1875).

[5] Samuel Geil, F. Gifford, and S.K. Godsalk, *1853 Cayuga County Land Ownership Wall Map* (Philadelphia: Samuel Geil, 1853); O.W. Gray and G.D. Lothrop, *1859 Cayuga and Seneca County, New York Land Ownership Wall Map* (Philadelphia: A.R.Z. Dawson, 1859); *Cayuga Chief*, February 27, 1879; Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1860 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012)

[6] Beers, *1875 County Atlas*; Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1880 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012)

likely desired rental income to support them during their advancing years. After James died in 1879, Mary continued to manage the property.[7]

Tryon Family

Horatio and Patience Tryon farmed in Fleming through the early 1860s. By the end of the Civil War, Horatio had moved the family to East Brutus Street in Weedsport. Horatio soon opened a foundry in the G.I. Stevens building on Furnace Street in Weedsport. His business initially relied on the Erie Canal to transport agricultural molds and implements and in later years transported his goods via the New York Central Railroad. [8]

On December 14, 1871, a massive fire in the Weedsport's downtown business district. The firemen planned to blow up one of the buildings to stop the fire from spreading throughout the business district. In an attempt to help, Horatio went to get a keg of blasting powder. In his hurry, he forgot to put the stopper on the keg, and ran down North Seneca Street toward the firemen. Fortunately, no sparks caught on the blasting powder falling from his keg as he ran. The effort was not enough; the fire left the buildings between the south sides of Brutus Street to the north side of Seneca Street in ruins. Like many other businesses, Horatio Tryon's foundry was totally destroyed. The cause of the fire was never determined, but the cost of total losses was estimated at $64,250.00. In addition to this economic devastation, Weedsport suffered the loss of all of its records.[9]

Horatio could not recoup his monetary losses. In the months after the fire, he sold his home and what was left of his business. The family moved to 642 Jackson Street, which they rented from J.H. Smith. Horatio worked at a brewery in town, and opened his own butcher shop by 1880. Though the Tryons had fallen on economic hard times, they were still well-respected. Horatio was elected President of Weedsport in 1873 and appointed Postmaster of Weedsport in 1886.[10]

Frank Tryon was living with his parents and working as a general laborer when he met Eliza McCabe. Eliza was born in New York in 1862 after her parents emigrated from Ireland. By 1880, she had moved to Weedsport and was living with her stepfather James Cornell, mother Eliza, and brother Hugh. Eliza had become an apprentice seamstress at a young age, and made her first dress at age 10. She also worked at one of Weedsport's hoop-skirt factories. Eliza and Frank were married on December 25, 1880.[11]

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[7] Beers, *1875 County Atlas*; Bart A. Wasilenko and Therese M. Wasilenko, Deed to Lot 65, June 2, 1980; Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1860 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012)

[8] Ancestry.com, U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1870 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); Hopkins, "Facts," 35-39.

[9] Hopkins, "Facts," 35-39.

[10] *Cayuga Chief*, March 29, 1884; Hopkins, "Facts," 56-57; Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1870 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1880 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); Ancestry.com, U.S., Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1886 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012); Beers, *1875 County Atlas*.

[11] *Cayuga Chief*, December 31, 1880; Ancestry.com, New York, Federal Census, 1880 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).

Frank and Eliza Tryon Home & the North Seneca Street neighborhood

After a few years of marriage, Frank and Eliza had the desire and means to buy a home. On March 6, 1883, Eliza Tryon purchased a house from Mary Storms, James Storms' widow. The modest, one-and-a-half story home was still surrounded by open land to the north and east, but was nearby large canal-related businesses. By this time, Frank had begun working in the brewing industry as a maltster. It is likely that he worked at the Miller and Kirby Malt House, just across the street from their new home.[12]

Within a few years, Frank and Eliza decided to expand and improve their house. It is likely that this was inspired in part by their growing family; their son, Harry was born in 1886. Frank and Eliza incorporated the foundation of the Storms house, and possibly some of the materials, into their new home. No architect or builder for the house is known. The two-story house in the popular Italianate style suited the middle-class family. It also marked an improvement in the Tryon family's fortune; Frank was not only a homeowner, but had built a stylish new home for his young family.[13]

The Italianate style developed out of the picturesque movement, which rejected the formality of classical architectural precedents. Based on rambling, informal Italian farmhouses with square towers, the style was introduced to American architects and builders largely through English examples and pattern books. Built in 1837, John Notman's Italian villa for Bishop Doane in Burlington, New Jersey is recognized as the first example of Italianate architecture in America. Andrew Jackson Downing included a representation of the building in his 1842 *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America*. Downing was a proponent of picturesque architecture, and liked the freedom and irregularity of form of the Italianate style. He also appreciated its practical adaptability, which allowed for the construction of later additions. Downing published more Italian villa designs in his later books, including *Cottage Residences* (1842) and *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850).

In the years after the Civil War, Italianate became the predominant architectural style in the country. It was adapted for use in commercial buildings, train stations, and residences of all shapes and sizes. By the 1880s, however, the picturesque Victorian style had outstripped it in popularity. Late nineteenth century industrialization resulted in the ability to produce architectural elements and details in factories on a large scale. Victorian styles feature complex and elaborate details, and rounded and carved shapes and forms that were prohibitively expensive only decades earlier.

The design of the Tryon house, which balances simplicity and decoration, is indicative of the desires and aspirations of the young family. The house features hallmarks of the Italianate style, including cubic massing, a low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, and brackets under the porch eaves. The influence of

[12] Bart A. Wasilenko and Therese M. Wasilenko, Deed to Lot 65, June 2, 1980; *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1885, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York."; Ancestry.com, New York, State Census, 1892 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).

[13] *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1885, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps"; Tryon Family Bible, in collection of Therese Wasilenko, Weedsport, New York; Ancestry.com, New York, State Census, 1892 [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).

popular Victorian styles, particularly the Queen Anne style, and availability of materials as the result of mass-production is evident in the design of the porch, which is festooned with details.

The elaborately decorated porch had three tiers of cut-out lattice-style friezes, and is supported by turned spindles. Each of the rafter ends under the shallow, hipped roof is carved in a bracket-like wave pattern. A frieze of rectangular panels with a floral, cut-out pattern runs under the roofline. Decorative brackets connect the frieze with each of the turned spindles. The bases of the spindles were connected by a similar geometric wood frieze rail. A final geometric frieze screen runs around the base of the porch. The house's square plan allowed for a functional interior. Some decoration was extended to interior spaces, including an Italianate newel post, turned rails at the top of the doorways, and decorative moldings and floors. It is likely that many of these materials for the house were purchased at the planing mill and sash blind factory nearby. The millwork and interior finishes were probably ordered and shipped to the Tryons via the canal or the railroad.

When Frank and Eliza began living on North Seneca Street, the neighborhood was still in transition. Particularly between Franklin Street and Cottage Park, which had been partially developed before the route change, residences were intermixed with saloons, boarding houses, blacksmith shops, and other small businesses catering to nearby canal and industrial workers. Most of the homes along Cottage Park were duplexes, and housed factory workers. In 1885, the area north of Cottage Park continued to have a somewhat rural and industrial character. Small one or one-and-a-half story homes were scattered through the area, and the S.J. Mack & Co. planing mill maintained a lumber and shingle yard across from its factory. When they completed their updated home just north of Cottage Park ca. 1887, Frank and Eliza had one of the most elaborate and architecturally distinctive homes on the street.[14]

By 1890, McCarty Street (later Centennial) had been laid out north of Cottage Park; several new two-story frame residences lined the street. It connected North Seneca and Jackson Streets. Jackson Street had been developing northward since the 1840s, and generally had larger and more elaborate housing stock than areas closer to the canal. By 1900, the land along North Seneca, Jackson, and Centennial had been nearly filled with privately-owned residential properties; only a few lots owned by P. Cogan near North Street remained undeveloped in 1904. The lots along Centennial and the west side of Jackson tended to be smaller and narrower, while the lots on North Seneca north of Centennial were wider and had slightly larger homes.[15]

Frank and Eliza in Weedsport

During the 1890s, Frank and Eliza Tryon became fully established within the Weedsport community. Frank continued to work as a maltster during the early years of the decade. After Horatio died in 1892, Frank likely

[14] Beers, *1875 County Atlas*; L.R. Burleigh, *Weedsport, N.Y 1885* (Troy, N.Y.: Burleigh, 1885); *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1885, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps."

[15] *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1890, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York," Proquest; *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1896, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York," Proquest; *Weedsport, New York* [map], 1906, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 – New York," Proquest; Century Map Company, *The new century atlas of Cayuga County, New York: with farm records* (Philadelphia: Century Map Company, 1904).

became responsible for his father's former businesses. There is no indication that he continued to operate the butcher shop. By 1895, however, the *Cayuga Chief* announced that Frank had expanded his ice house and had begun making deliveries. It is possible that he inherited the ice house from Horatio. Frank operated his ice business in addition to his work as a maltster; in 1896, he was working at a malt house in Lyons.[16]

In 1900, Frank opened a meat market with L.Delacey Faatz in the Coyle Building on Seneca Street. The Faatz family had been established in Weedsport since at least the 1830s, and became involved in the meat business by the late nineteenth century. During the 1870s, Jacob Faatz operated a meat market on Seneca Street near the Mansion House and Lovens C. Faatz had a grocery and meat market nearby, across the street from the post office. L.D. Faatz was known for his carpentry, and likely inherited the Jacob Faatz meat market. The two men were neighbors – L.D. Faatz owned land across the canal from Frank Tryon – and Frank may have gained some knowledge of the business from his father. Frank Tryon continued to manage his ice business from the butcher shop.[17]

After six years, the Tryon and Faatz meat market had become very successful. In spring 1906, they moved to 8909 South Seneca Street in the Riley building. Located near the intersection of Brutus and Seneca Streets, the Riley building was at the heart of Weedsport's downtown core. The Tryon and Faatz meat market and ice business thrived, and the men prided themselves upon running a high-quality, sanitary market. In June 1916, DeLacey Faatz nearly drowned when doing some work on the canal bank behind the meat market. He slipped and fell into the canal, and was saved by Pauline Tearney who ran out of the nearby Hotel Goddard with a broom he could grab onto. Faatz retired a few months later, citing poor health. Frank Tryon continued to operate the butcher shop on his own until October 1926, when he sold it to J. Elliott of Port Byron.[18]

In addition to his commercial enterprises, Frank Tryon was heavily involved in local politics, civic, and social organizations. Frank was a longtime member of the Weedsport Lodge No. 385 of the Free and Accepted Masons. Established in 1856, the organization had become an important part of Weedsport's social and civic fabric. The lodge met regularly, and members participated in civic and community activities.

Frank Tryon was first elected the Town of Brutus Overseer of the Poor for the New York State Department of Social Services in 1896. He held the position through 1920. Residents requiring public assistance would apply to his office. Frank would review each application, inquire into each individual's circumstances, and determine why they were unable to support themselves. As Overseer of the Poor, Frank set up monthly allowance vouchers for each individual requiring assistance. Though the program generally seems to have operated smoothly, Frank occasionally had to file suit against supposed paupers who had hidden assets or income to obtain public assistance.[19]

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[16] *Cayuga Chief*, January 30, 1892; *Cayuga Chief*, June 29, 1895; *Cayuga Chief*, November 5, 1896.
[17] *Cayuga Chief*, July 11, 1916; Hopkins, "Facts."; Century Map Company, *1904 Atlas*; Auburn City Directories, 1862-1877, available at <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>.
[18] *Cayuga Chief*, April 14, 1906; *Cayuga Chief*, June 5, 1916; *Cayuga Chief*, July 11, 1916; *Cayuga Chief*, October 29, 1926; Century Map Company, *1904 Atlas*; "Frank Tryon in his Meat Market," photograph in collection of Old Brutus Historical Society.
[19] *Cayuga Chief*, February 1, 1896; *Cayuga Chief*, August 9, 1910; *Cayuga Chief*, December 31, 1926.

Frank enjoyed hunting, and became a founding member of the Hamilton Club in June 1899. The purpose of the club was to support the protection of fish and game from pot hunters and poachers who violated New York State Conservation laws. The organization enforced New York State hunting regulations and licenses for sportsmen who hunted whitetail deer in Cayuga County. The club was named after J.H. Hamilton, who donated the land for the clubhouse along the Seneca River. The membership was originally restricted to 40 members, and consisted of prominent businessmen who could afford the $15 annual membership fee. Newspaper accounts reported some of Frank's hunting trips. In November 1909, he brought back a 260-pound buck from a hunting trip in the Adirondacks. It was noted as the largest known deer that had been brought back to town in years.[20]

Eliza Tryon was also active in the Weedsport community. In addition to raising her son Harry, and daughter Hazel, born in 1896, Eliza continued working as a seamstress. By the 1890s, Weedsport and Brutus' upper class ladies began hiring her to create elaborate gowns. Eliza and Frank enjoyed going to the Burritt Opera House, which was rebuilt in 1895, and supporting the local arts community. Eliza particularly enjoyed designing costumes and dresses for local theater, vaudeville, and minstrel troupes and shows.[21]

Eliza passed on her interest in the arts to her son, Harry. Harry Tryon developed an early interest in the arts and fashion. He enjoyed watching and helping his mother create dresses and costumes, and Eliza encouraged Harry to refine his drawing skills. Frank bought Harry a piano when he was nine years old to nurture his interest in being a pianist. After eighth grade, he began studying piano at Syracuse University. At age 17, he moved to New York City. He worked as an extra in chorus lines, and pursued his interest in theater and fashion. His tenacity paid off, and he soon became a successful designer for the Ziegfield Follies, actresses like Lillian Russell, and New York socialites. Harry became ill with lymphoma in 1912, and moved back to Weedsport; he died a year later.[22]

Eliza was an active member of the Weedsport Ladies Fortnightly Club. She often hosted club meetings in her home on North Seneca Street. This women's club was designed to provide cultural and social experiences for women to broaden their horizons and expand their intellectual life. Local women's clubs like the Fortnightly Club were developed across the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Initially formed as ways for women to socialize with one another, the clubs also provided opportunities for women to educate themselves and build leadership and managerial skills. By the twentieth century, women's clubs became increasingly involved in political and social causes.[23]

Eliza also actively participated in the social and religious activities of the First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport. Through the church, she became a member of the local branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which recognized the overuse of alcohol as a social problem that required reform. The Women's Christian Temperance movement was rooted in Protestant churches, which at first urged men and

[20] *Auburn Bulletin*, June 17, 1899; *Cayuga Chief*, November 6, 1909; Old Brutus Historical Society, "Hamilton Club."
[21] Hazel M. Tryon, "Harry S. Tryon, 1886-1913," Collection of Old Brutus Historical Society.
[22] Old Brutus Historical Society, "Another of Weedsport's Favorite Sons."; Hazel M. Tryon, "Harry S. Tryon, 1886-1913."
[23] Karen Blair, "Womens Club Movement," Oxford Companion to the United States (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001); J.C. Croly, *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America* (New York: H.G. Allen & Co., 1898).

women to individually resist alcohol. It later demanded that local, state, and national government prohibit alcohol altogether. Eliza participated in meetings, marches, and jubilees facilitated by the Church. Her daughter Hazel, sister-in-law, Mary Tryon Marquisee, and Mary's daughter Louise all became involved with the organization.

Frank and Eliza's community involvement and love for Weedsport heavily influenced their daughter, Hazel. Hazel Tryon graduated from Weedsport High School in 1914, and became a teacher soon after. Her first position was at a one-room schoolhouse in Centerport. She lived with her parents and took the trolley to Centerport. Later, she moved to Port Washington and worked as a music teacher. By the 1940s, Hazel had returned to Weedsport to care for mother. She enjoyed working with young people, and later established a high school scholarship in her name. Like her parents, Hazel was involved in local civic and social organizations. She was a 42-year member of the Brutus Eastern Star Chapter 86 and a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church in Weedsport.

The home is still owned by descendants of the Tryon family. Mary Tryon Marquisee was the great-grandmother of the current owner, Therese Wasilenko. Frank Tryon died in December 1926, a few months after he sold his butcher shop. Eliza continued living in the house on North Seneca Street until her death in 1948. Hazel Tryon was troubled with the notion that when she died there would be no one to care for the family home. Like her brother, Hazel never married and saw herself as the end of the Tryon family line. Hazel instructed the executor of her will, a Marquisee relation, to have the house demolished because she could not bear the thought it that would be destroyed by neglect. In the months after Hazel's death, the house was sold to newlyweds Therese and Bart Wasilenko. The couple loved the Italianate style family home, and has enjoyed devoting their time to its care.

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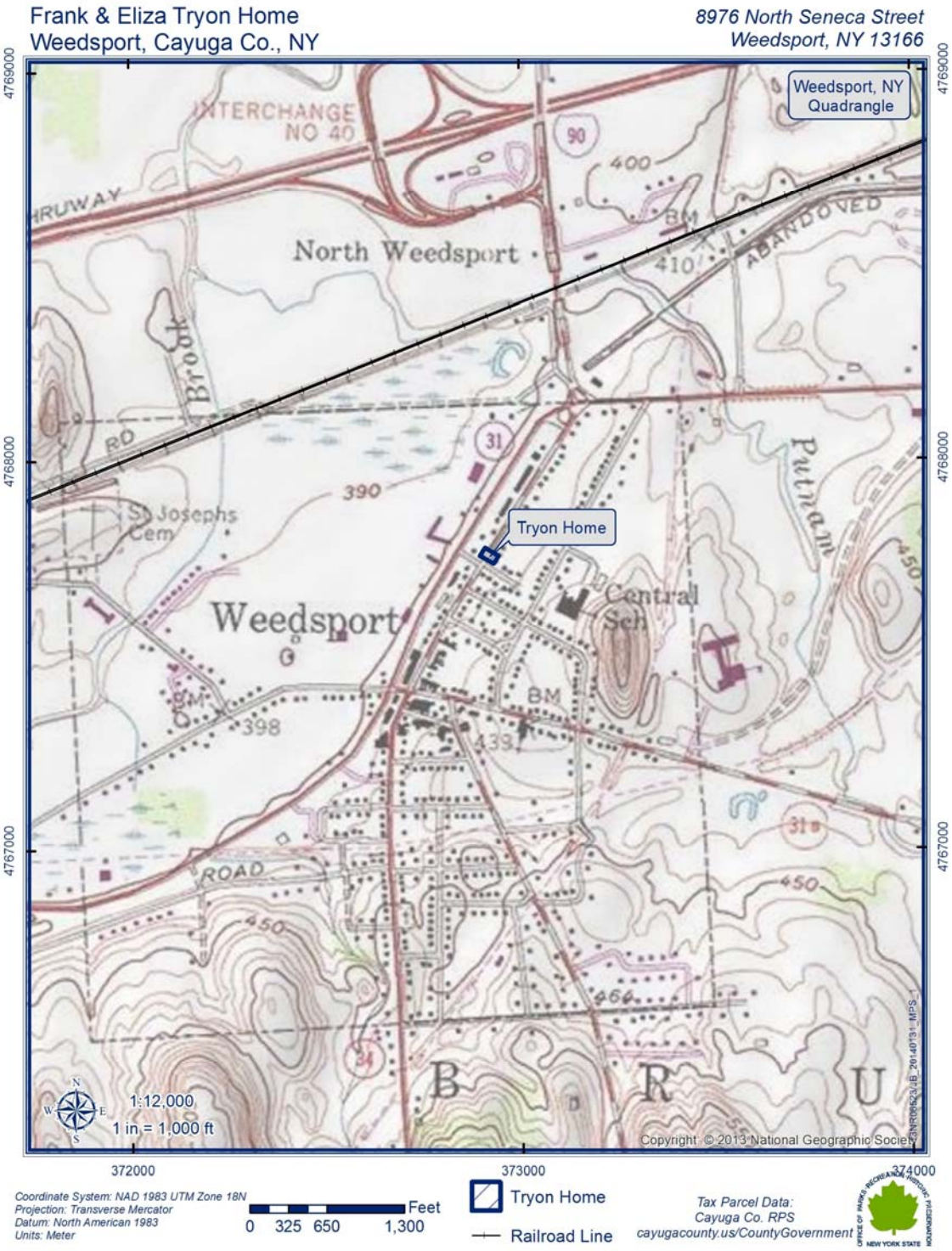
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the parcel historically associated with the Tryon House.



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

0 325 650 1,300 Feet

Tryon Home

Railroad Line

Tax Parcel Data:
Cayuga Co. RPS
cayugacounty.us/CountyGovernment

Frank & Eliza Tryon Home
Weedsport, Cayuga Co., NY
8976 North Seneca Street
Weedsport, NY 13166
∑ = .24 Acres
4768000
4768000
Erie Dr
N Seneca St
Centennial St
Jackson St
James St
372919E 4767756N
Cottage Park
Franklin St
Green St
N Willow St
W Brutus St
E Brutus St
1:3,000
1 in = 250 ft
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community
373000
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter
Feet
0 80 160 320
Tryon Home
Railroad Line
Tax Parcel Data:
Cayuga Co. RPS
cayugacounty.us/CountyGovernment

Additional Information

Name of Property:	Frank & Eliza Tryon House
City:	Brutus
County:	Cayuga
State:	NY
Name of Photographer:	Jennifer Betsworth and Virginia Bartos
Date of Photographs:	December 2013
Location of Original Digital Files:	NY SHPO

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0001
Façade, north elevation, and outbuilding, facing southeast

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0002
Façade, facing east

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0003
Detail of porch, facing northeast

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0004
North elevation, facing southeast

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0005
Outbuilding, facing northeast

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0006
Stair hall, facing west

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0007
First parlor, facing east

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0008
Second parlor, facing east

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0009
Dining room, facing north

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0010
Kitchen, facing east

NY_CayugaCo_TryonHouse_0011
Bedroom, facing west

Tryon House, ca. 1910. Collection of Therese and Bart Wasilenko.

W

8976

peace.