

MIDDLETOWN AREA: PARCEL I

HISTORIC AND NATURAL DISTRICT INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO.
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.



YOUR NAME: Larson Fisher Associates

DATE: September 2006 (updated 2014)

YOUR ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1394 Woodstock NY 12498

TELEPHONE: 845-679-5054

ORGANIZATION (if any): for Town & Village of New Paltz Historic Preservation Commissions

IDENTIFICATION

1. **NAME OF DISTRICT:** Jonas Freer Farm, 100 Shivertown Road

2. **COUNTY:** Ulster **TOWN/CITY:** New Paltz **VILLAGE:** Middletown

3. **DESCRIPTION:**

This resource contains the following parcel and components.

In the Town of New Paltz:

Parcel No.	Address	Acreage	Components
78.20-3-63.1	100 Shivertown Road	7.70	House, garage, pond, woods
78.20-3-63.2	Shivertown Road	60.00	woods

The Jonas Freer Farm contains 67.70 acres; it is bounded on the north by Shivertown Road and on the east by North Putt Corners Road. The stone house appears to have been constructed in the 1790s as an addition to an earlier log dwelling; the log building no longer exists. The stone house faces south. A two car garage is located southwest of the house, facing north, and a pond is due east.

The property is essentially intact to its original dimensions as the eastern half of Lot No. 8 in the Southern Division of the Third Tier of 24 lots in the Division of Lands east of the Paltz River in 1760. Lot No. 8 was conveyed to Hugo Freer, Jr.

4. **SIGNIFICANCE:**

Jonas Freer was the grandson of Hugo Freer, one of the twelve New Paltz patentees. His father, also named Jonas, lived at "Klyne Bonticoe," near Springtown, on land later owned by John Beaver. [LeFevre, 361] Jonas Freer, Jr. was living in the vicinity on this farm when his father willed him the entire Lot No. 8 in the Southern Division First Tier in 1775. He built a stone house at the eastern end, and later gave his son, Elias Freer (1779-1847), a farm on the western end (See Middletown Area: Parcel A).

The Jonas Freer Farm was owned by the same family from the time it was built until the early 1900s. The occupants of the house were Jonas Freer, his son, Elias, and Elias's son Stephen. Stephen was

Jonas Freer Farm
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listed as the owner of the property up until the 1880 U.S. Census. "S. Freer" showed up on the 1853, 1858 and 1875 maps of New Paltz as the farm's owner.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1760 Map of Land Divisions East of the Paltz River
Part of Lot No. 8, Southern Division, First Tier
Parcel conveyed to heirs of Hugo Freer, Jr.
- 1775 Jonas Freer, father of Elias Freer, was given Lot No. 8 by his father, also named Jonas.
[LeFevre, 361]
- 1779 Elias Freer was born in his father's house on Lot No. 8.

"Jonas (2) left four sons: Elias, Simeon, Joshua and Jonathan, Jr. He also left three daughters that married becoming the wives of Philip Schoonmaker, Abm.P. Schoonmaker and Archa P. VanWagenen." [LeFevre, 363] Jonas Freer married Magdalena Bevier.
- 1790 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Jonas Freer
1 free white male 16 years of age and over
5 free white males under 16
5 free white females
0 slaves
- 1798 New Paltz Tax Assessment
Freer Jonas, owner and occupant
House and 2 acres located "1½ mile North east from Paltz town"
Log section 24x18 (old); stone section 24x15 (new); value of \$175
1 Dutch barn 40x40 ft.
122 acres 88 perches in Lot No. 8 first tier to the South, \$976
- 1800 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Jonas Freer
1 free white male 10-16
3 free white males 16-26 (includes son Elias)
1 free white male 45+ (Jonas)
1 free white female <10
1 free white female 10-16
1 free white female 16-26
1 free white female 45+

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1810 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

Jonas Freer

1 free white male 10-16

2 free white males 16-26

1 free white male 45+

1 free white female 16-26

1 free white female 45+

0 slaves

Elias Freer

3 free white males <10 (includes sons Peter and Stephen)

1 free white male 26-45 (Elias)

1 free white female (wife Catherine)

Jonas and Elias had established separate farms and dwellings. (Elias was married in 1808.)

1840 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

Elias Freer

1 free white male 10-15

1 free white male 15-20

1 free white male 20-30

1 free white male 60-70

1 free white female <5

1 free white female 5-10

2 free white females 10-15

1 free white female 40-50

1850 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

Dwelling #1045 / Household #1101

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Real Estate Value</u>
Catherine Freer	65		\$6,000
Peter Freer	31	Farmer	
Eliza A. Freer	25		
Nathan Freer	23		
Amanda C. Freer	14		
Egbert Albertson	12		

Dwelling # 926 / Household #980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Real Estate Value</u>
Stephen Freer	28	Farmer	none listed
Mariah Freer	27		
Gertrude Freer	6		

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Cate A. Freer	4	
Ira Terpenning	15	Laborer

Elias Freer's widow, Catherine, and her unmarried children would have retained possession of the family homestead. Stephen Freer and his new family likely had taken over Abraham P. Schoonmaker's house, who had died by this time.

1853 "S. Freer" on map

1858 "S. Freer" on map

1860 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Dwelling #163 / Household #171

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Real/Personal Value</u>
P.W.A Freer	40	Farmer	\$3,000/\$600
Cath	75		
Cath A.	14		
James L. Hess	14		

Dwelling # 199 / Household # 204

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Real/Personal Value</u>
Stephen Freer	35	Farmer	\$2,000/\$500
Mariah	36		
Gertrude M	16		
Elizabeth E	7		
Frances J	5		
Stephen D	3		
Frank Johnson	15 B		

The low real estate values apparently reflect the brothers' shares in the farm. An exchange of residences may have occurred by this point, since Stephen's household was growing. However, Steven held a smaller share of the real estate value, which would suggest he was living in the lesser place. Nevertheless, a 1874 newspaper entry stated that the wood frame house and 50-acre farm belonged to Peter W.A. Freer. Their mother, Catherine, was still alive in 1860 and living with Peter.

1865 Peter W.A. Freer married Sarah Stokes and moved to the village. [LeFevre 361]

1872 New Paltz Tax Rolls: Stephen Freer, 128 acres, totaling \$2,445 (from the tax rolls at the Huguenot Historical Society)

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1874 17 Dec 1874 NPI

Mrs. John J. Hood has purchased of Stephen Freer the farm belonging to Peter W.A. Freer about 3 miles north of the village – 50 acres for \$4000.

1875 “S. Freer” on Beers Atlas

1 JULY 1875, NPT

“Our “Shivertown” neighbors have lately been making some improvements – Stephen Freer has repaired his dwelling house and out-buildings...”

1880 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

NAME	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Nativity
94/95				
Stephen Freer		58	Farmer	New York
Mariah Freer	Wife	57		New York
Anderson Eeager		30		New York
Frances J. Freer	Daughter	24	At home	New York

1941 23 OCTOBER 1941, NPI

“Richard and Katherine Ricciardelli of Hackensack, NJ, have sold their summer residence three miles northeast of New Paltz to Benjamin J. Lawrence of New York City, who plans to make extensive alterations and improvements including a swimming pool. The house is an old Colonial stone house, with its original beams.”

5. SOURCES:

Commemorative Biographical Record of Ulster County, New York, Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co., 1896.

Harp, Peter. Horse and Buggy Days. New Paltz: by the author, 1994.

HeritageQuest.com. on-line digital editions of U.S. Census and genealogical source material.

Kingston, NY, Ulster County Clerks office. Deed Records and map collection.

LeFevre, Ralph. History of New Paltz, New York and its Old Families, from 1678 to 1820. (1903; rpt. Bowie MD: Heritage Books, 1992.

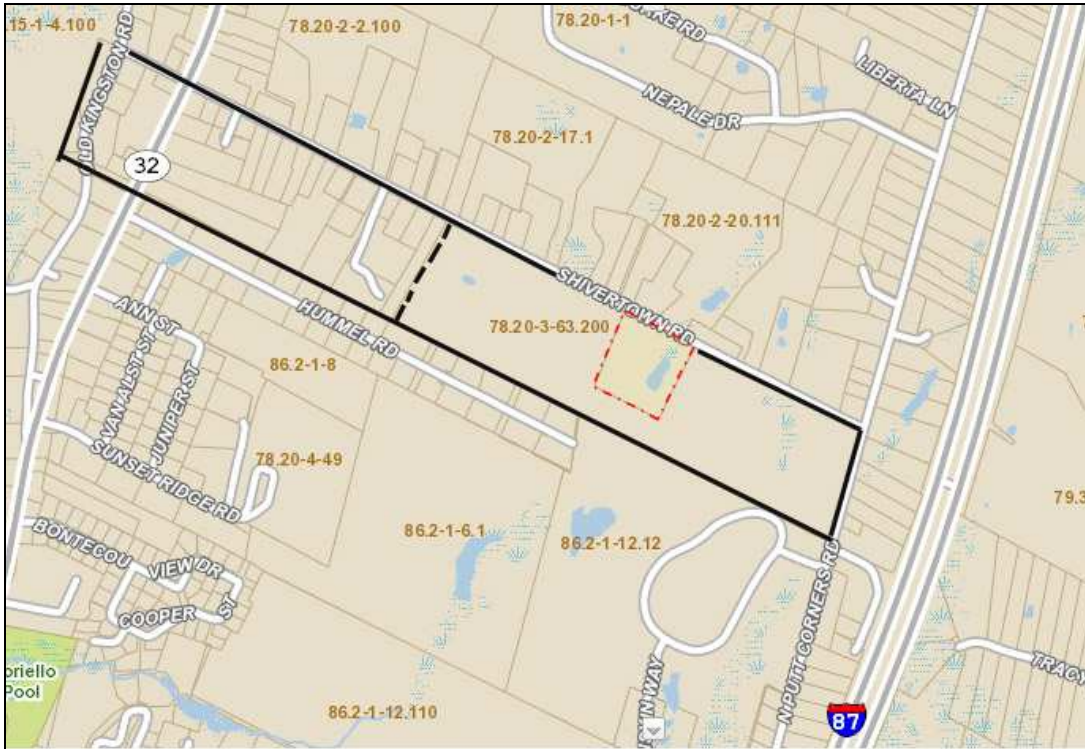
New Paltz NY. Elting Memorial Library. Haviland-Heidgerd Historical Collection. “House Books,” obituary and marriage records, NYS census schedules, vertical and photograph files.

_____. Huguenot Historical Society Archives, Town Records Collection. Manuscript assessment lists for 1798 U.S. Direct Tax, town tax lists.

Sylvester, Nathaniel B. History of Ulster County, New York. Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1880.

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6. MAPS:



Parcel map with outline of farm lot outlined. The dotted line indicates where the lot was divided between Jonas Freer and his brother, with Jonas house and land intact on the east side. The house is located within the smaller red-outlined parcel.



Aerial view of farm parcel & house lot

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7. PHOTOS:



View of house from southwest



View of house from north

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View of garage from north.



Lane entering property from north.