

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

# DRAFT

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).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Wheeler, George and Addison, House, Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation

other names/site number N/A

name of related multiple property listing N/A

### Location

street & number 6353 & 6342 Grimble Road

N/A

not for publication

city or town East Bloomfield

XX

vicinity

state New York code NY county Ontario code 069 zip code 14469

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national          statewide      X 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 Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

    entered in the National Register                          determined eligible for the National Register

    determined not eligible for the National Register                          removed from the National Register

    other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

3

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/residence

DOMESTIC/residence

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn

FUNERARY/cemetery

FUNERARY/cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival (house)

foundation: stone

walls: wood

roof: metal, asphalt

other:

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### **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**

In 2005, the George and Addison Wheeler House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an outstanding example of nineteenth century rural Greek Revival architecture in Ontario County. At the time, the boundary encompassed 110 acres of the Wheeler farm on the south side of Grimble Road, but the farm property actually extended north across the road. An additional two acre portion was subdivided from the Wheeler property around 1950 which contained a barn associated with the Wheeler farm. The two-acre parcel was recently acquired by the current owner of the listed property and this amendment adds the historic barn associated with the Wheeler farm to the nomination. In addition to the slight boundary expansion, the nomination is being amended with information/descriptions about the listed resources along with the additional barn. When the house was listed, the nomination neglected to describe its associated contributing resources that include a historic family cemetery and a barn east of the house. Additional documentation is being added with this amended nomination, along with additional information demonstrating that the Greek Revival house continues to retain its historic integrity. In summary, the boundary is being expanded to include the two-acre parcel along with additional documentation of descriptions of all historic resources within the expanded and listed boundaries.

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### **Narrative Description**

#### **General Description**

When it was listed in 2005, the George and Addison Wheeler House was briefly described, but the narrative still stands as a general description of the listed resource in its present condition. The overall description states that the house “is a remarkably intact nineteenth century farmhouse in the town of East Bloomfield.” The town is in northwest part of Ontario County, New York, bordered by the towns of Canandaigua, Victor, West Bloomfield, and Bristol. The house is in the southeast portion of the town, on the south side of Grimble Road. A two-acre parcel is being added to the listing that is immediately opposite on the north side of Grimble Road. As stated in the listing, the house was built in two phases with a ca. 1818, one-and-one-half story section connected to the rear of the ca. 1840 temple-front Greek Revival house with a two-story center block flanked by two, one-story side wings.

In 2005, Grimble Road was described as a sparsely settled rural road, and that the surrounding area was predominantly agrarian. The town of East Bloomfield remains largely agricultural land, according to a 2017 county map showing agricultural districts compiled by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.<sup>1</sup> The listing included 110 acres of land and current county records indicate that 62 of these acres is woodland. The south side of the road appears to be the crest of a ridge with the house setback from the roadway. This provides clear views of the sloping landscape to the north, which generally consists of large, open land. East of the house is a late-nineteenth century barn and west of the house,

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<sup>1</sup> Online at <https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/1607/Agricultural-Districts>.

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surrounded by a wood rail fence, is a family burial ground. Another late-nineteenth century barn is located on the two-acre parcel across the road from the listed barn to the northeast. The added parcel at one time had a mid-twentieth century ranch house west of the barn, but it is no longer extant.

Briefly described, the house is a ca. 1840 Greek Revival main block that consists of a wood two-story, three-bay, temple-front center section, flanked by two symmetrical one-story, two-bay side-gabled wings. The rear portion of the house is older, constructed ca. 1818. Its form is simple and linear, and is wider than the ca. 1840 wings. All sections of the house rest on slightly raised stone foundations and there is a partial basement. Roofs on all sections except the center are medium-pitched with cornice returns, now clad in standing seam metal. The center block has a triangular pediment with a plain tympanum and a cornice supported by four columns with Ionic volutes. Siding on the main block façade is wood, but it is flush to simulate the smooth appearance of stone. The rest of the house is horizontal clapboard. The roof is clad in asphalt shingle in the center section.

All sections feature regular fenestration of rectangular openings. The ca. 1840 house has six-over-six, double-hung sash, plain sills, flat low-pedimented lintels and louvered shutters. Façade windows in the wings have lower inset wood panels. The full-height columns are smooth and form a portico, sheltering an enframed entrance with fluted pilasters topped by a wide, plain low-pedimented lintel. A paneled door has a three-light transom with metal tracery, molded corner blocks, glass sidelights and lower wood panel insets. Other exterior character-defining features are the raking cornice enclosing the tympanum, the frieze band that runs the perimeter of the main block and under the eaves of the wings, and plain, rectangular lintels over windows on the east and west elevations. Windows in the ca. 1818 section are a variety of sizes ranging from six-light single sash to double-hung, six-over six windows. A west elevation door is wood with a later period plain bracketed lintel. A wide, wood paneled door is on the north side of the ca. 1818 wing. Two tall chimneys are near the gable ends of the wing roof ridges and another chimney is at the south end of the main block.

A wide, wood-paneled door is on the north side of the ca. 1818 wing. This older wing is located on the southeast part of the building and clearly shows a side gabled, one and one-half story, clapboard-sided building with even fenestration. There are small windows in the half-story on the north and east sides of the wing and a centrally placed door and two more small windows on the south elevation. The portion of the building on the southwest side is sited at a 90-degree angle to the rest of the rear of the house and may be a later addition to the 1818 building. The south elevation slightly projects from the rest of the building. Two paired windows are on the south elevation. Three more windows and a door are on the west side, and a cross gabled roof is on this part of the wing.

The interior of the house follows an I-shaped floor plan with five main rooms on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. The first floor also has smaller divisions for an office, storage and laundry. The main entrance of the ca. 1840 section opens into a center hall with two large rooms on either side, one in each of the side wings. The hall narrows where it contains an enclosed wood staircase of tall risers, narrow treads, wood wall strings and a delicate turned railing with slender, square balusters at the second floor landing. The hall entrance by the stair is highlighted by full-height fluted pilasters and an entablature with dentil molding and cornice. Other doorways/passageways have fluted door moldings

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with corner bull's eye blocks (paterae) and paneled wood doors. Floors throughout the building are wood and walls are plaster with high baseboards. Windows in the prominent rooms also have fluted molding and some have a center block with urn insets and paterae with a floral design. These rooms also have Greek Revival style fireplaces with fluted pilasters, floral inset panels and two-dimensional pediments with floral end embellishments behind the mantelshelf. Features in the older portion of the house are less ornate and consist of wood flooring, wood door and window moldings and sills.

## Outbuildings

Originally, the property contained three barns, an icehouse, a woodshed and a privy. The icehouse, woodshed and privy were demolished ca. 1948. Only two of the barns remain, one on the southside of Grimble Road east of the house and the other on the northside of Grimble Road. The southside barn is of undetermined date but does appear in a ca. 1868 historic photograph of the property, obscured by trees. The barn is an L-shaped wood building with a cross-gabled roof, three barn doors, and one pedestrian door on the north elevation. Three windows are on the north side with one being a small ventilation window in the north facing gable end. Doors and windows are outlined in white trim continuing the slight embellishment of the exterior as seen in the historic photo. The rest of the elevations have evenly spaced windows with four being in the south facing gable end.



Ca. 1868 photograph of Wheeler House and barns

This photo was taken from the north side of Grimble Road looking south. The two-acre parcel being added to the nomination is in this approximate location and contains the contributing northside barn. The northside barn, which was

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likely built to house livestock, is of undetermined date; however, its framing appears to be mid-to-late nineteenth century and it first appears on a 1904 map. The name on the map associated with the house and barn is that of Lewis T. Sutherland who was married to Addison Wheeler's daughter, Ellen. The barn has a parged stone foundation built into a slight rise creating two separate levels. The barn is wood frame with vertical wall siding and a shingled side-gabled roof. The ground level is accessed via two wide openings on the east side of the barn. Timbers in this portion are adze-hewn and may be reused from an older building. Also visible in this section is the wood floor for the upper section of the barn supported by half-round logs.

The main level of the northside barn is accessible by two large doors on the west elevation along a sloping grass ramp. Another smaller opening is near the south end. Two additional openings are located directly opposite the large doors on the east side, but only one has its original sliding wood door. Interior framing appears to be a queen post truss system of sawn timbers. Two small ventilation windows are in the gable peaks of the north and south elevations. Additional windows are on the east elevation with two six-over-six and one small window in the upper level and two more six-over-six windows between the ground level openings. A pedestrian door opening is near the south end of the east elevation.

## Wheeler Family Cemetery

West of the Wheeler House is a small family cemetery located in a wooded area, set back from the road. The cemetery is laid out in four parallel rows, oriented north-to-south and is surrounded by a wood rail fence, painted white. Openings are in the north and south sides of the fence. Sixteen burials have markers, mostly for Wheeler family members; however, one of the markers is for the previous owners of the property who documented the house and cemetery for the listing in 2005. A majority of the markers are marble slabs and one is a granite monument on a large stone base. Several markers are small headstones with initials. Most of the markers are severely weathered and barely legible. Fortunately, the marker inscriptions were copied, and the names and dates are posted online with other Ontario County cemetery information.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ontario.nygenweb.net/towneastbloomfieldsmallcem.htm>.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1818-1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1818, 1847, 1904, 1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)** The period encompasses the estimated construction date of the house and barns and map documentation showing the existence of the barn on the north side of Grimble Road. At that time, the barn was shown as the property of Addison Wheeler's son-in-law, Lewis T. Sutherland. In 1911, Lewis's son, Acey Wheeler Sutherland, sold the property out of the family.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

In 2005, the George and Addison Wheeler House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Areas of significance were indicated as Criterion A in the area of agriculture and Criterion C for the ca. 1840 portion of the house as being an outstanding example of rural Greek Revival architecture. The accompanying narrative dealt exclusively with the Wheeler family genealogy and the architecture of the house without addressing its significance as a rural property in the largely agricultural area of East Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York. The 2005 analysis of historic architecture is still applicable for the residence, eliminating the need for additional discussion of Criterion C; however, the 2005 nomination referenced funerary art as an area of significance without explanation. Due to the deterioration of the markers in the family cemetery, no additional information can be included with this document and funerary art has been removed as an area of significance.

The purpose of this amendment is to add the missing information related to agriculture, correct some minor errors, expand the period of significance to 1911, and add two additional acres to the listed boundary. The period of significance assigned was 1818 to ca. 1900, roughly reflecting the family's acquisition and ownership of the property. The revised end date reflects when Lewis T. Sutherland's son, Acey Wheeler Sutherland, sold the property out of the family. This also corrects the error stating that Acey Sutherland (1873-1961) acquired the property in 1889 when in fact it was Lewis Sutherland, which is supported by a 1904 county atlas map that names him as owning the Wheeler property.<sup>3</sup> It also clearly shows a barn on the north side of Grimble Road. When listed, 110 acres were included in the boundary that encompassed the house, a barn east of the house and a family cemetery. The barn on the north side of Grimble Road is being added to the nomination along with the two-acre parcel that it occupies. The listed acreage has a conservation easement placed on it that aids in preserving the rural surroundings and the additional two-acres will help preserve the north side viewshed and the rural setting of the George and Addison Wheeler House.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Agriculture**

In 1813, Horatio Gates Spafford published a gazetteer of New York State that described the state as "essentially agricultural...Wheat, seems the first object of our farmers, and that article is cultivated with great success; as is rye, maize, oats, flax, hemp, pease, beans & c."<sup>4</sup> Wheat became the dominant crop in the early nineteenth century for farmers in the western part of the state as settlement increased in that region after the American Revolution. Before settlement could occur, conflicting land claims needed to be settled as both Massachusetts and New York had claims to the lands. The Treaty of Hartford in 1786 resulted in a compromise with Massachusetts being granted the right to purchase six

<sup>3</sup> Acey Sutherland was a student at Canandaigua Academy in 1889, participating in the graduating ceremonies in 1891; "Canandaigua Academy," *Ontario Repository-Messenger*, June 18, 1891, 3.

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million acres from the Hadenosaunee (Iroquois) with New York recognized as retaining sovereignty to the territory. In 1788, two New England investors, Oliver Phelps from Connecticut and Nathaniel Gorham from Massachusetts, formed a partnership and secured the rights to sell two and one-half million acres of land east of the Genesee River. They had the land surveyed and divided into six-mile-square towns that they proceeded to offer for sale. They promoted the sales in their native New England states and the majority of the settlers who bought land in what was known as the Phelps and Gorham Purchase, came from Connecticut and Massachusetts. This continued until 1825 when it slowed significantly due to competition from newly opened New England factories and the fact the little of the best farmland remained for sale in the region.<sup>5</sup>

In 1789, Phelps and Gorham sold the lands that eventually became the Town of East Bloomfield to five investors from Massachusetts, one being Deacon John Adams who led a group of twenty-four pioneers to make the first permanent settlement in the town in the spring of that year. As the group dispersed to their respective properties, the first order of business was to improve the land by clearing trees and building houses, barns, outbuildings and to fence in their properties. Some early accounts remark on seeing farm clearings with crops interspersed with tree stumps. Clearing the land was a slow, tedious process with settlers clearing only ten to fifteen acres on average in a year.<sup>6</sup> The wood often provided the farmer with a first cash crop by burning wood to make potash. The farmer could use the ash for fertilizer or sell it for a number of uses ranging from baking to making glass and soap. The other advantage to clearing the land was being able to sell the improved land at an increased value.<sup>7</sup>

Abner Barlow of Canandaigua was credited with sowing the first wheat in Ontario County in 1790.<sup>8</sup> Wheat quickly became the primary crop of farmers with the grain first being used as payment for their lands, and later, being milled and sent to local markets. By 1811, the East Bloomfield had five flour mills with one being on Mud Creek, one of the larger waterways in the eastern part of the town. As stated in one county history, the ready access for milling "did away with the long trips with ox team and sled which were necessary before in order to obtain flour. No better flour could be had in eastern markets than that sent out from these mills. It was marked Genesee Flour, Bloomfield."<sup>9</sup> Wheat could be sown early, and little attention was needed until it ripened when harvesting had to be done immediately. The grain could be stored in the sheaf and threshed at the convenience of the farmer. The downside to wheat was that repeated sowings in the same field depleted the soil's nutrients faster than other crops.<sup>10</sup>

When Major George A. Wheeler settled in Bloomfield in the early nineteenth century, the town was described as "the most populous town in the county, and one of the best farming towns in the state. The inhabitants are wealthy, enjoying all the

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<sup>4</sup>Horatio Gates Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* (Albany, NY: published by H. C. Southwick, 1813), 20.

<sup>5</sup>Connie Cox Bodner, *The Development of Nineteenth-Century Agricultural Practices and Their Manifestations in Farmsteads in the Genesee River Valley* (Rochester, NY: Rochester Museum and Science Center, unpublished survey, September 1990), 17.

<sup>6</sup>Fink, Daniel Fink, *Barns of the Genesee Country, 1790-1915* (Geneseo, NY: James Brunner, Publisher, 1987), 54-57.

<sup>7</sup>Fink, 57.

<sup>8</sup>Charles F. Milliken, *A History of Ontario County, New York and Its People, Volume 1* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1911), 221.

<sup>9</sup> Milliken, 314.

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ease of independence, derived from agricultural industry and economy...The soil is of the best quality of loam, good for grain and grass, and the surface but gently undulated.”<sup>11</sup> Such glowing accounts may have attracted Wheeler to move his family from Geneseo, where he settled in 1800 and operated a ferry on the Genesee River. He later moved to Lakeville in what became Livingston County, and after serving in the war of 1812, he moved east to Bloomfield, buying roughly 180 acres of land from another early settler, Israel Beach. This may have been improved land, ready for farming and may have included the ca. 1818 farmhouse that was expanded by his son, Addison, around 1840.<sup>12</sup>

Agricultural statistics are lacking for the early years of settlement, but by 1850, Ontario County farms produced 979,342 bushels of wheat, followed by 421,666 bushels of oats.<sup>13</sup> Much of the increased production was attributed to improvements in farming methods and education, largely through journals and agricultural societies. Ontario County organized an agricultural society in 1819. That same year, a cast iron plow with changeable parts was introduced, which allowed for the expansion of field crops. Agricultural societies and journals encouraged better draining and the need for manuring and crop rotation to renew the soil. Horses began to replace oxen, which required growing oats and building larger barns for storing hay along with other crops.<sup>14</sup>

In 1860, a gazetteer of New York State stated that the climate of the state made it adapted to farming with farmland comprising “ a little more than one-half of the entire area of the State, and of these 37 per cent is devoted to pasturage and 25 per cent is occupied by meadowlands. The principal crops, in order of relative amounts, are oats, corn, wheat, buckwheat, rye and barley, together occupying 37 per cent of the cultivated lands—leaving 1 per cent, for minor crops and gardens.”<sup>15</sup> The gazetteer recorded that Ontario County had 290,639 acres of improved land. East Bloomfield was credited with 13,277 acres of improved land and a population of 2168 that produced 41,446 bushels of winter wheat and 91,109 bushels of spring wheat. Other crop totals included 2,057 tons of hay, 9,511 bushels of potatoes and 19,052 bushels of apples.<sup>16</sup> Sheep numbered 7,956 with wool production soon to gain importance with the onset of the Civil War. By 1870, the number of improved lands in East Bloomfield increased to 18,613 acres producing a market total of \$312,469 of all farm goods.<sup>17</sup>

Even with wheat being a primary crop, the farmers in East Bloomfield were diversifying their crops along with most of Ontario County. An 1876 county history stated that growing hops was a leading crop in East Bloomfield, which could

<sup>10</sup>Bodner, 19, 22.

<sup>11</sup>Horatio Gates Spafford, *A Gazetteer of the State of New York* (Albany, NY: published by H. C. Southwick, 1813), 135.

<sup>12</sup>Undocumented deed research by a previous owner states that George Wheeler acquired the property in 1818, but another published history states that Wheeler moved to East Bloomfield in 1926; George S., Conover ed. *Ontario County, New York, with Illustrations and Family Sketches of Some of the Prominent Men and Families*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co., Publishers, 1893), 211.

<sup>13</sup>H. F. Walling, *Map of Ontario County New York* (Philadelphia, PA: John A. Gillette, publisher, 1852), inset.

<sup>14</sup> Bodner, 22.

<sup>15</sup> J. H. French, *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Syracuse, NY: R. Pearsall Smith, 1860, 101.

<sup>16</sup> French, *Gazetteer*, 1860, 500.

<sup>17</sup>*USDA Census of Agriculture Historical Archive*, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, online at <http://agcensus.mannlib.cornell.edu/AgCensus/homepage.do>.

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easily be delivered to local breweries, one being the McKecknie Brewery in Canandaigua that used an annual average of thirty tons of hops.<sup>18</sup> It is unknown whether Addison Wheeler grew hops but another Wheeler farm just over the town line in South Bristol was experimenting with adding hops to their usual crops.<sup>19</sup>

After George Wheeler's death in 1835, Addison Wheeler became the owner of the farm around 1837 and began to make improvements. One of the first was to expand the existing house around 1840 to better house his large family, and add new barns for livestock and crop storage. Without written information on what Addison Wheeler actually grew on the farm, the best documentation is from a ca. 1868 photograph that shows the house, two barns and part of a farm field on the north side of the road. In front of one of the barns is a horse-drawn mechanical reaper indicating that Wheeler grew wheat. Wheeler undoubtedly also grew hay to feed livestock. The photograph shows cows grazing on the hillside and horses, pulling wagons and a buggy near the house and barns. Oats, hay and clover were needed for the horses and any excess could be shipped as horse feed to nearby villages and the city of Rochester. Not seen in the photograph is another large English-type barn, as the photograph is taken from a field in front of the barn, looking south. The barn on the north side of the road had two levels with the lower level for livestock. Large doors on the east and west sides, directly opposite each other, indicated that the upper level of the barn was used for threshing and storage. The doors also allowed for an easier transfer of feed and hay to the lower level of the barn for the livestock. Clearly, the photograph shows that the Wheelers were typical of the farms in East Bloomfield.

After the Civil War, vast quantities of wheat started to be shipped from the western United States, resulting in steadily decreasing prices for northeast farmers. As farms in Ontario County began to adjust, they turned to growing fruits and vegetables, primarily for the canning industry.<sup>20</sup> No orchard is visible in the photograph of the Wheeler farm, but other farms in the area turned to fruit and cider. Entries in the diaries of the South Bristol Farm of John Wheeler related that in 1868, he had an apple orchards and 1878 entries indicated that wheat was still the main crop for his farm.<sup>21</sup> Even with diversification, western competition caused prices to dramatically decrease causing some farmers to sell their farms. Population statistics showed a steady decline between 1890 and 1910, which implied that East Bloomfield was affected by the competition. The town population in 1890 was 2,039, which dropped to 1,940 in 1900 and dropped again to 1,892 in 1910 while the population of the village of Canandaigua increased in the same period from 5868 to 7217.<sup>22</sup>

Addison Wheeler died in 1872 and his widow, Lucy, in 1884, which created a problem as to how to disperse of the East Bloomfield farm property. Their sons Robert, Oscar, Ulysses and Thaddeus each had their own farm and another son,

<sup>18</sup>W. H. McIntosh, *History of Ontario County, N. Y., with Illustrations Descriptive of its Scenery, Palatial Residences, Public Buildings, Fine Blocks, and Important Manufactories* (Philadelphia, PA: Everts, Ensign and Everts, 1876), 59, 210.

<sup>19</sup>"Early Spring and J. B. Wheeler Plans to Expand His Hop Field," *Shortsville and Manchester Enterprise*, November 2, 1951, 5. (Printed excerpts of John B and Achsah Wheeler diary, 1868.)

<sup>20</sup>Bodner, 67.

<sup>21</sup>"The Wheeler Diary," *Victor Herald*, February 28, 1952 and March 13, 1952, 4; "The Wheeler Diary," *Shortsville and Manchester Enterprise*, February 19, 1953, 8.

<sup>22</sup>*American Agriculturist Farm Directory of Ontario and Wayne Counties, 1914* (New York: Orange Judd, Company, 1914), 11.

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Heber, was a merchant and coal dealer in the village of East Bloomfield. Their daughter Ellen was married to Lewis T. Sutherland, a poultry farmer in the town of Canandaigua who was also dealer in wool. At times he dealt in real estate and was often called upon to be the executor of his relative's wills. He acquired the East Bloomfield farm, but remained living on his Canandaigua farm until his death in 1926. His son, Acey Wheeler Sutherland was a banker who also dealt in real estate and, in 1911, sold the East Bloomfield farm to Edward Grimble. A 1914 farm directory listed Grimble as a farmer and lumberman.

In 1948, Edward's son, Howard, sold 96 acres of the farm on the south side of the road which included the house . The new owners began a restoration of the house that included demolishing an outhouse, woodshed on the south side of the house and an icehouse. They also expanded the property holdings to 110 acres that included the Wheeler family cemetery. At the time of the purchase, only one of the barns remained on the southside of the road and the barn on the northside of the road remained in the Grimble family. In 2005, a two-acre parcel with the northside barn was separated from the rest of the farmland for a Grimble descendent, and this parcel was sold in 2019 to the current owners of the Wheeler House and property. This amendment adds the barn and two acre parcel to the listed property, reuniting the northside barn with the historic farm property on the south side of Grimble Road.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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- "The Wheeler Diary," *Shortsville and Manchester Enterprise*, February 19, 1953, 8.
- "The Wheeler Diary," *Victor Herald*, February 28, 1952 and March 13, 1952, 4.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: Ontario County Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the listed acreage with the addition of a 2-acre lot on the northside of the road that was historically part of the original farm acreage.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Virginia Bartos, Ph.D., Historic Preservation Program Analyst  
organization NYS OPRHP, Div. for Historic Preservation date September 10, 2020  
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2161  
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188  
e-mail virginia.bartos@parks.ny.gov

**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**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: George and Addison Wheeler House

City or Vicinity: East Bloomfield

County: Ontario State: New York

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number: see attached pages

1 of \_\_\_\_.

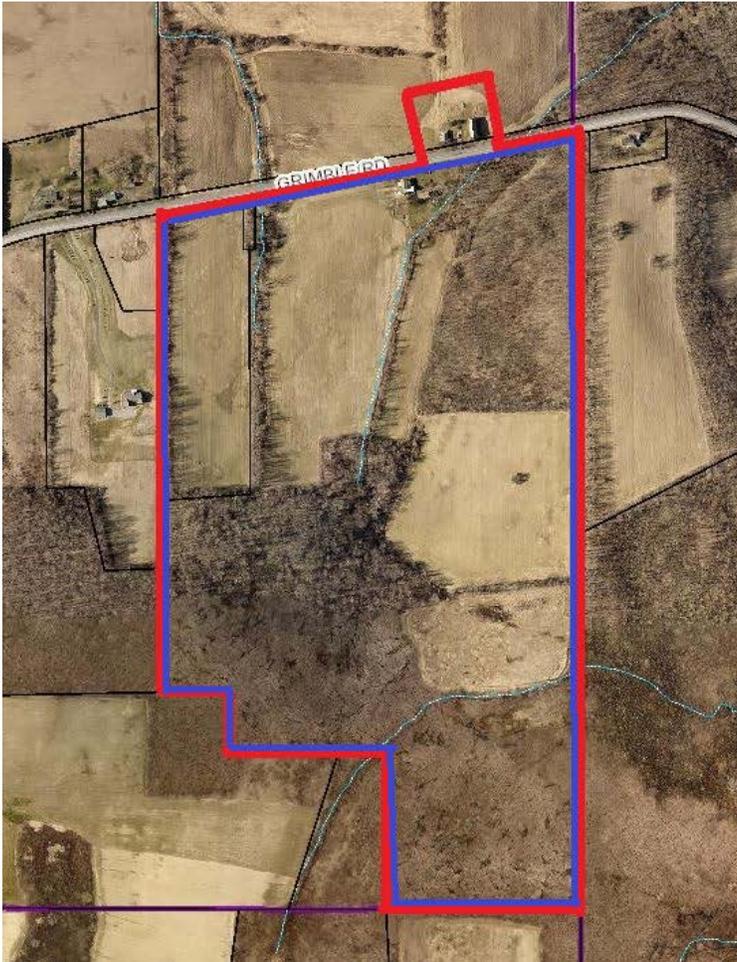
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing 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.

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**Proposed Boundary in  
Red**

**Listed Boundary in Blue**

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Wheeler House, 2020

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Aerial view showing house and southside barn

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Wheeler Cemetery

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Northside barn, east elevation

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Interior view of northside barn

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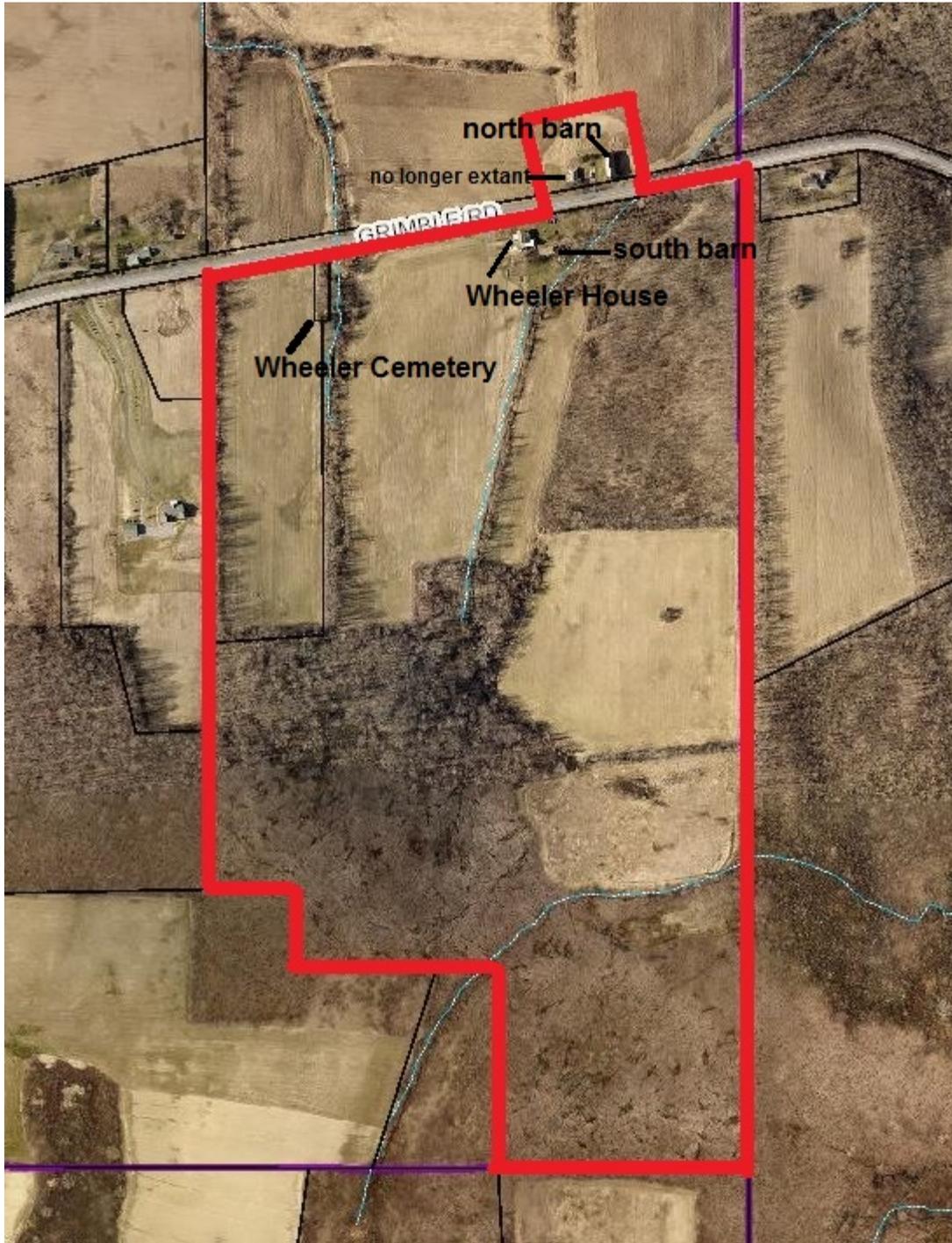
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Lower level of northside barn

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Site Plan—George and Addison Wheeler House