

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Godfrey Shew House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1632 South Shore Road (County Route 110) [] not for publication

city or town Fish House [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Fulton code 035 zip code 12025

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Commissioner 5/26/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [] entered in the National Register [] see continuation sheet
- [] determined eligible for the National Register [] see continuation sheet
- [] determined not eligible for the National Register

[] removed from the National Register

[] other (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

Godfrey Shew House

Fish House, Fulton Co, NY

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Non-contributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3		TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/residence

DOMESTIC/residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT/METAL
other

Narrative Description (See continuation sheet)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection 7 Page 1Godfrey Shew House
Name of Property
Fish House, Fulton Co. NY
County and State**Description**

The Godfrey Shew House is located on South Shore Road in the hamlet of Fish House (town of Northampton), Fulton County. The nominated property consists of a 7.8-acre parcel situated on the east side of South Shore Road (Fulton County Route 110). The house is located on high ground east of the road, situated with its principal front facing west. Landscaping consists of large, mature shade trees surrounding the house, with access provided by a gravel drive. The nominated property occupies a ridge overlooking the Great Sacandaga Lake immediately west of the road. The main residence (1784), a frame carriage barn built circa 1885 and a small frame privy are the only historic built features on the current parcel.

The Godfrey Shew House is a two story, timber framed, gable roofed residence, five bays long by two bays wide. In plan, the building consists of a rectangular main block with two shed roofed rear wings. (A one-story wing runs parallel to the main block, intersecting at right angles a 1 1/2-story wing perpendicular to the main block.) The timber frame rests upon a stone foundation. The entire building is sheathed in narrow clapboard siding. A one story, hip roofed entrance porch supported by four Tuscan columns shelters the front door. A simple wood cornice articulates the roofline. The center entrance consists of a six-panel, Federal door flanked by sidelights. Fenestration generally is regular and symmetrical, with openings containing 6/6, double hung wood sash. Interior end chimneys are located at the north and south gable ends of the main block. A large square brick chimney in the rear wing served the original kitchen. A secondary (rear) entrance is located in a rear wing originally built as a woodshed with hired man's quarters above.

The Shew House is organized around a center-hall plan. A staircase with molded square newel and turned balusters is located on the north side of the center hall, rising toward the rear of the main block. A pair of formal parlors flanks the hall at the first-floor level. The parlors and hall retain simple molded, vernacular Federal baseboards and architraves around doors and windows. The hall and parlors retain original wide plank floors. The second-story plan consists of two bedrooms flanking each side of the hall. The bedrooms also exhibit simple vernacular moldings, baseboards and plank floors.

The attached (southern) wing projecting from the rear (east) wall of the main block contains the original kitchen. The large cooking hearth, oven and surrounding wood mantel remain in place. A modern kitchen has been installed in the adjacent shed wing along the east wall.

A contributing 2 1/2-story, wood frame carriage barn is located a short distance northeast of the Shew House. Built circa 1885, the barn exhibits a steeply pitched gable roof, novelty wood siding, wagon bay with sliding doors and second-floor hoisting bay. A contributing small privy stands immediately south of the carriage barn.

Godfrey Shew House

Name of Property

Fish House, Fulton Co., 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 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
[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 boxes that apply.)

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Clarkson, Elisabeth Hudnut. An Adirondack Archive: The Trail to Windover. Utica, NY, 1993.
Hart, Larry. The Sacandaga Story: A Valley of Yesteryear. Schenectady, NY, 1967.
Simms, Jephtha. The Frontiersmen of New York. 2 Vols. Albany, NY, 1883.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by historic American Building Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

ca. 1784-1885

Significant Dates:

1784

Significant Person:

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

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Continuation SheetSection 8 Page 1Godfrey Shew House
Name of Property
Fish House, Fulton Co. NY
County and State**Statement of Significance**

The Godfrey Shew House is historically and architecturally significant under Criteria A and C. Originally constructed in 1784 as a heavy timber framed farmhouse, the nominated Federal period residence exhibits vernacular features associated with regional building practice in the Sacandaga area. The Shew House retains substantial integrity of design and materials that reflect its evolution as a farmhouse from the late eighteenth to the late nineteenth centuries. The building is an intact, representative example of the residential architecture characteristic of the period of post-Revolutionary settlement and is the oldest house in the town of Northampton. The significance of the Shew family in the settlement and early development of Fish House as a community predates the Revolutionary War.

The region bordering the Sacandaga River was a sparsely settled frontier of Tryon County during much of the eighteenth century. The first settlement in the present town of Northampton occurred about 1762, when Sir William Johnson built a rustic cabin on the Sacandaga River near the mouth of Vlaie Creek as a retreat for his annual summer fishing expeditions. During the late 1760s, Sir William Johnson had turned his attention to developing a manorial working estate at Johnstown to increase the value of his Mohawk Valley holdings. He recruited Scots and German immigrant families as settlers; among these was Godfrey Shew.

Born Gottfried Shoe in Germany, Godfrey Shew immigrated to America in 1730. He first settled in Pennsylvania and saw service in the French and Indian War. Shew re-located with his wife and sons to Johnstown and the baronial estate of Sir William Johnson. Johnson persuaded the Shew family to settle at "Fish House" on the Sacandaga; by 1772, they had erected a cabin on a farm of 100 acres. With the coming of the American Revolution, the Shews embraced the Patriot cause. Their property lay in the path of raids by British Loyalists and Indian allies, who used the Sacandaga River as a favorite route to the Mohawk Valley settlements. On June 3, 1778, raiders burned the Shew cabin and farm buildings, killed the livestock and took captive Godfrey Shew and three of his sons. The Shews were driven as prisoners to Quebec, where they remained as captives until taken to Boston and redeemed in early 1779. Following their release, the former captives fought for the Patriot cause in 1780-1782. After the war, Godfrey and son Jacob Shew returned to rebuild their home on the Sacandaga.

The house erected by Godfrey Shew and his sons in 1784 was the first permanent dwelling constructed in the area after the war; it is significant as the earliest extant building in the town of Northampton. Sited on a ridge overlooking the Sacandaga Valley, the nominated building exhibits simple design and decorative elements characteristic of vernacular building practice in the region during the Federal period. The heavy timber framing, plank floors and fieldstone basement of the nominated property reflect the construction techniques of the Federal period farmhouse, a rare extant building type in the region. The Shew House incorporates vernacular forms and finishes characteristic of a substantial farmhouse of the post-Revolutionary settlement period and is an important early example of its type, period and method of construction.

Godfrey Shew died in 1804. His remains and those of his wife are buried at an unknown, unmarked location on the nominated property. The property had passed out of Shew family ownership by the early 1850s. A series of subsequent owners continued to operate the farm associated with the Shew homestead into the early twentieth century. The extant, contributing carriage barn erected circa 1885 reflects the continued evolution of the Shew property in later years. Situated on a portion of its historic farm parcel, the Godfrey Shew House is a rare surviving example of settlement period architecture that has been designated a local historic landmark by the town of Northumberland.

Radical change came to the Sacandaga Valley during the 1930s. Petitioned by communities affected by severe annual flooding, the State of New York established the Hudson River Regulating District in 1922. The regulatory board adopted an ambitious plan to control the flow of the Hudson's tributaries. The keystone of this plan was a vast, man-made storage reservoir, the Great Sacandaga Lake, created by impoundment of the Sacandaga River at Conklingville dam. Completed in 1930, the lake inundated many former Sacandaga River communities, including much of Fish House. Sited on a ridge above the flood zone, the Shew House is significant as one of few surviving buildings from the historic lost settlement of Fish House.

NPS Form 10-900a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Godfrey Shew House
Name of Property
Fish House, Fulton Co. NY
County and State

Photo Key:

All Photographs:

Godfrey Shew House
Fish House, Saratoga Co. New York
R. Smith, 2005
Negatives @ NYSHPO, Waterford, NY

Photo 1: Principal (North) elevation, view SE;

Photo 2: East (L.) and North elevations, view S;

Photo 3: South elevation, view N;

Photo 4: Contributing outbuildings: carriage barn and privy, view E.

Godfrey Shew House
Name of Property

Fish House, Fulton Co. NY
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.8 acres

Edinburg quad.

UTM References

1	<u>18</u>	<u>571259</u>	<u>4777240</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>571258</u>	<u>4776916</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>571298</u>	<u>4776927</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>571173</u>	<u>4777200</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all that parcel lying within the boundaries delineated on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic building and its current parcel as delineated on the enclosed tax map.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Raymond W. Smith, Program Analyst
organization New York State Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation date May, 2006
street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

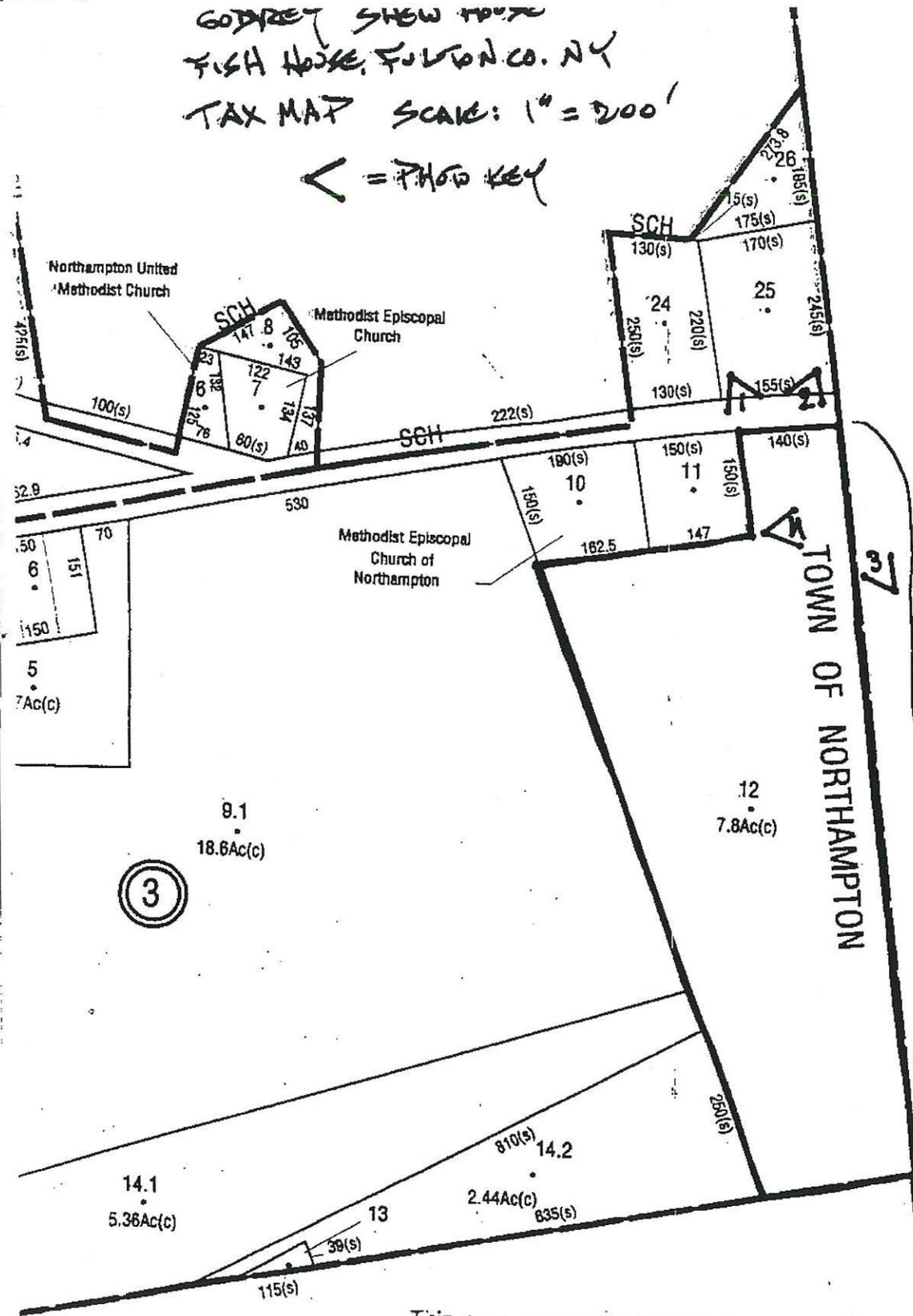
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

GODFREY SHEW TAX
FISH HOUSE, FULTON CO. NY
TAX MAP SCALE: 1" = 200'

< = PHOTO KEY



3

This copy represents the M.N.C. certified Property Tax Map and is a reproduction of the existing original local Property Tax Map of Fulton Co. N.Y. July 1980

76.3

March 11, 2006

Dear Ruth Peirpont and Raymond Smith,

I am most pleased with the notification that our home, The Godfrey Shew House, is being considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

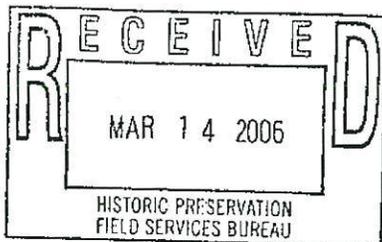
As I have communicated with your agency before that I am in full agreement with this historic nomination and would be thrilled to have our house officially appointed. My family and I truly believe that historic places ought to be preserved for future generations to come and enjoy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any more information. Again, thank you for your consideration of The Shew House.

Sincerely,

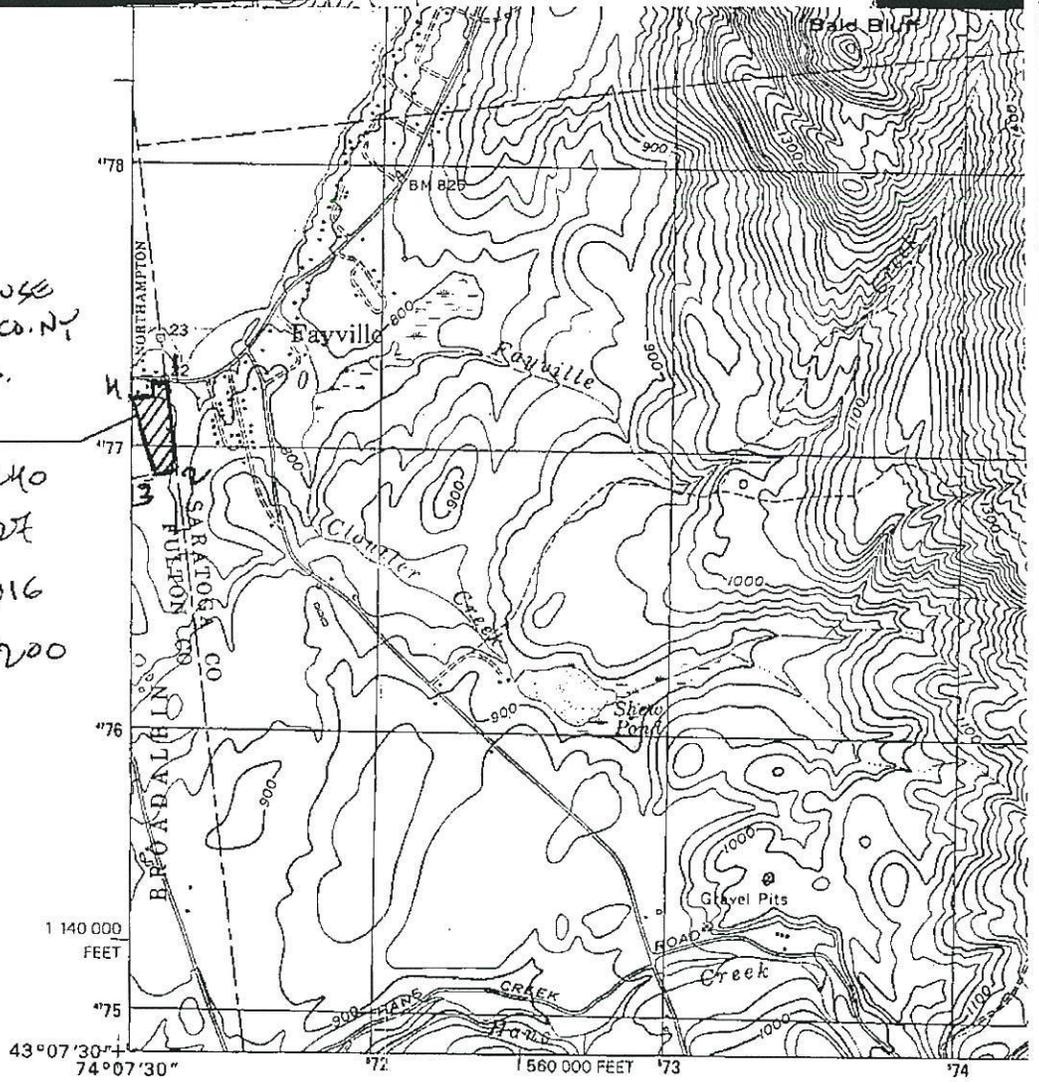
Megan Floyd

Megan Floyd
Home Owner
of the Godfrey Shew House



GOTFREY SHED HOUSE
FISH HOUSE, FULTON CO. NY
EDINBURG QUAD.

- 18/571259/4777240
- ① 571298/4776927
- ③ 571258/4776916
- ④ 571173/4777200



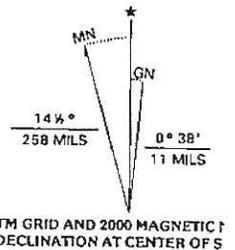
Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Derived from imagery taken 1969 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1970
Boundaries revised 2000

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: New York coordinate system, east zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



UTM GRID AND 2000 MAGNETIC DECLINATION AT CENTER OF S

