United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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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 Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 194 Main Street — N/A not for publication
city or town Schoharie — N/A vicinity
state NY code 36 county Schoharie code 095 zip code 12157

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

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

Robert Purpont DSHPO 12/28/15
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:

X entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

for Alexis Abramson 2/23/16
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House — Name of Property

Schoharie, NY — County and State

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling
AGRICULTURE

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD
roof: METAL
other:

Summary Description

The Johannes Lawyer Jr. House is a timber-frame building situated on a rise above the old King's Highway through the Schoharie Valley, New York, in the historic Palatine German settlement of Brunnen Dorf (Fountain Town). It is built on a T-shaped plan and consists of a main block and rear ell that were constructed in 4 to 5 major phases beginning around 1790. The initial dwelling was, by all indications, a two-story H-bent house with an end-gabled roof, side entrance plan, and three-bay façade; the frame was constructed in the New World Dutch building tradition, but the form was English. Within approximately twenty years (c. 1810), the house was elongated to the west to create a five-bay, center-entrance façade in the Federal style. A few years later, another addition was constructed – a kitchen wing built onto the rear of the house with a covered porch that retains Greek Revival details. The last addition was probably built in two parts in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; it consists of an extension to the ell, a relocated staircase to the second floor, and a closed vehicle area with storage above. The house is particularly notable for stenciling done in the Phase 2 parlor (on the southern end of the house) by an itinerant painter around 1825-30. In addition, the property holds three other buildings – two barns (the earliest, with a New World Dutch frame) and one early twentieth-century privy – along with the remains of an old quarry, stone walls, and other historic landscape features.

Narrative Description

SITE

The Johannes Lawyer Jr. House is situated at the top of a small hill about 50 feet above the Schoharie Valley floodplain on an historic house plat owned by Johannes Lawyer Sr., leader of the 1711 settlement of Brunnendorf (Fountain Town), one of the seven dorfs (villages) founded by the Palatine Germans at Schoharie. The house faces northwest. At the back, it has been built to within one foot of a 15-25 foot limestone cliff; over the next two miles, the ridge rises a further 1,200 feet to an elevation of 1,900 feet. Below the house, at the base of the hill, runs an early footpath, sometimes called the "King's Highway"; its location can be identified from the stone walls that bound the property to the northwest. Seepage from the limestone ridge has been captured in a well that flows into a small pond. To the west of the house is a small limestone quarry used historically for building materials and stone walls.

The ridge continues southwest from the house. About 400 feet to the west is a cluster of three outbuildings. The oldest (and closest to the house) is a small barn built with H-bents in the New World Dutch style. The second (and middle outbuilding) is a nineteenth-century barn, built in two parts. The third is a late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century privy situated beyond both barns, perhaps intended for use by the farmer or moved there when no longer needed near the house.

EXTERIOR (See Additional Information and Section 8 for Floor Plans and Rooflines)

The two-story Lawyer House was built in four to five phases. Phase 1 (c. 1785-1800) covers the construction of the original 3-bay, two-story, timber-frame house in a transitional New World Dutch/ English style; Phase 2 (c. 1810) covers the elongation of the original house to the west, resulting in a 5-bay house; Phase 3 (c. 1825-

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49) marks the addition of a kitchen ell behind the house and the repurposing of the original kitchen as a sitting room/parlor; Phases 4/5 (late 19th to early 20th century) added an interior stair and vehicle storage (now a garage) to the back of the first ell. The end result is a house with a T-shaped footprint.

The roofs on the main block, ell, and garage are metal with standing seams and triangular vents. The walls are covered with wide, early to mid-twentieth-century, textured cement board. All windows (except for two in the back of the main block) have been replaced with twelve-over-twelve and six-over-six casement inserts. There are full basements below the first three parts of the house; the fourth/fifth parts sit on grade.

Façade (Northwest Elevation)

The two-story façade has five bays. The spacing is somewhat irregular due to the process of elongation. On the first floor, the central door is offset lightly west of center; the first two twelve-over-twelve windows are proportionately spaced from the northeast corner; the last two twelve-over-twelve windows are closer together and proportionately spaced from the northwest corner. On the second floor, the five bays are filled with five six-over-six windows; the openings for these windows are shorter and narrower than those on the first floor. The 5-panel door is topped with a five-light transom and opens to the left. The door opening is trimmed on the sides with flush Greek Revival columns below a simple architrave, dentil-work, and barely projecting cornice. At one time, the windows were decorated with shutters. The hardware remains along with the shadows on the cement board siding.

The front door is reached by three cement steps. The basement is parged, with the exception of the northwest corner, which has been reconstructed in cement block (probably to accommodate installation of the furnace and oil tank.) There are four basement windows. The first, in bay one, is slightly flared to add light; the second is offset between bay two and the front door; the third and fourth appear to have been punched through the cellar wall at a later date – they use brick infill and are not flared.

Southwest Elevation

The different-height rooflines of the rear extensions of the house are visible on the side elevations. The main block of the house reads as full two stories. The kitchen ell is lower – one and one-half stories – and the garage addition is lower still – one story with a storage area above.

The southwest part of the main block is two bays wide. The windows (wide below, narrow above) are similar in size and trim to those on the façade. A stove chimney serving the second floor is built into the wall between the two bays and exits through the attic. A metal cellar door on concrete base covers an exit from the basement.

South of the main block is the 4-bay wide kitchen ell; a pent roof extends across the elevation between the first and second floors. This roof covers a porch off the old kitchen (3 bays) and a room with a doubled window (4th bay); the fourth bay is slightly wider than the other three. The porch has some Greek Revival details – in particular, pediments supporting the roof at the corners of the opening and a small amount of trim. Such ells became popular in the early nineteenth century to support the wide variety of activities done by women to support the farm, housekeeping, and child-rearing. Enclosed porches were often included in

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these ells to serve as summer kitchens, allowing women to work on food preparation and storage out of the heat of the kitchen. The additional room might have served as another workroom or wood shed. Between the pent roof and cornice, four squat (and roughly square) windows fill the upper four bays.

The second ell, sometimes called an "ell-upon-ell," was added in two parts in the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century.[1] It has been inserted into the limestone ridge behind the house; soil was excavated and a stone wall built to within 3 feet of the structure. This portion of the building is a bit more than one-story high, with a variety of porches and enclosures. Following the line of the pent roof on the kitchen ell, a second, slightly lower pent roof covers about half the elevation, protecting a recessed space (with a window and door) that is used as an adjunct to a mudroom; a second door opens directly into the garage. A final, lower pent roof covers a narrow space to the corner. A small window above the first roof provides light to a space used as a laundry.

Northeast Elevation

Like the other side elevation, the northeast elevation reveals the main block (2 bays), kitchen ell (4 bays), and "ell upon ell"/garage. Unlike the southwest elevation where a stove chimney is built into the wall and exits through the attic, the main block includes an exterior chimney between the two bays and a door on the northeast corner of the house. As a result of the chimney, the door and window are offset from the second-floor windows.

In the 4-bay kitchen ell, the three bays closest to the main block are symmetrically spaced while the fourth is further apart. A screen porch at the junction of the ell and main block on the first floor covers two bays and some of the openings have been changed. The window over the kitchen sink has been shortened and doubled, and a door onto the screen porch has been added between the two windows in the two bays. The fenestration is intact on the second floor.

The "ell upon ell"/garage addition extends behind the kitchen ell to within a foot of the limestone cliff. Evidence that this section of the building was built in at least two phases is clearer here. The elevation is divided into two sections – a door and window that open into the back of the kitchen ell, and the garage. The interior wall between the two sections is sided in the second floor storage room with clapboard. At a later time, the roof was elongated; a massive beam spans the garage opening (with modern steel door) and rests on three posts to create a covered passage for both entrances.

This part of the Lawyer House was badly damaged by water after Hurricane Irene in 2011 when water from the limestone ridge flowed over the cliff and through this addition into the main house. As a result, there has been substantial loss of original historic fabric during reconstruction of the garage.

Southeast (Rear) Elevation

The two ells are connected to the main block at the junction where the original 3-bay building was expanded to 5 bays. As a result, there are no windows on the southwest corner of the main block but one door into the

[1] Thomas C. Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England,* 20th Anniversary Edition (Hanover: NH: University Press of New England, 2004), 122.
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screen porch on the first floor and two windows on the second floor between the ell and the northeast corner. One of the two second-floor casement windows may be original to the house; it is smaller than the other and retains early L-style hand-wrought hardware. The other window is larger with an H-style wrought-iron hinge. It is also relatively early but was perhaps added during the Phase 2 expansion of the house. The southeast side of the garage is also part of this elevation. All clapboard on the bottom four feet of the structure has been removed and replaced due to the 2011 storm damage.

INTERIOR – *Information on the phased construction of the building contributed by William Krattinger, New York State Historic Preservation Office* **(See Additional Information for Floor Plans and Rooflines)**

The interior of the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House retains some of the functional divisions of the early phases of the house. The room in the northeast end of the main block would have been the original kitchen. When the kitchen ell was added behind the main block, the room became generalized living space and is now used as a formal living room. The room at the southwest end of the main block was added as a parlor in the beginning of the nineteenth century; it retains that function today. Between the two rooms is the formal entrance and hall; this would have been a side-hall in the original New World Dutch building.

The kitchen ell has been converted into a dining room; a partition at the back masks the basement stairs and, once, held stairs to the second floor (now converted into a butler's pantry). The rest of the ell is used as a modern kitchen with the exception of two small rooms on the southwest side – an office and a mudroom. The final section of the house was probably added onto the kitchen ell in two phases. The first third of the addition extended the kitchen and allowed the stairs to be moved from the center of the ell to the back of the house. At a later time, the garage was added, along with the covered porch that spans both sections of the addition.

The second floor of the Lawyer House is divided into four bedrooms with built-in closets, 1 half-bath, and 2 full baths. The rooms in the main block have the same dimensions as the rooms below. The kitchen ell is split front to back into two bedrooms. Further to the rear, there is a staircase, laundry area, and unfinished storage room in the "ell upon ell" addition. A large storage area sits above the garage and is entered from the top of the back stairs.

Because the building has been constructed in 4 to 5 major phases, description of the interior will be by phase rather than by floor.

<u>Phase 1: Original Structure (c. 1790)</u>

By all indications, the original dwelling was a two-story house with end-gabled roof, side entrance plan (kitchen below/ bed chamber above), and three-bay façade. Structurally, its timber frame represents New World Dutch building traditions, with a superstructure consisting of 6 closely spaced bents. However, it is a two-story variation on the more common story-and-a-half type of H-frame found in two nearby examples: the Old Lutheran Parsonage, 1743 (NR listed, 1972), and Hartmann's Dorf House, circa 1786 (moved to the Old Stone Fort Museum complex from the Godekeit property between the villages of Schoharie and

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Middleburgh).[2] Two-story buildings are more commonly associated with English building traditions, as is the side entrance and end gable. Therefore, the Lawyer House appears to represent a post-Revolution, transitional form.

On both floors, the anchor beams that connect the front and rear posts of each bent are planed smooth, indicating that they were originally exposed (rather than covered with a plaster and lath ceiling). One of the beams in the first-floor kitchen (third from the south) is marked with a chiseled "III" where it meets the post, indicating a scribe-rule framing system. (This type of construction typically predates 1810 and the advent of square-rule framing.)

The basement is 22'8" wide by 17' deep on the interior. Basement beams are hewn and measure roughly 9" x 9" and 4'10" on center. Some of the beams appear slightly charred and may have been salvaged from an earlier building that was burned in the Great Raid on Schoharie in October, 1780. The remains of a hearth support on the basement's north wall indicate that the fireplace on the first floor was once approximately 8' wide. This fireplace, located against the north wall, appears to be of a jambed type; this means that the fireplace was enclosed within a masonry chimney that had a basement foundation.[3] This type of fireplace construction is another indication that the Lawyer House is a transitional, post-Revolutionary, Dutch-English design. Earlier Palatine houses in Schoharie used jambless fireplaces.

> *The jambs are the sides of the fireplace; in a Dutch jambless fireplace, there are no sides, just a fire back and a hood. The chimney is large, and most often goes straight up. Both characteristics are found in houses in the Netherlands from the 13th century through the period of the New Netherland settlement.*[4]

The second floor bedroom takes up most of the floor plan of the original 1795 house. Planed beams are visible in the ceiling. However, the space also includes a small dressing room, modern bathroom, and corridor with closets and built-in storage. The two small windows with early hardware are in the dressing room area; the corridor takes the place of the original staircase which was moved when the house was expanded in the early nineteenth century.

The roof frame could not be fully accessed; however, it seems to consist of a series of hewn, common rafter pairs.

Phase 2: Elongation (c. 1810)

The original house was extended to the west to create a full five-bay, center-entrance Federal period design. The break between Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction is clearly discernible in the first-floor stair hall. Seams on the board ceiling and flooring run back from the door to the relocated stairs to the second floor; the

[2] The Old Lutheran Parsonage is located less than ½ mile from the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House and shows up on the Map of Brunnen Dorf by Simms that shows the land divisions established in 1733. Hartmann's Dorf was the village to the south of Brunnen Dorf in the original 7-dorf settlement of the Schoharie Valley by the Palatine Germans.
[3] This foundation was removed in the basement of the Lawyer House when the furnace was installed.
[4] Dutch Barn Preservation Society, *Recognizing Dutch-American Houses.* http://dutchfarmsurvey.org/dbs-packet-HOUSE.htm
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southernmost anchor beam in the Phase 1 building appears to have been hacked down to allow for the continuation of the ceiling; empty mortises in the staircase indicate the position of the original end wall. The front door reflects the early 19th century period and aesthetic. Federal trim appears in all first-floor Phase 1 and 2 areas – moulded door and window architraves, plus chair rails. Thus, it appears that there was some alteration to the windows in the older section of the house when the building was elongated. On the second floor, the placement of the windows relative to the ceiling beams suggest that these window openings were enlarged.

The elongated section of the building measures 14'9" wide by 17' in the basement, which is separated from the Phase 1 basement by a masonry wall. The basement beams here are larger in scale (11"x10") than those in the original house and also placed more closely together on 3' centers. They may have been salvaged from an earlier structure, and their closer spacing may reflect a desire for a stouter floor in what apparently became the house's new parlor. An exterior door from the basement to the barns on the west has early hand-wrought hardware. It may have been moved from the northwest corner of the Phase 1 basement.[5]

The first-floor parlor did not have a fireplace; rather, it appears to have been heated by an airtight stove, framed by a mantel shelf that is still embedded in the wall. It was common for the Palatine Germans to use stoves earlier in their New World homes than the English or New Englanders. The ceiling beams were designed to be covered with plaster.[6]

At some point within the next 15 to 20 years, the parlor was decorated with stenciling both above and below the chair rail. Erin Richardson (Director of Collections, the New York State Historical Association) believes the work was done by an itinerant painter circa 1825-30. The current owner has uncovered part of the design, elements of which are similar to those in the Stencil House at the Shelburne Museum (which was moved to Vermont from Columbus, Chenango County, NY, about 65 miles west of Schoharie) and several other buildings in western New York State. The condition of these stencils appears exceptional.

Figures 1-3. Photos of stencilling in the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House

The second floor bedroom is reached by a step up from the top of the central staircase, presumably over one

[5] Tradition says that this room was used as a storeroom, as it faces the barns to the west of the house. However, there appears to be no access to the rooms in the main block of the house.

[6] While not inspected, it is presumed – given the height of the ceilings in this section and their relationship to the height of the anchor beams in Phase 1 – that both the first and second-floor rooms were conceived for plaster ceiling treatments. The beams, if visible, would be rough-hewn.

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of the new bents in the addition. The ceiling is plastered. A stove, with an interior flue exiting through the attic ceiling, provided heat.

Phase 3: Kitchen Ell (c. 1825-1850)

The first ell at the rear of the house changed the house configuration to a T-shaped plan and appears to have been constructed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Like the first two phases of the house, this section is of timber-frame construction and has a fully excavated basement that measures approximately 19' wide by 22' feet deep. Basement beams consist of both squared timbers and round log joists.

On the first floor, a door enters the ell from each of the two rooms in the main block. The space between these doors contains a door (now a closet) and a wall that may have held a stove; during wallpaper removal, the owner found a mudded wall.

The first-floor space is divided at the back by a partition holding an early twentieth century butler's pantry and a structural wall. The stairs to the basement are reached from the backside of this wall; before the addition of Phase 4, the stairs to the second floor ran above. The upper stairway is now another closet for the butler's pantry. The modern kitchen is now located on the rear of the structural wall. It is three bays wide and includes part of the building added during Phase 4.

On the southwest elevation, there is a first-floor, recessed porch characteristic of early to mid-nineteenth century kitchen wings, meant to provide protected workspace and storage just outside the kitchen door; it shares a common pent roof with a small first-floor room. The corners of the workspace retain evidence of pilaster caps, and the frieze retains its ogee moulding. This trim, presumably contemporary with at least one two-panel interior door, suggests a date between 1825-1850 during the popularity of the Greek Revival style.

The second floor is divided into two bedrooms; the second reached through the first or through a back stair from the kitchen. Bathrooms and closets were added sometime in the twentieth century. Plaster ceilings are low.

Phases 4/5: "Ell upon ell" and garage (c. 1875-1920)

The final sections to the Lawyer House are located at the extreme southeast of the structure and built to within a foot of the limestone ridge behind the house. In fact, the ridge shows signs that quite a large quantity of stone was excavated to accommodate the house; the resulting cliff face is 8-10 feet tall and a retaining wall has been built on the southwest side of the ell/garage to prevent soil from washing down.

The roofline of the "ell upon ell" joins the kitchen ell at a lower elevation and continues back over the garage. As a result, it initially appeared that both parts of the addition were built at one time. However, the space under the roof is divided into two sections, which were more likely built at different times. On the northwest elevation, one window and door enter directly into the kitchen at the back of the kitchen ell. The relocated staircase (from the center of the kitchen ell) rises along the room's back wall to give access to a semi-enclosed laundry room (southwest), storage area (northeast), and short corridor leading to the back bedroom. To the rear, a garage fills the rest of the addition. Above the garage is a storage room reached (with a big step) from

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the top of the back stair. The wall against the staircase appears to be faced with clapboard and may once have been exposed. Thus, although the garage extends the roof line of the ell, it was probably constructed in the early twentieth century after automobiles made an attached garage desirable.

On the northeast elevation, a single massive horizontal beam carries the roof line of the ell beyond the edge of the house and is supported on three posts. The resulting covered passageway provides sheltered access to both the house and garage.

OUTBUILDINGS

The Johannes Lawyer Jr. House was part of a working farm for most of its existence. Three outbuildings survive – a small barn (late eighteenth/early nineteenth century), large barn (built in two phases in the nineteenth century), and privy (late nineteenth/early twentieth century). All of these are some distance from the house and seem to have been moved together to form a cluster; the two barns sit on loose stone foundations and the privy lacks any foundation at all. In any case, the intervening area between the barns and the house probably was filled with gardens and smaller outbuildings, all now lost.

Small Barn (Late 18th/early 19th century)

A small barn with the characteristic H-bents of New World Dutch Barn construction is located closest to the house. In terms of construction style and workmanship, it could be contemporary with the 1790 house, even though the roof line suggests an early 19th century construction date and the building has only one (not the usual three) aisles. (The Palatine Germans were known for being conservative and slow to change their building practices.)

The barn sits on a loose fieldstone foundation, which is aligned to the neighboring nineteenth-century barn; it has been placed within a few feet of the other barn, and both are built out over the slope of the hillside. (However, the hill is not steep enough to house animals beneath.) The orientation of the two buildings may indicate that the barn was moved at one time, or that the northwest end of the nineteenth-century barn was built with the intention of creating a semi-enclosed barnyard. The gabled roof is covered with galvanized metal and has a shallow overhang. The exterior walls have been re-sided with shiplap clapboard.

The internal configuration of the building has been altered at least once. It is currently set up for horses or cows with boards lining the inside walls. However, at an earlier date, the first floor appears to have been subdivided into three parts and may have been used for processing crops. Angled slots are cut into the ceiling timbers for what could be slides for grain storage bins flanking a processing floor. Stairs to the second-floor loft are located in the west corner near the entrance. A threshing floor was common in large mid-eighteenth century barns, which also included stables and vehicle storage. (Cynthia Falk cites Peter Kalm's 1748 description of Dutch barns in that period.)[7] However, this building is too small to have housed animals at the same time. Most likely, it has undergone several changes of function.

On the exterior, the gable-end façade is subdivided by the support for the sliding barn door; the horizontal clapboard above it is wider than the clapboard below, and the door itself is made up of vertical boards. On

[7] Cynthia G. Falk, *Barns of New York* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2012), 24, 109-110.
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the second floor, three small holes – arranged in a triangle – have been cut though the clapboard, with supports for a ledge below them. Falk suggests that these were used for birds – perhaps owls – to keep down vermin. In the middle of the northeast elevation, there is a small six-over-six pane window, but there is no window on the southwest side. A large, horizontal two-pane window has been inserted into the northwest (rear) elevation of the building at a later time, with a smaller window in the peak.

Large Barn (mid-late 19th century)

To the southwest of the small barn sits a larger barn built in two parts. Both parts of the building have timber frames and metal roofs with ventilators. The southeast end is older; clapboards on the interior wall between the two parts prove that this section was built first. The older section is also smaller with a lower roofline and smaller loft. It has been divided for horse stalls and storage on the first floor; the loft is open and is accessed from the loft of the new section.

The second part of the barn is taller and longer, with a full-sized loft accessed by a stair built along the interior partition wall. Beams appear to be end-nailed, not pinned. The interior framing of this part of the roof has been reinforced with interior supports, creating a gambrel-like structure. Although this configuration was sometimes used to accommodate hay forks, no traces of such a mechanism remain. Instead, a sliding door is located on the second-floor side (southwest) elevation, to give access to the loft. This setup was used most often with a portable hay elevator, driven by a tractor or gas. The ground floor was probably used for storage of machines or vehicles; it remains open without subdivisions. Two large sliding wood doors allow passage through the building.

The façade faces northwest. It consists of two openings in the first floor of the older section – the first closed with a sliding vertical-sided door, the second with a standard-sized door. Through the middle of the newer section, there is a wide sliding door with window below, and hayloft door above. The southeast (side) elevation takes in one wall of the old section. It is a short story and half with a newer horizontal window added into the first floor. By contrast, the northwest (side) elevation takes in one wall of the new section. It is a full two stories tall with two six-over-six windows on the first floor and a similar window high in the peak. Finally, on the southwest (rear) elevation, another wide sliding door (with window) is aligned with the façade door to allow passage through the barn, and there is a small window on the back of the old section.

Privy

Privies are somewhat ageless structures; this one could have been built anytime from the late nineteenth to early twentieth structure. It has wide clapboards, a hinged door, an upturned horseshoe for luck, two holes, and sits on grade. Such buildings tended to be moved to different sites when the pit was full. This one may have been moved here when no longer needed near the main house, or originally set up in the barn yard.

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LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Quarry

The approach to the Lawyer House leads up a 50-foot hill from the floodplain of the Schoharie River and turns right about 300 feet to the building. Straight ahead, however, a small stone quarry has been carved out of the ridge. Its age is hard to date. It may have been used in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries for stone walls and foundation materials. (However, the nature of quarrying destroys historical evidence.) The last blocks were cut with quarry saws or, perhaps, machine tools. The surfaces are weathered – but not as weathered as the stone cliff behind the house. Active quarrying probably ceased by the mid-twentieth century.

Stone Stairs and Walls

Adjacent to the quarry is a set of stone stairs, made from rock quarried from the ledge. Another set of stairs is closer to the house on the southwest side of the building. The owner was told that the Lawyer family owned slaves who lived in small cabins above the house. Inspection shows an apparent twentieth-century farm outbuilding higher up the ridge; behind this is a cellar hole that appears to be from an earlier structure (most likely, late nineteenth century.) The topography makes it difficult to substantiate the claim of slave cabins. The Lawyer family did own slaves in the late eighteen century and the ridge is full of depressions that might be cellar holes. On the other hand, karst limestone dissolves easily and it is equally likely that the depressions are natural.

Below the house is a long stone wall of roughly-shaped limestone; the edges are squared off but the blocks are irregularly sized. A set of stairs, centered in the wall, leads from the King's Highway to the front door of the house. This stone wall marks the boundary below the house in the John Rütse Bleecker map made for the subdivision of the dorf in 1753.

Figure 4. Detail from Map of the Subdivision of Brunnendorf, 1753.
(Grider Collection, New York State Archives)

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King's Highway, Well, and Pond

The stone wall below the Lawyer House separated it from the eighteenth-century path known as the King's Highway. This route traversed the Schoharie Valley and is shown on Greene's 1925 map of the Great Raid.[8]

Figure 5. Greene's map of the Great Raid (1780), showing the footpath in front of the house.

Natural seepage southwest of the house is captured in a rough well and drains into a large pool visible on topographic maps.

Acreage

In the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House was associated with land patents measuring in the tens of thousands of acres. However, the core farm property was always small, measuring about one hundred acres or less. The relatively small size of the property is due, in part, to the land use patterns of the early Palatine settlers who, when they first arrived in Schoharie 1712, held their lands in common. After the breakup of communal ownership in 1765, the pattern persisted because most of the Schoharie Valley lowlands were owned by Dutch patent holders in Albany and New York and rented to local farmers. The Anti-Rent Movement of 1839-1852 gave tenants the opportunity to buy the lands they rented. Presumably, this led to another change in the acreage associated with the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House.

However, the deed record has been difficult to follow. With certainty, all that can be said is that the property reached its current extent of approximately twenty-five acres (eight in the Village of Schoharie and seventeen in the Town of Schoharie) by the mid-twentieth century.

[8] Nelson Green, Ed., *History of the Mohawk Valley: Gateway to the West 1614-1925* (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925), 1011.

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

ART

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

Circa 1790- 1920

Architect/Builder

N/A

Significant Dates

N/A

Period of Significance (justification):

Period of construction (circa 1790) to 1920 (date of final phase added to the house)

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Johannes Lawyer Jr. House is locally significant under **Criterion A: Settlement** for its association with the settlement of Schoharie by the Palatine Germans in 1712-13 and the resettlement of the village after it was destroyed in the Revolution. Johannes Lawyer Sr. was the leader of Brunnendorf, one of the "dorfs" (villages) created by the Palatines when they left Germantown (in what was then Albany County) for the lands they believed promised to them by Queen Anne. As the century progressed, Lawyer and his son, Johannes Lawyer Jr., became successful merchants, surveyors, and land owners. The house itself dates from the reconstruction of Schoharie after the Revolutionary War, when most of the original settlement was destroyed by Tories and Haudenosaunee during the Great Raid of 1780 were rebuilt. With peace, the people of Schoharie returned , rebuilt the settlement, and the community became a prosperous farming area. The outbuildings associated with the property testify to the transition from grain to dairy farming that took place in the early-mid nineteenth century.

In addition, the Lawyer House is also locally significant under **Criterion C: Architecture** and **Art.** Built in five phases, it incorporates stylistic features from a variety of building traditions – New World Dutch, Federal, and Greek Revival; it is a transitional structure rather than a purely Palatine German house and reflects the intermingling of these architectural traditions in the early republic. In addition, one room has artistically

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significant decorative stenciling from the period 1825-30. These stencils are in excellent condition and reflect the affluence achieved by the family at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The period of significance is 1790 (when the house was rebuilt after the Revolutionary War) to 1920 (when the house reached its current form.)

Developmental history/additional historic context information

CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY

Settlement

The Schoharie Valley was not settled by Europeans until 1712.[9] In that year, it became home to about fifty families of Palatine Germans, who had left their communities in Europe due to threat of religious persecution and the promise by Queen Anne of lands in the New World. After a year in England, the Palatines arrived in New York in 1710 and spent their next year and a half in the Hudson valley at "Tar Camps," where they were expected to produce naval stores for wages. However, they did not have any experience manufacturing such products and were poorly treated by both Governor Hunter and Robert Livingston (owner of the East Camp). Many of their children were bound out to work for neighboring famers, and their government rations were steadily reduced ("beer only for the men that work and not their familys [sic].") More to the point, most of the Palatines felt Hunter and Livingston had broken the queen's promise of land on the New York frontier:

> *… the guiding spirits among the settlers pointed to what Hunter contemptuously dismissed as "pretended rights"; they scorned the idea that they had come to America merely to "earn our bread." "We came to America to establish our families – to secure lands for our children on which they will be able to support themselves after we die." To the timorous who counseled patience, the sharp-tongued quoted the Sprüchwort "Patience and hope make fools of those who fill their hands with them." Hunter rightly feared that the Palatines would not "conform to the intentions of those above them." In response to repeated pleas that they be allowed to leave for their lands, Hunter "in a passion stamped upon the ground and said, here is your land (meaning the almost baren* [sic] *Rocks,) where you must live and die."* [10]

On September 12, 1712, all financial assistance for the Palatines ended; henceforth, they were expected to live on their wages at the camps or obtain Hunter's permission to earn wages elsewhere. Within the month, a group of Palatine men left for the Schoharie Valley, the site of the lands they had been promised. In subsequent land claims, they said the Schoharie tribe told them that, "they had formerly given this land to

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[9] Jeptha R. Simms, *History of Schoharie County, and Border Wars of New York* (Albany, NY: Munsell & Tanner, Printers, 1845), 21-28. In fact, the Schoharie Valley may not have been settled by Native Americans many years before 1712. Simms believed the Schoharie people had only settled there 20-30 years before. He characterized them as a "tribe of refuge," made up of Canadian, Stockbridge, Mohegan, and other groups forced from their lands by war or white settlement, who had moved into lands used for hunting by tribes of the Haudenosaunee.

[10] A.G. Roeber, *Palatines, Liberty, and Property: German Lutherans in Colonial British America* (Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1988), 10.

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Queen Anne for them" in 1710 and that it was still available awaiting their arrival.[11] Once the Palatine scouting party returned to the East Camp, fifty families decamped through Schenectady to Schoharie. More followed and, by 1714, 580 people (in one hundred seventy families) were living in the Schoharie Valley.[12]

These settlers lived in seven *dorfs* (villages); a number was based on the social organization of the camps. While in the Hudson Valley, the British had distributed provisions to "list men," each responsible for feeding and reporting on a group of families:

> *Conrad Weiser, Hartman Winteker, John Hendrick Kneiskern, Elias Garlock, Johannes George Smidt and William Fox were six of the number and as John Lawyer became one after their arrival at Schoharie, he may have made the seventh.*[13]

The first settlers of Schoharie named most of the dorfs after their leaders who, Knittle suggests, had also negotiated with the Schoharie tribe in 1712:

> *The emigrants settled in seven villages, named as we are told for the deputies who made the arrangements with the Indians. The most northern village, Kniskerndorf, of which there are no remains today, was opposite the village of Central Bridge, nearly opposite the point where Cobleskill Creek empties into Schoharie River. Two miles south was Gerlachsdorf, of which there is no vestige left. Two miles further south was Fuchsendorf, later called Fox Town, where the Old Fort Museum of Schoharie now stands. Schmidsdorf, later called Smith's Town, is marked today by the little railroad station at Schoharie. Brunnendorf, later known as Fountaindorf or Waterstown, was around the site now occupied by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Schoharie. The last three mentioned were in what is now the incorporated village of Schoharie and were all three within a radius of one mile. Two and a half miles southwest of Brunnendorf was Hartmansdorf, of which an iron marker is the only indication now. Two miles further south was Weiserdorf on the edge of the present town of Middleburgh. Oberweiserdorf, a split off from Weiserdorf some years later, was the most southern settlement about three miles away.* [14]

Spanning ten miles of the mid Schoharie Valley, these communities came into existence over the course of a few years. Weiserdorf is thought to have been the first. Brunnendorf (Fountain Town) was settled around 1717 or 1718, named for the springs fed by the ridge behind the small settlement. During spring snow melt, enough water trickled through the limestone to shoot out of the ground – hence, Fountain Town.

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[11] Walter Allen Knittle, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration; A British Government Redemptioner Project to Manufacture Naval Stores* (Philadelphia: Dorrance & Company, 1937), 191-192. Knittle notes that the Schoharie tribe disposed of the same lands at least three times – once to Nicholas Bayard by purchase in 1695, once by gift to Governor Hunter, and now to the Palatines.

[12] Roscoe, 22.

[13] Simms, 41.

[14] Knittle, 194-195.

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Figure 6. Detail from *The Palatine Settlements of the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie*.[15]

The area between Fuchsendorf, Smithsdorf, and Brunnendorf, the most centrally located towns, developed into the Village of Schoharie. Roscoe specifically attributes this to the character of the Brunnendorf settlers:

> *They were more of a business class taken as a whole, especially the Lawyer and Schaefer families, and to judge by their qualification as business men in after years, we do not believe they would have settled upon the disputed territory upon uncertainties. There were seven settlers at this dorf within a distance of three fourths of a mile whose enterprise made the "dorf" the business centre of all others and laid the foundation of the county seat.* [16]

The settlers spent their first few years dealing with land claims – a situation complicated by the hostility of Governor Hunter and their own reckless treatment of outsiders. They chased the patent holder, Nicholas Bayard, back to Schenectady when he tried to give them clear deeds to their land; as a result, Bayard sold his interest to a group of Albany investors who had recently received a patent from Holland for the Schoharie land. Next, these "Seven Partners of Schoharie" sent a deputy to compel young Conrad Weiser to pay them rent; "a mob of women" set upon their representative when he attempted to arrest Weiser, dragged him through a pigsty, broke his ribs, and peed in his face. Eventually, in 1718, the community sent a delegation to London to plead their case before the Crown and Parliament. Unfortunately, their reputation preceded them and their petition failed. One delegate left England and died at sea, and the two remaining delegates were imprisoned for a short time – whether for debt (after losing their money to pirates on the outward sea voyage) or for retribution is not clear. The second man died shortly returning home. The survivor, Conrad Weiser Sr., determined to go to Pennsylvania and took about forty families with him in 1723.

After he left, Schoharie began to settle down. As Judge John M. Brown said, in the earliest history of the community:

> *By this time the people had learnt to buy their land of the seven partners peace full; but began to get a little wiser; next made Indian purchases and took Indian deeds for large tracts, then went to the*

[15] *The Palatine Settlements of the Hudson, Mohawk and Schoharie*. [http://threeriversshms.com/]

[16] Roscoe, 28. On the same page, Roscoe adds, *"All records of this dorf with the exception of a bond and a few deeds are lost, or are in the dusty tills of distant families yet to be discovered."*

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> *Governor and Council to obtain their letters patent. The Governor and Council who understood themselves, very well too, were not apt to grant any patents before they had secured a good slice to themselves, or some of their friends.* [17]

Among those Palatines who learned to live by these rules, adopt the English system, and prosper, were the Lawyer family.

Johannes Lawyer Sr. and Johannes Lawyer Jr.

Johannes Lawyer Sr. was born in 1684 in Durlach, Stadt Karlsruhe, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany. He married Elizabeth Otto before they left Europe. Their five children were Anna Sophia (apparently born in the tar camps), Elizabeth (apparently born shortly after arriving in Schoharie), Jacob Frederick Lawyer (born 1723), Johannes Lawyer Jr. (born 1714 or 1725), and Lorentz (Lawrence) Lawyer (born 1727).[18] If Johannes and Elizabeth followed typical Palatine naming conventions, another son may have been born before Johannes Jr.

Brown recalled that three children were born in Schoharie shortly after the arrival of the 1712 settlers: Johannes Earhart, Wilhelmus Bouck, and Elizabeth Lawyer.[19] Thus, the Lawyer family is linked to the earliest settlement of the valley. But no one named Lawyer is listed in the *New York Subsistence List* kept by the Crown to record payments to the Palatines in the tar camps. Instead, there is an entry for a Johannes Leyer, whose household contained 4 adults and no children under 10 in 1710 and 2 adults and 1 child under 10 in 1712.[20] Leyer appears again in the 1717 *Simmendinger Register*, distributed in Germany as an encouragement to emigration: Johannes Leyer, his wife, Elizabeth, and two children then living in "Neu-Stuttgardt" (Weiserdorf). Presumably, they shortly moved to Brunnendorf and at some point changed their name to "Lawyer" as the first step in a rapid process of anglicization.

Roscoe's *History of Schoharie County* differs. He believed that Johannes Lawyer Sr. was:

> *… a merchant of New York City, who came here as an Indian trader, and was commissioned to survey and do business for the Germans. The first notice of him in the valley, was in 1720. He was a German, coming from some place along the Rhine, and emigrated about the year 1710. He settled two of his sons -- Johannes, Jr., near the old parsonage, and Jacob Frederick, upon the Beller place, about the year 1718. After a few years he settled with Jacob Frederick and kept store, and died sometime between 1760, the date of his will, and 1765, the proving of it. He was buried in the Lutheran cemetery. He was a practical surveyor.* [21]

Roscoe appears to be wrong in the age of the two sons. They had not even been born when Lawyer Sr. is supposed to have settled them upon the two farms in Brunnendorf in 1718.[22] Nonetheless, all sources agree

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[17] John Mathias Brown, *A Brief Sketch of the First Settlement of the County of Schoharie by the Germans* (Schoharie, NY: L. Cuthbert, Printer, 1823). [Schoharie County NYGenWeb Site]

[18] Other sources [Geni.com] attribute Anna Sophia's birth to 1714 and Elizabeth's birth to 1718.

[19] Ibid.

[20] Knittle, 287.

[21] Roscoe, 368.

[22] See various entries for the Lawyer family in Geni.com. In most cases, these have been contributed by descendants.

that Lawyer was a merchant, kept store in Schoharie, died around 1765, and is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery.[23]

Johannes Lawyer Sr.'s career as one of the first merchants serving the community was based on a wide range of activities. Simms talks about him selling to the Schoharie tribe and receiving furs and dressed deerskins in return.

> *He was one of the best informed among the Germans who settled the county; and before his death became an extensive land-holder. He was quite a business man and a useful citizen, aiding many who purchased land in making their payments; and acquired the reputation of a fair and honorable dealer.* [24]

It is clear that he was engaged in some sort of commerce within ten years of settlement – whether in land, goods, or both is unknown. A 1720 bond by John Andews of "Scorre" to John "Lawer" for 26 pounds, 3 shillings, shows that he had already begun to accumulate some wealth; another much later receipt (for rum to be drunk at a funeral) is dated 1738.[25] Philip Otterness believes that some of the Palatines, Johannes Sr. included, quickly "mastered the complexities of the New York land market." Rather than continue to fight the colonial patent system:

> *The Germans used their growing prosperity and their knowledge of the land market to spread beyond the bounds of the land initially granted to them. …. In 1725, Peter Wagner, Conrad Weiser, and Johannes Lawyer received a patent for land they had purchased from the Mohawks. …. Johannes Lawyer held land in Stone Arabia, apparently for speculation, while remaining on his prosperous farm in Schoharie.* [26]

Another patent to Johannes Sr. was granted in 1741.[27]

Johannes Lawyer Sr.'s goods were stamped with the name "Shoary," but he also spent time in Albany and New York City.[28] A portrait, now at Colonial Williamsburg, was probably painted in one of those cities.

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[23] The name of Johannes Lawyer Sr. – "deacon and founder of the fund" – was written on the foundation stone of the Lutheran Church in Schoharie in 1751; Johannes Jr. also contributed to the building fund.

[24] Simms, 99.

[25] Simms, 94, 103.

[26] Philip Otterness, *Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2004), 143-144.

[27] A legal ad in the *New York Journal* (July 30, 1767) makes reference to a patent of this date.

[28] Simms, 23. "Several years ago I saw an ugly shaped glass bottle in Schoharie, said to have been imported from London by John Lawyer, the first merchant among German settlers. His name and place of his residence were stamped upon the bottle in English letters, the latter being there spelled Shoary."

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Figure 7. Portrait of Johannes Lawyer, Sr. (1684-1762), Colonial Williamsburg Folk Art Museum Collection.

The painting may have been painted before 1725. According to the object report, "The painting's date is suggested by costume details which, if accurately assessed, make the portrait one of the earliest of a German-speaking emigrant to America and, also, the earliest likeness in the Folk Art Museum's collection."[29]

Elizabeth Otto Lawyer died May 6, 1760. Her eighty year-old widower almost immediately remarried "a widow in New York city" by whom he may have already had one or more children.[30] This marriage was not popular with the children of his first marriage. Simms says that when Johannes Sr. brought his new wife, Anna Marie Michael, back to Schoharie, the sons refused to pick up the couple in Albany. Another daughter is said to have resulted from the marriage – Hannah Michael Lawyer, born around 1762.[31]

Johannes Lawyer Sr. died November 29, 1762. His will, written in 1760 before Elizabeth's death, divided his property equally among the children of his first family – daughters as well as sons.[32] Johannes Jr. received his surveying tools. Roscoe reported that the community gathered for a drunken send-off, and provided the following portrait of the second living son and principal heir:

> *Johannes, the son, followed his father as surveyor, and became a large land-holder, owning at one time thirty-six thousand acres of land, principally in the present territory of the County. No doubt he received a good start from his father, and perhaps purchased considerably before his father's death. He was a*

[29] Colonial Williamsburg Folk Art Museum, *Collection Report: Portrait of Johannes Lawyer*.

[30] State of New York, *Names of Persons for whom Marriage Licenses were Issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784* (Albany, NY, USA: State of New York, 1860). [bernehistory.org]

[31] Lawrence Rickard ("Some Descendants of Johannes Lawyer") synthesized the information found on Johannes Lawyer Sr.'s children and questioned whether Lawyer, at his advanced age, could have been the child's biological father.

[32] Simms, 99; Rickard,10

. Due to the date, the child of the second marriage (and all others from the liaison) was not included in the will, but the portrait in Figure 7 descended through the Michaels family either from inheritance or the marriage of Maria Lawyer (daughter of Abraham Lawyer) to William G. Michael before 1825.

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very careful business man, and like his father before him, married twice. His first wife was a daughter of Adam Vroman, 2d, and Christina Sternbergh, and their children, were as follows:--

Catharine, (Mrs. Abram Strubach); Elizabeth, (Mrs. Adam Ziele); Maria, (Mrs. General Bartholomew Swart); Rebecca, (Mrs. Dr. Budd); Lambert, of Cobleskill, (married Catharine Lawyer); Jacob, (married Nancy Mann) Abraham, (married Eva Dietz); Johannes, the 3d, (married Angelica Swart); David, (married Christina Sternbergh); Christian, (married Catharine Snyder); Henry, (married Catharine Sternbergh); Peter, (married Nancy C. Bergh). [33]

Unlike most of the Palatine Germans, Johannes Jr. chose a Dutch wife. His first wife (1745) was Catharina Vrooman, daughter of one of the Dutch landowners in Schoharie. French explained why this was notable:

The German and Dutch races long remained distinct. The Dutch were generally wealthier than the more hardy and laborious Germans, and preferred to contract marriages with their own class in the older Dutch settlements. They often kept slaves, while the Germans seldom had further assistance than such as their own households, of both sexes, might afford. The Germans, by intermarriage, became a "family of cousins," and they were united by many ties of common interest. Industry and frugality gradually brought them to a level, and long acquaintance has almost entirely obliterated these hereditary distinctions of society. [34]

The Lawyer family was more assimilated into English-Dutch society than most of their neighbors in the Schoharie Valley. Perhaps as an additional mark of status, Johannes Lawyer Jr. kept slaves (as revealed in accounts of the Great Raid and the 1790 US Census).

Johannes Jr.'s name appears on innumerable surveys and deeds from mid to late eighteenth century. At first, like his father, he seems to have bought patents on unsettled land from the colonial government, surveyed it into lots, and sold to new settlers. The New York State Archives contains a variety of maps he produced. However, in terms of the patents themselves, the record is less clear. Both father and son appear to have been dealing in land at the same time. Henry Cady compiled a list of early patents in the Schoharie Valley and "Johannes Lawyer" is involved in many transactions – but it is not easy to tell which is the father and which is the son:[35]

- Feb. 6, 1753 Johannes Lawyer and others received a patent for 2640 acres. [probably the father]
- [Nov 30, 1753 Johannes Lawyer (both father and son) and 14 others were "parties to an indenture" to purchase 15,000 acres near Cobleskill].
- Aug. 14, 1761 Johannes Lawyer and others received a patent for 7000 acres. [son]
- Dec. 20, 1765 Johannes Lawyer and others received a patent 36,000 acres.[36] [son]

[33] Roscoe, 368-9.

[34] J. H. French, *Gazetteer of New York State* (Syracuse, NY: R. Pearsall Smith, 1860), 602.

[35] Henry Cady, "Early Settlers of Estates" (from the Historical Room of the Middleburgh Library), *Schoharie County NYGenWeb Site*. [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyschoha/cady.html]; Simms [in brackets], 96.

[36] According to the *Albany Centinel* of March 9, 1802, The full list of patentees is Johannes Lawyer, Jacob Zimmer, Moses Ibbit, Jacob Enters, John Archer, Aaron Jeffrys, Gilbert Tice, David Jecocks, Mathew Hind, Alexander Clark, Peter Miller, Peter Young, Praise Wadman, Joseph Irwin, Joseph Fitchet, Arent Van Sickler, Mathew Sopwith, Lawrence
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Roscoe noted two additional patents definitely associated with the Johannes Jr.: "Lawyer & Zimmer's second allotment of 1768 also [took] in a portion of the town [Esperance] upon the west and north of Morris & Coeymans', while the 'Stone heap patent" of 1770 lies to the north and west of it and extends into the county of Montgomery."[37] Newspaper records show that Johannes Jr. and Zimmer petitioned the state legislature after the Revolution for approval of the subdivision of their patent.[38] Johannes Jr. also used the Bills of Attainder to lay claim to Loyalist lands.

The 1779 Faden & Saultier Map shows that Johannes Jr. had managed to acquire thousands of acres – and most of the ridge – behind his Schoharie house, as well as land in the vicinity of Cobleskill and other towns south of the Mohawk River. (The town of Esperance was yet another part of his patents.)

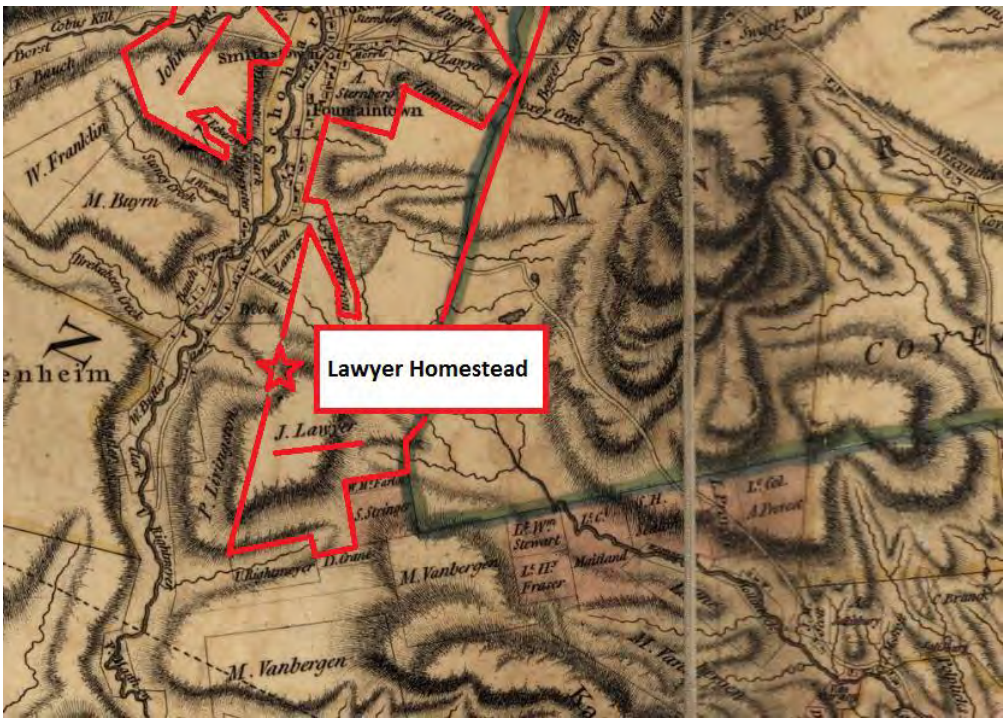

Figure 8. Detail from William Faden & Claude Joseph Sauthier, *A chorographical map of the Province of New-York in North America, divided into counties, manors, patents and townships; exhibiting likewise all the private grants of land made and located in that Province*, 1779.

Thus, as the Revolution began, there is clear evidence that Johannes Lawyer Jr. owned a house and land under the ridge in Fountain Town. He (like his father) had grown wealthy through land patents granted by the colonial government of New York, and he had assimilated into English and Dutch society. He was not the most likely man to support the American cause and, to the end of his life, there was some ambiguity about the strength of his allegiance. Whatever his own beliefs, the actions of his extended family ensured that he paid a

Lawyer, Harman Sidnigh, Thomas Bowden, Christopher Markel, John Bower, Christopher Redigh, Michael Markel, Johannes Bauch, jun. Jacob Borst, David Hosack, Abraham Starnberger, Hendrick Weber, James Wilkinson, Johannes Becker, Peter Zimmer, Gerwiss Hawksford, George Zimmer, Peter Zeely, Josias Swart, and Peter Snyder, jun., but Johannes Lawyer and Jacob Zimmer appear to have bought the rest out. [http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyschoha/miscellany.html]

[37] Roscoe, 337.

[38] "Petition of Johannis Lawyer and Jacob Zimmer," *Albany Journal* (June 16, 1788), 4.

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huge price for their choices. His home was burned, which necessitated the building of the current building around 1790.

The Great Raid of 1780[39]

In October 1775, the 15th Regiment of Militia for the districts of Schoharie and Duanesburg was organized under Peter Vrooman. Three members of the Lawyer family are known to have enlisted:

- Johannes L. Lawyer, Ensign in the Second Company and a younger son of Johannes Jr.'s younger brother Lawrence (Lorentz)
- Johannes I. Lawyer, First Lieutenant of the Third Company and innkeeper (and possibly Lawrence's older son or the son of Johannes Jr.'s older brother) [40]
- Johannes Lawyer Bellinger, Ensign in the Third Company and son of his older sister, Anna Sophie.

In 1777, "all persons between sixteen and sixty" were told "to bring their arms and accoutrements" when meeting at the Dutch and Lutheran churches for drills. If they did not, they were required to pay three shillings. "Their resolve in Fountain Town Church [was] to be paid to Mr. Johannes Lawyer…"[41]

So far, so good. The Lawyer family was firmly on the side of the patriots. However, on October 16, 1780, questions arose about the Lawyer family's loyalty. This was the date of the Great Raid of Col. John Johnson, leader of Mohawk Valley Tories who had fled to Canada at the beginning of the Revolution, and of Loyalist Haudenosaunee eager for revenge after the Clinton-Sullivan Campaign of 1779. Before the end of the day, more than three hundred buildings, grain barracks, and haystacks were set on fire by the raiders.

The people of the Schoharie Valley had been drilling for this eventuality. As soon as the first groups of raiders were discovered, alarm guns were fired and drums quickly "beaten to arms." People ran to the three forts that protected the valley – the Upper Fort at Fultonham, the Middle Fort at Middleburgh, and the Lower Fort at the Dutch Reformed Church in Schoharie (built 1772, fortified during the Revolution, NR-listed 2002). "...[N]o individuals were found in their dwellings except such as were either tinctured with royalty, and chose to brave the coming dangers to save their property."[42] Thus, those who stayed behind could be suspected of Tory sympathies.

At first, this libel was not placed on the Lawyers. A party from the Lower Fort went through Fountain Town to check on the sound of guns from Middleburgh:

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[39] Except where noted, the following information is taken from Simms, Chapter 13. Jeptha Simms wrote his history of the county and the "border wars" in 1845. His narrative of the Revolutionary War raids is based on interviews with a large number of survivors and/or their immediate descendants. In particular, the material on the Lawyer family during the Great Raid was gathered during an 1835 interview with Anna Eve Lawyer, widow of Jacob J. Lawyer (son of Johannes Jr.'s older brother.

[40] Roscoe, Chapter 12, says that, during the war, John I. Lawyer "kept near the parsonage." After the war, he may have built the inn now known as Lasall Hall in the center of Schoharie (National Register listed, 2002).

[41] Simms, 223-224.

[42] Simms, 402.

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Arriving at the house of Jacob J. Lawyer, they found his wife and a wench at home preparing to bake. [43] *At the house of Hendrick Shafer, the females were also at home, where they saw food upon a table. The women of those families chose to brave the dangers of the day, to save their dwellings from the general conflagration, while the men were in the fort below. The scout proceeded as far as Bellinger's, and saw the British troops about a mile distant.* [44]

A second scouting party followed. By now, the women at the Lawyer house had finished their baking. One man, John Van Wart, stopped to grab an apple pie on his way back to the fort.

… disregarding the caution of his companions, as the enemy were not then in sight, he halted. While he was eating, Westhoft, a German school teacher, who had been teaching school the preceding summer in Ingold's barn near by, opened the door and exclaimed: "Here they come!" as a party of Indians arrived at the house. In the act of jumping from a back window, he [Van Wart] *was fired upon in front and rear, the enemy having already surrounded the house. He was instantly dispatched, and his body much mutilated.*

As the Indians entered Lawyer's dwelling, one of them raised a tomahawk to strike the schoolmaster, but Mrs. Lawyer seized his arm and arrested the fatal blow. She pleaded for his life and it was spared, adding another evidence to the influence of woman. Brett, an old female slave, was considered a lawful prize, and was taken along a little distance, but was finally permitted to return. [45]

The Tories and Haudenosaunee moved on to attack the Lower Fort, and the house was spared – for the time being. The Shafer house to the south also survived but the next house north, owned by John Ingold, was burned. John Ingold and others later told Simms, "that of Lawyer, below Ingold's, shared the same fate the night following."[46]

Why was the house destroyed the night after the raiding party moved on to the Mohawk Valley? Roscoe believed the loss of their house is proof that the Lawyers had Loyalist sympathies. Col. Johnson had left the area by then, and the only people who could have burned it would have been the Lawyers' neighbors. They had reason. Just before the battle for the Lower Fort began, Ensign Jacob Lawyer Jr. was in the tower of the church commanding the marksmen.

Peter, a brother of Ensign Lawyer, who had command of the men on the church, was seen to approach the fort from the direction of the river, in advance of the enemy. He proceeded to the tower, and held a secret conference with his brother, soon after which they both left the fort together, and did not return until the invaders were out of sight. The conduct of the ensign subjected him to some censure at the time - indeed, it needs an explanation at the present day. [47]

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[43] Despite the name difference, this appears to have been the site of the current Johannes Lawyer Jr. House.
[44] Simms, 412.
[45] Simms, 413.
[46] Simms, 414.
[47] Simms, 416.
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Peter was one of the sons of Johannes Lawyer Jr. By the evening of October 16, little was left standing in Schoharie – and, by the evening of the next day, the Lawyer house too had burned. Many of the residents moved to Schenectady or Albany for the balance of the war. According to Roscoe, "no houses were built until after peace was proclaimed in 1783, and then only upon the sites of the burned houses."[48]

The allegation of Loyalist sympathies bedeviled Johannes Lawyer Jr. until – and even after – his death. A letter written in 1805 for John Harper attests to Lawyer's patriotism during the Revolution:

> *John Harper of the Town of harpers-field in the County of Delaware being sworn deposeth that he was intimately acquainted with & in the Family of Johannis Lawyer late of Schoharry deceased during the whole course of the late Revolutionary War (except the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine, when this deponent went on the Western Expedition with General Sullivan) – that the said Johannis Lawyer always during the period aforesaid instantiated the Character of a Friend to the American Revolution, and has never been suspected, to the Deponent's knowledge of any kind of Attachment to the British cause during the whole course of the said Revolution; nor been absent from his place of residence at Schoharry aforesaid at any time in the Revolutionary War, except to his neighbors – that the said Johannis Lawyer was an old man and incapable of engaging in or performing any active service. And further this Deponent saith not.* [49]

A late nineteenth century list of New York State surveyors of state lands between 1686 and 1892 lists him first as "Loyalist," then as "Purchaser."

Johannes Lawyer Jr. died November 11, 1795 and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery at Schoharie. His stone no longer exists but was painted by Rufus Grider in 1887. The epitaph read, "Born 1725, Died 1795. He obtained a grant of 25,000 Acres of Land of the Crown of England. He donated 200 Acres to the Luth^{n} Church which includes this Cemetery."[50]

Schoharie After the Revolution

The Lawyer family is somewhat difficult to trace after the Revolution, not because they disappeared but because there were so many of them with the same name and so much intermarriage within the Palatine community. Roscoe noted that a "Johannes Lawyer" ran the Whig tavern during and after the Revolution, and a 1790 advertisement in the *Albany Gazette* refered to "Johannes Lawyer, innkeeper at Schohary."[51] (Lasell Hall in Schoharie, NR-listed 1982, was built by him.) But this is not Johannes Lawyer Jr., though it may be his son.

Almost everyone else farmed. The land in Schoharie was very fertile. No one wanted their improved fields to go back to forest, so most of the inhabitants returned soon after the Revolution and reinvested in their farms. The 1790 census lists the following Lawyers in the township, but census records do not give specific ages, names of spouses or children, occupations, or addresses. Either Johannes Lawyer Jr. himself, or one of his

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[48] Roscoe, Chapter 22.
[49] "Deposition of John Harper, August 6, 1806," *New York, Sales of Loyalist Land, 1762-1830*. [Ancestry.com]
[50] Rufus Alexander Grider Collection, New York State Library Special Collections, *Albums, 1886-1900,* VIII: 4.
[51] "To all persons concerned" [Legal ad], *Albany Gazette* (November 18, 1790), 3.
.

children – Johannes, Jacob, Abraham, or Lambert – had returned and rebuilt on the family plot in Fountain Town by 1790 for the census to list them:

names of heads of families	free white males of 16 years & upwards, including heads of families	free white males under 16 years	free white females including heads of families	all other free persons	slaves
Jacob Lawyer Jr.	2	1	5	-	-
Johannes Lawyer Jr.	3	2	5	-	1
Lawrence Lawyer Jr.	2	2	4	-	-
Lambert Lawyer	2	-	2	-	-
Johannes Lawyer	5	-	2	-	-
John J. Lawyer	1	1	6	-	-
Abraham Lawyer	2	-	3	-	-
Jacob F. Lawyer	3	1	2	-	-
Jacob Lawyer	2	-	2	-	-
Lawrence Lawyer	2	1	4	-	5
Johannes L. Lawyer	2	2	3	-	-

The house has been dated on the basis of a physical examination of the building and this census record.

Arthur B. Gregg described the next stage of redevelopment:

> *An air of excitement pervaded the little village during the closing months of the 18th century. Small growth had been made in this Palatine settlement established over 80 years before. The few scattered houses had been burned by the destroying raid of Sir John Johnson and Chief Joseph Brant only 17 years before. But a new County had now been formed and a new County Seat established right here at Fountain Town… With the establishment of the County Seat and the building of the Court House and "gaol," an inflow of new residents began, and a building boom had resulted, and now they were to have a "water system"* [water piped from the spring owned by Abraham Lawyer, son of Johannes Jr.]. [52]

Most of the area that would become Schoharie County was made part of Albany County in 1788 and governed for a short time without local representation. Residents soon petitioned the legislature for self-government and, on June 1, 1795, the County of Schoharie was established by law. In 1798, the board of supervisors bought land on Main Street in the village of Schoharie and, in 1800, erected the first courthouse.[53]

The next census, in 1800, gives additional information on age within families, but individuals still cannot be identified with specific homesteads. Three Lawyers lived in the village, and another sixteen lived in the larger community, encompassing the area from Middleburgh to Cobleskill. Without deeds or a will, it is not possible to know whether the house passed to Johannes Lawyer Jr.'s son, Johannes III, or to one of the other sons – Jacob, Abraham, Lambert, Peter, Christian, Henry, or David. (All these given names appear in the census,

[52] Arthur B. Gregg, "Tales of Old Fountain Town," *Schoharie County Historical Review* (May 1954). 7-8.
[53] Raymond W. Smith, *Schoharie County Courthouse Complex* [National Register Nomination 95NR00839], (Albany, NY: New York State Historic Preservation Office, 1995), Section 8:1.
.

though they may not all refer to the direct descendants of Johannes Jr.) However, the house itself is evidence that, by the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Fountain Town property was the center of a successful farm, and its occupants were able to invest in upgrading and expanding the structure over the next one hundred years. The basis of this success was agriculture. As a result, it is important, first, to understand more about the agricultural system that developed in Schoharie and, second, to understand how the architecture of the house evolved as its residents invested in it.

Schoharie Valley Agriculture

When the Palatines delegation from the tar camps came to look at the Schoharie Valley in 1712, they found broad riverine flats washed clear of timber by the floods of the Schoharie Valley.[54] Sensibly, they did not settle near the river. For more than 40 years, the people in each dorf held their lands in common, allocating wooded homesteads on the uplands to each family along with shares of lowland fields and pasture lands.

This pattern is clearly spelled out in text associated with John Rutse Bleecker's 1753 survey map for the subdivision of Fountain Town. It shows the houses of both Lawyer sons and one son-in-law – Hendrick Haynes, the second husband of Elizabeth Lawyer – and explains who got which part of the common lands. (Interestingly, it also is one of the first legal documents to give English as the preferred name for the community.)

> *Division of Fountains Towne, divided by consent of the owners which were all pla*t at the Devision* [sic]*; what lays within the green line represents the hayland, whereof Ludowick Ryckert, Hendrick Connrat & Ingold have one third; Jacob Fred. Lawyer one sixth; Hend. Haynes one sixth, and one third of a third part; Johannes Lawyer Jr. two thirds of one (1/3) part of the whole. And the Lotts whereon their houses stand into five equal shares. Excepting where the Schafers live on, which was not divided. The above is a true draught of said Division which was performed in May 1753 by me. JOHN RÜTSE BLEEKER, Surveyor.* [55]

Note that below the Fountain Town lots are other lots "divided by Ja. Livingston." The Palatines did not own most of the land along the river. Due to the problems in gaining clear title before 1723, the "Seven Partners of Schoharie" controlled the bottomlands and rented them to Palatine farmers. Not until the Anti-Rent Wars of 1846-47 did the system change in the Hudson, Schoharie, and Delaware Valleys.[56]

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[54] Simms, 22: The name "Schoharie" may refer to a huge pile of driftwood the Native Americans found at the confluence of the Schoharie and Little Schoharie Rivers in the late seventeenth century when they first came to the valley.

[55] Grider Collection of the New York State Library Special Collections, dated 1753.

[56] Reeve Huston, "Antirent Movement," *Encyclopedia of New York State* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, n.d.). http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/encyclopedia/entries/antirent-movement.html

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Figure 7. Map of the Subdivision of Brunnendorf, 1753. (Grider Collection, New York State Archives)

This same settlement pattern shows up in other parts of the Schoharie Valley. Another example is the 1763 subdivision of patent lands granted to Johannes Lawyer Jr. and six others; the lots are broken up in an almost random pattern so that everyone gets a portion of the riverland and upland. Lawyer received 5 lots, only two of which were contiguous.[57]

The first winter, the Palatines lived by grubbing roots (perhaps, Jerusalem artichokes) and rationing barrels of flour donated to them by the Dutch Church in Albany as they passed through on their way to settle the valley. In 1713, Lambert Sternbergh returned on foot from Schenectady with the first "spint of wheat":

> *… there sowed or rather planted it, over more than an acre of ground, which grew well and the next year he reaped and threshed it, and measured 83 skipple out of it. This was the first wheat ever raised in Schoharie, and by about 40 years after, it was reckoned that one year in another, they carried 36,000 skipple* [9,000 bushels] *to Albany.*[58]

The early Palatine settlers reserved most of their grain for sale. Before the Revolution, New York was an exporter of wheat and flour to neighboring states and the West Indies. Much of this wheat came from the Hudson Valley and Long Island due to the greater ease of transportation. The Schoharie was not navigable,

[57] "Map of Patent Granted Aug 14, 1761 to Johannes Lawyer Jr. [and six others]" (October 6, 1763; retraced November 11, 1786). *Johannes Lawyer Papers, 1753-1830,* New York State Museum Special Collections – SC 16480.
[58] Brown. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a skipple is "A measure of three pecks" and a peck is a quarter-bushel.
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roads were unimproved, and war disrupted farming for several decades in the middle and third-quarter of the century. Nonetheless, a grist mill was built on the creek at Fox's Dorf soon after settlement and another by Johannes Eckerson about 1760. Farmers were producing a lot of wheat. The revenge raids after the Sullivan-Clinton campaign laid waste to extraordinary amounts of grain in both the Schoharie and Mohawk Valleys.

> *In the spring that followed that terrible winter, hundreds of warriors under Brant, Cornplanter and Butler—fired by a terrific lust for vengeance—descended on numerous towns along the frontier, including Cherry Valley, which they hit a second time. In these raids they destroyed an estimated 1,000 homes, 1,000 barns and 600,000 bushels of grain. Such attacks continued nearly to war's end.* [59]

After the Revolution, legal reforms opened up lands in Western New York State, and different regions began to specialize in different grain crops. However, the Schoharie continued to focus on wheat and various grains through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Speaking of the community in 1823, Brown commented on the "great Schoharie creek":

> *It contains the most and best flats and intervals in this state, perhaps the great Genessee river might be excepted. Here are flats unbroken, of fourteen hundred acres of low land. It is generally speaking, a grain country, more so than a grass country.*[60]

All this changed within a few years, however. The late 1820s saw the arrival of the "midge" – a small fly that cut wheat yields almost in half. Winter wheat crops were affected the most, so farmers began to switch to spring wheat and other grains.[61]

The 1840 Federal Census records the production of the following crops (in bushels) for the entire county (population, 32,356). Barley, oats, rye, and buckwheat now far exceeded wheat:

Crop	Bushels
• Wheat	72,871
• Barley	217,478
• Oats	497,953
• Rye	129,342
• Buckwheat	80,600
• Indian Corn	67,890

Fifteen years later, the Agricultural Census of New York State shows another major change in production at the county level (population, 2860; improved acres, 227,904). Both spring and winter wheats, barley, and rye production were down; oats about the same; and buckwheat and corn up. This census also reports totals at the township level, including the Town of Schoharie (population 2860, improved acres, 9401):

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[59] "Massacre & Retribution: The 1779-80 Sullivan Expedition." http://www.historynet.com/massacre-retribution-the-1779-80-sullivan-expedition.htm

[60] Brown.

[61] Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick, *A History of Agriculture in the State of New York* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1966), 334-335.
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County Totals	Bushels
• Spring Wheat	23,074
• Winter Wheat	18,945
• Barley	44,136
• Oats	493,063
• Rye	87,592
• Buckwheat	169,078
• Indian Corn	161,153

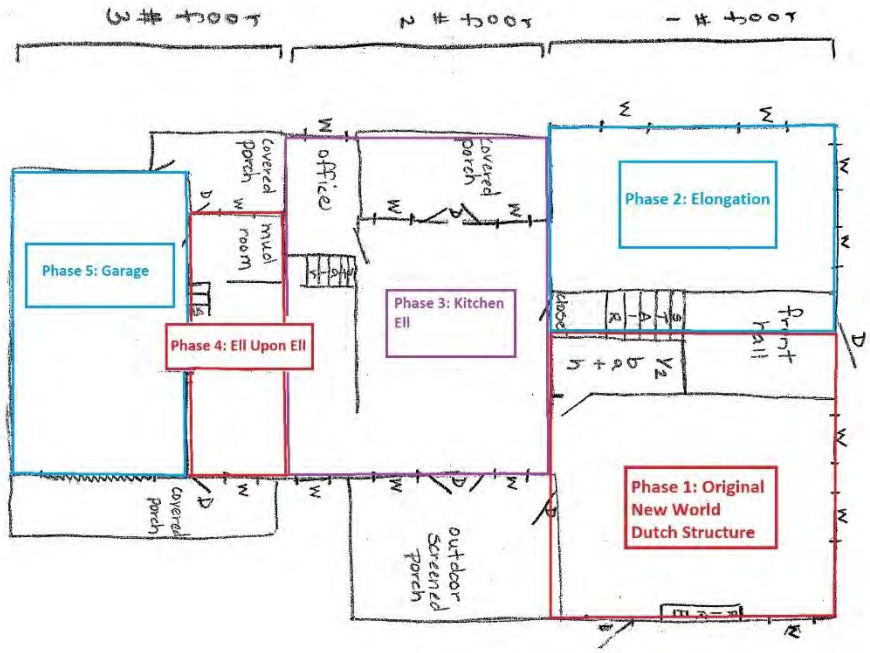
Town of Schoharie	Bushels
• Spring Wheat	682
• Winter Wheat	2471
• Barley	6872
• Oats	33,653
• Rye	17,087
• Buckwheat	11,169
• Indian Corn	19,682

Later – especially after the development of branch railroads – dairying became the dominant industry in central New York State, necessitating a further shift to hay and corn production and larger barns. Hops were grown intensively in neighboring Otsego County, but Schoharie seems to have stayed with a broader mix of crops and prospered.

The surviving barns associated with the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House reflect these transitions. The small barn appears to have been built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century with a threshing floor and grain bins (later changed to stabling). The large barn was built fifty or more years later for livestock and (probably) dairy production.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE & ART

The Johannes Lawyer Jr. House was built before 1790 and expanded at least three times before reaching its final form by 1920. Internal evidence and the 1790 census place it on site within ten years after the Great Raid of 1790.



The original section is a two-story house that had an end-gabled roof, side entrance plan, and three-bay façade. It used the H-bent timber frame of traditional New World Dutch construction but, perhaps as a result of the family's Revolutionary War exile to Albany and/or Schenectady, had a variety of English influences. First, the building had two – rather than 1 ½ – stories; second, it utilized a side entrance/gable-end plan; and third, the fireplace was jambed. As a result, it must be characterized as a transitional Dutch-English structure.

The second phase of reconstruction came within fifteen to twenty years. The core structure was extended to the west, and its side entrance plan altered to create a full five-bay

.

Federal-style house with center entrance. The basement was expanded; the front door replaced; and new Federal-style trim added throughout. (The location of the original end wall remains visible in the stairway, and a seam runs through the floor and ceiling of the hall.)

By the early nineteenth century, window glass had become more affordable and stove technology had improved. The redesigned house used larger windows that brought more light into the house, and the new room was heated with an airtight stove, perched on a mantel shelf that is still embedded in the wall. Eighteenth-century Dutch and Germans in New York State often used jamb stoves (which allowed two rooms to be heated at once) in association with fireplaces. However, the expanded Lawyer house was never set up this way; the kitchen fireplace was always against the east wall, rather than the interior. Thus, it was easier for the original, transitional New World Dutch structure to be remade in the Federal style.

The third phase was the addition of a kitchen ell at the back of the house sometime between 1825 and 1850. (This date is based on the use of Greek Revival architectural elements.) The kitchen was moved into the ell and a covered porch provided a link between the inside of the house and the barn buildings to the west. This porch gave women workers a place to sit in the summer to work away from the heat of the kitchen and an area where particularly messy tasks could be undertaken. The small room now used as an office might have been another auxiliary space like a storeroom or woodshed.

Sometime between 1825 and 1830, the west parlor (added in Phase 2) was decorated by an itinerant stencil artist.[62] Although the artist who worked at the Lawyer House is unknown, there are several examples of similar decoration being added to existing rooms in Central New York residences and inns. For instance, "Stimp" (possibly Caleb H. Stimpson) painted the rooms at Bump Tavern in Ashland, NY (35 miles south of Schoharie).[63] He appears to have worked earlier in Litchfield County, Connecticut, and Northfield Farms, Massachusetts. Despite his skill, he had a problem with alcohol and was arrested in 1834 for trying to kill a client.[64] Another stencil artist, whose design vocabulary is far closer to that of the Lawyer House, painted the Stencil House in Columbus, NY (about 65 miles west of Schoharie).

In her work on *American Wall Stenciling, 1790-1840*, Ann Eckert Brown named Stimp and other artists active in New York at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

> *Colorful stenciling decorated the interiors of numerous taverns and dwellings built during this period of rapid expansion, much of it similar to that seen in New England by artists such as J. Gleason, Stimp, Moses Eaton, and Erastus Gates, but some strikingly new. It is not clear if documented New England artists travelled west, or if this similar work is that of their apprentices or copyists who enlarged their design portfolios as they moved from one stenciled tavern to the next, dispersing designs as they stenciled their way west.* [65]

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[62] Erin Richardson (Director of Collections at the New York State Historical Association (NYSHA) in Cooperstown) provided the date for the decorative stenciling.

[63] Bump Tavern is now part of the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

[64] Paul D'Ambrosio, "'Stimp': The Wall Stenciller of Bump Tavern" [Blog post, September, 10, 2009], *American Folk Art @ Cooperstown*. http://folkartcooperstown.blogspot.com/

[65] Ann Eckert Brown, *American Wall Stenciling, 1790-1840* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2003), 74.

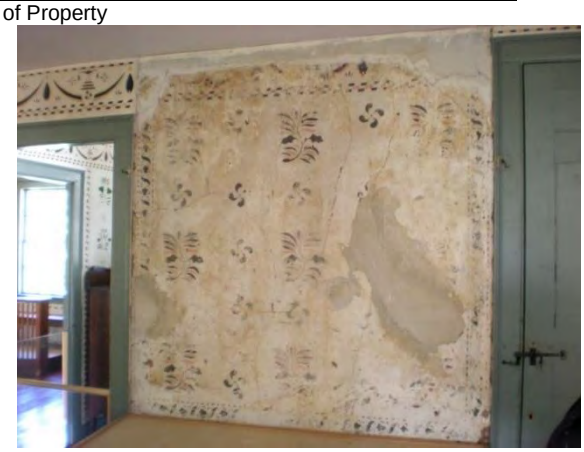

Figure 8. Stencils by "Stimp," Bump Tavern (now in Cooperstown, NY)

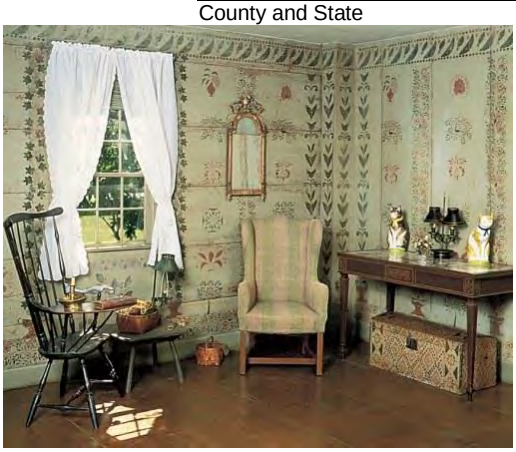

Figure 9. Unknown Artist, Stencil House (now in Shelburne Village, VT)

Once a stencil was cut, an artist tended to use the motif for many years, or it might be copied and used by another artist. "Stimp's" style, which originated early in the nineteenth century, uses Classical swags in the border (a New England motif) and columns of "fylfot" pinwheels (not common in New England). Brown points to these pinwheels in Stimp's work as evidence that he "seems to have come under the German influence," probably while working in New York. (Dutch artistic traditions were another source.)[66] However, although most art historians believe the artists were trying to imitate the delicate designs of French wallpaper, she assigns most New York State stenciling to "the folk genre."

The Lawyer House stencils were not painted by Stimp, but they may have been created by the same artist who painted Shelburne Village's Stencil House. There are many similarities – especially in terms of overall layout and specific motifs. The current condition of the Stencil House does not give an authentic impression of the original design; conservation work in the late 1990s shows that at least one room was stenciled on a deep salmon background. Thus, instead of the "Classical" feel of the Stencil House today, it probably fit into the "folk" tradition of the Lawyer House.

Figure 9. Restoration of Stencil House, circa 1954

Figure 10. Detail of Lawyer House Stencils

[66] Ibid.
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Figure 11. Stencil House, Dining Room Motif

Figure 12. Lawyer House Motif

The Lawyer House stencils have more overpainting than those of the Stencil House. This may reflect a higher level of investment in the stenciled room. Certainly, when comparing the two houses, the Lawyer House appears to be the more substantial property.

Figure 13. Exterior of Stencil House in Columbus, NY, circa 1952

Figure 14. Exterior of Lawyer House

Ann Eckert Brown has traced some of these same patterns across western New York and into southern Ontario. In the Ephraim Cleveland House in Naples, NY (almost 200 miles west), eighteen-year old Stephen Clark (1810-1900) has been identified as the artist. However, Brown believes he was more likely an apprentice to a Connecticut artist (and copied his designs) or an apprentice to an itinerant passing through the western Finger Lakes area. The Elijah Northup House in Stafford, NY, (50 miles from Naples and 220 miles from Schoharie) also includes patterns with the "oak leaf" column. Again, Brown is not convinced this work was executed by Clark. The final appearance of the motif is in St. Catherines, Ontario, at the John Brown House. Interestingly, the owner was a Loyalist from Schoharie whose house was converted into a tavern around 1820. It is not clear whether the stenciling took place before or after this change of function.[67]

The final phases in the development of the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House took place in the late nineteen and/or

[67] Eckert Brown, 80-95.
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early twentieth centuries. The first – Phase 4 – extended the back room of the kitchen ell and moved the staircase from the location of the current butler's pantry to the rear of the house. The second – Phase 5 – added a garage (with storeroom above). It may date to the early twentieth century when personal automobiles became affordable and an attached garage desirable.

Summary

The end result of this continued building campaign – lasting from 1795 to the early twentieth century – is the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House. With the exception of the garage area, which was reconstructed after the 2011 flood, the house has high integrity as an example of post-Revolutionary War rebuilding in the Schoharie Valley. In addition, the overall property is significant in illustrating land use patterns of the Palatine Germans when Johannes Lawyer Sr. first settled the area in 1712.

RESEARCH NOTE: Researching settlement of the Schoharie Valley is not easy. Frequent floods (one as recent as 2011) have inundated records in the county courthouse, and many early documents no longer exist. In 1882, when William Roscoe was writing his history of the county, he already found the area around the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House particularly hard to trace:

> *All records of this dorf [town] with the exception of a bond and a few deeds are lost, or are in the dusty tills of distant families yet to be discovered.* [68]

The situation is not much different in 2015. Some additional deeds and papers have been found lodged in the New York State Library Special Collections/Archives in Albany and in the Schoharie County Historical Society at the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie, but many gaps remain in the historical record. Deeds are particularly difficult to trace, as many are still receiving conservation treatment out of state due to the 2011 flood.

An aligned research issue is Palatine naming conventions, which complicate genealogical research. Their naming pattern has been described as the following – but, of course, the pattern may skip a step if a child died at birth or in infancy:

> *First son named after the father's father.*
> *Second son named after the mother's father.*
> *Third son named after the father.*
> *Fourth son named after the father's eldest brother.*
>
> *First daughter named after the mother's mother.*
> *Second daughter named after the father's mother.*
> *Third daughter named after the mother.*
> *Fourth daughter named after the mother's eldest sister.* [69]

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[68] William E. Roscoe, *History of Schoharie County, New York, 1713-1882* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., 1882), 28.
[69] *Naming Pattern of the Palatine Germans From the Kilts Family Newsletter.* http://threeriversshms.com/naming.htm
.

This Palatine habit of naming children after grandfathers, fathers, and eldest brothers makes it difficult to know which branches of the Lawyer family are which. Given names often do not match those from different sources; Simms (1845) and Roscoe (1882) – writers of the two authoritative histories of the county – frequently disagree. Roscoe tried to sort out the genealogy of the Lawyers, but he was writing almost fifty years later, whereas Simms got his information directly from survivors or their immediate descendants.

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Maps

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Newspapers [most from Newsbank Infoweb]

Albany Centinel

Albany Gazette

Albany Journal

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Albany Register

Daily Advertiser

Independent Journal

New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury

New York Gazetteer

New York Journal

New York Packet

Genealogical Sources

Geni.com

Archival Sources

New York State Library Special Collections, *Grider Collection.*

New York State Library Special Collections, *Johannes Lawyer Papers, 1753-1830*

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

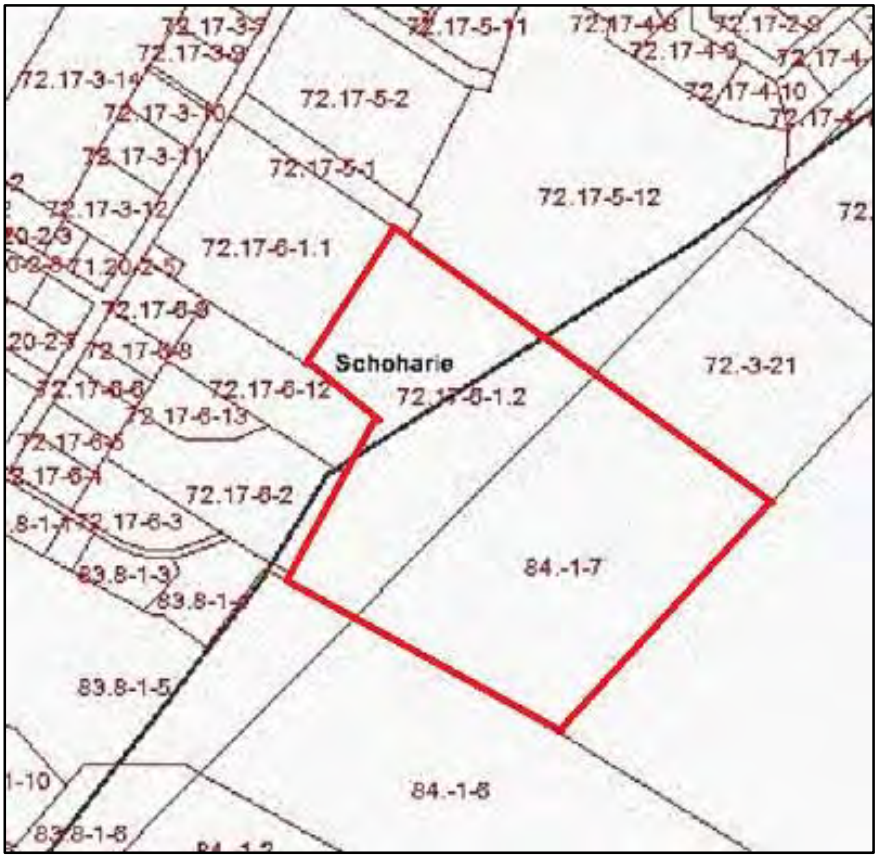
Acreage of Property Approximately 25 acres

UTM References

1	18N	556135	4723148	4	18N	556056	4722857
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18N	556451	4722922	5	18N	556072	4723037
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	18N	556277	4722735				
	Zone	Easting	Northing				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

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



Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House nomination is drawn from the Schoharie County tax map – parcels 72.17-8-1.2 and 84.-1-7. These boundaries reflect the acreage associated with the Johannes Lawyer Jr. House since the mid-twentieth century and are the remnants of the original Brunnendorf subdivision owned by Johannes Lawyer Sr. and the patent owned by his son.

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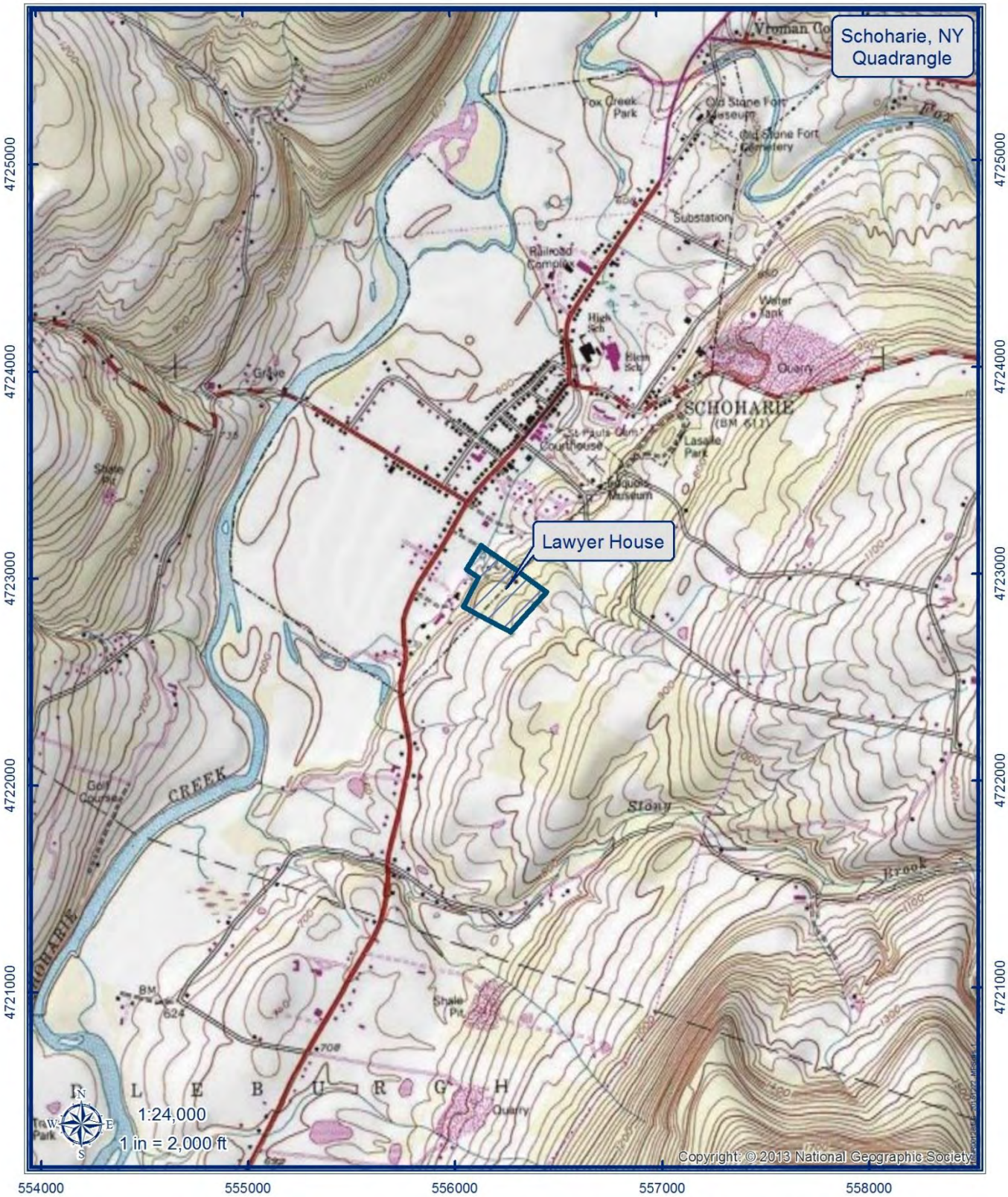
Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Schoharie, Schoharie Co., NY

194 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157



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

Feet
0 600 1,200 2,400

Lawyer House

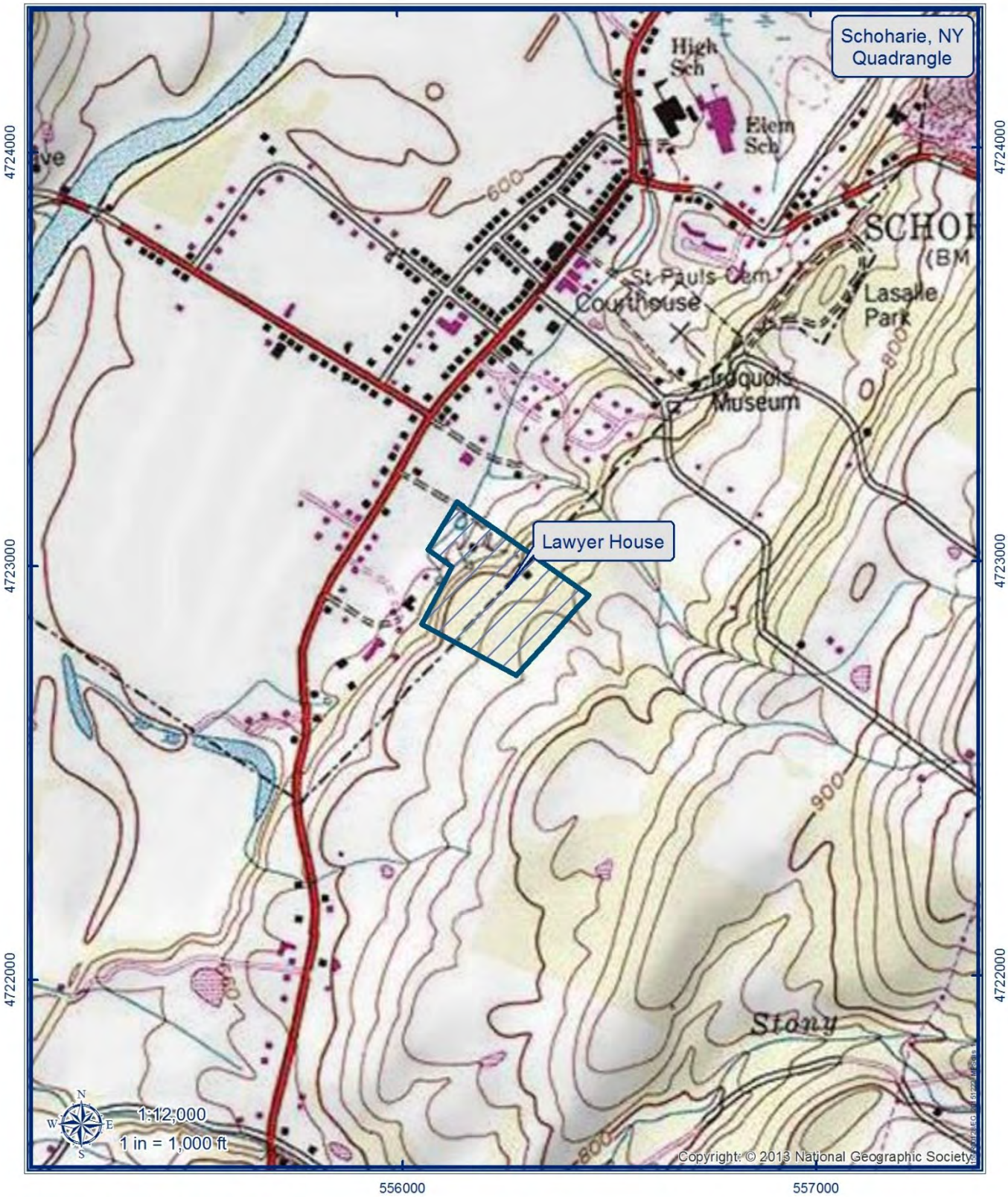
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Schoharie, Schoharie Co., NY

194 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157



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

Feet
0 310 620 1,240

Lawyer House

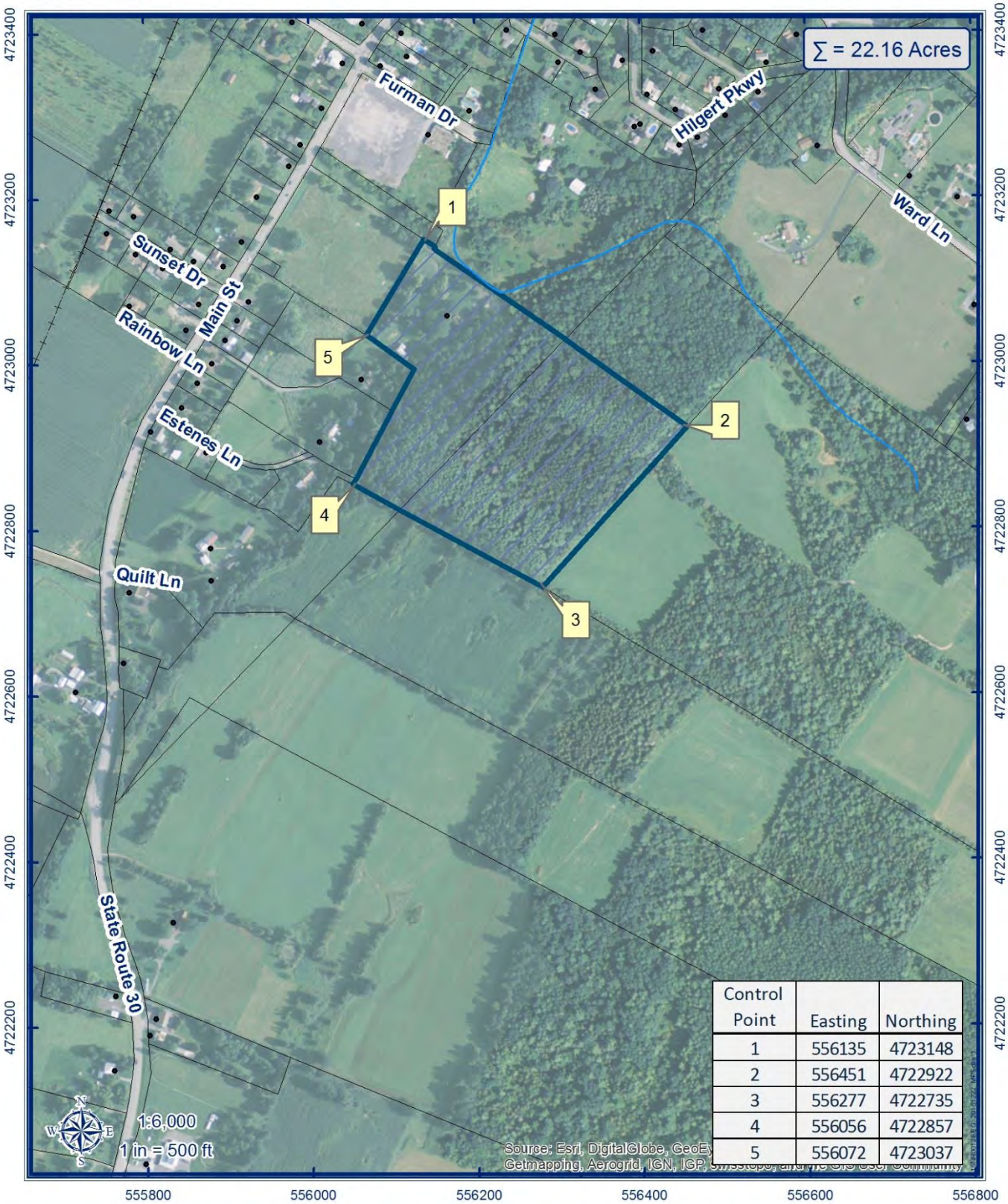
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Schoharie, Schoharie Co., NY

194 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157



Control Point	Easting	Northing
1	556135	4723148
2	556451	4722922
3	556277	4722735
4	556056	4722857
5	556072	4723037

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

Feet
0 155 310 620

Lawyer House

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Johannes Lawyer Jr. House — Name of Property

Schoharie, NY — County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emilie W. Gould, Historic Preservation Program Analyst

organization New York State Office of Historic Preservation date November 17, 2015

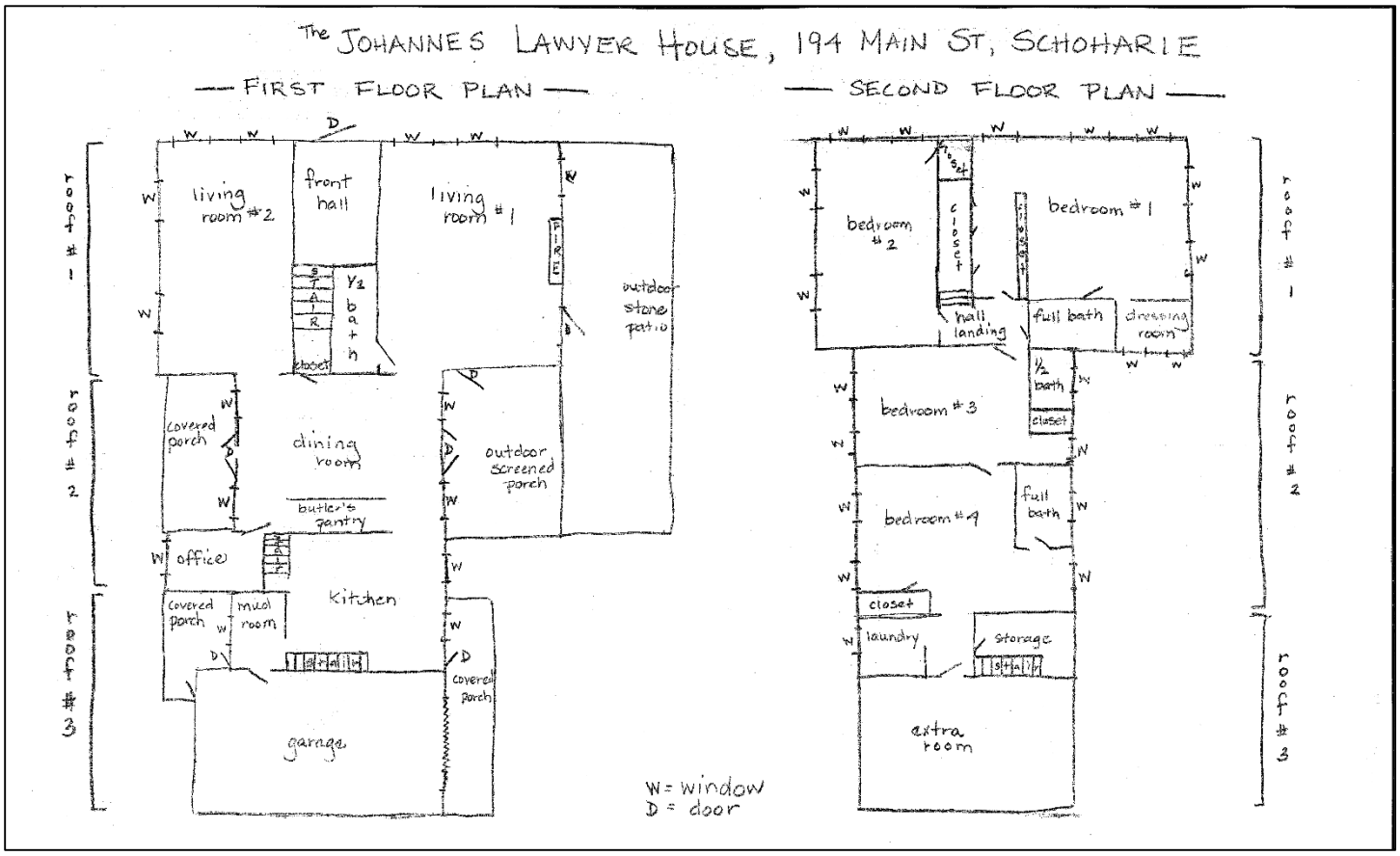
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2201

city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188

e-mail Emilie.Gould@parks.ny.gov

Additional Documentation

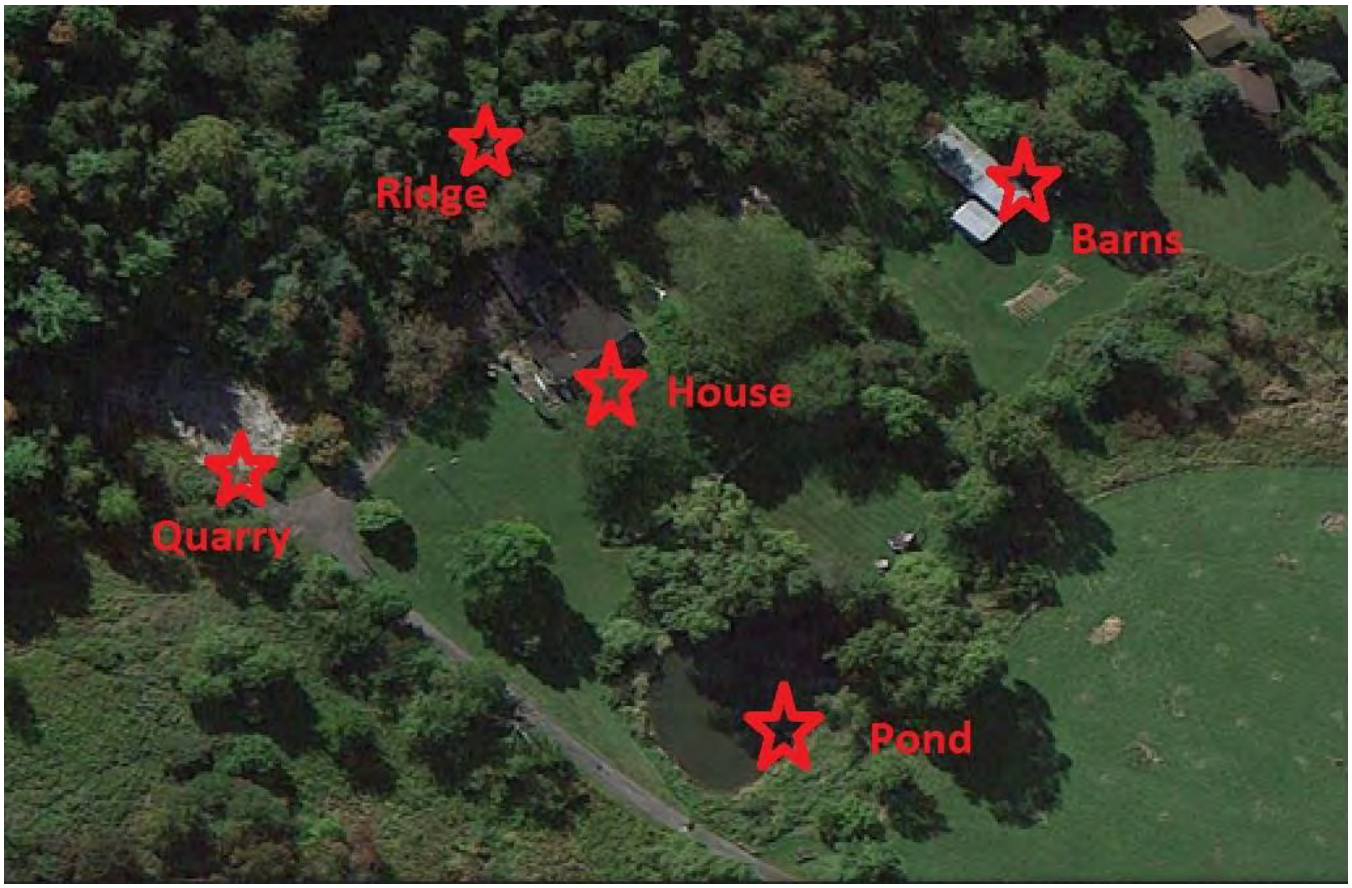
Floorplans:



Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Aerial Map (From Google Maps)



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Photographs:

Name of Property: Johannes Lawyer Jr. House

City or Vicinity: Schoharie (Village)

County: Schoharie State: NY

Photographer: Emilie Gould

Date of Photographs: September 2, 2015

Location of Original Digital Files: NY SHPO, Peebles Island Recourse Center, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188

Number of Photographs: 21

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

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1. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0001: Facade - Northwest Elevation
2. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0002: Southwest Elevation
3. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0003: Northeast Elevation
4. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0004: Northeast Elevation from East
5. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0005: Detail of Front Door and Window
6. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0006: Rear_Cliff
7. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0007: 1st Floor_Living Room 1
8. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0008: 1st Floor_Entry
9. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0009: 1st Floor_Detail of House Elongation
10. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0010: 2nd Floor_Entry to Bedroom 1
11. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0011: 2nd Floor_Bedroom 1 Early Window
12. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0012: 2nd Floor_Bedroom 3
13. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0013: 2nd Floor_Bedroom 4
14. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0014: View of Outbuildings from House
15. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0015: 2nd Floor_Outbuilding from East
16. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0016: Outbuildings from Northwest
17. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0017: Small Barn
18. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0018: Large Barn Interior Bracing
19. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0019: Privy
20. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0020: Quarry
21. NY_Schoharie County_Johannes Lawyer Jr House_0021: Stair from Quarry

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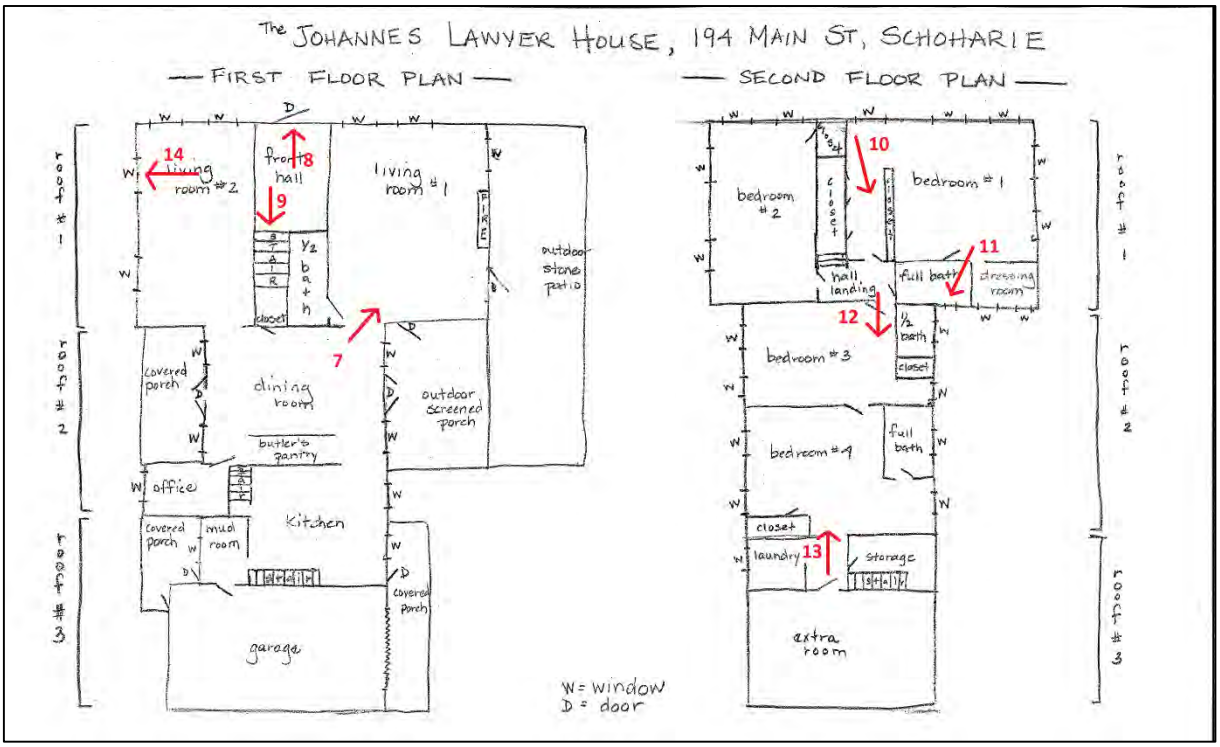
Johannes Lawyer Jr. House — Schoharie, NY
Name of Property — County and State

Photo Key: Exterior Photos

Photo Key: Interior Photos



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Johannes Lawyer Jr. House
Name of Property

Schoharie, NY
County and State

Property Owner:

name Samantha and Jason Ballard

street & number PO Box 573 (194 Main Street) telephone

city or town Schoharie state NY zip code 12157

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.

. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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