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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name **MARTIN-FITCH HOUSE & ASA FITCH, JR. LABORATORY**

other names/site number FITCH HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 4183 STATE ROUTE 29 [ ] not for publication

city or town SALEM [ ] vicinity

state NEW YORK code NY county WASHINGTON code 115 zip code 12865

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

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

Ruth A Pierpont DSHPO 4/10/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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

___ other (explain:)

Joe Edson W. Beall 6-9-14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	**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
EDUCATION: research facility
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing, storage

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD
roof: SLATE
other: METAL, GLASS

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The centerpiece of the nominated property is the Martin-Fitch house, a commodious hipped-roof dwelling of timber frame construction and late Georgian-period characteristics that was erected ca. 1787; as presently constituted the house largely reflects original conditions in addition to work rendered early in its history, ca. 1796-1812 and ca. 1830, as per documentary and physical evidence. The exterior is characterized by self-contained massing and the steepness of the hipped roof, which is punctuated by dormers on three of its four slopes; the five-bay façade with center entrance and three symmetrically placed dormers recalls established high-style New England models. As for the interior, it was laid out on a center hall plan with interior chimney stacks servicing front and rear-facing fireplaces, a total of eight hearths in the four principal rooms of the first and second stories. A short distance to the southeast of the Martin-Fitch dwelling is the Fitch laboratory, sometimes referred to as the "bug house," an exceptionally important historic resource that shares direct connections with the scientific exploits of Asa Fitch, Jr. This small frame building consists of a two-story section with attached lean-to; it is clear that the main section was originally a story-and-a-half and was raised to its present height subsequently in the nineteenth century. The nominated property additionally includes a large timber-frame barn of the swing-beam type, in essence a modified and expanded version of the traditional English or three-bay barn, and nearby a small frame milk house. These principal resources are located on 9.06 acres of land that includes a large fruit orchard and mature trees; nearby is Black Creek, a tributary of the Battenkill, which is also situated a short distance away. The nominated property is located just outside of the hamlet of East Greenwich and this location has long been known as "Fitch's Point" in consequence of the Fitch family's long residency there. It is located within the Town of Salem, Washington County, and is immediately adjacent to, and accessed from, State Route 29.

Narrative Description

Location & Setting

The nominated property is located near the north-south boundary of two early Washington County patents, the Argyle Patent and the Turner Patent; the westernmost boundary abuts this historic division. The 9.01 acres of land that are included within the nomination boundary are located immediately north of State Route 29, with the north boundary of the property being formed by the Black Creek, which flows in a southwesterly course before emptying into the Battenkill nearby. The property is located a short distance east of where Black Creek Road joins Route 29. Access to the property is via Route 29 and an unpaved driveway that leads from the main road to the west side of the house; the principal entrance, centered on this west-facing façade, is reached by a path laid with flagstone. A picket fence bisects this path near the house's entrance, and identical fencing is used behind the house, as well. Immediately east of the property entrance and located adjacent to Route 29 is a seasonal nursery business, beyond which, to the east, is tillage land devoted to corn. To the west of the property is a parcel of land and an associated frame house. The Asa Fitch, Jr. laboratory is located a short distance from the house's southeast corner, while the barn and milk house are located to the northeast, but further away. The land contained within the boundary is mostly flat; a large fruit tree orchard is located south of the barn. Thick woods are present along the irregular western boundary and help to screen the nominated property from the adjacent house. Across Route 29 from the nominated property, but not generally visible from it, is a large industrial-agricultural operation, further south of which is a railroad right-of-way.

Martin-Fitch house, ca. 1787; ca. 1812; ca. 1830; ca. 1890 (contributing building)

Exterior

The Martin-Fitch house was built ca. 1787 and represents a vernacular interpretation of late Georgian-period architecture, as expressed in its hipped roof, five-bay façade and symmetrical interior plan, which was predicated on a center hall, two-room deep arrangement of space with two internal chimney stacks. It was

built above a rectangular footprint and measures roughly 46' on the east and west elevations by 35' deep. The façade has a central entrance, the latter consisting of a door with glazed transom above and flanking sidelights. The nine principal windows (four at first-story level and five at second-story level) are fitted with twelve-over-twelve wood sash and have full wood surrounds with rounded sills and crowns consisting of a dentil course with ogee-form cornice above. The 3' 8"-wide six-paneled front door has fielded panels; the inside face also has fielded panels, but in a four-panel configuration. It is hung on the interior with three wrought-iron strap hinges and associated cast-iron pintels and has a cast-iron rim lock with brass knobs. The door surround consists of fluted pilasters which give way to entablature blocks matching the height of the six-light transom aligned between. A pediment motif with denticulated frieze and flushboard tympanum forms the terminal feature of the door surround. Situated outside of the surround, but nevertheless part of the entrance composition, are large flanking sidelights that are half the size of the principal windows. These are fitted with six-over-six wood sash with muntins matching those of the other windows, and also have full surrounds. This elevation, like the remaining ones, is fitted on the exterior with clapboard terminated at the edges by narrow corner boards. There is a slight overhang to the roof that creates a narrow soffit immediately above the second-story window crowns. A band of dentils is employed below soffit level— forming a continuation of the dentils on the window crowns— above which is a narrow bed moulding. The principal cornice consists of a corona with low-relief dentils and a moulded cymatium.

The high hipped roof is clad with slate shingles which display bluish-gray and brown hues; these replaced an earlier wood-shingle roof. Piercing the front pitch of the hipped roof, and aligned vertically with the façade's third, fourth and fifth bays, are three gable-roofed dormers. All three have windows which are fitted with eight-over-eight wood sash.

The north side elevation is mostly blind, except for two windows with twelve-over-twelve sash, one each at first and second-story level and not aligned in the vertical plane, a door and a smaller window added later. The absence of windows on the western part of this elevation is likely the result of the removal of a small wing that has since been removed. The roof is pierced, a short distance below the ridge, by the north chimney. The opposite south elevation is two bays wide, with two twelve-over-twelve windows at both first and second-story level. The roofline on this side is pierced by a single centrally placed dormer and the south chimney, which, like the north chimney, is brick.

The east, or rear, elevation is three bays wide with a center entrance at first-story level, the entrance flanked by two twelve-over-twelve windows; above these evenly spaced bays are three windows at second-story level, also with twelve-over-twelve sash. A porch is aligned at first-story level, between the two outermost bays and covering the entrance, which has doors of a double-leaf Italianate type with round arched and glazed upper panels. The porch has a pent roof covered with slate shingles and is supported by four turned posts between which are aligned runs of spindle frieze.

Interior

The principal entrance leads into a wide stair hall that spans the 35' depth of the house and is 10' wide. To the left and right are, respectively, the northwest and southwest parlors. Behind the south parlor, in the southeast corner of the plan, is the kitchen, and opposite that, north of the hall, a room in the northeast corner. A straight run of stairs aligned along the south wall of the hall provides communication with the second floor, where the double-pile plan is repeated, with slight modification. The attic is unfinished, as is the partially excavated basement. Documentary evidence suggests that only the first floor rooms were fully finished at the time of the original building campaign for the Martin family. The front range of rooms at second-floor level were at one time a single volume—a ballroom—built for a tavern function and contained beneath a coved ceiling; the ballroom, built after the original building campaign, was partitioned into three rooms ca. 1830. As for the rear, or southeast chamber, which displays Federal-style finishes and has a bed niche, it was by all

indications the last of the principal rooms to be finished. The house was, for a time, resided in by two families. Asa Fitch, Sr. purchased the north half of the building in 1795, and shortly thereafter erected the now-demolished wing, which housed both a kitchen and medical office; the latter was a necessity given the house's kitchen was located in the southern portion of the dwelling.

Finish work reflects the ca. 1787 building campaign and also includes treatments dating to ca. 1796-1812 and ca. 1830. The front parlors offer late Georgian-period finish treatments and combine wood paneling with plaster wall and ceiling surfaces, the stone fireboxes with brick-laid hearths being set within the interior (east) walls. In the northwest parlor the firebox is framed by a moulded architrave, above which is a large single over-mantel panel, rectangular in shape, which gives way to an ogee-form mantel shelf. A large over-mantel panel is above the shelf and gives way to a cornice that is incorporated into the cornice that aligns the room's four walls. This room additionally has a paneled dado and wide plank flooring. The southwest parlor, by all indication the house's best room, features more elaborated paneling on the east wall, including built-in cabinets with fielded panels and surface mounted hardware. The fireplace opening is trimmed with a moulded architrave, above which is a large rectangular-shaped over-mantel panel and ogee-form shelf. Above this is a large rectangular over-mantel panel in addition to narrow, vertically oriented panels aligned to either side of the large panel and fireplace. A cornice with frieze embellished with low relief dentils is present above the over mantel and is incorporated into the larger cornice that aligns the room. Flooring consists of wide boards. The cornerpost is boxed and beaded; the considerable depth differential between it and the wall surfaces suggests the house is of plank construction, with vertical planking used in lieu of studding.

The hallway contains the staircase, consisting of a straight run of stairs aligned against the south wall, running upward from west to east. It is of the open-stringer type with decorative stringer brackets and three turned newel posts, these located at the top, bottom and at mid-span; the balusters are of square profile and were rotated ninety degrees so as to not parallel the front and sides of the treads, and along with the newels sustain the handrail. Against the wall is a paneled dado, engaged hand rail and engaged newel posts which mirror the position of those opposite.

The house's kitchen was located in the southeast corner of the plan. Against the interior wall is the stone cooking hearth and brick bake oven, both of which are framed within a wood mantel with denticulated frieze above which is a large over-mantel panel and cornice that is also denticulated and forms a continuation of the cornice which marks the transition between the plaster wall and ceiling surfaces. A noticeable change, of recent age, is the addition of exposed, faux hewn ceiling beams, which were applied to the ceiling surface and interrupt the cornice. The opposite room, in the northwest corner of the plan, now functions as the kitchen, while the historic kitchen functions as the dining room. The present kitchen retains a small fireplace against the west wall, framed by a moulded architrave above which is a large rectangular-shaped panel, moulded cornice shelf, and plain over-mantel panel. The firebox has a small cast-iron oven inserted within it and was modified after the original 1780s building campaign.

The second floor reflects original-period treatments along with changes rendered ca. 1796-1812 and ca. 1830. The front portion of the plan was finished as a ballroom by Asa Fitch, Sr., and was later partitioned into the present three rooms. While these rooms were finished later, they were nevertheless bound, in plan, to the existing chimney stacks and fireboxes. The front rooms have stone fireboxes with mantels rendered in a late Georgian-period aesthetic with architraves marking the firebox openings, above which are ogee-form mantel shelves and large over-mantel panels. Also present are moulded wood baseboards, chair rails and cornices. The northeast chamber is more modestly finished. Differences in moulding profiles and door panel configuration are evident on this floor and indicate the phased manner in which the space was finished. As for the southeast chamber, it is of a decidedly Federal-period aesthetic; the wood mantel, which displays a three-part frieze and pilasters, is ornamented with running fret and rope moulding. A bed niche is located astride the

fireplace, situated behind an elliptical arch with embellishment matching that of the mantel. Floors are laid with wide plank, as they are throughout this level.

The attic is unfinished and exposed to view is the framing of the hipped roof, erected with both hand-hewn and sawn pine and oak components. Also visible there are the upper portions of the chimney stacks. As for the partial basement it, too, is unfinished, and exposed there are the sawn floor joists and other framing that sustains the first floor. A large door provides access to steps to up to grade; it is fitted with a very large batten door hung of Dutch-type strap hinges with pancake nailing plates (though not identical to one another, and presumably reused), and has an iron bar to secure it from the outside.

Martin-Fitch House: Known Alterations & Changes

The small one-story wing added in the early nineteenth century to the house's north elevation was removed at an unknown date, as was a Greek Revival-style hipped roof entrance porch on the west façade, a feature which appears in nineteenth century images and a ca. 1906 post card view. Undated images from the collection of a previous owner show this porch removed and also depict the pediment portion of the frontispiece missing, though its outline is clearly discernible as a "ghost" against a field of white paint. The pediment was presumably removed when the porch was built and later restored, based on existing evidence, after the porch was removed. Also evident in these undated images is what appears to be a concrete porch and steps across the three inner bays of the façade. Changes are also evident in the window sash, as photographs from the first half of the twentieth century show some of the window openings fitted with two-over-one sash; further analysis is needed to confirm whether the twelve-over-twelve sash in these locations is original to the house or otherwise is replacement material. While lost long ago, documentary evidence indicates the hipped roof was finished in some manner with a balustrade feature, removed very early in the house's history.

Among the more recent, and incompatible, changes rendered to the interior was the addition of faux exposed beams in the kitchen, a treatment added to what is otherwise a finished eighteenth century space.

Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory, or "Bug House," ca. 1825 and ca. 1860 (contributing building)

The Fitch laboratory is a small gable-roofed building with a long lean-to extending from its north flank elevation. The main section presents as a small two-story building built on a rectangular plan but was originally a story and half, the plate having been raised later to its present height; siding is wood clapboard. A vertical two-panel door on the west elevation of the main section forms the principal entrance and is flanked by large windows fitted with twelve-over-eight sash. A round-arched window with keystone is present in the gable field and is fitted with two-over-six sash, the lower unit being the older of the two; this window presumably dates to the raising of the building to a full two stories. There are two windows, one each at first and second-story level, on the east elevation. On the interior the first floor plaster has fallen completely away; however, the walls and ceilings are still sheathed with split-board lath; the upper story was not plastered and is accessed via a steep stair located against the east wall. The frame of the main section, originally a story-and-half, is of the New World Dutch type consisting of closely spaced H-bents, the joinery being square rule. The original plate level, prior the raising of the roof, is still discernible. The lean-to was built using dimensional lumber and is clad on the outside with novelty siding. The gable roof is slate shingle, the lean-to roof asphalt.

Barn, ca. 1825 and later (contributing building)

The barn is a gable-roofed timber frame building erected above a rectangular footprint. It presents as a self-contained form and is oriented with its roof ridge tending a northwest to southeast axis. Both vertical board and horizontal clapboard are present on the exterior and the roof is covered with corrugated metal. A human door is present on the south gable elevation while larger sliding doors are present on the east and west flank elevations. The interior framing, while modified to some extent, nevertheless reveals the original 5-bent configuration characteristic of this barn type and the general spatial arrangement of this form, whereby a swing

beam—a large, clear-span timber running from side wall to side wall— was employed on one of the two bents defining the central bay, which functioned as a threshing floor and drive-floor for wagons. The swing beam, aligned below the upper tie beam, allowed for the extension of the threshing floor to one side of the center bay and also functioned to provide additional space for hay storage in a loft sustained by supports framed into it. In the accustomed arrangement typical of this period and region, horse stables and sometimes a granary would be located beneath the loft, in this instance against the south gable wall; the stables and associated framing and partitions have since been removed, along with the corresponding bent and the hay loft. The bay on the opposite side functioned as the main hay mow, separated from the threshing floor by a parapet wall, though it appears a portion of the mow area was framed out for a different purpose. Unthreshed, bundled grain would be stored in a loft above the center bay/threshing floor, accessible by way of an integral ladder framed into the tie beam and central post of the bent that, along with the swing beam bent, aligned the center bay transversely. The framing was executed using square-rule principles post dating ca. 1800. The roof is sustained by a common rafter system sustained mid-span by purlins with outward canted posts.

Milk House, ca. 1900
A small, gable roofed structure near the barn, built for the storage of milk.

Shop (non-contributing)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SCIENCE

Period of Significance

ca. 1787- ca. 1900

Significant Dates

ca. 1787; ca. 1795; ca. 1796-1812; ca. 1830; ca. 1890; ca. 1900

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

FITCH, ASA JR. (1809-1879)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the house, ca. 1787, and ends at ca. 1900, the date ascribed to the construction of the milk house. The date of the last significant change rendered to the house, the Late Victorian-era porch on the rear elevation, is ca. 1890. Asa Fitch, Jr., for whom significance is claimed, resided in the house early in his life—he was born there in 1809— and, subsequently, from the late 1830s until his death in 1879. It was during this latter period that he achieved the significance for which he is known today.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary

The Martin-Fitch House and Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory are exceptionally important historic resources in the annals of the history of Washington County, New York. The nominated property includes the ca. 1787 Martin-Fitch house; the small laboratory of the house's most celebrated occupant, the noted entomologist and historian, Asa Fitch, Jr.; and a ca. 1825 swing-beam barn, a type built in Washington County in large numbers before the decline of regional wheat farming after 1830. Built at the end of the 1780s, the house was ambitiously conceived for this region and date and featured a prominent high hipped roof as a principal design feature; the interior, laid out on a symmetrical double-pile plan with internal chimney stacks, was not completely finished during the original building campaign and instead was completed ca. 1796-1812, during which time a second-floor ballroom was constructed to sustain a tavern function. The earliest finish work displays the original late Georgian-era treatments to which were added a subsequent layer of Federal-style work, which collectively portray transitioning architectural tastes in that era. The house was built for Colonel Adam Martin and his son, Walter Martin, who came to the region from Stockbridge, Massachusetts after the Revolution, and was subsequently acquired by the Fitch family, which arrived from Vermont ca. 1780. In 1795 Asa Fitch, Sr. acquired the northern portion of the house—lacking a kitchen— necessitating the construction of a small wing in which a medical office was additionally housed. The part of Salem where the house was erected, adjacent to the confluence of the Black Creek with the Battenkill, has long been known as Fitch's Point, and it was there that Washington County's first grist mill was established.

The house's most famous resident, Asa Fitch, Jr. (1809-1879), was the principal early historian of Washington County and additionally rose to prominence as New York State's first official entomologist. His interviews with local residents, who recounted their own earliest recollections of the region and its history, form an invaluable source of information for the modern-day researcher.[1] Fitch, Jr. was also responsible for authoring "A Historical, Topographical & Agricultural Survey of the County of Washington," published in 1848 and 1849 in the proceedings of the New York State Agricultural Society, an outstanding mid-nineteenth century synopsis of the geography, agricultural traditions, history and cultural complexion of Washington County and adjacent regions. He earned a degree in medicine from Rutgers Medical School in 1829, following his graduation from the Rensselaer School in Troy (present-day Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and during the following decade was a professor at that school and also practiced medicine. By the late 1830s Fitch, Jr. left the medical field to devote himself to the study of insects, among them the wheat midge, which decimated the region's wheat farming during the early part of that decade. It was also in this period that he returned to Fitch's Point, in consideration of his father's failing health, to manage the nominated house and property. Fitch, Jr. was responsible for collecting insects for the New York State Cabinet of Natural History between 1845 to ca. 1854 and was appointed as the New York State Entomologist in 1854, a position he maintained until 1870. He was the first person to be appointed to such a post in the United States. The small frame building included in this nomination served as his laboratory and it was there he spent countless hours in the pursuit of his professional endeavors.

The property is being nominated in association with Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, in consideration of the ca. 1787 Martin-Fitch house, a house of considerable architectural sophistication for its time in that region and one chronicling the transition away from traditional housing forms to a more formalized conception of domestic architecture rooted in Georgian-era design principles. The barn, though altered, is still

[1] Referred to variously as "Notes for a History of Washington County," the "Fitch Manuscript" or the "Fitch Diary," this material— interviews and other research undertaken by Fitch, Jr., and consisting of seven volumes—is in the collection of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Portions of the interviews were published in Winston Adler, ed., *Their Own Voices: Oral Accounts of Early Settlers of Washington County, New York* (Interlaken, NY: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1983); an annotated index to the Fitch materials is offered in the multi-volume *Fitch Gazetteer* by Kenneth A. Parry while the first three of the seven volumes have been published as *The Asa Fitch Papers*, ed. Laura Hulslander.

interpretable as an example of an established vernacular typology from the first half of the nineteenth century; the laboratory also exhibits physical traits which mark it as significant in an architectural context. Additional significance is claimed in association with Criterion B, in the area of Science, given the longstanding association of Asa Fitch, Jr. with this property and his contributions in the field of entomology. State-level significance is being claimed given the remarkable legacy of Asa Fitch, Jr., New York State's first official entomologist, and the survival of both the house and his laboratory, resources that comprehensively encapsulate his life, professional endeavors, and connection to the Battenkill valley and Washington County.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Context

The Salem area of Washington County was largely settled by two distinctive groups prior to the outbreak of the American Revolution. The first were New Englanders from Pelham, Massachusetts, led by James Turner and Joshua Conkey, French & Indian war veterans who likely became familiar with the region during their military service and who secured a considerable land patent in 1764. The second, a contingent of Scots-Irish settlers, arrived here ca. 1765 with the Reverend Thomas Clark. Clark's party acquired land from New York City speculators Peter DuBois and Oliver Delancey, land initially deeded to the Pelham contingent as part of a 25,000 acre patent. The Clark contingent, which stayed for a time in Stillwater, Saratoga County before arriving there, referred to the area as "New Perth" while the Massachusetts contingent knew the area as "White Creek," names that remained in common use until the name Salem was adopted in 1788. Due to the manner in which the original 25,000 acre patent was subsequently halved— whereby the Pelham settlers were granted one half while the other half was transferred to DuBois and Delancey— and the way in which lots were drawn, the settlers from these two groups were intermingled throughout the patent. While both groups were religiously of Presbyterian faith (the Pelham group was, like Clark's party, principally of Scots-Irish origin), they nevertheless erected separate houses of worship. Clark's contingent built a log church ca. 1766, prior to the completion of a frame edifice; the New Englanders, meanwhile, erected their own house of worship in 1774, which burned in 1777 while being utilized as a defensive position by local citizens.[2]

The American Revolution brought great instability to this somewhat remote frontier region, particularly Burgoyne's 1777 campaign and Baum's related reconnaissance through Washington County; Indian parties affiliated with Burgoyne's forces brought particular terror to the minds of the region's settlers following the murder of the Allen family in Argyle and that of Jane McCrea near Fort Edward. Many residents fled the oncoming hostilities by removing to safer parts of the region, escaping into the woods or, as in the case of some former New Englanders, further afield into Massachusetts. The conclusion of the war brought stability to the region, allowing settlers to fully avail themselves of its excellent agricultural lands and the hydraulic power of its various watercourses. By the early 1780s the New Perth community counted approximately 300 families.[3] The original Clark party and Pelham settlers were soon joined by others, among them people migrating into the region from Vermont and Massachusetts, a migration that accounts for the presence of members of the Martin and Fitch families. The nominated property lies near Salem's boundary with what was originally the Argyle patent, settled in the eighteenth century by a large number of Highland Scots. Its location near the confluence of the Black Creek and Battenkill marked it as a particularly desirable location for milling enterprises, and it was there that the county's first grist mills were erected.

The nominated house at Fitch's Point was built ca. 1787 for Colonel Adam Martin (1739-1818) and his son, Brigadier General Walter Martin (1764-1834). Adam Martin came to the Salem area from Stockbridge,

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[2] *An Introduction to Historic Resources in Washington County, New York* (1976, reprint 1984), 104; Crisfield Johnson, *History of Washington County* (Philadelphia: Everts & Ensign, 1878), 122.

[3] Ibid, 105.

Massachusetts, following the conclusion of the American Revolution; his brother, Moses, had settled there previously, ca. 1768. Martin was an officer during the French & Indian War and in the Revolution served as a captain of a Massachusetts company in the Continental Army. During the latter conflict he served as a Captain with Colonel Timothy Bigelow before joining Glover's Brigade in August 1777, in which he remained until the surrender of Burgoyne that year. At the close of the war he removed to Salem where, in the company of his son, Walter, he saw to the erection of the nominated dwelling. Colonel Adam Martin was a member of the New York State Assembly in 1787, the year the house was built, and served as a justice of the peace for many years. Shortly after 1800 the Martin family migrated to the Black River region of Lewis County, New York, where it promoted the settlement of the township which came to bear the name Martinsburg. Walter Martin had acquired 8,000 acres of land in that region from John Constable and worked vigorously to promote the settlement and development of those lands by encouraging families from Salem and Stockbridge to relocate there. He was a pivotal figure in the early history of Lewis County and there an impressive stone house remains, in Martinsburg, to chronicle the family's presence (NRHP-listed 2008). He was brevetted a Brigadier General during the War of 1812 and was a New York State Senator from 1808 to 1812.[4]

The property on which the Martins built their Salem house was acquired from William Reid (1738-1833), a skilled Scottish-born millwright and engineer who came to New Jersey in the service of Lord Sterling, and there erected mills prior to arriving in Salem ca. 1770. In the 1770s he erected a saw and grist mill for Salem residents for which he received the lot of land that had been reserved for that purpose. He was imprisoned during the Revolution for a year when his loyalties came into question and later in life resided in South Argyle. The original mill lot conveyed to Reid consisted of 88 acres, for which he was contracted to build the mills and keep them in working order for a specified period.[5]

The Fitch family came to Washington County by way of Vermont. The family is descended from Reverend James Fitch, a native of Essex County, England who came to America in the mid-seventeenth century. The following account of the Fitch's settlement in Salem is drawn from the Asa Fitch, Jr. manuscript:

> Finding the lands in the flourishing town of New Perth, now Salem, N.Y., were so very superior to those of the rough mountain region where he was located (Halifax, Vermont), he [Dr. Peletiah Fitch] about 1780 removed to this place, purchasing the confiscated Lot No. 70, 2 miles west of the village. When he settled in Salem, being too advanced in life to engage in medical practice, except in the families of his immediate neighbors and friends, in addition to farming he opened his house as a tavern, it being situated on the main road from the village, west, to Argyle, and within a few rods of the principal route to market from Hebron and other towns to the north.[6]

Dr. Peletiah Fitch (1722-1803) was born in the Norwich area of Connecticut to parents Jabez Fitch (1695-1779) and Anna Knowlton. In 1744 he wed Elizabeth Burrows. The family moved from Norwich, Connecticut to Groton, Massachusetts, before removing to Vermont and eventually Salem. While in Vermont Fitch served as the first judge of Cumberland County, New York—lands now within Vermont—and he was known as an ardent patriot, equipping four of his sons to serve in the Revolution. Asa Fitch, Sr. (1765-1843), often referred to as Hon. Asa Fitch, was the seventh son of Peletiah and Elizabeth Burrows Fitch and the father of Asa Fitch, Jr., one of four sons of the couple to reside in the Salem area. A veteran of the

[4] George Davis, *A Historical Sketch of Sturbridge and Southbridge* (West Brookfield, MA: O.S. Cooke & Co., 1856), 68-69; Johnson, *Washington County*, 134-35.

[5] Details drawn from a sketch of Reid's life in the *Salem Review-Press*, 23 July 1887.

[6] Asa Fitch, Jr. Manuscript ("Fitch MS hereafter"). The specific volume and section number are not given in this and subsequent MS references, given these various excerpts were drawn many years ago from the Fitch materials and were not, at that time, properly referenced.

Revolution, he studied medicine with his father and Dr. Philip Smith and commenced his practice in Duanesburg, Schenectady County, before returning to Salem. His wife, Abigail Fitch Martin, was a daughter of Colonel Adam Martin and Abigail Cheney Martin.[7] By the accounts of Asa Fitch, Jr., his father was persuaded by his wife, Abigail, to take up residence in Salem, where he commenced the practice of medicine in February 1795.

Among the accounts of the nominated house and its history is that found in the Fitch manuscript, which chronicles the house's purchase by his father, Asa Fitch, Sr., in September 1795:

> He bought out his brother-in-law, Walter Martin, agreeing to pay $7,500 for 140 acres, with half the grist mill and saw mill, and the N. half of the large dwelling house which Col. Adam [Martin] and his son Walter had erected in 1787; they having bought the mills and mill lot of 88 acres of Wm. Read, Aug. 15, 1786, for $2,250, half of which still belonged to their father, Col. Adam. This was a large price, but it was regarded as the best mill site and mills in this part of the country.[8]

As recounted by Fitch, Jr., in 1796 his father "applied himself assiduously to making money in every way open to him (to pay for house and mills), by his medical practice, sawing lumber, raising wheat on the farm, tolls of the grist mill, etc."

> His father [Peletiah Fitch] having found innkeeping quite lucrative, he [Fitch, Sr.] also opened his house to the public, in the charge of T. Berry and in his name (Berry's); and to have the accommodations he required, he had a ballroom finished off, upstairs, and also the chamber in his half of the house, and also built the linter [SIC] on the north side of the house, the front part of this linter being done off for his shop (medical office), and the remainder for a kitchen.[9]

It appears that the tavern operation was somewhat short-lived, as Fitch, Sr. found those frequenting his place far too boisterous for his liking, and thus closed it "after a few years." Fitch, Sr. was instrumental in founding the Washington County Medical Society and served as its president for twenty years, and, as noted in one account, "his large and well selected medical library and anatomical museum brought a large number of students to him for instruction."[10] He was a justice of the peace, a county judge, and a United States Congressman, and was additionally an important contributor to the formation of the Washington County Agricultural Society, of which he was the first president. Other affiliations included his membership in the State Temperance Society; he was a Presbyterian by faith. He was also a Freemason and rose to the position of Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of New York.[11] Asa Fitch, Sr. died in 1843. As one source noted a generation after his demise, he occupied "positions of influence in politics, in the church and in secular societies."[12]

Asa Fitch, Jr. was born at Fitch's Point in 1809 and received his preparatory education at academies in Salem and Bennington, Vermont. At an early age he developed an interest in botany and zoology, subjects that would inform his ultimate interests. He received training for his intended field, medicine, at the Rensselaer School in Troy, the Vermont Academy of Medicine at Castleton, and at Rutgers Medical College in New York. Following his graduation he traveled to Lake Erie as part of a Rensselaer School expedition, and from there

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[7] Abbie M. Fitch-Andrews, "Asa Fitch and His Ancestry," *The New York Genealogical and Bibliographical Record*, vol. XXXIV, no 3 (July 1903); Johnson, *Washington County*, 125.

[8] Fitch MS.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Fitch-Andrews, "Asa Fitch."

[11] Ibid.

[12] Obituary of Asa Fitch, Jr., *The Salem Press*, 11 April 1879.

continued on a tour further westward, into Illinois and Missouri. Fitch, Jr. returned to Washington County in 1831, establishing a medical practice at Fort Miller, and the following year wed Elizabeth McNeil, daughter of John McNeil and Sarah Pattison. In 1838, following a period in which he resided in Stillwater, Saratoga County, he returned to Fitch's Point, his father having become too feeble to manage the house and property. Following his return to Salem, he was for a time principally engaged in farming, but nevertheless found time to lecture on botany and medicine at the academies in Salem and Granville.[13]

In 1841 Fitch, Jr. was named secretary of the newly organized Washington County Agricultural Society. He was responsible for drafting the organizations rules and contributed to the general oversight of its affairs, and rose to the position of president in 1848. Fitch, Jr. was engaged by the New York State Agricultural Society to research and write "A Historical, Topographical & Agricultural Survey of the County of Washington," an endeavor which took almost three years to complete and which was published in two parts in 1848 and 1849. This survey, constituting some three hundred pages, brought him considerable attention and led to his being named a corresponding member of the New York State Historical Society and an honorary member of the New Jersey Historical Society. His work on the survey also awakened in him the impulse to collect information relative to the region's history from those he engaged, and it was then he acquired the habit of compiling historical materials, anecdotes and accounts relative to the early settling families of Washington County and their experiences before and during the American Revolution.[14] His work in this regard, as captured in the two-part survey and unpublished manuscript materials, provides a comprehensive and detailed account of the early history of Washington County. Crisfield Johnson, author of a history of the county published in 1878, noted in his biographical overview of the Fitch family his debt to Asa Fitch, Jr., "for much valuable assistance in the preparation of the town [Salem] history, and for advice upon difficult questions respecting dates, persons, and places."[15]

Yet it is for his contributions to the field of science, and more specifically entomology, that Asa Fitch, Jr. is today best known. It was in 1845, in the *American Quarterly Journal of Agriculture and Science*, that his "Insects of the Genus Cecidomyie" appeared, which was followed soon thereafter by "The Wheat Midge" and "The Hessian Fly." His interest in the wheat midge and Hessian fly were undoubtedly driven to some extent by the damage wrought by these insects to Washington County's wheat, a principal crop there in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In the *Transactions of the New York State Agricultural Society*, 1847, was presented his "Currant-worm and its Moth," which, accompanied by a colored engraving, brought him great credit among entomologists both at home and in Europe. It was around this time that Fitch, Jr., was engaged with collecting and naming New York State insects. Finally, in 1854 and in consideration of his skill as an entomologist, he was named as New York's first official entomologist, an endeavor which he threw himself fully into. From this stemmed his "Report on the Noxious, Beneficial and other insects of the State of New York," 14 editions of which were published, gaining him further recognition in America and abroad. It was in consequence of these and other efforts that he was recognized by foreign entomological societies, among them those in France, Germany, and Russia, and received a gold medal from the Imperial and Central Agricultural Society of France. His expertise in the field of entomology also led to his correspondence with many of Europe's leading figures in this discipline. Fitch, Jr. retired from this office in 1873.[16]

Fitch, Jr. undertook much of his scientific work in the small laboratory behind the house; he was known by many locally as "the bug catcher" and the small building came to be known as the "bug house." It was there

[13]Ibid; Fitch-Andrews, "Asa Fitch."
[14]Ibid.
[15]Johnson, *Washington County*, 125.
[16]Fitch-Andrews, "Asa Fitch."

he maintained his collection of insects and kept vigil over larvae, sometimes for days on end, taking his sleep in an armchair so as to be able to observe their metamorphosis. As one source opined about the laboratory, "night and day it sent forth light to the world."[17] Fitch, Jr. was known to keep a pocket-net close at hand, so as to not miss the opportunity of capturing an interesting insect for further study.[18] The following account conveys such an instance:

> A daughter, the one to whom he was indebted for many of the beautiful drawings which illustrate his writings, relates that on one such occasion when he had the Bible in his hands, and was about to begin reading, a moth of peculiar appearance alighted on the book before him. The ruling passion was too strong for either time or circumstance: glancing about, as if conscious of the incongruity of the proceeding, he quickly seized his net, bagged the curious specimen, and with a half-guilty look proceeded with the reading. The capture was an important one, as the moth proved to be new to science.[19]

State and Federal census records provide information on the complexion of the household at various junctures. The Federal 1800 census lists Asa Fitch, Sr. and Adam Martin next to one another, suggesting that members of the latter family may have continued to reside in the south portion of the house at this date. The Fitch household consisted of 11 family members while four individuals constituted the Martin household. By 1810 the Martins had removed to Lewis County; the Fitch household at that time including seven members. The 1855 New York State census shows the Fitch household consisting of Fitch, Jr., his wife, Elizabeth, and five children; an Irish-born laborer, Michael Laughlin; and Betsy Taylor, a cousin. Fitch, Jr. noted his occupation as "Naturalist" while his son, Charles, 19, was noted as a farmer. At the time of the 1860 Federal census, Fitch, Jr. was residing in the house with his wife, four children, and Taylor. Fitch, Jr. noted his occupation at that date as "Entomologist" and claimed $10,000 in both real and personal estate.

Farming helped inform Fitch's interest in insects and their effects on regional agriculture. During the early part of his life he had witnessed the devastation wrought on the area's wheat farmers by a variety of insect and fungal blights. Information about the Fitch farm operation was gleaned from the Federal agricultural censuses of 1850 and 1870. In 1850 the property contained 160 improved and 40 unimproved acres of land and was farmed in a diversified manner characteristic of the period. The family maintained horses, milk cows, a large herd of sheep, and pigs; arable land was devoted to rye, Indian corn, hay, potatoes, flax and oats. Twenty years later the family kept no sheep, an indication of the declining fortunes of that industry regionally, and had also stopped cultivating flax. Indian corn, oats and hay were the principal crops.

Asa Fitch, Jr. died in 1879. His health, first complicated by pneumonia contracted in 1859, declined rapidly in the year preceding his death. As his obituary noted, "The labors of Dr. Fitch in Salem; his researches in local history; his interest and activity in all efforts tending to the public good… are all too fully known and highly appreciated to need our comments and commendation."[20]

In 1891 the property was offered for sale and the following account was given:

> FARM FOR SALE
> The farm known as the Dr. Asa
> Fitch place at Fitch's Point, is offered
> for sale. Said farm is located about

[17]E.P. Thurston, "Sketch of Dr. Asa Fitch," *Popular Science Monthly*, vol. 16 (November 1879).
[18]Obituary, *Salem Press*, 1879.
[19]Thurston, "Sketch."
[20]Obituary, *Salem Press*, 1879.

two and three-fourth miles from Salem
village on the road leading to Greenwich,
and is very pleasantly situated.
Grist and saw mill within one-half mile.
White and Black creeks form a junction
on this farm and afford abundance of
water. The farm contains 186 acres,
and in addition a wood lot of 16 acres,
with ample buildings, a large an
commodious house, also a tenant
house. Price $5,000. Possession given
anytime between now and April next.
For particulars enquire of Hon. James
Gibson or James S. McDonald, Salem,
Washington county, N.Y.—
September 30th, 1891[21]

The property purchased by Asa Fitch, Sr. from the Martin family included 140 acres. When first acquired and improved by William Reid, in the 1770s, the property, known as the Turner's Patent "mill lot" and still shown as such on the 1866 Stone & Stewart map, consisted of only 88 acres. By the time of the above sale, the boundary had been expanded to encompass just over 200 hundred acres. Since that time numerous subdivisions have occurred, leaving the house, laboratory and barn, the core of the property, on the two nominated parcels consisting of a total of 9.06 acres. Despite census documentation of the agricultural history of this property, the nominated parcel does not provide for significance in the area of agriculture.

Architectural Context

At the time it was erected for the Martin family, ca. 1787, the nominated house was a considerable example of domestic architecture in Washington County and one which eschewed traditional folk models in favor of a more formalized conception of living firmly rooted in Georgian-era design principles. Forming a strong point of contrast is the Wilson House, a dwelling of contemporary date erected north of Salem, in Hebron, for Rhode Island settlers; that house followed traditional New England models in its central chimney mass and corresponding arrangement of interior spaces. Many families continued to live in humbler dwellings at this date, representative of the region's recent frontier circumstances and emergence from the unstable years of the Revolution. One observer, riding through the Fort Miller area in 1788, noted that "The country looks new, but there is a great number of Log Houses."[22]

When the Martin-Fitch house was erected the region boasted but a few fully developed examples of domestic architecture, among them the frame house of General John Williams in Salem and the frame house erected for Judge William Duer in Fort Miller. The latter house, begun ca. 1773, employed a fully developed five-part Palladian plan and, like Williams's house, was meant to invoke Duer's preeminent stature in regional affairs.[23] Other notable high-style houses of this date include the Payne house in Fort Miller, a brick dwelling built ca. 1787 and which was also of considerable architectural pretension by contemporary standards. The Martin's desire to build in frame, and not brick, was presumably a practical consideration driven in part by the close proximity of the construction site to a saw mill; among the concerns with erecting a brick house was the need for specialized labor, in the form of a brick-maker and masons, in addition to carpenters. The house's plank

[21] *Salem-Review Press*, 24 June 1892.

[22] J.T. McClellan, "A Long Journey on Horseback in 1788," *The Connecticut Magazine, vol. 9* (1905), 188.

[23] For Duer's house see William Krattinger, "Fort Miller's Vanished Mansion: The House of William Duer," *Annual Journal of the Washington County Historical Society*, 2013.

construction, combining a braced timber frame with vertical plank in lieu of studding, equates it firmly with New England building traditions. Many sawn components used in the house's construction, among them floor and wall boards, joists, and braces, were presumably run off at the nearby mill.

The form and layout of the Martin-Fitch house reflects the permutation of Georgian-era design principles and architectural developments then well underway in the Martin's native Massachusetts. The two-story, hipped roof house with five-bay façade and a double-pile, center passage plan emerged in the second half of the eighteenth century as a patent form for the merchant class. This type offered a marked contrast to the traditional New England house, with its massive central or offset chimney mass occupying a central portion of the plan and dictating the interior's spatial arrangement. A wide center hall offered a more elegant and refined concept of space, with the fireplace mass being divided into either internal or end wall stacks. In the case of the Martin house, the placement of the two chimney stacks dictated the arrangement of front and rear facing hearths. Finish work reflecting the prevailing Georgian vernacular, which in the principal rooms included the use of raised and recessed paneling on the fireplace wall; the staircase, with its heavy turned newel posts, decorative stringer brackets, and dado with handrail and engaged newels on the wall, is noteworthy. This house form, employing either a hipped or hipped-gambrel roof, continued in popularity into the early nineteenth century; examples of this type were illustrated in Asher Benjamin's 1797 *Country Builder's Assistant*, the source of the design for Dr. Jonathan Dorr's house in nearby Cambridge, ca. 1798.

Documentary and physical evidence indicates the Martin's failed to complete the house during the original building campaign, a circumstance that does have precedents in the Upper Hudson Valley even for the best class of dwellings.[24] The southeast parlor, finished off later for Asa Fitch, Sr., illuminates the stylistic changes that were underway in the brief period between the 1780s and early 1800s. The mantel and mouldings in that room are expressive of the Roman Neoclassical taste fostered by the builder's guides of William Pain and Asher Benjamin and known today as the Federal style. The front range of rooms, once a single volume, is spanned by a barrel vaulted ceiling, a characteristic treatment for a tavern ballroom. Among the features representative of the post-1830 period were a Greek Revival-style front porch, since removed, and the rear porch, which likely dates to the later nineteenth century.

References from the Fitch manuscript have provided critical information on the house's construction, some of which would never have been known were it not for his meticulous recordation of seemingly minor details. It appears the house took two years to complete and may not have been resided in until 1788, at which time both the families of Adam Martin and his son, Walter, lived there:

> And only the 4 rooms of the ground floor were then completed, father having built the linter [sic] on the North end in 1796 probably, and finished off the hall and the chambers, the S.E. chamber being left until after he stopped keeping tavern—putting paper on the walls of the hall in the year 1803 which is still remaining, the original red, yellow and other colors, all but the black, having faded from it more than 50 years ago. All the front of the second story was formerly a Ball Room, arched overhead as is still seen. It was partitioned off into the present three chambers ca. 1830. And the original shingles on the roof, painted red, lasted till about the same year, when the present shingles—which Otis Clapp got made for father in Moriah, Essex Co.—were put on, and must now be replaced by others, as soon as I can possibly arrange for having this work done. The stone for the cellar walls and chimneys were brought from the quarry on the W. side of Beaver Brook, on the N. side of the West Street of Salem Village. Originally there was a terrace and balustrade upon the top of the windows projecting from the roof—which father deeming to be decayed and unsafe, had taken off, probably when the linter was built.[25]

[24]Physical evidence indicated that the second floor of the ca. 1767 Konyn-Van Rensselaer house was partitioned and finished subsequent to the original building campaign.

[25]Fitch MS.

Also of note, from an architectural standpoint, is the Fitch Laboratory or "Bug House," though the circumstances of its construction and modification are not yet known. The original H-bent timber frame is expressive of New World Dutch building traditions and documents the pervasiveness of this framing tradition and its use in southern Washington County, an area in direct communication with the Hudson River and heavily Dutch-settled areas to the south. It is not known how this building was originally used but it might be presumed that it was reused from an earlier application. The original framing and split-board lath suggest a date in the first quarter of the nineteenth century; the building was subsequently raised to a full two stories at which time modest Italianate-style features were added, work which appears to have been undertaken during Fitch's lifetime.

Though alterations have been made to it, the barn retains ample evidence of its original layout and construction, and represents a type common in that region in the first part of the nineteenth century. It is of the so-called swing-beam type, being in essence a modified version of the traditional English or three-bay barn; the swing beam, a free-span member adjacent to one side of the threshing floor, allowed for the extension of the central floor and helped to sustain an additional hay loft above one side of the plan. Recent survey efforts in Washington County have identified this as a prevailing type in the early nineteenth century, at which time the form assumed recognizable traits so far as layout and design.[26]

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

[26]William Krattinger and Molly McDonald, "The Swing Beam Barn in Southern Washington County, New York," *Timber Framing*, no. 103 (March 2012).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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McClellan, J.T. "A Long Journey on Horseback in 1788." *The Connecticut Magazine, vol. 9* (1905).

Thurston, E.P. "Sketch of Dr. Asa Fitch." *Popular Science Monthly*, vol. 16 (November 1879).

MARTIN-FITCH HOUSE & ASA FITCH, JR. LABORATORY **WASHINGTON COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Name of Property County and State

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.01 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	**18**	**631703**	**4778905**	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the enclosed two maps, drawn at a scale of 1:24,000 and 1: 9,000, both of which are entitled "Martin-Fitch House & Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory, Salem, Washington Co., NY."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary has been drawn to include 9.01 acres of land, all of which is historically associated with the property during the cited period of significance, ca. 1787- ca. 1900. This represents a significant reduction of what was, at the time of the Fitch family's purchase from the Martin family, 140 acres, substantially more than the original 88-acre mill lot granted to William Reid in the 1770s. When the former Martin-Fitch property was offered for sale in 1891-92, the boundary had been expanded to encompass just over 200 hundred acres. Since that time numerous subdivisions have occurred, leaving the house, laboratory and barn— the historic core of the property—on the two nominated parcels, consisting of a total of 9.01 acres.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Krattinger

organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date January 2014

street & number Peebles Island State Park telephone (518) 237-8643

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12180

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

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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

- **Continuation Sheets**

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

Photographs:

PHOTOGRAPHS: TIFF format, April 2014
PHOTOGRAPHER: William E. Krattinger
LOCATION OF ORIGINAL DIGITAL FILES: NYS Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford NY, 12188

0001 EXTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view looking eastward showing façade
0002 EXTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view looking west showing east and south elevations
0003 INTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view showing east and south walls of southwest parlor
0004 INTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view showing fireplace and associated woodwork
0005 INTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view showing principal door
0006 INTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view showing paneled dado and engaged newel post, main staircase, second-floor landing
0007 INTERIOR, Martin-Fitch house, view showing second-floor fireplace and associated woodwork
0008 EXTERIOR, Asa Fitch, Jr. "bug house," view looking to southeast
0009 EXTERIOR, barn, view looking to northeast
0010 INTERIOR, barn, view showing swing-beam bent and outward-canted purlin plates

Property Owner:

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

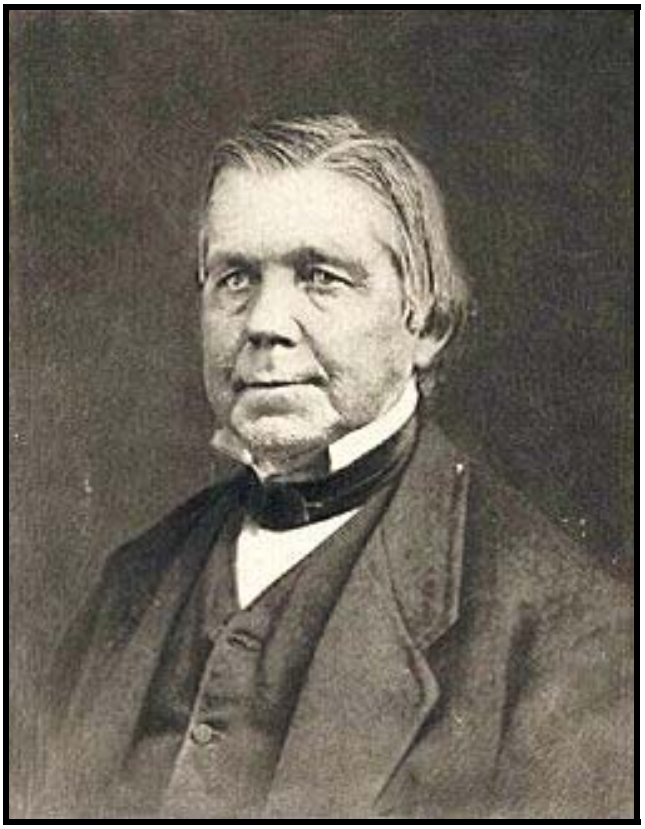
name Dr. and Mrs. Chester Brearey

street & number Same as nomination address telephone

city or town state zip code

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

ABOVE, Brigadier General Walter Martin; BELOW, Asa Fitch, Jr.

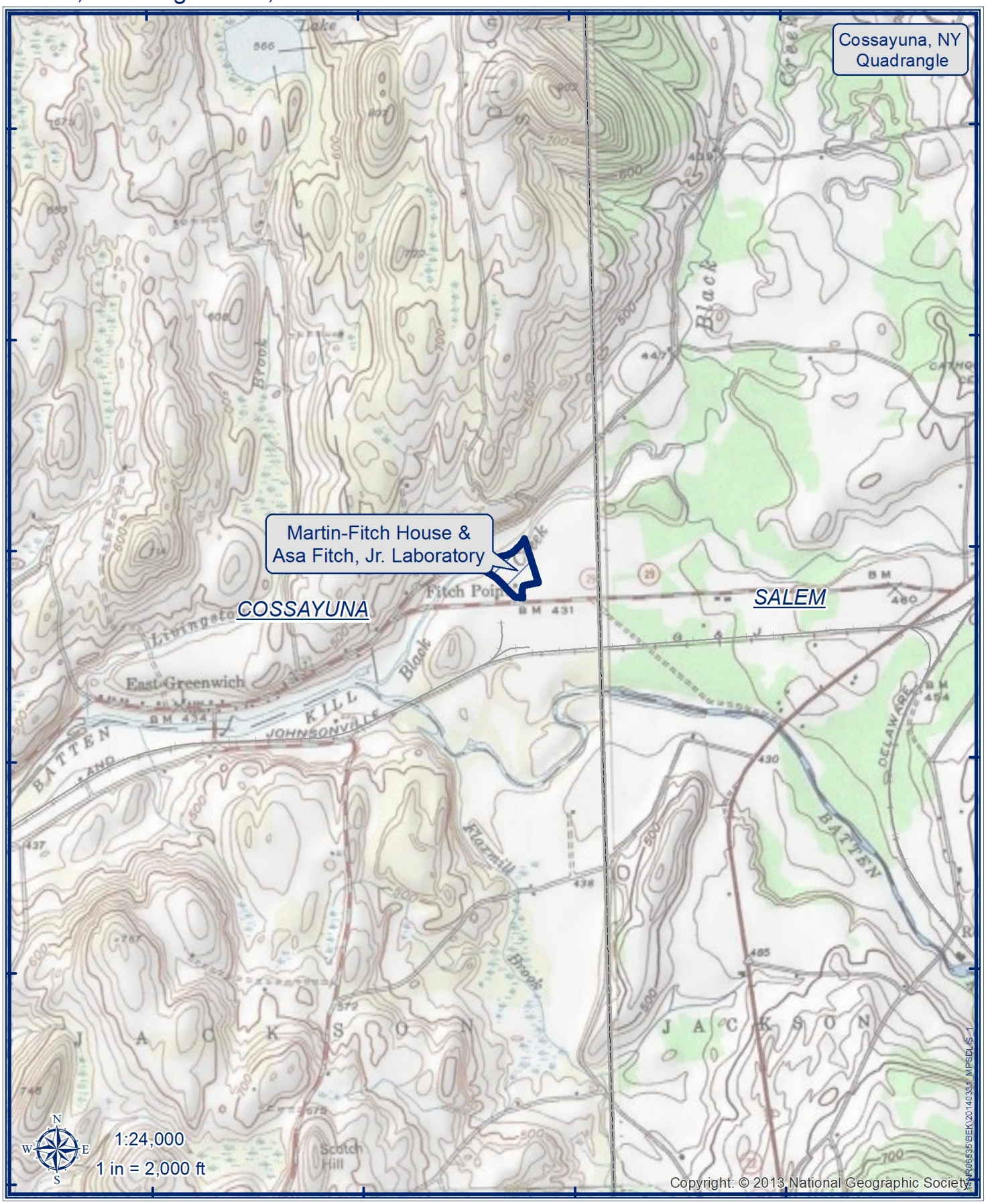


ABOVE, Martin-Fitch house, 1943, view showing south and east (rear) elevations

ABOVE, Martin-Fitch house, undated nineteenth century view showing hipped-roof porch and north wing (removed); below, undated view showing porch removed, ghost of pediment, varying sash, north wing, concrete platform and steps, and hitching post.

Martin-Fitch House & Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory
Salem, Washington Co., NY

4183 SR 29
Salem, NY 12865



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632000
633000

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

Feet
0 650 1,300 2,600

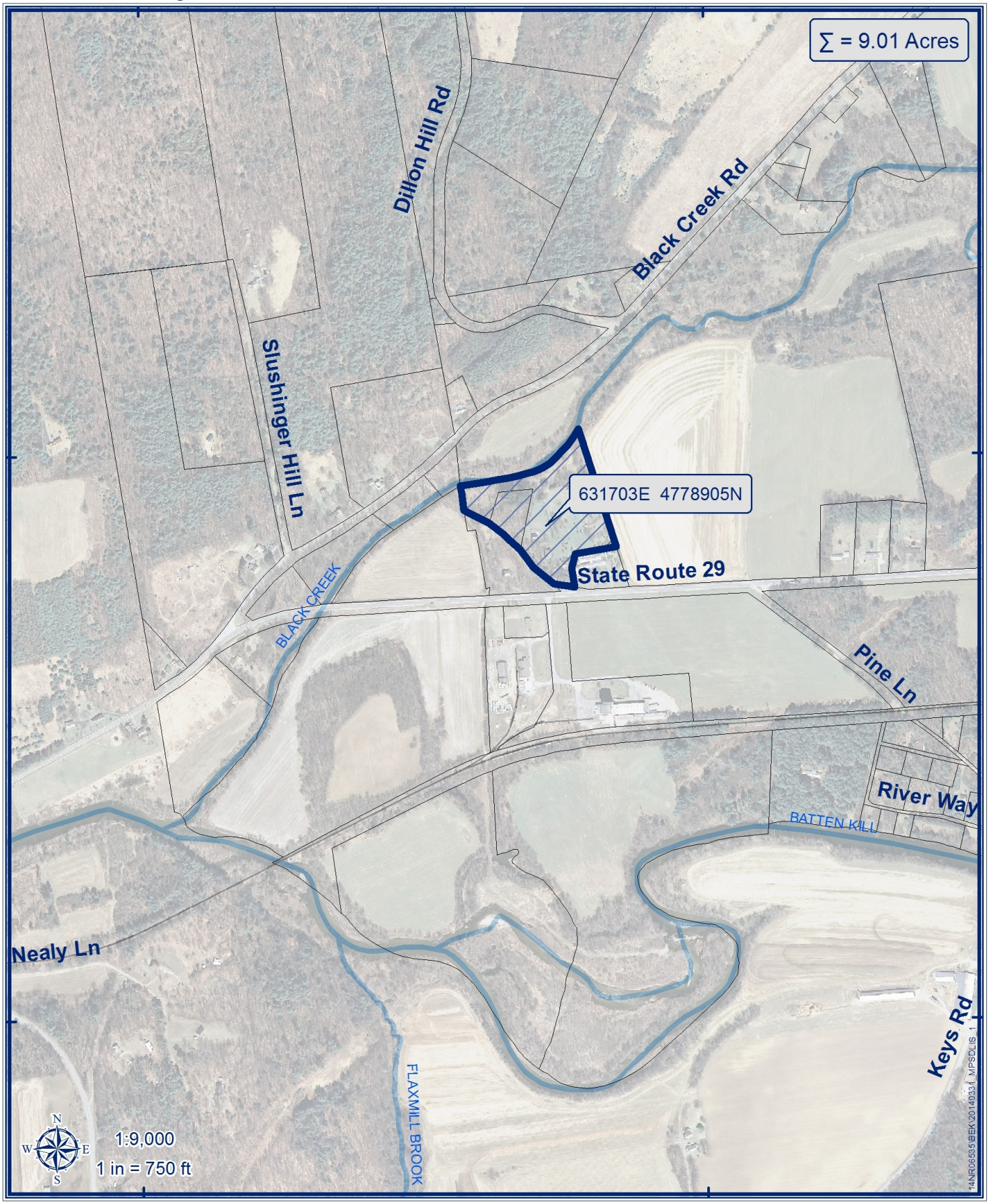
House & Laboratory
USGS quad index

Tax Parcel Data:
Washington Co, RPS
gis.co.washington.ny.us

OFFICE OF PARKS · RECREATION · HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE

Martin-Fitch House & Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory
Salem, Washington Co., NY

4183 SR 29
Salem, NY 12865



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

0 255 510 1,020 Feet

House & Laboratory

Tax Parcel Data:
Washington Co, RPS
gis.co.washington.ny.us

OFFICE OF PARKS · RECREATION · HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE