

HISTORIC FARMSTEAD SURVEY

Town of Rochester, Ulster County, New York



PHASE I: DOCUMENTING TEN HISTORIC FARMSTEADS

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Introduction:

The Town of Rochester is a historic rural community located in the picturesque Rondout Valley framed by the Shawangunk Ridge on the south and the Catskill Mountains on the north. The town has a long and distinctive agricultural history, distinguished by wheat plantations in the 18th century, dairy farms in the 19th century, and truck farms in the 20th century. It retains a noteworthy number of old farmsteads with their historic buildings and landscape settings. These resources have been identified and contextualized by reconnaissance surveys completed by Harry Hansen for the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission. Many contain 18th-century stone houses, Dutch barns, cow houses, granaries and other farm buildings, along with an enduring pattern of fields, meadows, pastures and orchards outlined by stone walls, fences and vegetative wind rows. All surviving farms exist because they have physically and functionally evolved to meet the changing trends in agricultural methods and market economies. As such, they are repositories of the landscape history of the town. They also represent the family and social networks that developed in the town, with many carrying family associations through the entire 300-year period of farm history. With the ten farmsteads documented in this project, a model has been provided for the comprehensive documentation of these historic resources, which can be applied to any other farmstead in the Town of Rochester. This cover report also provides assessments of their historical and architectural significance so that the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission, the town government, the farmstead owners and their families, and the general public can become better aware of their importance to the preservation of the rural character of the town.

Larson Fisher Associates, Inc. (LFA) of Woodstock, New York has done the work of documenting these selected farmsteads and preparing this report. LFA provides field services and consultation to governmental agencies, municipalities, organizations, and individuals regarding the preservation and management of historic resources. The firm's principal historian, Neil Larson, was in charge of the project. Larson has played a prominent role in developing documentation standards for rural historic resources in New York State. Under his leadership, LFA has recently completed model farmstead surveys in the towns of New Paltz and Montgomery, which were funded by grants from the NYS Certified Local Government and Preserve NYS programs, respectively. Both projects were designed to augment open space and, in Montgomery's case, farmland protection plans. LFA also has researched and written detailed rural landscape studies in the Smithfield Valley and Colman Station, both located in eastern Dutchess County. The latter project resulted in the nomination of the first rural historic district in New York State, which Neil Larson prepared in 1993. Larson also crafted the landscape documentation standards and was the principal author of the designation report for the 32-square-mile Hudson River Historic Landmark District in 1990.

Survey Overview

The scope of work included both field recordation and archival research to document individual farmsteads, distinguish them in the local context, and associate them with broader themes of regional agricultural history. The physical characteristics of farmsteads were documented in detail with maps indicating historic and existing boundaries; landscape components and their functions; structural features such as roads, bridges, stone walls, fences, tree and wind rows, etc.; site plan of buildings; and natural features. Photography was used extensively to illustrate aspects of the architecture and landscape and to augment written narrative descriptions. Archival research was done to provide specific family and local history of the farmsteads and to contextualize them within historic periods and themes related to the agricultural heritage of the town and region. A historical chronology was provided for each farmstead with a brief narrative identifying distinguishing design characteristics of the buildings and landscape.

Tasks performed:

- Advise in the selection and prioritization of farmsteads identified as potentially significant in the town-wide reconnaissance-level survey
- Inspect each farm to the extent allowed and map farmstead plan including all visible architectural and landscape features using digital planimetric maps and satellite imagery
- Photograph the farm features in digital format
- Using local and state repositories and internet sources for census schedules and genealogy, develop a historical background for each selected farmstead
- Using NYS Historic Resource Survey Forms, record descriptions of physical conditions and create historical overview; attach mapping and images in digital and print formats
- Create a town base map indicating the location of surveyed farms and any other farms warranting documentation
- Provide recommendations for preservation measures and further documentation needs.

Selection Criteria

Members of the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission identified the farmsteads to be documented in this project. The farmsteads selected for this initial model project were already well-known to local historians and commission members because of their distinctive buildings and agricultural settings. The selection criteria focused on historic dwellings, extant barns and secondary farm buildings and intact, if not functioning, farm landscapes.

Final Products

The final product comprises individual survey forms and attachments for ten farm properties including site plans, thorough photographic documentation, condition assessment, historical background, and architectural analysis. These are presented in this final report on the project explaining the purpose of the project, the methodology by which the survey was conducted, and a summary of the significant findings. A base map indicates the location of the surveyed farms in relation to the geography of the town.

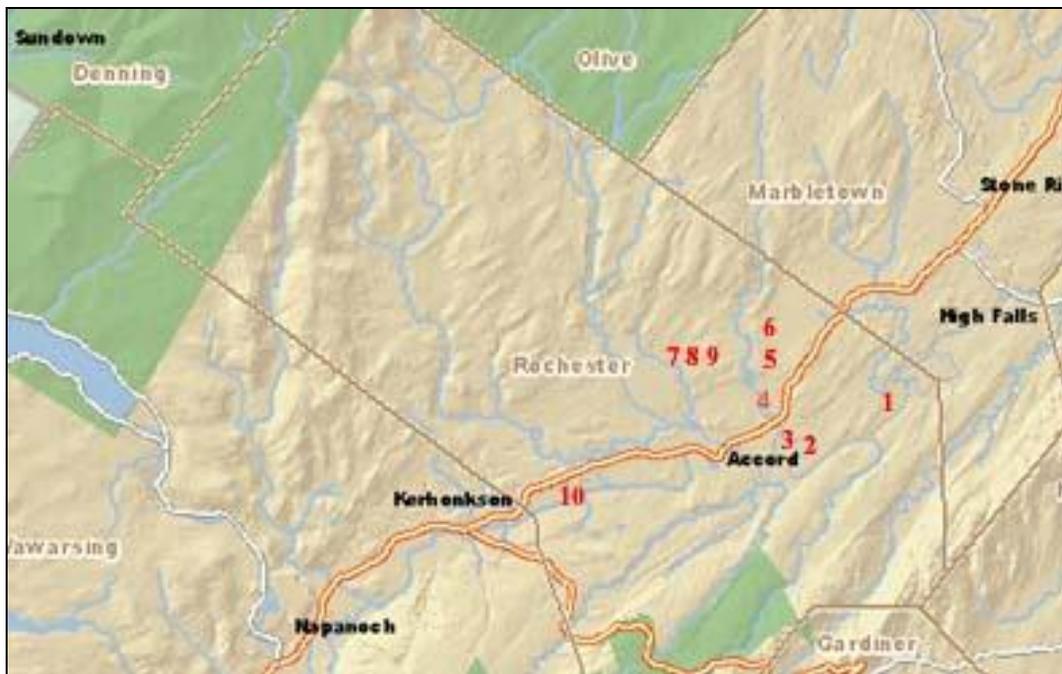
The image-based recording method makes material more accessible to non-professionals, and property histories are written in a narrative style that allow them to be used in other publications

with little editing. The images and text can be mined from the survey for brochures on farmstead preservation, open space protection, or driving tours.

List of Documented Farmsteads

(numbers associated with locations on map)

1. Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm, 607 County Rt. 6
2. Alliger – Davenport Farm, 10 Garden Lane
3. Joachim Schoonmaker (Saunderskill) Farm, 41 Garden Lane
4. Appeldoorn Farm, 4938 Rt. 209
5. Krom – Rosenkrans Farm, 234 Airport Road
6. Kelder – Rider – DeWitt (Domino) Farm, 244 Airport Road
7. Osterhoudt Home Farm, 167 Lower Whitfield Road
8. Schoonmaker – Rider Farm, 161 Lower Whitfield Road
9. Kelder Farm 12 Pine Tree Lane
10. Hornbeck – Davis (Arrowhead) Farm, 5941 Rt. 209



Map of Town of Rochester showing locations of documented farms (numbers associated with name list above).

Summary of Farmstead Documentation

The ten documented farmsteads represent the course of community and agricultural development in the Town of Rochester over the past 300 years. European settlers first began to venture into the Rondout Valley in the 1600s after the Esopus Wars had pretty much destroyed the resident Native American culture there. It was during these hostilities that militia men from Kingston and Hurley discovered the fertile farmlands already cultivated by the Indians. Soon after, affluent individuals well-connected with the provincial government sought land grants in the area to

capitalize on the prime agricultural conditions. Their interests were twofold: one was to begin producing wheat in the Rondout floodplains; the other was to acquire land for their sons and grandsons who could not find farms in their already overcrowded native towns. Most of the initial settlers in the valley were from established families in Kingston, Hurley, Marbletown and New Paltz. Families with prominent names, such as Bevier, Depuy, Hardenbergh, Hornbeck, Osterhoudt and Schoonmaker quickly developed large farms along the valley floor. The Town of Rochester was created in 1703 essentially as a land company, with its trustees distributing land to its proprietors and selling tracts to other settlers.

As time went on, these land grants were divided into smaller component farms for the next generation. These smaller farmsteads provided independent domiciles and enough land to sustain a family, but they also seem to have participated in a family commercial network to produce grain and flour for New York's international wheat trade. The Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3) represents one of these farms. Comprising about 100 acres of rich crop land where the Rondout Creek follows a tight serpentine course, Joachim's property was one of a number of farms subdivided for him and his brothers within the large tract his father, Jochem Hendrickz Schoonmaker, had obtained as one of the original trustees of the Town of Rochester. Joachim Schoonmaker's younger brother, Benjamin, received a farm of similar size (#4). It was remote from the Rondout on the north side of the creek (although with its own creek and mill site) reflecting the hierarchy of sons as expressed on the landscape.

Philip Hornbeck's farm (#10) on the north side of the Rondout at the western edge of the town was another early wheat farm, probably started by his father Lodewyck Hornbeck. The 1800 census counted nine slaves on his farm, another indicator of a significant commercial wheat producer. Joachim Schoonmaker's son, Jacob, who inherited his farm, was recorded with five slaves in 1790. The better farms in the region generally had no more than one or two slaves; once their numbers increased to five or more, it can be assumed that the farm was actively engaged in the commercial wheat trade. A key landmark of a wheat farm—other than the farm's location—is the Dutch barn, which was the principal agricultural building during the 17th and 18th centuries. Its characteristic large front-gable roof enveloped a voluminous drying chamber where wheat sheaves were stockpiled after harvest. Once cured, the wheat was threshed on the floor of the wide center aisle below with the grain and chaff stored in the side aisles. A Dutch barn survives on the Hornbeck – Davis Farm (#10), having been adapted to different purposes after wheat was no longer a viable crop. Three of the nine other farms have barns that have preserved parts of their original Dutch barns: Krom – Rosenkrans Farm (#5), Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#6) and Osterhoudt Home Farm (#7).

The last three mentioned farms are located on well-watered plateaus on the hillside forming the north side of the Rondout Valley, and they represent a different development pattern than occurred on the valley floor. Land grants here were made to families of lesser means, although they were still able to acquire sizeable tracts of less productive and lower-cost land. The landowners reflected New York's diversified culture, with a mix of Dutch (Osterhoudt), German (Kelder) and English (Rider). In traditional rural fashion, they continuously subdivided and expanded their holdings to accommodate their growing families and intermarried until nearly every neighbor was a relative. These farm economies were less concentrated on wheat and augmented by raising beef and sheep, which was more suited to the uneven terrain. Dutch barns

were common on these farms, too, but even at this early date, adapted to the needs of mixed husbandry. No longer extant are the subsistence farms that were carved out of the forest on the mountainsides.

Stone houses were high-status dwellings in the 18th century, that is, they were landmarks of the best farms in the town. Because of their enduring material and the economic stability of their families and farms, stone houses have survived in disproportionate numbers and represent a skewed sample of 18th-century domestic architecture, not only in the Town of Rochester, but in Ulster County and the region as a whole. There were far more middling and lesser dwellings built with wood frames or of log, of which few, if any, have survived 200 or more years later. And because of their concentration on the best farms in the community, stone houses also were where most of the enslaved African Americans lived.* All but two of the farms documented in this project contain stone houses, the exceptions being the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm (#1) and the Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#6), both of which were created in the 19th century after the stone house era. The latter farm was subdivided from an older farm that may have had a stone house.

Stone houses in the survey sample illustrate a broad range of designs representing levels of wealth, evolving forms over time, and the influence of changing architectural tastes. One of the town's oldest stone houses, a front-gable house typical of the early 18th century, has been documented on the Osterhoudt Home Farm (#7). This house was built in two one-room stages characteristic of stone house construction and has later wood frame additions. The larger stone house on the Myers section of the Hornbeck – Davis Farm (#10) was also built in stages, although it has the elongated gable-roof form of the mid-18th century. Small, two-room stone houses on the Krom – Rosenkrans Farm (5), the Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8) and the Kelder Farm (#9) are more modest examples of the type.

The epitome of 18th-century masonry domestic architecture was the two-story house, of which the residence on the Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3) is one of the few surviving examples. Constructed late in the era (1787), the house has a brick front façade indicating the beginning of the trend away from stone and towards brick as the best building material. Incorporating features from more elite models, the house has a center passage plan and a symmetrical front façade. The luxury of materials, craftsmanship, interior space and privacy distinguishes this house from the others and identifies its owners within a realm that transcends the local community. Unlike the typical stone house where each of the two or three rooms served a variety of functions and the attic was no more than a loft, the second story of this house contained chambers just for sleeping. The design of the standard story-and-a-half stone house was also influenced by the fashion for symmetrical facades and floor plans, as was the case with Benjamin Schoonmaker's 1758 house on Appeldoorn Farm (#4) and the c. 1800 house on the Alliger – Davenport Farm (#2).

The agricultural economy, farm architecture, and landscape patterns changed dramatically after the Revolutionary War. Exhausted soils, blights and increased competition from more productive farms west of the Catskills had crippled the Hudson Valley region's wheat economy so badly that by 1800 new agricultural products were introduced with new farming methods to

* For a more complete analysis, see Neil Larson, "Dutch Barns in the Town of New Paltz, 1798," *Dutch Barn Preservation Society Newsletter* (Spring 1997).

support them. While beef cattle and sheep continued to be raised in small numbers, virtually all the farms in the region, including in the Town of Rochester, began the commercial production of butter. The rapid growth of New York City created a seemingly limitless demand for fresh produce, and butter was a stable commodity that could withstand the time it took to transport it to market. Most farms milked three to five cows and netted 300 to 400 pounds of butter per year. The product was transported overland by wagon to Rondout where it was shipped down the Hudson River to the city facilitated by a network of commission merchants. The best farms could produce twice as much or more, although it required the help of hired labor as the slave era came to a close. The Hornbeck – Davis Farm (#10) was at the top of the production scale with 2,000 pounds of butter churned from the milk of 16 cows in 1850, the first year production records were compiled for individual farms. Butter was “gold” and many local farmers became quite rich as a result. Orange County was renowned for the butter its farms produced. Rochester was more remote with lesser results, but butter became the mainstay of the farm economy and would remain so for more than a century.

A variety of field crops were introduced to provide feed for the animals. Oats were fed to work horses and, mixed with rye, served as cattle feed. Rye was the main grain propagated after the wheat was wiped out by the Hessian fly, and it was used for domestic purposes as well, including distilling for whiskey. Rye straw was a winter fodder. Indian corn fed everyone, both in the household and the barnyard; the stalks were cut for cow feed, and sheep were pastured on harvested fields to eat the stumps and leave their fertilizer. Hay was grown for animal feed and bedding, particularly for the winter, which required larger and larger barns to store it. There was an insatiable market for surplus hay and oats in the cities where tens of thousands of liveried horses needed food. Much of it would have been shipped on the Delaware & Hudson Canal (1828-1900) where it was loaded on barges and towed by steamboats to New York City. Swine thrived on the milky wastes recovered from butter-making, and every dairy farm had some, which provided meat for the household and the market. Poultry ranged free about the farmstead providing their flesh and eggs to the farm family. Although too perishable for long-distance shipping, surplus eggs were sold locally for income. Later in the 19th century, when summer tourists began flooding into the region, eggs became a much more valuable commodity and the size of flocks grew enormously. Orchards were a standard feature of farms from the very beginning. Apples were marketable as fruit, cider, and distilled liquor and huge amounts of each were barreled and shipped to market. Small amounts of Irish potatoes were grown on just about every farm, which largely were destined for family consumption, but they were a marketable food as well and would play an increasing role in market gardening as the 19th century rolled on.

The diversity of field crops, when put together with hay meadows, pastures, orchards and gardens, created a complex patchwork of spaces on 19th-century farms. The hillsides of the Rondout Valley were gradually cleared of their timber for firewood and lumber. The hierarchy of farms and families would have been evident stretching from the best, on the bottom land, to the middling, on the upland plateaus, to the least on the mountain side where growing crops was impossible and sheep grazing was the norm. Those eking out a living on the worst land sought other occupations to survive based on the natural resources of the mountains; they also populated the laboring class that worked on the better farms. As farmland diversified and farms reinvented themselves in response to the changing economy, farmers became more organized. Farm improvement was promoted through all kinds of popular and farm-oriented periodicals and

literature. Fueled by national political goals to build a home economy independent of European powers, as well as the republican agrarian rhetoric that was at the core of a Hudson Valley movement to preserve upstate farmers' control of state and local governments, the better farmers were driven to create showplaces of abundance and prosperity. With their field functions neatly organized in an artful landscape, celebrated in lithographic images and Romantic narratives, farmers reached the peak of success in the mid-19th century. After the Civil War, this idealism had dissipated, as the descendants of the state's pioneers lost their political clout and the farm economy further weakened with the increasing interstate competition. With farming in decline, the cultivated landscape had a diminished role in the public imagination.

Farm buildings also were transformed during the 19th century. In an old town like Rochester, it was less dramatic than in the new farm communities popping up in the western part of the state. Stone houses and Dutch barns were no longer viable icons after the Revolution, when people no longer defined themselves by their old European identities but, rather, enthusiastically participated in the future-looking ideals of their new nation. The old confrontation of Dutch and English cultures was erased in a moment, and while sentimentality for old traditions prevailed, it was no longer projected on the material culture. Initially, farmhouses maintained the traditional story-and-a-half gable roof form characteristic of 18th century rural domestic architecture but, by their decoration, showed their association with more universal taste and a broader sense of community. The house on the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm (#1) is a prime example, it being a wood frame house—stone having become old fashioned and no longer a status symbol in new construction—with pronounced “modern” Greek Revival-style decoration. The stone house on the Alliger-Davenport Farm (#2), along with scores of others, were updated in a similar vein during the early 19th century to carry the antique stone artifact forward into the present. By the end of the century, local farmhouses were indistinguishable from those anywhere else in the region, as illustrated by the two-story wood frame house on the Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#6).

More dramatic is the evolution of barns. Existing Dutch barns were adapted to accommodate milk cows and enlarged to contain hay. On 18th-century farms, hay was piled and sheltered in open-sided barracks with roofs that could be raised or lowered depending on the height of the stack. Then only one milk cow was needed for family needs. Once herds grew, new spaces were needed to store hay, generally in loft spaces in barns, cow houses, wagon houses, machinery sheds, as well as buildings erected primarily to store hay. Dutch barns that survive in Ulster County have evidence that their roofs were raised to create more loft area for hay. In some cases, a section at the rear of the barn was converted into a hay mow, as the through aisle in the center, originally designed as a wind tunnel to facilitate the winnowing of wheat kernels from chaff, was no longer needed in a barn that no longer processed wheat but stored hay. The Dutch barn on the Krom – Rosenkrans Farm (#5) was enlarged in a unique way, with the addition of large cross-gable side wings with mows that would have contained large amounts of hay. On the Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#6), an addition was made doubling the size of the Dutch barn and a new, capacious gambrel trussed roof built over the whole. (This alteration was not made until the mid-20th century.) Another Dutch barn is located on the Osterhoudt Home Farm (#7), but it lost one of its side aisles to give a new front façade the appearance of a more modern barn. However, this reduced rather than increased the hay storage capacity.

Initially, cow stalls were introduced into one or both of the side aisles of the Dutch barn or they were accommodated in cow houses that were attached to one side of the barn. A cow house is still attached to the east side of the Dutch barn on the Hornbeck – Davis Farm (#10), and others can be seen on the Krom – Rosenkrans Farm (#5), the Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8) and the Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm (#1). In the case of the latter two examples, the cow houses are attached to later barns not Dutch in design. Either by tragedy (decay or fire) or conscious intent, many Dutch barns were replaced with new progressive barns as the 19th century advanced. The first to be introduced was the basement barn that provided stalls for cows in a half-buried stone basement, with access at grade on one side, and a wood frame hay barn above. A modified example of this barn type can be found on the Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8). Barns became progressively larger as time went on, such as the older, gable-roof section of the barn on the Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3). A gambrel-roof addition made to this barn in the early 1900s was designed to contain stanchions following model farming standards promulgated by agricultural colleges such as at Cornell University, which many local farmers' sons attended. Similar model barns can be seen on The Alliger – Davenport Farm (#2) and Appeldoorn Farm (#4). Silos also proliferated in the early 20th century as new methods of feeding dairy cows emerged that favored ensilage fermented in these structures to release natural sugars.

The 20th century witnessed the continued evolution of farmsteads and those that have been active until recently contain numerous modern features, such as large cow sheds, heifer and calf houses, milking parlors and tank rooms, machinery sheds, pit silos, slurry ponds, and stockpiles of large rolls of hay shrink-wrapped in plastic. Only one farm, the Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#7) has any cows, the last dairy farm in the Town of Rochester. With the advent of summer tourism in the Rondout Valley in the late 19th-century and the resort boom in the southern Catskills as the Borscht Belt reached its peak in the mid-20th century, truck farming became a substantial part of the local agricultural economy, especially on the rich bottom lands along the Rondout Creek. Just about every farmer built poultry houses to supply hotels and boarding houses with fresh eggs and meat along with the dairy products they already were producing. The Town of Rochester's landscape is dotted with large wood frame and masonry poultry houses to an extent that distinguishes it from towns farther east (but makes it similar to towns farther west). Examples of these buildings can be found on nearly all of the ten farmsteads documented, with the most distinctive on the Alliger – Davenport Farm (#2), the Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3) and the Kelder Farm (#9). The Schoonmakers and the Davenports began growing vegetables, including loads of sweet corn, and fruit for the resort market. With the demise of the resort industry at the end of the 20th century, the families have established major farm markets on Route 209—Davenport in Stone Ridge and Schoonmaker in Accord—and sell to other vendors in the region. Both have become significant players in the local food movement now revitalizing agriculture in the Hudson Valley.

The ten farms documented in this project represent the agricultural history of the Town of Rochester as it has developed from 17th-century homesteads and 18th-century wheat plantations to the truck farms of the present. All have farmland that is still in cultivation or use and historic buildings that represent significant periods of domestic or farm development. These farms are both artifacts and functioning entities. Their documentation provides information by which to assess their historic significance and exposure that can enhance their continued preservation.

Assessment of Significance

By virtue of their selection by the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission as important historic farmsteads with surviving houses, farm buildings and agricultural landscapes, it has been demonstrated that each of the ten documented properties have a local significance. A more formal assessment can be made using the criteria to establish eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Under these guidelines, historic significance is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archeology, engineering or culture of a community, state, or the nation. The historic significance of a property can be determined in a number of ways:

- A. its association with events or activities that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history
- B. its association with the lives of persons significant in the past
- C. its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent the work of a master
- D. its potential to yield information important in prehistory or history.

A historic property must also be authentic, that is, it must retain the physical characteristics that existed during its historic period. And in the particular case of historic farmsteads, the property should retain its agricultural setting. Using these criteria, the following assessments can be made for the ten properties documented in this project.

1. Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm, 607 County Route 6
This farmstead is an example of an early 19th-century farmstead with an intact wood frame house decorated in the Greek Revival style, a compound of farm buildings including a barn and attached cow house and granary, wagon house, poultry house and other secondary buildings, as well as a lock tender's "shanty" moved from a nearby site on the Delaware & Hudson Canal. The farmstead contains more than 100 acres of land on the floodplain on the north side of the Rondout Creek that has been in continuous cultivation since the 18th century, if not earlier. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1750-1920) and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive 19th-century buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but is also a component of a potential rural historic district with other historic farms in the Kysyerike neighborhood including the hamlet of Alligerville.
2. Alliger – Davenport Farm, 10 Garden Lane
This farmstead is the only one of the ten properties documented that no longer retains any of its associated farmland, which has been absorbed into the neighboring Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3) or subdivided into residential building lots. The stone house, built c. 1800 is a distinctive late example of the type with its dressed stone walls and symmetrical facades. Among the remaining farm buildings are an important model barn

erected in 1911 and a large poultry house. The surviving farmstead has physical integrity from its historic period (1800-1950) and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but is also a component of a potential rural historic district with the neighboring Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3) and other farms in the Accord neighborhood.

3. Joachim Schoonmaker Farm, 41 Garden Lane

This 300-acre farmstead located on the south side of the Rondout Creek is an active farm that has been in continuous cultivation by nine generations of the same family for nearly 300 years (as such, it has been recognized as a Century Farm by the New York Agricultural Society). The earliest building is a two-story brick-fronted stone house constructed in 1787, replacing an earlier house. There is a barn and secondary buildings dating in the 19th century, as well as early 20th-century features, such as a model cow barn and poultry houses. Numerous greenhouses and other buildings have been erected more recently. The historic period spans from 1730 to 1960, or within 50 years of the present. The property maintains physical integrity from its historical period and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive domestic and agricultural buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but is also a component of a potential rural historic district with the neighboring Alliger – Davenport Farm (#2) and other historic farms in the Accord neighborhood.

4. Appeldoorn Farm, 4938 Rt. 209

This 140-acre farmstead on the north side of Route 209 east of Accord is comprised of two 18th-century farms (one in ruins) that were combined in the 1930s to create a country retreat for descendants of the Schoonmaker family who founded one of the farms in the 18th century. The earliest building is a story-and-a-half stone house constructed in 1756 for Benjamin and Catrina Schoonmaker, which was renovated and enlarged in 1937 by Kingston architect Myron S. Teller, a master of Colonial Revival “restorations” of historic stone houses. Teller also designed a Game House for his client, Howard C. Sykes, a big game hunter. It was a replica of an 18th-century stone house using stones salvaged from the DeWitt homestead that stood in ruins on the adjacent property, which Sykes had bought to enlarge his holding. A working barn, poultry house and other farm buildings also exist on the site, along with meadows and pasture land providing a picturesque setting. The historic period spans from 1720 to 1960, or within 50 years of the present. The property maintains physical integrity from its historical period and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive domestic and agricultural buildings and for the masterful design work of architect Myron S. Teller. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but also may be a component of a potential rural historic district with other historic farms north of Accord, such as the Alliger – Davenport Farm (#2) and the Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3).

5. Krom – Rosenkrans Farm, 234 Airport Road
This farmstead is an example of a mid-18th-century farmstead with recently restored stone house, an expanded Dutch barn with attached cow house and 90 acres of land on an upland plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1750-1960) or within 50 years of the present and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but is also a component of a potential rural historic district with other historic farms in the Whitfield neighborhood. Some of the houses in this neighborhood, such as the Hornbeck and Depuy stone houses on Whitfield Road, already are listed on the National Register and would be contributing components of a larger rural historic district.
6. Kelder – Rider – DeWitt (Domino) Farm, 244 Airport Road
This farmstead is an example of a mid-18th-century farmstead with a late-19th-century wood frame house, an expanded Dutch barn and 100 acres of land on an upland plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1750-1960), or within 50 years of the present and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be eligible for the National Register as a component of a potential rural historic district with other historic farms in the Whitfield neighborhood (see #5 above).
7. Osterhoudt Home Farm, 167 Lower Whitfield Road
This farmstead is an example of an early-18th-century farmstead containing one of the oldest stone houses in the town. It was the home farm of the Osterhoudt family and probably was the site where Teunis Osterhoudt established his homestead in the 17th century. The farm contains an altered Dutch barn and 37 acres of land on an upland plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. It was one of at least four lots divided and distributed among the heirs of Cornelius Osterhoudt in 1794. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1720-1946) and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but also is a component of a potential rural historic district with the Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8) and the Kelder Farm (#9) as well as other historic farms in the Mettakahonts neighborhood.
8. Schoonmaker – Rider Farm, 161 Lower Whitfield Road
This farmstead is an example of a late-18th-century farmstead with a small, story-and-a-half stone house, early 19th-century barn with attached cow house, and 60 acres of land on an upland plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1780-1960), or within 50 years of the present and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be eligible for the National Register as a component of a potential rural historic district with the Osterhoudt

Home Farm (#7) and the Kelder Farm (#9) as well as other historic farms in the Mettacahonts neighborhood.

9. Kelder Farm 12 Pine Tree Lane

This farmstead is an example of a late-18th-century farmstead with a small, story-and-a-half stone house, substantial masonry poultry house, and 65 acres of land on an upland plateau on the north side of the Rondout Valley. The property maintains physical integrity from its historic period (1780-1960), or within 50 years of the present and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive buildings. It appears to be eligible for the National Register as a component of a potential rural historic district with the Osterhoudt Home Farm (#7) and the Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8) as well as other historic farms in the Mettacahonts neighborhood.

10. Hornbeck – Davis (Arrowhead) Farm, 5941 Rt. 209

This 350-acre farmstead located on the north side of the Rondout Creek is an active farm that has been in continuous cultivation since the early 1700s. It comprises two historic farms and part of a third. The earliest building is a story-and-a-half stone house with portions dating at least to the 1760s. There is an 18th-century Dutch barn and other farm buildings erected in the 19th century, as well as 20th-century features, such as cow houses, poultry houses, machinery sheds, and tenant dwellings. The historic period spans from 1760 to 1960, or within 50 years of the present. The property maintains physical integrity from its historical period and meets National Register criteria A and C for its association with the agricultural history of the town and for its distinctive domestic and agricultural buildings. It appears to be individually eligible for the National Register but is also a component of a potential rural historic district with other historic farms stretching across the Rondout Creek south of Accord.

Potential Rural Historic Districts

The field work undertaken for the documentation of these ten farms has identified four areas with farmsteads and farm landscapes with the potential to be designated rural historic districts on the State and National Registers and locally by the Town of Rochester Historic Preservation Commission. Further documentation would be needed to account for other farms not selected for this model survey project and to determine boundaries. The districts can be described as follows (this list is not exhaustive).

- Accord – Kyserike Rural Historic District

This district comprises an area containing active farmland and historic farmsteads along the Rondout Creek roughly extending from Accord east to the Marbletown town line. The Thomas S. Schoonmaker Farm (#1), Alliger-Davenport Farm (#2), Joachim Schoonmaker Farm (#3), and Appeldoorn Farm (#4) are components of this district



The Accord-Kyserike Rural Historic District is visualized here in the farmland between Accord on the left and Kyserike on the right, including both sides of the Rondout Creek as it bends east of Accord. Contiguous areas on the north side of Rt. 209 in the vicinity of Airport Road could be part of the district.

- Whitfield Rural Historic District
 This district comprises an area containing active farmland and historic farmsteads on the upland plateau along Airport and Whitfield roads. The Krom – Rosenkrans Farm (#5) and Kelder – Rider – DeWitt Farm (#6) are components of this district.



The Whitfield Rural Historic District is concentrated in the open space depicted in this view.

- Mettawahonts Rural Historic District
 This district comprises an area containing active farmland and historic farmsteads on the upland plateau along the western end of Lower Whitfield Road. The Osterhoudt Home Farm (#7), Schoonmaker – Rider Farm (#8) and Kelder Farm (#9) are components of this district. The community of Mettawahonts also would contribute to this district.



The Mettakahonts Rural Historic District is concentrated in the open space depicted in this view.

- Accord – Pine Bush Rural Historic District
 This district comprises an area containing active farmland and historic farmsteads along the north side of the Rondout Creek roughly extending from Accord west to the Wawarsing town line. The Hornbeck – Davis Farm (#10) is a component of this district.



The Accord-Pine Bush Rural Historic District is visualized here in the farmland between Accord on the right and Kerhonkson on the left and bounded by the Rondout Creek on the south and Rt. 209 on the north. Contiguous areas on the north side of Rt. 209 could be part of the district.