

WALLKILL SOUTH END AREA: PARCEL A

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 Sept. 2014)

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

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

IDENTIFICATION

1. **NAME OF DISTRICT:** The Locusts, 160 Plains Road

2. **COUNTY:** Ulster **TOWN/CITY:** New Paltz **VILLAGE:** Route 208 South

3. **DESCRIPTION:**

This resource contains the following parcels and components.

In the Town of New Paltz:

Map ID#	Parcel No.	Address	Acreage	Components
1	86.14-1-23	160 Plains Road	12.00	House (1826), woods, shed, servant's quarters (?)
2	86.14-2-12.10	177 Route 208	12.00	House, woods
3	86.14-2-29	1 Jansen Road	8.80	Mill site, nursing home

The property contains 12 wooded acres with the main house, a smaller stone house and a shed. There is a sharp drop in elevation to the east of the main house and just behind the smaller stone house on the property. This elevation change is due to the stream that runs through the property. The driveway is lined by large old locust trees. The two-story, five bay, main house is constructed of brick and stone masonry and has a gable roof. The sills and lintels of the six-over-six double-hung wood windows are brownstone. A large bracketed cornice running along the roof edge was added later, as was the three-bay front piazza with similar bracketed cornice. A one-story stone kitchen wing is attached to the east end; it has a gable roof that extends over the front to create a porch.

Two other small buildings remain on the property. A one-story stone building with a gable entrance and heavy cornice band sits southeast of the main house. The east side of this building is a later addition and drops down the hill to the stream at the back. A shed sits just east of the kitchen wing.

The property was originally part of a tract Roelof Eltinge purchased from the estate of Louis DuBois in 1727. Louis was Roelof's wife, Sarah's brother. Here the Eltinges built a stone dwelling, which burned shortly before the present dwelling was constructed in 1821 by his grandson, Peter Elting. In 1903 LeFevre wrote, "The old barn, still standing on the place, is thought to have been built by Roelif Elting. It

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was rebuilt in 1811... The road from Plattekill to New Paltz was laid out in Noah Eltinge's day." [pp. 484-485] In the 19th century the property included expansive fruit orchards on the east as well as a mill on the pond now located on the east side of NYS Rt. 208.

4. SIGNIFICANCE:

The distinctive stone and brick house long known as "The Locusts" was built by Peter Elting in 1821 to replace the stone homestead his grandfather, Roelof Eltinge constructed after buying the land and establishing the farm in 1727. The house, with its associated acreage progressively reduced, has remained in the family's possession to this day.

Roelof Elting came to New Paltz from Kingston in the late 17th century, having married the daughter of Abraham DuBois, one of the original New Paltz Patentees. Reputedly the first non-Huguenot to establish himself in New Paltz, he and his heirs became intricately tied with the fortunes of the DuBois family. Roelof acquired his large farm from his brother-in-law Louis DuBois's estate. Roelof Eltinge's son Noah was born in 1721; he inherited the farm on the Plains. He married his cousin, Jacomyntje Elting, on 16 October 1742. In 1765 Noah Elting paid 49 pounds 5 shillings tax on his real and personal estate, which ranked him among the wealthiest men in the town.

They had one child, a daughter named Sarah, who married Dirck Wynkoop of Kingston, one of the Ulster County delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Poughkeepsie in 1785. (Wynkoop voted against the measure.) With 14 slaves recorded in the 1790 census, Wynkoop appears to have been operating a substantial wheat plantation on the Plains, which was uncharacteristic of the typical New Paltz *bouwerie*. A mill was constructed on the falls of a small creek east of the house. Wheat and flour was likely transported to Newburgh for shipment. The scale and organization of the farm was akin to English plantations in Orange County, such as Cadwallader Colden's 1,000-acre tract in Montgomery. The Coldens controlled the Newburgh waterfront, and Wynkoop was tied socially and economically with them. His daughter, Gertrude, was married to Alexander Colden of Newburgh. Wynkoop was one of the most active money-lenders in the New Paltz community at the end of the 18th century.

The Wynkoop's stone house, measuring 60 x 58 ft. would have been one of the largest in the town. Another of the Wynkoops' daughters, Cornelia, married Peter Elting of Kingston, who was the grandson of Roelof's brother, and they obtained control of the property between 1810 and 1820. The character of the farm changed significantly as slavery declined. In 1820 there were 16 slaves on the Elting farm and nine persons recorded as engaged in agriculture. Ten years later, Peter's household included only three slaves, two of which were over 55 years of age. By this time the local farm economy had shifted from wheat to dairy products. It was also during this decade that the old stone homestead was destroyed by fire and the new, stylish two-story brick and stone house was built from the ruins. A stone outbuilding south of the new house has always been considered by the family to have been slave quarters, and with the large number of slaves that lived on the farm, the story is appropriate. This being the case, the building is a rare and significant relic of New Paltz's African American history.

Peter and Cornelia Elting's son, Edmund, was a prominent figure in the later 19th-century history of New Paltz. He made the transition from farming to banking around 1860 and became the president of the Huguenot National Bank in the village. He established a diversified fruit-growing operation on the farm,

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helping to introduce this innovation to the town's agriculture. His son and namesake managed the farm and continued to operate it following his death and into the 1900s. Ownership of the property eventually passed to his daughter Mary, who had married George W. Bush in the 1870s. The Bush's daughter, Isabella, married Robert Lasher, and the farm, by then greatly reduced in size, has remained in the Lasher family to the present.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1727 Roelof Eltinge purchased a tract of land on "the Paltz Plains" from Solomon and Louis Dubois, which was the place where he established a farm and built a stone house. Solomon and Louis DuBois inherited the land from their father, Louis, one of the 12 New Paltz Patentees; Roelof Eltinge was married to the patentee's sister and thus closely associated with the DuBois family interests in New Paltz.
- 1765 New Paltz Tax List
Noah Elting paid 49 pounds 5 shillings in tax.
- 1790 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Dirck D. Wynkoop
1 free white male 16 and over
3 free white females
14 slaves
- 1798 Town Tax Assessment List
Wynkoop Dirick & Eltinge Peter, occupants and owners, stone house 60x56 ft. with 20x16 ft. annex, "on the road from Goshen to Kingston," in "old" condition, valued at \$680.
Also, 1 Dutch Barn 60 x 50 ft., 2 hay houses 47x27 ft. and 30x18 ft., 1 stone smoke house 12x10 ft., and 1 Blk. Smt. Shop 15x12 ft.
Includes 70 acres joining Philip Deyo and Cornelius Dubois on the Wallkill & Main Road 18 acres of which is bottom (\$1454) and 500 acres of upland join. Philip Deyo & Cornelius Dubois (\$3750)
Also, 13 slaves
- 1800 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Dirck D. Wynkoop
1 free white male under 10
1 free white 16-26
1 free white male 45 and over
2 free white females under 10
1 free white 26-45
1 free white female 45 and over
16 slaves
- 1810 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz
Dirck D. Wynkoop

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2 free white males under 10
1 free white male 26-45
1 free white over 45
2 free white females under 10
2 free white females 10-16
2 free white females 26-45
1 free white female over 45
2 other free persons
10 slaves

1820 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

Peter Elting
2 free white males under 10
1 free white male 10-16
1 free white male 16-18
1 free white male 26-45
1 free white male over 45
1 free white female 10-16
2 free white females 16-26
1 free white female 26-45
1 free white female over 45
9 persons engaged in agriculture
5 male slaves 0-14
2 male slaves 26-45
3 male slaves over 45
2 female slaves 1-14
1 female slave 14-26
2 female slaves 26-45
1 female slave over 45

1821 Approximate year the present house was constructed by Peter and Cornelia Elting, after the old stone homestead was destroyed by fire. Stones for this house were probably salvaged and reused in the stone walls of the new house and its kitchen ell.

1830 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

Peter Elting
1 free white male 10-15
1 free white male 15-20
3 free white males 20-30
1 free white male 50-60
2 free white females 20-30
2 free white females 30-40
1 free white female 50-60
1 free black male 55-100

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1 free black female 10-14
1 free black female 55-100

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

1 free white male 10-15
2 free white males 20-30
1 free white male 30-40
1 free white male 60-70
2 free white females 5-10
1 free white female 10-15
1 free white female 15-20
1 free white female 20-30
1 free white female 30-40
1 free white female 50-60
0 blacks
3 persons engaged in agriculture

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

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	ORIGIN
1074/1109				
Edmund Elting	32	Farmer	16,500	NY
Magdalen D	29			NY
Peter	8			NY
Mary	7			NY
Cate	6			NY
Gertrude	4			NY
Frances	1			NY
Magdalen	4/12			NY
Mary	60			NY
John J (idiot)	28	None	10,000	NY
Jane (idiot)	41		10,000	NY
Jane Hasbrouck	55 B			NY
Isaac Hasbrouck	32 B	Laborer		NY

1858 Ulster County Map: "E. Elting"

1860 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	VALUE	VALUE OF	ORIGIN
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			OF REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL ESTATE	
290/296					
Edmund Elting	42	B. Cashier		500	NY
Magdalen D	40				NY
Peter	18	Clerk			NY
Mary	17				NY
Catherine	16				NY
Gertrude	14				NY
Magdalen	10				NY
Jane	8				NY
Frances	6				NY
Sarah	5				NY
Edmund	3				NY
Mary Lancy	20	Service			Ireland
Isaac DuBois	45 B	Laborer			NY
Mary Elting	70				NY
Catherine Deyo	60				NY
Sarah Deyo	23				NY
John Elting (idiotic)	48		5,000		NY
Jane Elting (idiotic)	50		5,000		NY

1870 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	VALUE OF PERSONAL ESTATE	ORIGIN
367.400					
Eltinge Edmund	52	Banker	20,000	2,500	NY
Magdalen D.B.	50	Keeping House	6,000	3,000	NY
Peter	29	Farmer			NY
Gertrude	24				NY
Maggie	20				NY
Jennie	18				NY
Frankie	16				NY
Sarah	14				NY
Edmund Jr	13				NY
Louise	9				NY
Colden R.	4				NY
John C. (idiotic)	59		8,000		NY
Jane (idiotic)	63		8,000		NY
Lord Mary E	27				NY
Vanderberg Catherine	26				NY
John F	3/12				NY
Nixon Susan	35	Domestic			Ireland
Hasbrouck Isaac	60 B	Farm Laborer			NY

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1874 18 JUNE 1874, NPT

"We have frequently mentioned in this paper that Mr. Edmund Eltinge had a beautiful suburban residence a short distance south of our village. He has, also a fruit farm lying east of said residence containing 75 acres, upon which are at present and in bearing, 2000 grape vines, 2000 currant bushes, 100 pear and 100 apple trees, besides quince and other fruits. This place is for sale on easy terms. It is pleasantly located and the purchaser could easily clear \$2,000 a year from fruit alone. To a man with about \$4,000 in ready money, no better investment could be made."

1875 Ulster County Atlas: "E. Elting"

1875 7 OCTOBER 1875, NPT

"Mr. Edmund Eltinge is improving his "home" on Rural Avenue, by erecting new fences about the yard."

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

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	OCCUPATION	ORIGIN
302/207				
Eltinge Edmund	63	Head	Custom House	NY
Mary	38	Daughter	Boarder	NY
Frances	27	Daughter	At Home	NY
Edmund Jr	23	Son	Fruit Grower	NY
Louise	19	Daughter	At Home	NY
Colden R	14	Son	At School	NY
Bush George W	38	Son-in-law	Boarder	NY
Hasbrouck Isaac	62 B		Farm Laborer	NY
Deyo Mary	35 B		Servant	NY
Bush Henrietta	3	Niece(?)		NY
Frances D	2	Nephew(?)		NY
Rose Jacob	70 B		Farm Laborer	NY
Julia Ann	57 B		Keeping House	NY

1900 U.S. Census, Ulster County, Town of New Paltz

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	OCCUPATION	ORIGIN
169/190				
Elting Edmund	43	Head	Farmer (rents)	NY

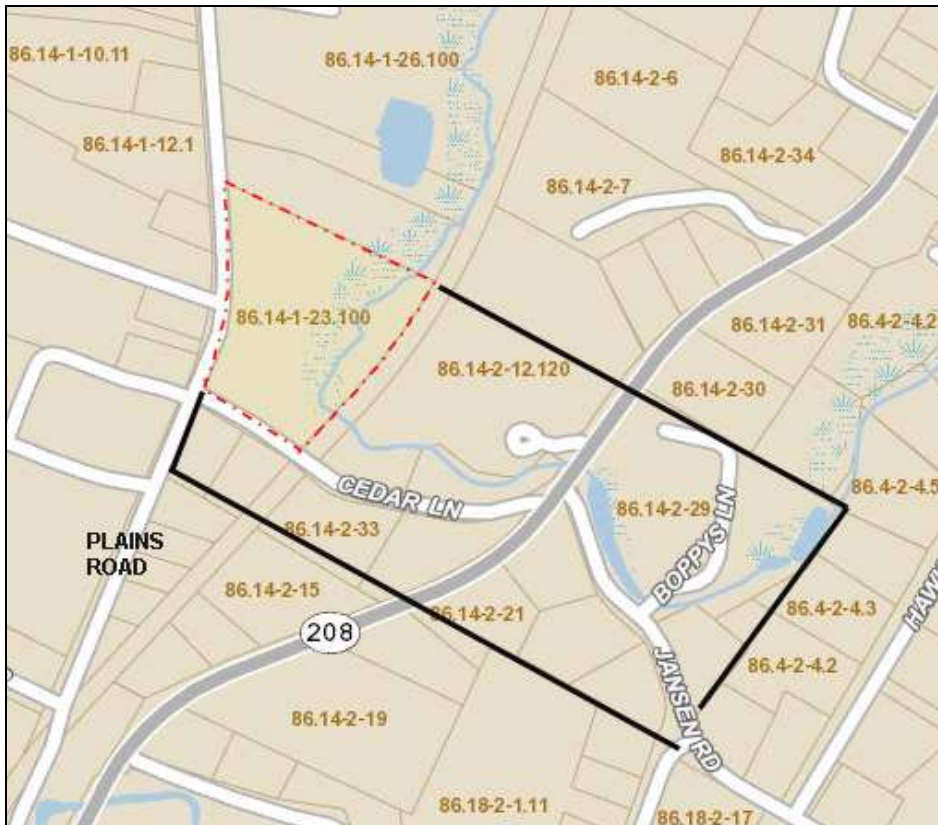
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6. MAPS:



Parcel map indicating rough boundaries of farm and mill site on the east side of Route 208



Aerial view showing location of house

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7. PHOTOS:



1811 stone and brick house on the east side of Plains Road, from the southwest.



Stone outbuilding located southeast of the main house, from the southwest.