



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION

• South Swan Street Building, South Mall, Albany, N.Y. 12223

Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner

November 20, 1972

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Knickerbocker Mansion, Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The staff of the State Board for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New York	
COUNTY: Rensselaer	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Knickerbocker Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Knickerbocker (Johannes) House

OFFICE COPY

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Knickerbocker Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Schaghticoke

STATE: New York CODE: 36 COUNTY: Rensselaer CODE: 083

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Knickerbocker Historical Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Schaghticoke

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Rensselaer County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Second Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Troy

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New York State Historic Trust Historic Resources Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
New York State Board for Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
South Swan Street Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Albany

STATE:
New York

CODE:
36

Representative Carlton J. King
30th Congressional District

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic Sites and Buildings in the Hudson River Valley
 1967 State
 Hudson River Valley Commission
 South Swan Street Building
 Albany New York 36

* * *

Historic Resources of the Hudson
 1969 State
 Hudson River Valley Commission
 South Swan Street Building
 Albany New York 36

* * *

Architecture Worth Saving in Rensselaer County
 Berndt Foerster, ed.
 Troy: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1965

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the Hoosic River Valley between the village of Schaghticoke in northwest Rensselaer County and the Hudson River, the Knickerbocker Mansion is believed to have been constructed on or adjacent to the site of a dwelling built by Johannes Knickerbocker I after 1707. It has been speculated that the mansion itself may date from the first half of the 18th century, but it is generally believed to have been completed by 1770.

The main structure conforms to a basic design of its period. Rectangular in shape and two and a half stories high, the dwelling is composed of a wood structural system and of brick walls, laid in Flemish bond and resting upon a foundation of coursed rubble. In this case the offset occurs three courses of brick above the stone underpinning. The hip roof curves slightly where it meets the plate and forms the eaves, and there are two interior chimneys located at the extremities of the ridge of the hip roof. While the structure retains its eighteenth-century proportions, elements such as the window enframements, the bracketed cornice, the metal drainage apparatus, the porch at the main entryway, the detail in the pediments of the dormers and the slate roof illustrate the taste of the nineteenth-century occupants.

The front of the south elevation measures five bays in length. Two dormers located in the second and fourth bays provide light to the garret. The central bay, well separated from the flanking pairs, is occupied on the first story level by a door flanked by two contiguous windows which function as sidelights. The entrance is presently sheltered by a pedimented portico elaborated by nineteenth-century detail.

On the east elevation there are three bays irregularly arranged, and a dormer approximately centered on the facade. The rear or north elevation is composed of four bays. At the second-story level there are three windows, and at the first-story level three windows plus a door which is centered on the facade, surmounted by a rectangular transom, and flanked by two contiguous windows.

On the west side of the structure stands a nineteenth-century wing which occupies most of the west elevation of the main structure leaving only one bay of windows exposed. The wing is constructed of wood frame sheathed by clapboards and rests upon a stone foundation without a cellar. A rectangular, gable-roofed structure, it is essentially one and a half stories high with one leanto extending the length of the north side and another which occupies only half the length of the south side. The wing is served by one interior end chimney on the west side of the structure, and one interior chimney on the north side. Access is possible by means of a door on the north elevation and by a door into the leanto addition on the south. One window

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

provides light from the south side of the structure, but on the west end of the wing the facade contains three windows on the first story level and two on the second.

Two large six-paneled Dutch doors permit entrance into the main structure from the south and the north. The floor plan is arranged around a transverse hall. The main stairway, constructed in one run with a center landing, is located in the hall but is hidden from view of the south or main entrance by a partition which divides the hall approximately in half. The basic arrangement of two rooms on each side of the hall has been altered in the west half of the structure in part to accomodate the functions and the circulation patterns altered by the construction of the west wing.

The cellar may be entered by three means: a stairway from the transverse hall above, a stairway which descends from the wing, and an exterior stair and doorway on the south or front of the structure. In the cellar the interior walls which support the framing and which run beneath the partition walls of the transverse hall are composed of brick-filled wood framing and measure one brick in thickness. Some of the wide plank flooring remains, but the chimney and part of a partition in the west half of the structure have been rebuilt in the mid-twentieth century.

In the stories above, a few wood mantels, one of which is stenciled, remain. On the second floor, in each corner shared by an exterior wall, a vertical wood framing member is either exposed and beaded or encased by wood. The garret is reached by a stairway of one run which parallels the stair from the first story, on the opposite side of the hall. The height of the roof, the presence of only two king posts contiguous to the two chimneys, and the use of queen posts between the king posts, provides a substantial amount of space in the garret.

West of the house stands a barn constructed of concrete blocks. To the northwest there is a barn complex, part of which may date from the early nineteenth century. A second barn on the property was destroyed by fire within the past decade and no evidence of the structure is presently visable above the ground.

Located on the property until destroyed by a flood in 1948 was a large oak tree which according to tradition was the "Tree of Peace" planted by Governor Edmund Andros late in the seventeenth century.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Soquon, a Hoosac warrior, in a speech made in 1702, refers to a "Tree...planted at Schaghticoke by Governor Andros as a tree of Welfare." The planting ceremony was intended to strengthen the link of friendship between the Mohawks of Caughnawaga Village and the Hoosacs of Schaghticoke Village and also to strengthen the alliance between the Fort Albany militia and their River Scouts following a long period of hostilities.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The rural seat of a prominent family, the Knickerbocker Mansion possesses both architectural and historic merit. The dwelling, completed by 1770, is a notable example of its architectural type in Rensselaer County and in the area of the Upper Hudson Valley. Occupied until 1946 by the Knickerbockers, the structure is representative of a family which was prominent in Schaghticoke and in Rensselaer County for nearly two and a half centuries. Tradition has long associated the Knickerbocker family of Schaghticoke and the brick dwelling with Washington Irving's Knickerbocker History of New York.

With the approach of Queen Anne's War in 1703; Governor Edward Cornbury authorized the construction of a military outpost in the area known as Schaghticoke. Fort Schaghticoke soon became headquarters for the Hoosac and Mohawk scouts who formed a vital element in the defense system at the outermost reaches of the colony of New York. In 1709 Johannes Knickerbocker I, son of Harmon Janse Knickerbocker, a Dutch emigrant, became commander of Fort Schaghticoke, obtained the first farmland in the "Schaghticoke," and initiated its settlement.

Johannes Knickerbocker II functioned in the same context by serving as Colonel of the Schaghticoke Militia based at the Fort during the French and Indian War. He is known to have been a member of Lord Howe's staff in 1758, at the time of the military engagements at Ticonderoga. However the geographic expansion of the colony since 1709 and the accompanying security of land formerly considered a frontier, permitted greater attention to cultivation and construction. On or adjacent to the site of the first structure erected by Johannes I, Johannes Knickerbocker II completed the present brick dwelling ca. 1770.

Johannes Knickerbocker II received a colonel's commission in the 14th Regiment on October 20, 1775, and raised a regiment in Schaghticoke. He served in a military capacity throughout the Revolution, and is known to have been wounded at the Battle of Saratoga. In 1792 he became one of the first five members of the New York State Assembly elected from Rensselaer County.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

His son, Johannes Knickerbocker III, was a lawyer who served as a colonel in the State Militia during the War of 1812 and was twice elected to the State Assembly.

The mass of the dwelling constructed by Johannes II has clearly retained its eighteenth-century proportions. Its design adheres to the norm for rural dwellings built by landed families of some wealth at this period: two stories in height, five bays in length and covered by a hip-roof. As the rural seat of a prominent family, it is particularly notable for its substantial dimensions, and the resultant amount of interior space. Elements on the exterior, both decorative and functional, illustrate the taste of nineteenth-century generations of the family.

The house and farm remained in the Knickerbocker family until 1946 when it was purchased by Donald Weir. Acquired in 1964 by the Knickerbocker Historical Society, the house was open to the public as a museum until 1972 when it was closed for essential repairs.

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(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Anderson, George Baker. Landmarks of Rensselaer County, New York. Syracuse: D. Mason and Company, 1897.

Bullock, Orin. "A Report on the Knickerbocker Mansion, Schaghticoke, New York." Prepared for the New York State Council on the Arts; 1967.

Haynes, Rutherford. Troy and Rensselaer County, New York. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1925. Vol. I.

Sylvester, N.B. History of Rensselaer County, New York. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1880.

"The Knickerbocker Mansion and the Tree of Peace." Report to New York State Historic Trust by Office of of State History, No. 96. May, 1969.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42°	54'	18"	73°	39'	08"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	42°	54'	18"	73°	39'	04"						
SE	42°	54'	15"	73°	39'	04"						
SW	42°	54'	15"	73°	39'	08"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Diana S. Waite, Senior Research Analyst
Lynn Beebe Weaver, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: New York State Board for Preservation DATE: November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 303, South Swan Street Building

CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: New York CODE: 36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Alexander Aldrich

Title State Liaison Officer

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME

COMMON

Knickerbocker Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC

Knickerbocker (Johannes)
House

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

New York

COUNTY

Rensselaer

TOWN

Schaghticoke

STREET AND NUMBER

Knickerbocker Road

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Dept. of the
Interior, Geological Survey
7.5 Minute Series

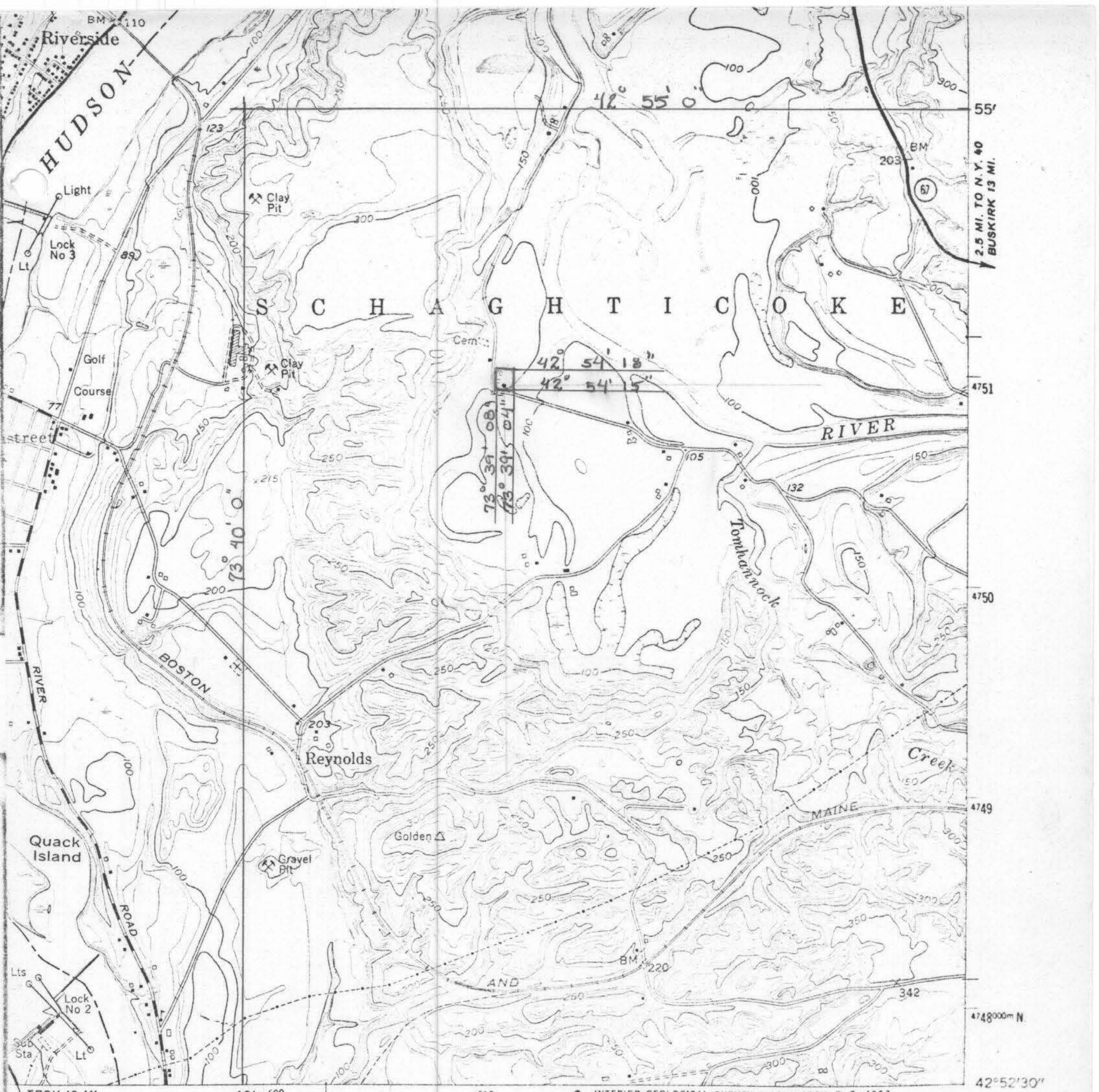
DATE

1954

SCALE

1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



Knickerbocker Mansion
 Schaghticoke, New York
 Rensselaer County, New York



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 E