NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

DRAFT

| 1. Name of Property | |
|---|---------------------------|
| historic name Bleecker District No. 3 School | |
| other names/site number | |
| name of related multiple property listing N/A | |
| Location | |
| street & number 112 Lily Lake Road | not for publication |
| city or town Bleecker | vicinity |
| state New York code 36 county Fulton code 17 | <u> </u> |
| 3. State/Federal Agency Certification | |
| or otation during regional or time attention | |
| As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, | |
| I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility mee for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the proce requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. | |
| In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteri property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: | ia. I recommend that this |
| national statewide <u>X</u> local | |
| | |
| Signature of certifying official/Title Date | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |
| In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. | |
| | |
| Signature of commenting official Date | |
| | |
| Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go | overnment |
| 4. National Park Service Certification | |
| I hereby certify that this property is: | |
| entered in the National Register determined eligible for the N | lational Register |
| determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National F | Register |
| other (explain:) | |
| | |
| Signature of the Keeper Date of Action | |

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School Name of Property

Fulton, New York
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. |
| | | Contributing Noncontributing |
| x private public - Local public - State public - Federal | x building(s) district site structure object | 1 building sites struct object 1 0 Total |
| Name of related multiple pro Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a | | Number of contributing resources previo |
| N/A | | 0 |
| 6. Function or Use | | |
| Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) | | Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) |
| EDUCATION: School | | RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum |
| | | |
| 7. Description | | |
| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) | | Materials (Enter categories from instructions.) |
| | 9 | foundation: Fieldstone and concrete block |
| MID-19 ^{1H} CENTURY: No Style | | walls: Wood frame, clapboard |
| MID-19 TH CENTURY: No Style | | waiis: _vvood frame, ciappoard |

OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bleecker District No. 3 School is a rural one-room educational building located on a .1 acre parcel of land in the Town of Bleecker, Fulton County, New York. It consists of a one-story, gable-roofed main block, in which the classroom is located, and a one-story, gable-roofed ell, in which the woodshed and a privy are located. It has narrow wood clapboard, wood eaves, wood double-hung windows, simple wood sills and corner boards, a fieldstone foundation, and a metal roof - all characteristic of small rural schoolhouses of the period. The classroom interior has wood floors and wainscoting, plaster walls covered with fiberboard, an acoustical tile ceiling, and many furnishings and objects associated with its use as a school.

The school was built in 1873 and functioned continuously as a school for children in the town until it was closed in 1956 due to pressure and mandates from the state for school consolidation and centralization. The nominated building retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Bleecker District No. 3 school is located on a sparsely settled section of Lily Lake Road in the Town of Bleecker, near its intersection with County Route 112 and County Route 309. Within about 100 yards of the schoolhouse, there are a variety of modest wood frame and modular residences, and a few commercial businesses. Also, in the near vicinity to the southeast, is Lake Edward (Vandenburgh Pond), along which there are a number of lakeshore homes on Lake Road. The terrain is primarily forested but this is interspersed with fields and wetlands.

The school sits on a 0.12 acre rectangular parcel of land that is about 60 feet deep (from the edge of the road) and 42 feet wide. It is mostly open except for a half-dozen White Pine and hardwood trees. Besides the schoolhouse, there are several features on the site. Between the north façade and the Lily Lake Road is a sign "The Old School Museum, Bleecker District 3, a William C. Pomeroy Foundation marker – "District No.3," and a flagpole. On the east side of the property is a metal swing set.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York County and State

Exterior¹

The school is a one-story, wood frame building with a small ell on its east side. The main building is rectangular in plan, approximately twenty-five feet wide and forty feet long and it sits on a fieldstone foundation. It has a gable metal roof, that is pierced by a concrete block chimney. It is sided with beveled wood clapboard siding. The ell is approximately twelve feet wide and sixteen feet long and also has a metal gable roof and clapboard wood siding.

The gabled façade (north) of the building is three bays wide with a center doorway flanked by two windows. The doorway has a simple surround consisting of chamfered pilasters, bed molding between the frieze and cornice, and a protruding cornice with crown molding. The wood door has a single glass pane above three horizontal recessed wood panels. The wood windows are two over two double-hung sash which have simple flat wood trim, including a drip cap. The siding is a five-and-a-half-inch wood clapboard with plain corner boards and there are broad wood eaves with a plain frieze band, soffit, fascia, and bed molding between the frieze band and soffit.

The main entrance to the building on the façade is accessed via a set of six-foot-wide open riser wood steps that lead to an eight foot by eight-foot wood deck. Simple two inch by four-inch railings, without spindles, surround the deck and each side of the stairway. The deck is supported by pressure-treated six inch by six-inch posts and there is a concrete slab landing at the bottom of the steps (Photo 1).

The longer west elevation has three symmetrically spaced wood two over two double-hung windows, which have simple flat wood trim, including a drip cap. The windows also have fixed four-pane wood storm windows. The facade is surfaced with five-and-a-half-inch wood clapboard siding and has plain corner boards, a sill board, and broad wood eaves with a plain frieze band, soffit, fascia and bed molding between the frieze band and soffit (Photo 2).

The east elevation, from which the ell extends, has two symmetrically spaced wood two-over-two doublehung windows, which have simple flat wood trim, including a drip cap. One of these windows has a fixed fourpane wood storm window. The elevation is surfaced with six-and-a-half-inch wood clapboard siding and has plain corner boards and broad wooden eaves with a plain frieze band, soffit, fascia, and bed molding between the frieze band and soffit.

The one-story ell has a metal gable roof. The height of the ell is lower than the main part of the building so that the peak of the ell's roof intersects with the main building at the eaves level. All three elevations of the ell are surfaced with six-and-a-half-inch wood clapboard siding and have plain corner boards and broad wood eaves with a plain frieze band, soffit, and fascia without bed molding. The south elevation of the ell has two small horizontal window openings, one of which has a fixed three-pane wood sash while the other is missing its sash. The east elevation of the ell has a narrow vertical plank wood door with a simple flat casing. Access to this door is via a set of open riser wood steps, which have a simple hand railing. In the gable of this elevation is

¹ The building sits about 45 degrees off a north-south axis. To simplify the description of its elevations, what is truly the northwest elevation will be called the north façade/elevation, the northeast elevation will be called the east elevation, the southeast elevation will be called the south elevation, and the southwest elevation will be called the west elevation.

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

a fixed six-pane wood window with simple flat wood trim and a drip cap. The way the siding on this elevation is pieced together also indicates that there was a large door opening here, probably for loading wood into the woodshed area of the ell. The north elevation of the ell, recessed from the main façade, does not have any door or window openings.

Unlike the main part of the building, which has a fieldstone foundation, the ell sits mostly on a concrete block foundation. This runs under most of the ell except a recessed section where the south elevation extends over the foundation to provide an open area (access for cleaning) beneath the privies within the ell. The southeast corner of the ell is supported by a fieldstone pier.

Interior

The plan of the main part of the building consists of a narrow entrance vestibule (now subdivided into a vestibule and office space) and a large classroom. The plan of the ell consists of a large woodshed space, a small room for a privy, and a small foyer at the back (east) door. There is no interior connection from the classroom to the ell.

As one enters the main doorway on the façade (north), one enters a vestibule. The walls, floor, ceiling of the vestibule and teacher's room are all finished with wood. The floors are narrow three and quarter inch tongue and groove flooring with a clear finish. The walls are five-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, laid horizontally, extending from the floor to the ceiling. The ceiling is also a five-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, running longitudinally. From the foyer, one can access both the classroom and the woodshed. The door to the classroom is constructed of two layers of nine-and-a-half-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, one layer is vertical and the other is diagonally laid. The door is hung by T-strap hinges and has a thumb latch. The door to the woodshed is constructed of a single layer of random width tongue and groove wood, reinforced by two horizontal braces. The door is hung with T-strap hinges. The vestibule is lit by a single two over two double-hung wood window, trimmed with simple flat wood trim. There is also a trap door to the attic in the ceiling of the vestibule.

The vestibule has been subdivided to create an office or "teacher's room" from a portion of the vestibule. This partition is constructed with two inch by four inch framing and is unfinished (but painted) on the "vestibule side" of the wall.

The classroom is a large open space, lit by five two over two double-hung wood windows, which are finished with simple flat wood trim. The classroom has two and a quarter inch tongue and groove hardwood flooring, made up of relatively short pieces (24 inches by 48 inch), and clear finished. The walls have horizontal wainscotting to a height of sixty-three inches made of five-inch beaded tongue and groove wood. Above the wainscotting are fiberboard panels, of various widths, that are incised with vertical lines. These panels are applied over a quarter inch hardboard, which is itself applied over sawn wood lath (the plaster has been removed). The ceiling is covered with sixteen inch by thirty two inch acoustic tiles, trimmed with cove molding. Lighting the classroom are four "schoolhouse" globe ceiling lights hanging from chains. There are two large chalkboards (east and north walls). Centered on the south wall of the classroom is a concrete block

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

chimney, which is covered with plywood and fiberboard. The schoolhouse is filled with objects used by teachers and their students during the 83 years the schoolhouse was active. These include: furniture – a teacher's desk, pupils' desks, bookshelves, blackboards, a wood box, tables, benches, two pianos, a cabinet; educational materials – books and maps; and other objects - a cup dispenser, pencil sharpener, a clock, posters, photographs, and paintings.

The second door in the classroom, originally another door to the foyer, gives access to the office or "teacher's room." This door is constructed of two layers of nine-and-a-half-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, one layer is vertical and the other is diagonally laid. The door is hung by T-strap hinges and has a thumb latch. The flooring in this room is four-and-a-half-inch tongue and groove wood flooring, clear finished. There is a wood hatch on the floor that gives access to the building's crawl space. The walls are five-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, laid horizontally, extending from the floor to the ceiling. The ceiling is also five-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, running longitudinally.

The woodshed consists of a large space (with an unfinished partition), a privy, and a small vestibule to the back (east) door. The larger space has a concrete floor, presumably poured over sand fill within the ell's concrete block foundation. The walls are mostly covered with random width, unfinished, rough wood planking, laid horizontally. The ceiling is unfinished with framing exposed. The privy room is a narrow space with a built-in bench that has two privy holes in it, one of which has a toilet seat. The space has a plywood floor, its walls are finished with vertical tongue and groove wood, and its ceiling is finished with beaded tongue and groove wood. The door into the privy room is constructed with vertical nine-and-a-half-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, reinforced with two horizontal braces. The small foyer serving the side (east) door is finished like the privy room, with a plywood floor, vertical tongue and groove wood walls, and a ceiling finished with beaded tongue and groove wood. The door to this foyer is constructed with vertical five-and-a-half-inch beaded tongue and groove wood, reinforced with a Z brace. Note that this vestibule once served as the boy's privy and was accessible only from the outside.

Known alterations

During the time that the schoolhouse was owned by the district, 1873-1969, very few substantial changes were made to the building. As was recorded in the district clerk's minutes book, most of what was done was routine maintenance. In 1896, there was a new ceiling installed, along with some painting and plastering done. In 1902, the district paid out \$184.20 for "general repairs." In 1934, Frank Longfritz was hired to put on a new wood shingle roof and storm windows were installed on the west side of the building. In the mid-1930s, the building was electrified for \$75. In 1952, \$400 was allocated for repairs and a new (hardwood) floor for the classroom. In 1953, the district spent \$150 on playground equipment.

The large expenditure in 1952 was likely to make repairs to the classroom after a fire. These repairs likely included installing fiberboard paneling above the wainscotting in the classroom, installing an acoustical tile

² Minutes Book, August 4, 1896; August 5, 1902; and May 7, 1934.

³ Minutes Book, May 4, 1937, and May 5, 1953.

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

ceiling in the classroom, replacing the brick chimney with a concrete block chimney, and installing new flooring.

At some point in time, probably in the mid-twentieth century, the vestibule was partitioned to create a teacher's room or office. The exterior entrance to the building was rebuilt several times, it being the most exposed element of the building to weathering and rot. Historic photos of the building show several combinations of steps, railings, and landing, the biggest variable being the width of the entrance.

After the building was sold by the school district, its private owners did several repair and restoration projects over the next fifty years. Nancy Buyce, who owned the property from 1993 to 2014, had the first floor framing reinforced, upgraded the electrical system, installed a metal roof and had the front landing and steps rebuilt.⁴

7

⁴ Eliza Jane Darling (building owner), in email correspondence with the author, January 2025.

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

| 8. Stat | ement of Significance | |
|---|---|---|
| Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) | | Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) Education |
| x A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. | Education |
| В | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. | |
| С | The 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. | Period of Significance 1873-1956 |
| D | Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. | Significant Dates 1873; 1956 |
| | a Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.) | Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) |
| A | Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. | |
| В | removed from its original location. | Cultural Affiliation |
| С | a birthplace or grave. | |
| D | a cemetery. | |
| E | a reconstructed building, object, or structure. | Architect/Builder |
| F | a commemorative property. | |
| G | less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. | |

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Bleecker District No. 3 School is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education for its association with rural education in the Town of Bleecker and Fulton County. This school was one of six common school districts in the Town of Bleecker in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and was the last of these to close, in 1956. The school was built in 1873 in the small settlement of Bleecker Village, which developed around the Bleecker Tannery. The closure of the school in 1956 was, in large part, a result of New York State's push for the consolidation of small rural districts to improve efficiency, facilities and elevate educational standards. After the schoolhouse closed, children attended school in nearby Wheelerville. In 1969, after the two remaining Bleecker school districts were consolidated into the Enlarged Gloversville School District, the building was sold to Frances Brink, the district's last clerk. Her descendants now own the building and operate the Old School Museum there. The period of significance begins in 1873 with the construction of the schoolhouse and ends in 1956 when the district is closed through consolidation, and the schoolhouse is sold at public auction.

Narrative Statement of Significance

A Brief History of the Town of Bleecker and the Settlement at Bleecker Village

The Town of Bleecker is in northern Fulton County, New York. Prior to the arrival of the first white settlers in the early nineteenth century, the region was home to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years, mainly members of the Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) tribe of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) confederacy, in both the region's lowlands and uplands. The authors of a *History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, New York* (1878) noted that an "Indian trail ran through the town, from south to north, passing through what is now Bleecker village, past Pine tannery in the north, and so on into Hamilton County."

The first recorded transfer of land from the crown to private ownership in what would become the town of Bleecker was the Mayfield Patent (15,000 acres) in 1770. This was followed by two large transfers of property from the state to private ownership via the Chase Patent (12,000 acres) in 1792 and the Glen, Bleecker and Lansing Purchase (32,000 acres) in 1793. The town was named after Barent Bleecker, one of the partners in the latter purchase, although he never lived there. Bleecker resided much of his life in Albany and was a president of the Bank of Albany and a treasurer of both the Albany and Schenectady Turnpike Company and the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company. He also owned a store on the Albany riverfront, as well as stables, storehouses, houses and vacant lots in the city.

⁵ Curt Stager, "Hidden Heritage," Adirondack Life, June 2017, https://www.adirondacklife.com/2017/10/05/hidden-heritage.

⁶ F. W. Beers & Co. History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, N.Y, with Illustrations Descriptive of Scenery, Private Residences, Public Buildings, Fine Blocks, and Important Manufacturers. (New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1878), 212.

⁷ Bleecker History, http://gobacktothebasics.com/town_of_bleecker_fulton_county_new_york_history.htm

⁸ Beers, 212.

⁹ Mary Van Deusen, "Barent Bleecker (1760-1840)" https://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/bios/b/barbleecker150.html

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

The first permanent white settlement began about 1800. The soil in Bleecker is generally light and thin and stony, so it did not lend itself well to agriculture, except as was practical on a small scale for grazing, hay, gardens, oats, barley and potatoes, all mainly for family and local use. The main attraction of the region was its abundant mature forests, for lumber and milling and the tanning of hides for shoe sole leather. There were also watercourses in the town that powered sawmills and made it possible to get logs to markets, mainly via Stony Creek and its tributaries, which flowed into the Sacandaga River and the Hudson to reach the downriver mill towns of Glens Falls and Fort Edward.¹⁰

The Town of Bleecker was formed from Johnstown in 1831 when it was part of Montgomery County. Fulton County was formed from Montgomery County in 1838. ¹¹ The town was sparsely settled but more concentrated settlement in the town did develop around the economic activity of milling and tanning and these, in turn, were largely found near the waterbodies or watercourses that provided the power for sawmills, or the huge quantities of water needed for tanning. These small settlements included Lindsley Corners, Bleecker Center, Pinnacle, Bleecker Village and Peter's Corners. ¹²

Local Industry

There was no sawmill in the town of Bleecker in 1845, but ten years later there were nineteen. One of the largest of these was owned by John M. Peters, an immigrant from Germany. In 1855, Peters' mills processed more than 1,000 saw logs into more than 100,000 board feet of planking. By 1868, around Peter's Pond, there were four sawmills in operation and nearby at Lindsley Corners there was a schoolhouse, cemetery and several dwellings. Other sawmill operators in the town were Joseph Eastman, G.B. Baird, Ephraim Campbell, and William Bowler. While most mills relied on water for power, in 1855, George Hurring installed a steam engine to power his mill near Holmes Lake. 15

There were at least four tanneries in the town of Bleecker. The Pine Tannery, a 40 foot by 210-foot building with a steam boiler, was in the northeast corner of the town. The Pinnacle Tannery (also known by the names Smith and Deming, Smith and Hanley, B. Smith and Company, and Smith and Young) was located near the town's eastern border along West Stony Creek. It was 390 feet long and forty-four feet wide and had 120 vats in four rows. Like the Pine Tannery, it supported a sawmill, blacksmith shop and several dwellings, forming a settlement called Pinnacle.¹⁶

¹⁰ Washington Frothingham, *History of Fulton County* (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1892), 1.

¹¹ Frothingham, 1.

¹² New Century Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties (New York. Philadelphia: Century Map Company, 1905).

¹³ Hildebrandt, 15.

¹⁴ Beach Nichols and Jay Stranahan. *Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties (New York*. New York: J. Jay Stranahan and Beach Nichols, Publishers, 1868).

¹⁵ Hildebrandt, 15.

¹⁶ McMartin, 207-208.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

The Forest Tannery was located on the (Sucker Brook) outlet of Vandenburgh Pond upstream from East Lake in a neighborhood known as Suckerville. It was named by James H. Young, who purchased the tannery in 1857.

The Bleecker Tannery was the southernmost of the tanneries and was also located on the outlet of Vandenburg Pond (now Lake Edward). It was founded by William I. Bellinger in the 1830s, making it the oldest of the town's tanneries. Over its 40-year existence, it went by several other names, including the Hamlin and Ford tannery (1856) and the Wooster and Vandenburg tannery (1868), all reflecting frequent changes in ownership. It was also briefly owned by the Shaw family of Massachusetts, a family that had a tanning empire stretching from New York and New England into Quebec.¹⁷

Bleecker Village grew up around the tannery that, by 1878, "had a hotel, brewery, a church, a schoolhouse, two sawmills, two tanneries, a store, a broom handle factory, six blacksmith shops and twenty-three dwellings" that were home to about 200 people. 18 The school was the Bleecker District No. 3 School.

A Brief History of Public Education in New York State

For the first several decades after the Revolutionary War, New York State did very little to encourage or support public education. In 1792, Governor Clinton called for the "establishment of Common Schools throughout the State" and, beginning in 1795, \$50,000 was appropriated for the next five years to encourage and fund newly created common schools. The funds were divided among the towns where residents had created school districts, built schools and raised matching funds through taxation. Within a few years, over 1,300 schools, with almost 60,000 pupils, had qualified for state support but in 1800 this program of support for common schools lapsed.¹⁹

To revive support for common schools the Common School Fund was created in 1805 and it was initially funded with proceeds from the sale of state lands. When the annual proceeds from the fund approached \$50,000, the Common School Law was passed in 1812 and this reestablished a system of state oversight and locally administered school districts, which were supported by state and local matching funds.²⁰

This led to an explosion in the number of school districts created and, by the mid-nineteenth century, 11,400 common school districts were serving 750,000 students in the state.²¹ In 1856, Fulton County reported it had 105 school districts and the Town of Bleecker, whose population never exceeded 1062, eventually had six

¹⁷ Darling, 3

¹⁸ Beers. 213

¹⁹ New York State Archives/Archives Partnership Trust. "Consider the Source *New York*: The Development of Elementary and Secondary Education in New York State, 2. <a href="https://considerthesourceny.org/using-primary-sources/researching-history-your-school/development-elementary-and-secondary-education-new-york#:~:text=Responding%20to%20this%20and%20similar, schools%20did%20not%20necessarily%20close

²⁰ New York State Archives/Archives Partnership Trust. "Consider the Source *New York*: The Development of Elementary and Secondary Education in New York," 2.

²¹ Charles Fitch. *The Public School: History of Common School Education in New York State, Public Education from 1603 to 1904.* (Albany, NY: J.B. Lyon Company, 1904), 15.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

districts.²² Each district typically had a one or two-room schoolhouse that was walking distance for students from the surrounding area. In these schools, students were placed in groups by age or ability and taught reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, and geography. As common schools could only operate up through eighth grade, students typically attended school for about eight years. If a student wanted to attend school beyond eighth grade, they would have to attend a private academy.

The state's first real initiative to improve and enlarge common schools occurred in 1853, when it passed a law that authorized one or more common school districts to form a "Union Free" school district, managed by local boards of education and local school superintendents. This allowed and encouraged districts to improve their facilities and their educational offerings and to create new academic departments and high schools. It also eliminated any tuition requirements. The rise of Union Free Schools that followed meant that private (tuition-based) academies became less competitive, and many of them merged with the local Union Free districts or closed.²³

The state's continued interest in improving its public schools was part of a national movement to improve rural schools. It saw ungraded, one-room, one teacher country schools as insufficient to meet the growing need for a better educated workforce and populace. To further encourage the enlargement and efficiency of school districts, the state passed the Central Rural School Act of 1913 and the Central School Act in 1924.²⁴ They encouraged small districts to consolidate to provide better opportunities for their students and, the latter act, required that every child in the state have access to a high school education through its local school district.

A few decades later, in 1956, the *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State* was enacted and it proposed sweeping changes to how districts were organized. In 1958, the *Master Plan* was amended, and it laid out more precisely how hundreds of school districts would be consolidated, including Bleecker, Gloversville, and other districts in Fulton County. ²⁵ The implementation of the Master Plan took at least a decade to accomplish but by about 1970 it had largely been put into effect. This resulted in the closing of most small one-room schoolhouses across the state. ²⁶

A Brief History of the Common Schools of Bleecker

The town of Bleecker was formed in 1831. At the first Bleecker town meeting people were elected to fill a host of town offices – the supervisor, town clerk, justices of the peace, assessors, a commissioner of highways, a constable, an overseer of the poor, *and* three commissioners of common schools and three inspectors of schools. At the time, Bleecker had only one school – a school built in 1824 in the northern part of the town. By

12

²² Michael Gendron. "A Brief History of Education in New York State." (Broadalbin, NY: Broadalbin Kennyetto Historical Society, unpublished, undated), 2.

²³ Michael Gendron. "Bleecker School Districts." (Private research, unpublished, 2023), 2.

²⁴ Gendron, "Bleecker School Districts," 2.

²⁵ University of the State of New York, State Education Department. *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State* (Revised). (Albany, NY: State Education Department, 1958). 289.

²⁶ Gendron, 5

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

1845, as the population of the town grew, there were four schools with fifty-three pupils and eventually six school districts would be created, each with their own schoolhouse, teacher, and trustees.²⁷ By the turn of the century, there had already been some renumbering and consolidation of districts and relocation of schools²⁸ so that by 1905 the five remaining school districts of Bleecker were:

The Bleecker District No. 1 school is shown on the 1905 map of Bleecker as being located just north of the small settlement of Pinnacle, where there had been an active tannery.²⁹ The Bleecker District No. 2 school was located at Lindsley Corners, a cluster of homes, businesses, and sawmills south of Peter's Pond. The Bleecker District No. 3 school was located on Lily Lake Road in Bleecker Village, which grew up around the Bleecker Tannery and was the largest of the handful of small settlements in the town. The Bleecker District No. 4 school was in Bleecker Center, a settlement with a cluster of dwellings, at least one sawmill, the Lutheran Church, and a cemetery. This schoolhouse burned in 1934 and was rebuilt. The Bleecker School District No. 5 school was located near the town's western border with the Town of Caroga.³⁰

Between 1860 and 1920, the town lost two-thirds of its population. This, along with state incentives and directives to consolidate smaller rural school districts, led to the gradual closure, annexation, and consolidation of Bleecker's five schools. The first of these was in 1923 when District No. 5 was dissolved and annexed to District No. 4 to create the Bleecker Consolidated School District No. 4. Then in 1932, the Bleecker Common School District No. 1 was dissolved and annexed to the Bleecker Common School District No. 2 to become the Bleecker Consolidated School District No. 2. Then in 1953, the Bleecker Consolidated School District No. 2 was dissolved and consolidated with the Bleecker Consolidated School District No. 4. This left two districts in the town - No. 3 and No. 4. In 1956, these two remaining district school buildings were closed (the districts remained operational), and their students were transported to the Wheelerville Union Free School. In 1959, the two remaining districts were dissolved and consolidated into the Gloversville Consolidated Central School District.³¹

| <u>Year</u> | # Districts | Active Named Bleecker Common School Districts |
|-------------|-------------|--|
| | | |
| 1920 | 5 | Common School Districts No. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 |
| 1923 | 4 | Districts No. 1, 2, 3, and 4 |
| 1932 | 3 | Districts No. 2, 3, and 4 |
| 1953 | 2 | Districts No. 3 and 4 |
| 1956 | 2 | Schools are closed; students are sent to the Wheelerville Union Free School |
| 1959 | 0 | Bleecker Districts are dissolved and consolidated into the Gloversville Consolidated |
| | | Central School District |
| | | |

²⁷ Hildebrandt, 9-10.

13

²⁸ Michael Gendron, correspondence with the author, January 2025.

²⁹ New Century Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, New York. (Philadelphia: Century Map Company, 1905).

³⁰ Michael Gendron. "Bleecker School Districts," 2-7.

³¹ Gendron, 1-6.

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Fulton, New York
County and State

The Bleecker Common School District No. 3 School

Much of our understanding about this school comes from Bleecker District No. 3 Clerk's Minutes Book, which starts in 1853 and ends in 1969, covering 116 years of district business. This can be broken down into three distinct periods: 1853-1873 is the period when an earlier schoolhouse was in use on the same site as the present Bleecker District No. 3 school building; 1873-1956 is the period when the present Bleecker District No. 3 schoolhouse was in use by district students; and 1956-1969 is the period when the district still existed and still owned the schoolhouse but did not use it for educational purposes (students were bused to the Wheelerville Union Free School).

The existing Bleecker District School No. 3 is the third school building to be built in the settlement. The first school building was built on Bleecker Tannery property, a property that included a tannery, sawmill, boarding house, and assorted outbuildings, as well as the school. This property changed hands several times in the 1830s, 40s, and 50s and is associated with the names Bellinger, Farrell, Shaw, Streeter, Hamlin, Tower, Richards, Ford, Wooster, Vandenburgh and Wetzel. When Theron Hamlin and Dyer Tower bought the tannery property in 1847, there was a stipulation in the deed that he would respect "the right of the public to a School House on said premises". The date this first schoolhouse was built is not presently known.

A second schoolhouse is first referred to on May 6, 1853, when the district trustees voted to "... build a new School House after a plan presented by the trustees and now in the hands of the clerk." In anticipation of building this new schoolhouse and to put the ownership of the property into the hands of the school district, tannery owner Theron Hamlin transferred a small parcel to the "Trustees of School District #3, Bleecker" on August 8, 1853. This rectangular parcel was 41.58 feet by 71.28 feet in size.³⁵

The district then proceeded to move ahead with its plans to build a new school that fall and, on October 27, 1853, resolved that "the Old School House be sold to the highest bidder and be removed within two weeks from the date of meeting." The (first) schoolhouse was then sold at auction to Mr. Hamlin for \$7.50.³⁶ Because of the school's close association with the historic tannery, this school was and is often locally referred to as the "Factory School" or the "Tannery School."

The 1873 Bleecker District No. 3 Schoolhouse

In 1873, as the town's population was nearing its peak (1047 in 1880³⁷), the district decided to build a new schoolhouse. On August 4, 1873, the trustees authorized a public vote "For the purpose of voting a tax to build a new school or otherwise repair the old school." The vote was scheduled for August 28, 1873. At that

³² Darling, 3

³³ Fulton County Real Property Records, Brackley Shaw to Theron Hamlin and Dyer Tower, Book 8, Page 274.

³⁴ Bleecker District No. 3 Clerk's Minute Book. May 6, 1853.

³⁵ Fulton County Clerk, Real Property Records, Book 17, Page 439.

³⁶ Bleecker District No. 3 Clerk's Minutes Book, October 27, 1853.

³⁷"Bleecker, New York" Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleecker, New York

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

meeting, the first vote to raise \$1,000 for a new schoolhouse resulted in a vote of 13 ayes and 13 nays – a tie. On a second vote, the motion was carried with 15 ayes and 10 nays, and a committee was formed to oversee the project. The trustees further directed that the new school be built "... with all possible dispatch and have the same be done by as soon as after the 15th day of November next as possible." A motion was also carried to sell the 1853 schoolhouse to highest bidder and that it be removed by September 15, 1873.³⁸

The new schoolhouse was built behind the old schoolhouse, either to be able to continue to use the old schoolhouse while the new one was being built or so that its removable could take place on a slightly different schedule. When the trustees met on October 14th, their meeting was held at the "store of Mr. G. Hunt" because the new schoolhouse was "... in an unfinished condition." The design and construction of the Bleecker #3 school was characteristic of a typical rural one-room school building of the nineteenth century, as was described by William Alcott, Henry Barnard, and the NYS Department of Public Instruction to a large single classroom, an entrance vestibule, and an ell that contained a woodshed and (less typically) a privy. Its exterior details are also typical of the simplest form of this type: a gable roof, wood clapboard siding, simple wood trim, a fieldstone foundation, two over two double-hung windows to provide light to the classroom and vestibule, a brick chimney, and two wooden exterior doors. Its interior finishes are similarly typical of the type with horizontal beaded wainscotting, plaster walls, tongue and groove wood floors, wood interior doors and trim, and hanging globe lights.

At the district's annual meeting in October 1874, the minutes recorded that the cost of the new building was \$917.57 and that the district had received \$18 for the old school. The following year, some of the remaining funds previously allocated for the school were spent on paint (\$25) and "putting on paint" (\$10).⁴¹

Over the next ninety-six years, the clerk's minutes continued to record the business of district, including: the election of trustees and district officers (chair, a collector or collectors, and a librarian), financial reports and budgets, and the consideration of various motions made on a range of topics. After about 1915, there is much less specific information on revenues and expenditures. By this time, this information would have been included in financial reports that were received and accepted by the trustees but not part of their minutes.

The district budget grew from (these numbers are rounded off) \$386 in 1879, to \$1,631 in 1932, to \$14,018 in 1961. The last mention of teachers' wages in the minutes was for \$324 in 1904. There is often a small allocation in the budget for books, maps, and other learning aids. In 1877, responding to a state mandate for

³⁸ Minutes Book, August 4, 1873.

³⁹The new building was actually built on property NOT owned by the district, but this was not known until 1969 when the property was surveyed in order to sell the schoolhouse property after the district was merged into a consolidated school district and closed. Minutes Book, October 14, 1873.

⁴⁰ William A. Alcott. *Essay on the Construction of School-Houses*. (Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, and Wilkins, 1932), 52; Henry Barnard. *School Architecture, or Contributions to the Improvement of School-houses in the United State*. (New York: Barnes & Co, 1849); New York State Department of Public Instruction. *Designs for School-Houses accepted by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of New York*. (Albany: Weed-Parsons Printing Co., 1895).

⁴¹ Minutes Book, October 13, 1874, and October 12, 1875.

S Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

the uniform adoption of textbooks, the district adopted these textbooks (the first reference is as written in minutes, and the second reference is the likely actual name of the book):

Robinson's Arithmetic (*Robinson's Progressive Practical Arithmetic* by Daniel W. Fish, first published in 1874). Clark's Grammar and Reader (*Clark's Brief Grammar* by Stephen Clark, first published in 1876). Watson's Independent Speller (*The Independent Spelling Book* by J. Madison Watson, first published in 1871). A geography book.⁴²

Audrey Adams' 8th grade report card for the 1943-44 school year shows what the school offered in this era: social studies, English, math, science, health, spelling, reading, and writing. She was also graded for her conduct and "application" by her teacher Grace McCaffrey.⁴³

The big bump in the budget in the 1930s reflects that the state started to require the district to send its high school age students to Gloversville and pay for their transportation. On October 10, 1930, a proposal was defeated (9 ayes and 11 nays) to allocate \$400 annually for transporting students to Gloversville. The trustees then decided to appeal to the New York State Commissioner of Education for relief from this requirement. At their November 2, 1930 meeting, the trustees reported that their appeal had been denied and they then hired Mr. C. M. Luck to provide transportation at a cost of \$22.50 per week. In 1955, eighth grade students also start getting bused to Gloversville.⁴⁴

The minutes note expenditures for repairs and improvements to the schoolhouse, including, in 1896, \$35 for a new ceiling, \$5.60 for "paint and putting paint on," and \$1 for plastering. In 1902, \$184.20 is expended for general repairs and, in 1934, the trustees authorize \$40 for a new shingle roof, to be done by Frank Longfritz, and the installation of storm windows on the west side of the building. In the mid-1930s, when electricity came into the village the schoolhouse was wired at a cost of \$75 but the annual meeting attendees voted against (8 to 6) purchasing an electric clock in 1937. In 1952, \$400 was allocated for general repairs, including a new floor and, in 1953, \$150 was allocated for playground equipment.

The relatively large expenditure reported in 1952 was likely needed to make repairs to the building after a fire, which was reported in this way:

On a winter's afternoon in 1951, 13-year-old schoolgirl Nancy Ann Coffey, distracted from her work by the smell of smoke, looked over her shoulder to find that the chimney of her one-room schoolhouse was glowing red. She glanced back in alarm at her teacher, Mrs. Viola Hughes, who nodded subtly, and began calmly filing pupils out of the classroom, down the steps and onto the front lawn. Workers from Bleyl's Sawmill, a quarter mile away, raced up the hill and quelled the

⁴² Minutes Book, October 9, 1877.

⁴³ Audrey Adams Report Card. Old School Museum, 1944.

⁴⁴ Minutes Book, October 10, 1930; November 2, 1930; and 1955

⁴⁵ Minutes Book, August 4, 1896; August 5, 1902; and May 7, 1934.

⁴⁶ "Schoolhouse Memories."; Minutes Book, May 4, 1937, and May 5, 1953.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

flames before the nearest fire department at Pleasant Square in Gloversville could make it up the mountain.⁴⁷

These repairs were likely when the acoustical tile ceiling and the fiberboard paneling above the wainscoting were installed in the classroom and the concrete block chimney was built.

The schoolhouse never had a well on the property and, therefore, no running water but the trustees did discuss digging a well on the property in 1937. A motion to do this was defeated and, instead, a motion was passed to get water from Mr. Schmerhorn's well. While the 1853 schoolhouse had a privy (outhouse, backhouse), built in 1857, the design of the 1873 schoolhouse included a privy built into the building's ell. This ell mainly served as the woodshed for the ten cords of wood that were used every year to heat the building, but its foundation was recessed about four feet along the south wall so that privy waste would fall into a pit that could be emptied from the outside of the building from time to time. In the ell, accessible from the inside, was a narrow privy room with a long "two hole" bench for the girls. The smaller boy's privy, also within the ell, was accessible from an outside door (this area is now a small vestibule).

In Bleecker, as in many other small rural towns, the schoolhouse was also the place where people gathered for other purposes, including for annual and special meetings of the district trustees and the general public. In 1942, three of Bleecker's schools, including the District No. 3 school, were used for toxoid (vaccination) clinics offered by Dr. Morris Palmer, the town's health officer.⁵⁰

The Road to Closure and Consolidation

Beginning in the 1920s, and with the adoption of the *Central Rural Schools Act in 1924*, there was increasing pressure to close, annex, and consolidate small rural schools across the state. In 1923, the first of Bleecker's school districts (No. 5) was closed and consolidated and, in 1932, district school No. 1 was also closed and consolidated.⁵¹ A few decades later, in 1956, the *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State* was enacted and it proposed sweeping changes to how districts were organized.

In Bleecker, a special meeting of the district was called on August 13, 1956, to discuss "improvements and alterations to the school building necessary to meet the requirements for the operating of the school" or to vote to close the Bleecker District No. 3 school and send its pupils to the Wheelerville Union Free school. That improving the school building was discussed suggests that this was still a real alternative for meeting state mandates. Thirty-nine people attended the meeting and twenty-seven voted to close the school and send pupils to Wheelerville, and twelve voted to make improvements to the school building in order to keep the

17

⁴⁷ https://elizajanedarling.typepad.com/the old school museum/

⁴⁸ Minutes Book, May 4 and June 7, 1937.

⁴⁹ "Schoolhouse Memories." (*The Leader Herald*, October 6, 2013).

⁵⁰ "Three Toxoid Clinics are Planned Today." (The Morning Herald, November 20, 1942).

⁵¹ Gendron, 1.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

school open.⁵² A 2013 article in the *Leader-Herald* quotes a resident talking about the closure and consolidation of the school as saying, "We fought it tooth and nail" but the actual votes indicates that a healthy majority supported its closure.⁵³ That fall, the district began sending students to the Union Free School in Wheelerville.⁵⁴

In 1958, the *Master Plan* was amended, and it laid out more precisely how hundreds of school districts would be consolidated, including for Bleecker, Gloversville, and other districts in Fulton County. It proposed an "Enlarged School District for the City of Gloversville" that would include the following existing districts:

The City of Gloversville
The Union Free School in Wheelerville*55
Bleecker No. 3 (Tannery)
Bleecker No. 4 (Bleecker Center)
Caroga
Mayfield
Johnstown (districts 5, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 19)56

Selling the school property required a vote and so on May 19, 1969, a meeting was held at which all nine voters present voted in favor of selling the school property at a public auction to be held on June 14, 1969. A survey done by Burt Koetteritz showed that the district's property was sixty-six feet deep and thirty-three feet wide but that the existing schoolhouse was NOT on the district's property. It was on property owned by the adjoining property owners Delos and Frances Brink.⁵⁷

At the June 14 meeting to auction the property, the minutes reported that "The school building which is located on land owned by Delos and Frances Brink, land located in front of the school building, and the contents of the building were sold to Frances Brink for a bid of \$50." Penciled into the minutes was a note that \$3,163.55 (presumably the balance on hand in the Bleecker District #3 account) was turned over to the Enlarged Gloversville City School District. ⁵⁸ On June 18, the property was transferred to Frances Brink. ⁵⁹ This brought the Bleecker District No. 3 to an end.

⁵² Minutes Book, August 13, 1956.

⁵³ "Schoolhouse Memories." (*The Leader-Herald*, October 6, 2013).

⁵⁴ Minutes Book, May 5, 1964

⁵⁵ The Wheelerville Union Free School District successfully fought the New York State Education Department's Master Plan and remains an independent K-8 school. In 1964, the last class to receive a high school diploma graduated from the Wheelerville Union Free School District. The New York State Education Department had revoked their accreditation as a high school. They now send their high school high school students to Johnstown High School. From Mike Gendron, *Bleecker School Districts*. Gendron, 8-9.

⁵⁶ University of the State of New York. State Education Department. *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State*.

⁵⁶ University of the State of New York, State Education Department. *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State.* (Albany, NY: State Education Department, 1958), 289.

⁵⁷ Minutes Book, May 19, 1969.

⁵⁸ Minutes Book, June 14, 1969.

⁵⁹ Fulton County Clerk, Real Property Records, Book 503, Page 328.

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

The Schoolhouse in Private Ownership and as a Museum

Frances Brink, to whom the district property was sold, was the last school district clerk. Her husband Delos was a trustee of the district and was the auctioneer for the sale of the property. Under normal circumstances, the sale to Frances would have been a little irregular but, because the schoolhouse was already on their property, the sale to Frances was perhaps the only reasonable and practical alternative. The minutes do not indicate if there were any other bidders.

Since 1969, the schoolhouse property has changed ownership four times but all within the family and their descendants. The Old School Museum was created in 1993 and repairs were undertaken that included reinforcing the floor framing under the classroom, installing a a metal roof (1995), upgrading the electrical system (2011), and building a new exterior landing and steps. The museum's activities include a Christmas Open House, ice cream social and bake sale, research and writing, and restoration projects.

⁶⁰ Correspondence with Eliza Jane Darling, January 2025.

⁶¹ https://elizajanedarling.typepad.com/the_old_school_museum

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Alcott, William Andrus. *Essay on the Construction of School-Houses*. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, Little, and Wilkins, 1932. Accessed online at: https://archive.org/details/essayonconstruct00alco/page/52/mode/2up
- Barnard, Henry. School Architecture or Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the Unted States. New York: A.S. Barnes & Co., 1848.
- Beers, F.W. & Co. History of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, N.Y, with Illustrations Descriptive of Scenery, Private Residences, Public Buildings, Fine Blocks, and Important Manufacturers. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1878.
- Bleecker District No. 3 Clerk's Minutes Book (1853-1969). Unpublished. Bleecker, NY: Old School Museum collection.
- "Bleecker, New York" Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bleecker, New York
- Briggs, W.R. Modern American School Buildings: Being a Treatise Upon and Designs for the Construction of School Buildings. New York: J. Wiley & Sons, 1899.
- Chase, J. Jr. Map of Fulton County, New York. Philadelphia: Jno.T. Hill, 1856.
- Darling, Eliza Jane. "Tannery Towns." Draft of booklet for the Bleecker Historical Society. Undated.
- Darling, Eliza Jane. Correspondence with the author, 2024-2025.
- Decker, Lewis. "Town of Bleecker: Rural One Room School Houses." Bleecker, NY: Town of Bleecker Historical Society. Unpublished paper, 1993.
- Fitch, Charles. *The Public School: History of Common School Education in New York State, Public Education from 1603 to 1904*. Albany, NY: J.B. Lyon Company, 1904.
- Folts, James D. "History of the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department, 1786-

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

1996." 1996. Accessed online at: http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/edocs/education/sedhist.htm#free

Frothingham, Washington. The History of Fulton County. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason, Publishers. 1892.

Gendron, Michael. "A Brief History of Education in New York State." Broadalbin Kennyetto Historical Society article. Unpublished, undated.

Gendron, Michael. "Bleecker School Districts." Private research, unpublished, 2023.

Gendron, Michael. Correspondence with the author, 2024-2025.

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.

Hamlin, A.D.F., ed. *Modern School Houses: Being a Series of Authoritative Articles on Planning, Sanitation, Heating and Ventilation.* Vol. 1. New York, NY: The Swetland Publishing Company, 1910.

Hildebrandt, William. Hides and Hemlocks: A Short History of Bleecker. Self-published, 1976.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

McMartin, Barbara. *Hides, Hemlocks, and Adirondack History: How the Tanning Industry Influenced the Growth of the Region*. Utica: North Country Books, 1992.

Mills, W.T. American School Building Standards. Columbus, OH: Franklin Educational Publishing Co., 1915.

New Century Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, New York. Philadelphia: Century Map Company, 1905.

New York State Department of Public Instruction. *Designs for School-Houses accepted by the Department of Public Instruction of the State of New York.* Albany: Weed-Parsons Printing Co., 1895.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

| DRAFT | Bleecker | District | No. 3 | 3 School |
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|
|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|----------|

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

- New York State Archives/Archives Partnership Trust. "Consider the Source New York: The Development of Elementary and Secondary Education in New York." Online at https://considerthesourceny.org/using-primary-sources/researching-history-your-school/development-elementary-and-secondary-education-new-york
- New York State Department of Education. "Guide to the Reorganization of School Districts in New York State."

 Online at:

https://www.p12.nysed.gov/mgtserv/sch_dist_org/GuideToReorganizationOfSchoolDistricts.htm#:~:te_xt=The%20establishment%20of%20common%20schools,1925%2C%20were%20milestones%20in%20e_ducation_

- New York State Forest Commission. *Map of the Tracts, Patents, and Land Grants of Northern New York*. Albany: State Forest Commission, 1893.
- Nichols, Beach and Stranahan, Jay. *Atlas of Montgomery and Fulton Counties, New York*. New York: J. Jay Stranahan and Beach Nichols, Publishers. 1868.

"Schoolhouse Memories." The Leader-Herald. October 6, 2013, Section C.

- Stager, Curt. "Hidden Heritage." Adirondack Life, June 2017. https://www.adirondacklife.com/2017/10/05/hidden-heritage
- Streeter, Hannah Green. Autobiography of Hannah Green Streeter, containing an account of the family & descendants of John Mason Anthony. Ann Arbor, MI: Ann Arbor Press, 1911.
- University of the State of New York, State Education Department. *Master Plan for School District Reorganization in New York State* (Revised). Albany, NY: State Education Department, 1958.
- Van Deusen, Mary S. "Barent Bleecker (1760-1840)." <u>https://www.iment.com/maida/familytree/lansing/barentbleecker.htm</u>
- Warren, Susanne R. *The Schools of New York State Development of the School as a Building Type* [Context Study]. Albany, NY: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, 1990.

| DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School | Fulton, New York |
|--|--|
| Name of Property | County and State |
| Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)previously listed in the National Registerpreviously determined eligible by the National Registerdesignated a National Historic Landmarkrecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # | Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository: |
| Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 25NR00 | 0014 |
| 10. Geographical Data | |
| Acreage of Property .12 acre (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.) | |
| Latitude/Longitude Coordinates Datum if other than WGS 84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places) Latitude: 43.120412 Longitude | e: -74.366307 |
| Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the pro | operty.) |
| The schoolhouse property is a small rectangular parcel, | approximately 42' by 71' in size. |
| Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected | .) |
| The boundary of the nominated property is the historic No. 3 schoolhouse. | parcel that was created in 1847 for the Bleecker District |
| 11. Form Prepared By | |
| name/title Steven Engelhart | |
| organization Consultant for Adirondack Architectural Herita | ige date 1/30/2025 |
| street & number 2729 NYS Route 22 | telephone 518-321-9431 |
| city or town Essex | state NY zip code 12936 |
| e-mail <u>engelhartsteven@gmail.com</u> | |

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Name of Property

Fulton, New York County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. Attached.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. Attached with photographs.

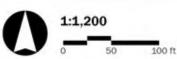
- **Continuation Sheets**
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Historic Photos and Maps

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

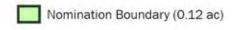
Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State





Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N





New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2021

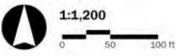
Mapped 04/23/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State





Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

50 100 ft Tax Parcels

New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Fulton County Parcel Year. 2024

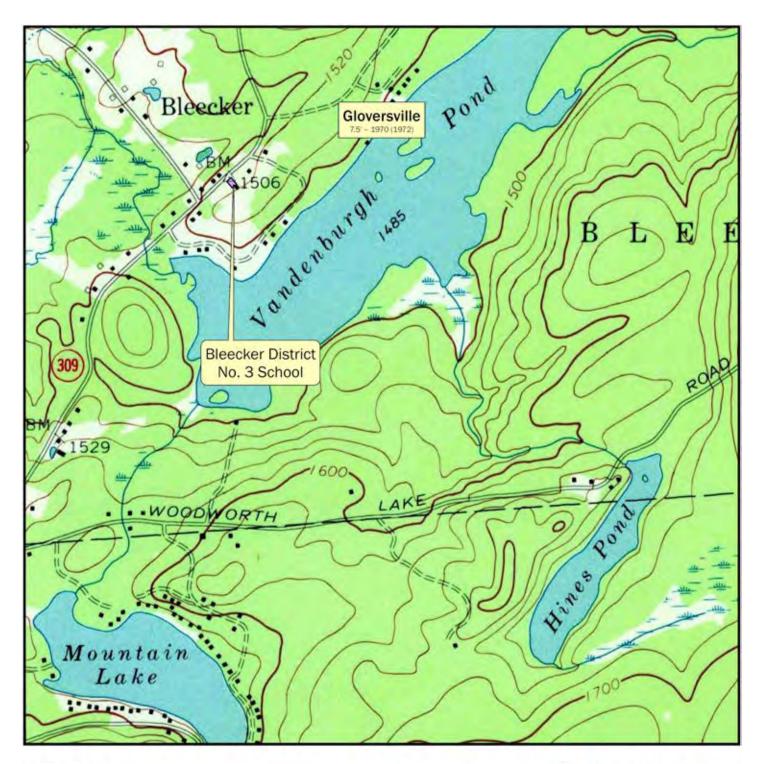
Nomination Boundary (0.12 ac)

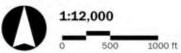
Mapped 04/23/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

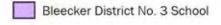
DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State









DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Bleecker District No. 3 School

Location: 112 Lily Lake Road, Bleecker

County: Fulton

State: New York

Photographer: Steven Engelhart

Date Photographed: May 17, 2024

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0001 North façade. Facing southeast.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0002 West elevation. Facing east.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0003 South and east elevations. Facing northwest.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0004 Building ell, south and east elevations. Facing northwest.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0005 Façade (north) steps and landing. Facing southwest.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0006 Classroom interior. Facing northwest.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0007 Classroom interior. Facing south.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0008 Vestibule. Facing west.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0009 Office interior. Facing northwest.

| United States Department of the Interior | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| National Park Service / National Register | of Historic Places Registration Forn |
| NPS Form 10-900 | OMB No. 1024-0018 |

DRAFT Bleecker District No. 3 School

Name of Property

Fulton, New York
County and State

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0010 Ell/woodshed interior. Facing east.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0011 Privy interior. Facing east.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0012 Ell vestibule. Facing west.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0013 Classroom interior detail - blackboard. Facing east.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0014 Classroom interior detail - bench. Facing east.

NY_Fulton County_Bleecker District No. 3 School_0015 Classroom interior details. Facing west.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





























