Historical/Cultural Resources of the Tug Hill Region of New York

by

Institute for Man and His Environment
State University of New York at Plattsburgh
Miner Center
Chazy, New York 12921

September, 1974

Mark B. Lapping, Ph.D., Project Director
Peter H. Gore, Project Co-Director
Paul Donheffner, Student Intern
William Kottmann, Student Intern
George Bibbins, Jr., Student Intern
William Ohno, Student Intern

The authors wish to thank the following individuals for their aid in developing this report: Lyle Raymond, Cornell University; Ed Winslow, State Education Department; Cornelia Brooke, Division for Historic Preservation, State Department of Parks and Recreation; Arthur Einhorn, Lewis County Historian; Douglas M. Preston, Director, The Oneida Historical Society; the staff of the Institute for Man and His Environment, SUNY at Plattsburgh; the staff of the Tug Hill Commission; Mrs. May LaValley, typist; and our families.

Introduction

The resources of the Tug Hill region are essentially of two kinds--natural and man-made. In developing inventories and plans for a region there is a tendency and temptation to describe the natural or physical resource base almost to the exclusion of the human resource base. Fortunately, the Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill has attempted a balanced perspective in its work. Though a good deal of cultural and social data has been provided in the initial study of the region developed by the State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, other studies are necessary.

The following inventory and short analysis of the historical and cultural resources of the region are important components in learning to understand the Tug Hill region. A people are as much the product of their history and cultural origins as they are the synthesis of their relationship with physical and natural elements. Two maps have been developed and presented to the Commission. Each map locates as point data important places of historical and cultural interest. One map is devoted to actual sites while the other deals with historical markers. An additional 100 pages of data related to these resources, including photographs of particular historical sites and evaluations of the physical condition of the sites, has likewise been provided the Commission; they have not been added

here for purposes of economy. Readers and users of this report are urged to consult the maps, the photographic inventory, and evaluation of historical and cultural sites.

Sites Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the Tug Hill Region

The National Register of Historic Places was expanded through the passage and implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to include those buildings and sites of state and local importance as well as those sites of national significance. The status of being designated on the list of the National Register is enhanced by the fact that this means that a particular site or building will secure a measure of protection from federally funded, sponsored or authorized projects, such as a new highway or dam. Moreover, listing on the National Register also makes such sites eligible for matching federal funds for the acquisition, preservation and restoration of the site. The following buildings and sites are those within the Tug Hill area which are now listed on the National Register.

County	Location	Site
Lewis	Constableville	Constable Hall
Lewis	Lowville	F. Hugh House
Lewis	Talcottville	Edmund Wilson House
Jefferson	Adams	Talcott Falls Site
Oneida	Westernville	William Floyd House
Oneida	Boonville	Boonville Gorge Park
Oneida	Boonville	Dodge Pratt House

Archeological Sites Within the Tug Hill Region

A number of archeological sites have been located, though they are in various stages of evaluation and excavation. These are critically important sites, particularly in terms of the indiginous Indian history of the region. The Commission should promote further studies of these sites and should likewise develop a policy that would strictly limit initial public access to such sites. Once restored, however, the public should be encouraged to visit these important resources.

Historical Sites Listing

Jefferson County

Town

Adams
1. Jefferson County Bank
2. Talcott Falls
3. Julius Sterling Morton House
4. Wheeler Greene Lumber and Woodworking Mill

Champion
1. Jefferson House
2. Noadiah and Hiram Hubbard Homes

Rutland
1. John Felt House

Watertown
1. Losee House
2. Carlos Site

Lewis County

Town

Denmark
1. Freedom Wrights Inn
2. Blodget Tavern
3. Woolschlagur Farm

Lowville
1. Dr. Hough House
2. Hat Factory
3. Eastwick-Foster-Reed House
4. Stephens-Reed House
5. Paul Abott-Knox-Water-Griffith-Fowler House

Leyden
1. Talcott House
2. Caleb Lyon House

Lewis County (Cont.)

Martinsburg
1. General Walter Martin House
2. Old County Clerk's Office

Turin
1. Old Sow Cannon

West Turin
1. Constable Hall

Oswego County

Town

Constantia
1. Kempwyk
2. Frenchman's Island
3. George Scriba House

Hastings
1. Elliot-Birrell House
2 Oliver Stevens' Cabin and Blocksite

Oneida County

Town

Annsville
1. Green Brook Manor
2. Brick Building
3. Railroad Station
4. Brick House
5. Bloomfield House

Ava
1. Lock #33
2. Lansing Kill Dam
3. Sluice Gate (Black River Canal)
4. Lock #35
5. Lock #37

Oneida County (Cont.)

Town

Boonville

1. Black River Canal Locks
2. B.W. Jackson Farm
3. Octagon House
4. Village Green & Bandstand
5. Commercial Block
6. Erwin Library
7. Hulbert House
8. First Baptist Church
9. Village Office
10. Davis House
11. Thanatt House
12 Dodge-Pratt House
13. Masonic Temple
14. Wagoner House
15. Old House
16. Trinity Church
17. Trainer Funeral Home
18. Frame House
19. Tuttle-Hughes House
20. Post House
21. Post-Studor-Hillyer House
22. Babcock House
23. Owens-Draper House
24. Raymond-Marcy House
25. Higby House
26. Cross-Owens-Panella House
27. Dolan House
28. Hurlburt-Taisler House
29. First Presbyterian Church
30. Gothic Revival House
31. Edmund Wilson House
32. Locks 39,40,41,42,43 (Five Combines) (Black River Canal)
33. Lock 48
34. Lock 51
35. Lock 53
36. Lock 55
37. Lock 56
38. Lock 57
39. Lock 61
40 Lock 62
41. Locks 63 and 64
42. Lock 65
43. Lock 66
44. Lock 67
45. Lock 68
46. Lock 69
47. Locks 58,59,60

Oneida County (Cont.)

Town

Camden
1. Greek Revival House
2. Frame House, Harden Farms
3. Frame House, Harden Farms
4. Brick Building
5. Grange, No. 354
6. Commercial Building
7. Commercial Building
8. Main Street Commercial Blocks
9. United Presbyterian Church
10. Trinity Church
11. Frame House
12. Brick House
13. Conant House
14. George House
15. Brick House
16. Fish House
17. Frame House
18. Brick House
19. Cochran-Robinson House
20. Wetmore House
21 Donance-White House
22. Carle House
23. Allen-Brown House
24. Ward Pappa House
25. Kelsey-Kirkland House
26. Methodist Parsonage
27. Town Hall
28. Frame House
29. Brick House
30. Frame House
31. Brick House
32. Stone House

Florence
1. Stone House
2. St. Mary's Church
3. School

Floyd
1. Camroden Golf Clubhouse
2. Presbyterian Church
3. Methodist Church

Oneida County (Cont.)

Town

Lee
1. Methodist Church
2. Brick House
3. Tracy House
4. Stone House
5. Schoolhouse
6. Stone and Stucco House
7. Quaker Meetinghouse
8. Street scape, Stopes Corner

Steuben
1. North Steuben Church
2. Steuben Methodist Church
3. Steuben Monument
4. Fuller Grant House
5. Gauthier House
6. Welsh Calvinistic Chapel
7. Starr Hill
8. Site Chapel

Trenton
1. Potter-Doolittle House
2. Thomas House
3. Hoff House
4. Octagon Barn
5. Bagg House
6. Kennedy House
7. Garrett-Shanby House
8. Union Church
9. Brick House
10. Community Hall
11. Italianate Frame House
12. Rowland-Disque House
13. Fear-Hall House and Barns
14. Corber Barn
15. Stone House
16. Stone Schoolhouse
17. Shimel House
18. Mappa Hall
19. Skinner House
20. Methodist Church
21. St. David's Episcopal Church
22. Hinge House
23. Agen House
24. Former Schoolhouse
25. Craeg Manor Farm
26. Unitarian Church
27. Octagon House

Oneida County (Cont.)

Town

Trenton (Cont.)
28. Library
29. International Order of Odd Fellows
30. Guiteau House
31. Van der Kemp House
32. Unity Hall
33. Wicks-Martin Octagonal House
34. Oseteadague
35. Howard McIntosh House
36. Barnstead
37. Trenton Historic District

Vienna
1. Carey House
2. Stone Barn
3. United Church of Christ
4. Railroad Station
5. Frame Building
6. Cobblestone Building
7. Frame House
8. Commercial Building

Western
1. Shallenberg Barn
2. General Floyd House
3. Max Olney House
4. Frank Floyd House
5. Presbyterian Church
6. Frame House
7. Methodist Church
8. Town Hall
9. Frame House
10. No. 9234
11. No. 9232
12. Paomalac House
13. Baptist Church (Clyde Weismuller House)
14. George H. Olney Sr. House
15. Elizabeth Floyd House
16. General William Floyd House
17. Board and Batton House
18. Stone Wall
19. House (unnamed)
20. White Farm
21. Lime Kiln Archeological Site
22. Methodist Church
23. Old Grist Mill and Dam
24. Beckwith Homestead

Historical Markers

Jefferson County*

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road

* There are no historical markers within the Tug Hill Study Region for Jefferson County

Historical Markers

Lewis County

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Freedom Wright's Inn Meeting held here in 1804 resulted in formation of Jefferson and Lewis Counties in 1805	Denmark	A	On NYS 26, Vlge. of Denmark
Mohawk River - The historic Mohawk River rises one-half mile to the northeast and flows under this bridge	Lewis	A	On east side of NYS 26 in village of West Leyden
Black River Canal The piers supporting this viaduct once carried the waters of the Black River Canal across Sugar River. Canal was in use to 1915	Leyden	A	On NYS 12 near the Lewis-Oneida County line
Greystone Manor - Erected 1803-1805, home of General Walter Martin, industrial, religious, civic and educational leader in Lewis County	Martinsburg	A	On west side of NYS 12D in village of Martinsburg
Hough's Cave - Hiding place of runaway slaves before the Civil War and station on the underground railway to Canada	Martinsburg	B	On NYS 12D & NYS 26 about 1 mile south of Martinsburg
Black River Canal Here had its northern terminus 35 miles from its beginning at Rome and here joined the Black River - Navigable to Carthage	West Turin	A	On village street at canal bank in Lyons Falls

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Constable Hall - 1819 English Manor Type. Built by William Constable, son of Wm. Constable who opened large tracts for settlements	West Turin	B	On west side of NYS 26 on W. Main St., Constableville
Constable Hall - 1819 English Manor Type. Built by William Constable, son of Wm. Constable who opened large tracts for settlements	West Turin	C	On Church St. in village of Constableville at entrance to Constable Hall

Historical Markers

Oneida County

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Old French Road - Built by French Colonists, 1790 on way to settle Castorland; first road to North Country, following an an Iroquois War Trail	Boonville	A	On NYS 12, 1 mile S.E. of Boonville
First Presbyterian Church Society organized 1805 Present edifice built 1855-1856 Re-dedication 1955	Boonville	B	So. side James St., Boonville
Post House, 1817 First used as a school later bought with large tract of land by John G. Post passed from family in 1905	Boonville	C	So. side of Post St., Boonville
Boonville - Settled 1795 Named for Gerrit Boon, native of Leyden, Holland, agent of Holland Land Co.; town formed 1805; village incorporated 1855	Boonville	D	On NYS 12-D in Boonville
Black River Canal Site of lock 71, summit level; 710 feet above Rome; from here water flowed north to St. Lawrence, south to Mohawk	Boonville	E	On NYS 12 in Boonville
Black River Canal - Site of the once famous five combines - world's record for number of canal locks; Canal has 109 locks in 35 miles of waterway	Boonville	F	NYS 46 at entrance to Pixle Falls Park

Historical Markers Oneida County (Cont.)

Name and Description	Location	Map Code	Location by Road
Floyd - March 4th 1796 Named in honor of William Floyd, 1734-1821 A signer of the Declaration of Independence	Floyd	A	NYS 46 in Floyd
Welsh Immigrants Beginning 1795 cleared and settled greater part of Steuben Grant. Built first church here 1804	Steuben	A	Co. rd., ½ mi. w. of Remsen
300 feet west - site of home Robert Everett (1791-1875) Anti-slavery reformer minister Chapel Ucha 37 years editor "Cenhadwr" (Welsh) 35 years	Steuben	B	Co. Rd. 1 mi. w. of Remsen
Ebenezer Weeks settled here 1791 Buried in adjoining meadow Built bake oven and did coopering for Baron Steuben	Steuben	C	Co.rd., ½ mi. W. of Remsen
This park was created in memory of Friedrich Wilhelm Baron Steuben, Major General in the War for Independence	Steuben	D	At Baron Steuben Memorial
Steuben State Memorial Park dedicated September 12, 1931 by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor of New York State	Steuben	E	At Baron Steuben Memorial
Baron Steuben Inspector General of Army Major General in revolution Citizen of United States and New York State	Steuben	F	At Baron Steuben Memorial

Historical Markers Oneida County (Cont.)

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Town of Steuben - Formed April 10, 1792, named in honor of Baron Steuben Originally extended to north bounds of the state	Steuben	O	NYS 46-A in Steuben
2 miles Tomb of Baron Steuben in State Memorial Park	Steuben	P	Co. rd. from Steuben & Remsen
Samuel Sizer - First settler on Steuben Grant, 1787. Farm manager for Baron Steuben Burial place in meadow 80 rods north of this marker	Steuben	Q	Co. rd., 2 mi. E. of Steube
Saw-mill of Baron Steuben built in 1790 near this spot Remains of dam visible	Steuben	R	Nr. creek, No. of Fuller Rd
Burial place of Samuel Sizer, Abigail Sizer, Asa Sizer, and Abigail Tyler Mitchell, the mother of Abigail Sizer	Steuben	S	In field ¼ mi. N. of Co. rd 2 miles E. of Steuben
Capel Isaf or Second Baptist Church once located here Cared for the grave of Baron Steuben for ninety-five years (1804-1899)	Steuben	T	Co. rd., 1 mi. W. of Remsen
Fuller Farm - Acquired 1793 from Baron Steuben by Capt. Simeon Fuller B. 1761 - D. 1852. Held by him and his descendants to the present day	Steuben	U	Co. rd., 1 mil. W. of Remse

Historical Markers Oneida County (Cont.)

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Capt Simein Woodruff circum-navigated the globe with Capt. Cook. Leased this farm May 26, 1791 from Baron Steuben - Buried Capel Ucha Cemetery	Steuben	V	Co. rd., ½ mi. W. of Remsen
Trenton - Oneida County March 24, 1797 Formed from the Town of Schuyler. Herkimer County	Trenton	A	NYS 12 in Barneveld
Cincinnati Creek - named by Baron Steuben to commemorate the Society of the Cincinnati which he helped to found in 1783	Trenton	B	NYS 28, 2 miles S.E. of Trenton
---			
11 miles - Tomb of Baron Steuben in State Memorial Park near Remsen	Western	A	NYS 46 & 46-A in Frenchville
Western Oneida County March 10, 1797 - formed from the Town of Steuben	Western	B	NYS 46 near school in Westernville

Historical Markers Oneida County (Cont.)

Name and Description	Location	Map Code	Location by Road
Floyd - March 4th 1796 Named in honor of William Floyd, 1734-1821 A signer of the Declaration of Independence	Floyd	A	NYS 46 in Floyd
Welsh Immigrants Beginning 1795 cleared and settled greater part of Steuben Grant. Built first church here 1804	Steuben	A	Co. rd., ½ mi. w. of Remser
300 feet west - site of home Robert Everett (1791-1875) Anti-slavery reformer minister Chapel Ucha 37 years editor "Cenhadwr" (Welsh) 35 years	Steuben	B	Co. Rd. 1 mi. w. of Remsen
Ebenezer Weeks settled here 1791. Buried in adjoining meadow Built bake oven and did coopering for Baron Steuben	Steuben	C	Co.rd., ½ mi. W. of Remsen
This park was created in memory of Friedrich Wilhelm Baron Steuben, Major General in the War for Independence	Steuben	D	At Baron Steuben Memorial
Steuben State Memorial Park dedicated September 12, 1931 by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor of New York State	Steuben	E	At Baron Steuben Memorial
Baron Steuben Inspector General of Army Major General in revolution Citizen of United States and New York State	Steuben	F	At Baron Steuben Memorial

Historical Markings (Oswego County Cont.)

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Over this water route St. Leger's army passed to invade Ft. Stanwix July 29, 1777	Hastings	D	On US 11 at Brewerton
A few rods south Oliver Stevens 1st settler in Brewerton erected a block-house 1794	Hastings	E	On US 11 at Brewerton
First settler near this spot Myron Stevens made first settlement in Caughdenoy 1797	Hastings	F	On county road at Caughdenoy
Indian Fishery T'Kah-Koon-Goon-Da-Nah-Yea was located near this spot 1753	Hastings	G	On county road at Caughdenoy
Captain Nathan Sage of Conn. made the first settlement in town of Redfield nearby about 1795	Redfield	A	On county road at Redfield
Jerome I. Case 1819-1891 Born near here, pioneer builder of power farm machinery	Williamstown	A	On NYS 13 at Williamstown

Historical Markers

Lewis County

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Freedom Wright's Inn Meeting held here in 1804 resulted in formation of Jefferson and Lewis Counties in 1805	Denmark	A	On NYS 26, Vlge. of Denmark
Mohawk River - The historic Mohawk River rises one-half mile to the northeast and flows under this bridge	Lewis	A	On east side of NYS 26 in village of West Leyden
Black River Canal The piers supporting this viaduct once carried the waters of the Black River Canal across Sugar River. Canal was in use to 1915	Leyden	A	On NYS 12 near the Lewis-Oneida County line
Greystone Manor - Erected 1803-1805, home of General Walter Martin, industrial, religious, civic and educational leader in Lewis County	Martinsburg	A	On west side of NYS 12D in village of Martinsburg
Hough's Cave - Hiding place of runaway slaves before the Civil War and station on the underground railway to Canada	Martinsburg	B	On NYS 12D & NYS 26 about 1 mile south of Martinsburg
Black River Canal Here had its northern terminus 35 miles from its beginning at Rome and here joined the Black River - Navigable to Carthage	West Turin	A	On village street at canal bank in Lyons Falls

Historical Markers

Oswego County

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
First settler near this spot Christopher Martin made first settlement in Cleveland 1821	Constantia	A	On NYS 49 at Cleveland
Kempwyk - Home of Francis Adrian Van Der Kamp 1793	Constantia	B	On NYS 49 about 1 mile west of Cleveland
First settler near this spot John Bernhard made first settlement in Bernhard's Bay 1795	Constantia	C	On NYS 49 at Bernhard's Bay
Franchman's Island Campsite of Van Schaick's Expedition on return from attack on Onodaga April 22, 1779	Constantia	D	On NYS 49 about ½ mile east of Constantia
Trinity Episcopal Church Erected 1831, 24 acres and building donated by Frederick W. Scriba	Constantia	E	On NYS 49 at Constantia
Fort Brewerton-Original earthwork at fort erected by British in 1759	Hastings	A	On US 11 at Brewerton
First settler near this spot Oliver Stevens made first settlement in Brewerton and Oswego County. 1789	Hastings	B	On US 11 at Brewerton
Near this spot Samuel De Champlain on October 8, 1616 crossed the river and discovered Oneida Lake	Hastings	C	On US 11 at Brewerton

Historical Markings (Oswego County Cont.)

Name and Description	Location (Town)	Map Code	Location by Road
Over this water route St. Leger's army passed to invade Ft. Stanwix July 29, 1777	Hastings	D	On US 11 at Brewerton
A few rods south Oliver Stevens 1st settler in Brewerton erected a block-house 1794	Hastings	E	On US 11 at Brewerton
First settler near this spot Myron Stevens made first settlement in Caughdenoy 1797	Hastings	F	On county road at Caughdenoy
Indian Fishery T'Kah-Koon-Goon-Da-Nah-Yea was located near this spot 1753	Hastings	G	On county road at Caughdenoy
Captain Nathan Sage of Conn. made the first settlement in town of Redfield nearby about 1795	Redfield	A	On county road at Redfield
Jerome I. Case 1819-1891 Born near here, pioneer builder of power farm machinery	Williamstown	A	On NYS 13 at Williamstown

Recommendations of this Report

1. That the Commission, together with other interested parties, develop a grant proposal to the New York State Council on the Arts to secure funding of a major architectural/design study and analysis of the historical and cultural resources of the region.

2. Once completed such a study should be developed into book form thus giving the Tug Hill region a resource similar in scope to the volume Our North Country Heritage which was developed for the Clinton and Essex counties area in northeastern New York. Other such studies exist, including one for Onondaga County (written by Prof. Paul Malo of the School of Architecture at Syracuse University) and it too can serve as a model for such studies.

3. Such a volume should be promoted widely so as to indicate the "historicity" of the region. This quality could aid substantially in attracting new tourists and recreationists into the area and in broadening certain economic opportunities related to these resources.

4. With the nation's bicentennial coming up, efforts should be made to coordinate various activities within Tug Hill with the State Bicentennial Commission. While it would be incorrect to suggest that the Tug Hill area and its people played a truly significant role in the Revolutionary Era, it would be as equally incorrect to suggest that the area and its inhabitants played no role at all. Hence, the Commission should stimulate some thought on the Tug Hill experience during the Revolutionary Era, especially in the southern areas of the study area.

5. In those cases where particular towns have a significant number of historical/cultural resources, the Commission should make an effort to develop "walking" and "riding" tours of these resources. A community like Camden, for instance, might well establish such a tour and a "tour guide" which could aid people visiting the area as well as other Tug Hill people. Such guides might be made available at strategic points within the town, perhaps at service stations, which serve this clientele.

6. In the case of a particular resource which has been judged to be in poor condition, or whose grounds and environs are also in poor condition, local and regional efforts should be directed toward the rehabilitation and renewal of what could become potentially important resources.

7. Though only a few sites of a unique archeological nature and significance have been located with the study area, there is a high probability that many more exist. The Commission should, where possible and feasible, promote high quality "digs" and investigations. It is imperative at this time that the Commission, together with specialists in the field, develop a policy to strictly limit initial public access to these sites until such time as public use becomes more practical.

8. The Commission should attempt to develop a monthly calendar of events and sites within the region. This might be tied with other efforts at regional tourism development and coordination. It appears at this time that such a service must be centralized so that a "clearinghouse" atmosphere and service might be developed.