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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Martin Van Buren National Historic Site Additional Documentation

other names/site number Lindenwald; Kleinrood

2. Location

street & number 1013 Old Post Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Kinderhook ☐ vicinity

state New York code NY county Columbia code 021 zip code 12106

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this ___ 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:

_x_ 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:

X 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:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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X **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Robert Pierpont DSHPO — 10/27/11

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.

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___ determined not eligible for the National Register

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___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [X] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [X] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	11	buildings
		district
4		site
5	1	structure
1	1	object
11	13	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

3 – Lindenwald (building), South Gatehouse (building), North Gatehouse Foundation (site)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY/Italian Villa
MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/Limestone; CONCRETE
walls: BRICK; WOOD/Weatherboard
roof: WOOD/Shingle; METAL/Steel
other:

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.)

Portions of this nomination printed in ***bold italics*** contain location information for sensitive archeological sites, and under the authority of Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act, should be redacted before the document is released to the public. Information to be redacted is contained in Sections 7 (including the data sheet), 8, and 10, and in the maps.

Summary Paragraph

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is located at 1013 Old Post Road in Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York. The district encompasses 176.95 acres and contains a total of 14 contributing resources, including three buildings, five sites, five structures, and one object that are associated with Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, during his ownership of the property between 1839 and 1862. The primary resource on the property is Lindenwald, Van Buren's two-and-one-half-story mansion. Built in 1797 as a Federal-style mansion, the house was remodeled and enlarged in 1849-1850 by nationally prominent architect Richard Upjohn to reflect the then popular Italian Villa-style. The grounds immediately surrounding the house and the open agricultural fields beyond contribute to an understanding of how Van Buren developed the estate to reflect his wealth and Jeffersonian agrarian beliefs. Among the other significant resources that were built during Van Buren's tenure and contribute to the district are the South Gatehouse, Farm Cottage, and Upper Pond. Archaeological sites include the Lindenwald South and North Field Native American sites and the historic period Lindenwald Estate and North Gatehouse and Dump sites. Most of the 13 non-contributing resources are associated with a mid-twentieth century farm complex developed by Dudley Rey Meyer, Jr. (Ray Meyer), located west of Lindenwald, and administrative and maintenance buildings constructed by the National Park Service (NPS) after the establishment of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site in 1974.

Lindenwald was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and was administratively listed in the National Register in 1966. In 1974, the house and about 39 acres of surrounding land were established as Martin Van Buren National Historic Site by Public Law 93-486 and placed under the administration of the NPS. National Register documentation prepared in 1980 established the National Register boundaries to include Lindenwald and its immediate setting comprising 12.8 acres of land. Contributing resources that were listed in the National Register at that time were Lindenwald, the South Gatehouse, the North Gatehouse Foundation, and the Farm Office Site. In 2009, Congress approved the expansion of the boundary to include an additional 261 acres of land encompassing all of Van Buren's farmland northwest of New York State Highway Route 9H and Albany Avenue (County Road 25) and some additional property intended to provide protection for its setting. The purpose of this amendment to the original National Register documentation is to expand the boundaries to conform with those of the legislated boundary of the National Historic Site, evaluate all resources within the boundary and provide an accounting of contributing and non-contributing resources; describe the current appearance and condition of the district; and define the areas, period(s), and level(s) of significance under which the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

Setting

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is located within the Hudson River Valley, approximately 100 miles north of New York City. It lies in the northwestern portion of Columbia County, which extends eastward from the Hudson River to the Massachusetts state line. The district is immediately bounded by Kinderhook Creek, a tributary of the Hudson River, to the north and Route 9H and Albany Avenue to the south. Kinderhook Village, the residential and commercial center of the Town of Kinderhook, is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the district. The Village of Stuyvesant Falls is located about 1.5 miles to the southwest.

The landscape surrounding the district consists of mixed agricultural fields, wooded areas, and low density residential development. The open fields of the district afford clear views of surrounding farms in the immediate foreground and the Catskill Mountains in the distance. Van Buren's property, which he assembled through several land transactions, formed an irregularly shaped parcel that extended northwestward from the house lot to the southern bank of Kinderhook Creek and then south across Albany Avenue. The parcel that Van Buren formerly owned on the south side of Albany Avenue was developed as a small residential subdivision in the late twentieth century and is not included in the park boundaries.

The major topographic features of the district are two terraces that are divided by a steep, partially wooded escarpment and slope down toward Kinderhook Creek. The lower terrace, containing the largest agricultural fields, lies within the Kinderhook Creek flood plain. The escarpment rises approximately 50 feet to the southeast and roughly bisects the property on northeast-southwest axis that parallels the creek and the road. The upper terrace, where all of the buildings and structures within the district are located, is manifestly flat and level with the road. With the exception of some minor changes, most notably the construction of several man-made ponds that were built to support agricultural operations on the property in the mid-twentieth century, the topography retains its integrity to the period of significance.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Contributing Buildings

Lindenwald (LCS No. 017102, contributing building) is located in the southeastern quadrant of the district and faces southeast toward Route 9H. The house consists of a two-and-one-half-story rectangular main block that was constructed in 1797 for Peter Van Ness in the Federal style. In 1849-1850, architect Richard Upjohn remodeled the house to reflect the then-popular Italian Villa style. In the early 1980s the NPS restored Lindenwald to its 1850s appearance.

The original 1797 main block of the house is a five-by-four-bay masonry building, measuring approximately 59 feet by 45 feet. In 1849-1850, Upjohn added a five-story belvedere tower to the southwest corner of the house and surrounded it at its base with three distinct one-story additions. A large rear addition with a combination flat and hipped roof extends across the entire west wall of the original house, a gable-roof addition extends west from the tower's base, and a hipped-roof addition extends from the south side.[1]

The main block of the house has a moderately pitched side gable roof. Secondary gables were added to the east and west slopes during the 1849-1850 remodeling of the house. At the same time, two narrow gable dormers with round arch, six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows were added on the east slope. The walls of the dormers are sheathed with vertical boards roofs have flared eaves and bracket-and-modillion raking cornices. The main roof extends past the walls approximately 18 inches and terminates at molded cornice. The eaves are enclosed and have decorative boxed modillions. Two end-interior brick chimneys with brownstone shoulders are located near the center of roof slopes on the north side of the building. The south side originally had a similar chimney configuration, but the two chimneys there were replaced by a larger end-interior chimney at the ridge of the roof during the 1849-1850 remodeling. All three chimneys have been rebuilt and repointed.

The exterior walls of the house are brick set upon a rubble stone foundation that is parged and scored to resemble ashlar. The north side and west elevation walls are laid in English bond, while those of the facade (east elevation) and south side are Flemish bond. The east, north, and south walls have a molded brick water table and a narrow projecting brick belt course at the second story level. The walls of the house are painted in a buff yellow shade. Wood elements, including the dormer sides and porches, as well as the foundation and window lintels are painted brown.

The facade of the main block is symmetrical with a central entrance bay flanked by two ranks of single windows. The main entrance consists of rectangular doorway that is framed by wood pilasters on the sides and topped with a flat wood entablature. The pilaster shafts have recessed panels and the capital have carved sunburst motifs. Wood panels also cover

[1] Lindenwald is oriented on a southeast/northwest axis. The line of the front wall of the house is oriented 36 degrees east of true north. For convenience in referencing directions in this documentation, the front wall is designated the east wall and other compass directions are assigned accordingly.

the door jambs and head. The double-leaf, wood panel, Dutch door set in the opening has a reproduction, copper alloy knocker with a silver plate engraved with the year "1797." The entrance is flanked by rectangular sidelights that are approximately 5 feet high by 2 feet wide and contain 15-light, fixed sash windows that were installed during the 1849-1850 renovation of the house.

The doorway is covered by an elaborate hip-and-gable roof, Gothic-style entrance porch that was reconstructed by the NPS in the 1980s based on Upjohn's design for the original added during the 1849-1850 remodeling of the house. The porch roof is supported by wall brackets and two rectangular columns. Round arch spandrels connect the brackets and columns and have decorative carved wood tracery between the arch and roof entablature. The roof cantilevers forward from the columns and is supported by half round arches with similar tracery work. Drop pendants are attached to the bottom of the floating columns at the front corners of the porch roof. The open gable end is spanned by carved verge board with ogee arches. Smaller drop pendants are attached to the spring points of the interior arches. The porch railing is supported by colonnade of molded arches on truncated Tuscan columns. Square paneled columns at the transition between the stairs and deck of the porch are topped with urn finials. The porch floor and steps are wood, and the entire structure is painted rust brown. The exposed roof beams form the ceiling, which is painted cream.

A prominent three-part Palladian window is located in the center of the second story above the porch. The large center window is set in a round arch opening. The upper sash retains the original 1797 glass and has curved Gothic-style muntins. The eighteen-light sidelights are framed with wood panel columns and a flat molded entablature. The lintel above the window is arched and splayed soldier brick. A round arch, four-over-four-light, double-hung sash window is located above the Palladian window in the secondary gable end. The fenestration in the outer two bays on either side of the entrance bay consists of rectangular, six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows with splayed soldier brick lintels and stone sills. The windows have louvered wood shutters.

The slight asymmetry of the fenestration of the north and south sides reflects the arrangement of the eastern interior rooms. The windows in the first and second stories are rectangular and match those on the outer bays of the facade. A single round-arched four-over-four-light, double-hung sash window is centered in the north gable end. The south gable end has no window. Upjohn replaced the two westernmost windows in the second story of the south side with a narrow round-arched, three-light casement window in the outer bay and a hipped-roof oriel containing two round-arched, four-over-four-light double-hung sash windows in the inner bay. The majority of the original window and doorway openings in the first floor of the west side were filled in when the addition was constructed.

Several types of windows provide light to the basement level of the main block. Four, three-light, horizontal fixed windows are set in narrow rectangular openings spanned by brick flat arches that line the east foundation wall. Beneath the front porch are two ca. 1797 six-light casement windows. A double, in-swinging, casement window with two four-light sashes was added in 1849-1850 in an original rectangular brick-framed opening in the north foundation wall. A segmental arched opening framed by bricks in the south foundation wall contains an eight-over-eight-light, double-hung sash window enclosed by a rectangular brick window well.

The 1849-1850 addition has a coursed rubble masonry foundation with brick veneer laid in an American bond and painted rust brown, capped by a brownstone water table. The wood-frame walls are attached to brick laid in an American bond. The intersecting roofs are covered in sheets of stainless steel with a terne (tin and lead) coating. A single brick interior chimney rises from the roof ridge of the rear section. It consists of five to eight brick courses, a brownstone water table, three brick courses, a fourth and fifth course of brick with brownstone ledges (two on the north and south sides and one on the east and west sides), fourteen more brick courses, and several courses of corbelling. A monitor skylight is located on the flat part of the roof to the east of the chimney, centered on the arched second-story window opening in the west wall of the original house. The skylight has wood post-and-beam walls and a hipped terne-plated roof with a bracketed cornice. Its west, north, and south walls each contain a row of six-light, fixed sash windows.

The main entrance to the addition is located on the north side, adjacent to the original house. A semi-circular brick arch springing from the brick walls on both sides contains a round-arched double-leaf wood door. The round-arched door surround is composed of two four-light sidelights and two quarter-circle three-light transoms. This door opens onto a non-historic set of stone steps with metal railings and an electric lift attached to the west side. A secondary entrance to

the addition is located at the north end of the west elevation, where a four-panel wood door with a segmental arched top is recessed within a segmental arched masonry opening. A shallow wood pediment with a central circular window projects from the wall above the doorway. The door opens onto two stone steps that lead down to a short concrete walkway. Near the center of the west elevation, a metal bulkhead door provides basement access via a set of stone steps.

Fenestration in the first story of the addition consists primarily of double-hung sash windows with either six-over-six or four-over-four lights, set in segmental arched masonry openings. The windows have brownstone sills supported by paired brownstone brackets and bracketed wooden hoods covered with terne plate. Several appear in pairs under a shared hood. A pair of narrow round-arched casement windows, with four lights each, is located under a shared hood at the north end of the west elevation. The gable end at the projecting south end of the west elevation contains a circular fixed window with four quarter-circle lights. The basement has eight-over-eight or four-over-four-light, double-hung sash windows protected by external iron security bars. They are set in segmental arched brick openings and surrounded by deep window wells constructed of brick over battered fieldstone.

The belvedere tower attached to the southwest corner of the original house rises approximately 64 feet above grade to a gently sloping gable roof with terne-plated metal roofing. The interior staircase is lit by six narrow round-headed four-light casement windows that pierce the north, west, and south tower walls (two on each elevation). At the uppermost level, the north and south gable ends each contain a pair of tall round arch openings with five-light fixed sash windows. The east and west walls are open to the exterior and provide expansive views of the surrounding landscape framed within paired full-height round-arched openings springing from slender wood colonnettes. Wood handrails line the openings, supported by urn-shaped turned wood balusters on circular bases arranged in groups of five.

The interior of the 1797 section of the house has a typical Federal-style plan of five rooms in each story, with slight modifications dating to multiple mid-nineteenth-century renovations. On the basement and first story levels, two rooms are arranged on either side of a central east-west hall. The original staircase was located at the west end of the center hall, but a new enclosed staircase was constructed between 1841 and 1847 along the north wall of the southwest corner rooms and rebuilt in 1849-1850 in the same location with a raised landing two steps up from the hall. In the second story, the central hall does not extend completely across the width of the house, allowing for a larger room in the southeast corner that was later divided into three rooms. The rooms on the east side of the house are slightly larger than those on the west side and, except the southern rooms in the second story, are separated by closets. Each room also has a fireplace on the gable end wall. The west end of the southwest corner room in the second story was converted to a hall in 1849-1850 to provide access to the tower. The originally unfinished half-story has three rooms along the east side of the house, off a north-south hall with a narrow extension west to the secondary gable, all added 1849-1850. Each of the rooms has a narrow extension leading east to the gable windows. The area under the west roof slope remains unfinished, with the exception of a narrow L-shaped hall in the southwest corner that provides access to the tower.

The basement of the main block primarily has plaster walls and ceilings, unfinished woodwork and wood floors, and original board-and-batten doors in heavy wood frames. The southwest corner room, which functioned as a dining room for servants, is wallpapered and has painted wood baseboards, built-in shelving, and door and window casings. The servant living spaces on the half-story have plaster walls and ceilings, painted wood trim, and unfinished wood floors.

The interior finishes on the first and second floors vary with the type of room. Wallpaper and carpeting that are reproductions of those present between 1841 and 1847 cover the plaster walls and wood floors in all the major rooms, with the exception of some second-story rooms that have grass mat floor coverings in place of carpet. The walls of secondary spaces are plaster and the floors are unfinished. The windows all have folding paneled interior shutters (ca. 1797) and wainscot aprons (1849-1850). The main hall features French scenic wallpaper by Zuber et Cie and three circular plaster ceiling medallions. A door at the west end leading into the addition is flanked by fixed interior windows identical to the main entrance sidelights. Almost every fireplace has a wallpapered fireboard. Marble mantels replaced the original wood mantelpieces in the two front parlors in the 1840s. The staircase has molded wooden rails with metal brackets and painted wood steps covered with a carpet runner.

The majority of extant moldings in the 1797 house are original to the Federal period. These include window and doorway casings, interior window shutters, six-panel doors, baseboards, cornices, and mantelpieces. They have circular shapes

influenced by Classical Roman precedents. The most elaborate are found in the two front parlors and the central hall in the first story, reflecting the more public nature of these spaces. Groups of five flutes alternate with flat areas on the upper baseboards in these three rooms, and the molded plaster cornices have astragal molding. The window and doorway casings have ogee and cavetto molding with beads. Doric entablatures with dentil cornices and vertical projecting members on either side of plain friezes surmount the doorway architraves in the northeast parlor. Friezes with reeding, fluting, and incised sunbursts decorate the entablatures above the doors in the main hall. The architrave on the doorway in the north wall of the southeast parlor is flanked by pilasters and has a full pedimented entablature. An ogee arch at the center of the west wall of the southeast parlor frames an alcove with double doors connecting to the southwest corner room. The arch springs from simple pilasters decorated with shallow tracery.

The two rear (west) rooms in the first story and all the rooms in the second story have simpler molded plaster cornices, flat baseboards with astragal molding, and simple window and doorway casings characterized by double architraves with cavetto molding. The baseboards in the southeast corner room have cyma recta molding with a bead along the upper edge. Original wood mantelpieces in these rooms have molded architraves with mitered corners surmounted by plain friezes that curve upward and inward to meet simple entablatures with dentil cornices. The fireplace openings in the second story are all off-center and have adjacent recessed vertical panels with integral molding. The fireplace in the northeast corner room in the second story features a slightly more elaborate wood mantelpiece with a double architrave and a longer mantelshelf.

The large arched opening at the center of the east wall in the second-story stair hall likely dates to ca. 1810 interior alterations. The three-center arched frame has a curve resembling the handle of a basket, with a keystone and three-sided pilasters supporting it. Circular and elliptical tracery decorates the east and west sides of the pilasters. The entablatures at the top of the pilasters are composed of simple architraves, fluted and reeded friezes, and projecting cornices with incised circles. The smaller door connecting the two rooms at the east end of the hall is surmounted by a fanlight that provides natural light to the inner room and has curved muntins to match the Palladian window at the center of the outer room.

Several moldings in the main house date to Upjohn's 1849-1850 alterations. In the northwest corner room in the second story, the architect replaced the original window in the west wall with a built-in bookshelf framed by a double architrave with ogee molding. The molded plaster surround on the semi-circular window opening at the center of the west wall in the second-story stair hall has a chamfered edge. The lower portion of the window, which opens onto the skylight atop the addition, is enclosed with vertical panels decorated with balusters and a peaked rail. Upjohn's bay window in the southwest corner room has a vertical board wainscot apron and double architrave casings. A beveled baseboard runs along the west wall added to that room to create the hallway connecting the second story to the tower.

The interior plan of the addition is arranged around the stair tower near the south end. The rooms in the basement include a kitchen, laundry, chamber, vaulted tunnel, privy pit, and coal storage room. In the first story, a long hall runs north-south from the main entrance on the north side to a smaller hall adjacent to the tower. A small cluster of service spaces, a nursery, and a large bathroom open off the hall to the west; and two doors on the east wall open into the original house. The hipped-roof section to the south of the tower contains a single room used as a library, with access to the southwest corner room of the original house. The gable-roof section to the west of the tower contains a bedroom. Large marble fireplaces are located on the north walls of the library and the nursery, and smaller marble fireplaces are located in the southwest corner bedroom and adjacent bathroom. The tower can be accessed from the first, second, and third floors of the original house. The attic space above the addition is unfinished.

Several features of the addition's infrastructure are significant as illustrations of the Van Buren's wealth and status. The elaborate indoor plumbing system included sinks in the kitchen and laundry as well as the well-equipped bathroom in the first story. A central heating system installed ca. 1854 distributed heat from a large hot-air furnace in the basement to the registers in the first story. Both systems were innovative and rare in mid-nineteenth-century houses.

The basement rooms of the addition are primarily finished with plaster walls and ceilings, unfinished wood floors, and painted woodwork consisting of plain board door and window casings with bold cavettos on both edges. The coal storage room in the northwest corner has a brick floor, brick and stone walls, unfinished woodwork, and an exposed ceiling. The vaulted tunnel has a cobble floor and brick walls and ceiling, and the hall has a brick floor.

Most of the first-story rooms have painted or wallpapered plaster walls with wainscoting below the windows, carpeted wood floors, and plaster ceilings. Some of the transitional or secondary spaces, including the stair tower, have unpainted plaster walls and ceilings and unfinished wood floors. The woodwork in all the rooms is characteristic of Upjohn's designs, with bold and simple moldings large in contour and composed of flat surfaces and circular shapes. The most elaborate moldings are found in the library, the stair tower, and the entrance hall, where the door casings have double architraves with ovolos and fillets, crossetted at the corners, with base blocks. The interior wood shutters and many of the original four-panel interior doors remain intact.

The tower stair begins at the north end of the east wall and makes continuous quarter-turns in a series of straight risers with landings and winders up to the belvedere. It is supported by cantilevered wood joists pocketed into the brick walls. The wood treads and risers are painted brown, and the turned wood balusters and handrails are varnished. An L-shaped hatch opening framed with a board fascia in the southeast corner of the fourth-story ceiling provides access to the belvedere at the top. The interior north and south walls of the belvedere are covered with painted wood paneling. The flat wood floor deck is covered with terne-plated sheets painted brown, and the ceiling is finished with painted wood tongue-and-groove bead boards. A hatch at the north side of the ceiling provides access to loft space and the roof.

The **South Gatehouse (LCS No. 021034, contributing building)** marks the south entrance to the entry drive to Lindenwald. It is the only extant building of a pair of gatehouses built for Van Buren in 1849 by local craftsmen and used as residences for his farm employees. The lodge underwent several renovations throughout the twentieth century, including a recent NPS restoration of the exterior. The interior is currently used for storage space. The building retains its original architectural configuration and detailing.

The one-and-one-half-story wood-frame building has a side-gable roof and a full basement. It sits approximately 50 feet from the south end of the drive on a fieldstone foundation and faces north. The house has a rectangular plan measuring approximately 22 feet long by 14 feet wide. The walls are clad in vertical board and batten siding, painted cream, with quarter-round corner battens. The wood-shingled roof has deeply overhanging eaves trimmed with braided verge boards along the gable ends, lending a Carpenter Gothic style to the architecture. Additional trim is limited to shallow wood dog-eared lintels above flat wood-frame door and window surrounds.

Entrances to the cottage are centered on the three-bay north and south elevations. The door on the facade (north) elevation is a modern replacement, while the original board and batten door remains on the south elevation. A small non-historic wood porch and staircase with wood railings is attached to the north wall. The south entrance opens onto a set of two stone steps. A replacement steel bulkhead on the west side of the south wall provides access to the basement.

Single rectangular openings flank each of the entrances and contain nine-over-nine-light, double-hung sash windows. On the two-bay side elevations, the originally symmetrical fenestration has been modified. On the east side elevation, two original nine-over-nine-light, double-hung sash windows in the first story, identical to those on the front and rear walls, remain intact, but a horizontally oriented six-light fixed window replaced the original four-light casement window in the gable end. On the west side elevation, the original four-light casement window in the gable end is intact, but the two first-story windows are non-historic. The north window is a reconstruction of the original blind rectangular opening filled with wood shutters, and the south window is a horizontally oriented six-light fixed window that dates to the late 1940s. Narrow horizontal cellar windows in the north and south foundation walls are twentieth-century additions.

The interior of the South Gatehouse has three rooms on the first level, a large room with a fireplace and two smaller rooms, and a staircase to the upper level.

The **Farm Cottage (LCS No. 787465, contributing building)** is located on the edge of the upper terrace, southwest of Lindenwald on the south side of the drive leading to the former Meyer farm complex. Van Buren built the Farm Cottage in 1844 as a residence for his farm foreman. It faces east and is surrounded by a grass lawn with some foundation plantings. A gravel drive leads west from the road, at the point where it curves north, to a parking area near the southeast corner of the cottage. The original parts of the building consist of one-and-one-half-story, three- by-two-bay main block with a side-gable roof and a one-story wing extension on the south side. The exterior walls are covered with some

original clapboard siding and shiplap siding that was added at a later date. The roof is surfaced with slate shingles. Decorative vergeboards adorn the deeply overhanging eaves on the gable ends of the main block and the south wing. The main entrance in the center bay of the facade consists of a single rectangular wood doorway opening with a simple wood surround and entablature. A non-historic closed pediment hood with vertical board sheathing on the gable end projects above the door to shelter a small concrete slab porch. The outer bays have single, six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows, which may be original to the building. A secondary entrance is located in the east elevation of the south shed extension. The south wing has a set of paired casement windows on the east and south elevations.

In 1946, Ray Meyer made a number of changes to enlarge the house. A one-story shed-roof ell was attached to the north end of the rear (west) elevation and a smaller one-story gable-roof room was constructed on the south wing. Three gable dormers with eight-over-eight-light, double-hung-sash windows were constructed on the east roof slope of the main block. A concrete foundation under the original parts of the house replaced the original (probably fieldstone) foundation. A non-historic brick exterior chimney was added to the center of the north side elevation.

Contributing Sites

The **Lindenwald Grounds and Fields (contributing site)** comprise the grounds immediately surrounding Lindenwald and the outlying agricultural fields that provide the pastoral backdrop for the property. The front lawn on the east side of the house is an open expanse of land enclosed by the Entry Drive and the Old Post Road segment (both described below). A historic row of pine trees between the lawn and the road and a pine grove at the center of the row, directly in front of Lindenwald, remains mostly intact, but other varieties of trees have been added. In 2002, the NPS replanted the allee of black locust trees that historically enclosed both sides of the drive. A circular pedestrian path that was reestablished by the NPS defines the circumference of Van Buren's front garden is located south of the main entrance to Lindenwald. At the center of the former garden, which is now part of the grass front lawn, is a small reproduction urn. Other small-scale features on the lawn include several reproduction benches and interpretive wayside panels installed by the NPS.

The agricultural fields that comprise the majority of the site have been continuously cultivated since Van Buren's tenure. On the upper terrace, a field extends along Route 9H south of Lindenwald and a 7.5-acre field is located to the west. Three larger fields are located on the lower terrace. They consist of a triangular 13-acre field at the northeastern edge of the property, a 48.6-acre field south of the farm road, and a 16-acre field between these two. The fields are currently cultivated with peas, potatoes, corn, sorghum, and sudan grass.

Native vegetation covers the remainder of the landscape. A maturing swath of forest runs across the site from the Farm Cottage to Kinderhook Creek. A second wooded area is located to the northwest of Lindenwald, where a concentration of black cherry, black locust, ash, and white pine trees has grown on the former site of Van Buren's orchard.

The historic period views from Van Buren's house and across the site remain relatively intact and are a significant component of the Lindenwald Grounds. Parts of the upper terrace fields and agricultural buildings can be seen from the west side of the house. The escarpment and the vegetation along it obscure the lower fields. From the northern end of the upper field to the west of the house, there are clear views of the surrounding farmland and the Catskills. From the lower fields, the views are of the neighboring agricultural landscape. Vegetation screens clear views to the north and south of the house. The views from the front, or east side, of the house include the Old Post Road and several agricultural properties.

The Lindenwald South Native American Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.00–3.04, contributing site) comprises four loci, or subsites, of largely non-diagnostic lithic materials recovered from intact and disturbed soil contexts immediately around Lindenwald Mansion and extending south as far as the Upper Pond. The general precontact settlement profile for the region combined with the nature of the recovered material suggests a Late Archaic affiliation for the site.

The North Field Native American Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.00–2.05, contributing site) comprises five loci, or subsites, identified in the plowed field north of Lindenwald Mansion. Of the several excavations conducted at the site, one Meadowood projectile point and one Brewerton projectile point were recovered, suggesting an occupational date range from the Late Archaic to the early Woodland periods.

The Lindenwald Estate Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.00–1.07, contributing site) encompasses all of the property within the original 12.8-acre National Register boundaries for the park, and comprises seven subsites associated with the use and transformation of the property during the historic period.

The North Gatehouse and Dump Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.00–4.04, contributing site) comprises the remains of one of the two Van Buren-era gatehouses used to house estate staff. As originally constructed in 1846, the gatehouses were a matching pair of one-and-one-half-story Gothic Revival buildings located at each end of the entry drive of Lindenwald. The North Gatehouse was sold and dismantled in the 1950s. Features associated with the site include the house foundation and a high-density historical dump.

Contributing Structures

The **Old Post Road Segment (contributing structure)** consists of an abandoned portion of the historic Albany Post Road that runs north from NY Route 9H in front of Lindenwald. The portion of the road within the district extends from the eastern district boundary to its intersection with Route 9H near the South Gatehouse and is intersected at two points by the Entry Drive. The road is surfaced with gravel and crushed stone over compacted soil.

The **Entry Drive (LCS No. 040750, contributing structure)** is a semi-circular driveway constructed of compacted soil covered with crushed stone. The driveway was likely initially constructed about the same time as the house was built in 1797 and its current configuration was formalized by Van Buren in the early 1840s. It connects with the abandoned Old Post Road Segment northeast and southwest of the house. The south arc of the drive loops around the house, and the north arc meets the loop on the north side of the house.

A stone **Well Cap (LCS No. 040751, contributing structure)** is located immediately west of the bulkhead on the west elevation of Lindenwald. It caps a well that was likely dug when the house was constructed in 1797. The structure consists of a 5-foot-square fieldstone pad is divided into four roughly equal segments and set flush with grade. A 3-foot-square steel plate has been added over the top of the cap to protect the well opening.

The **Upper Pond (contributing structure)** is an approximately 23,000-square-foot body of water located on the upper terrace of the Lindenwald Grounds, along the south side of Meyer farm drive. The pond is generally oblong in shape and oriented on a roughly east-west axis. Constructed in 1840 and historically stocked for fishing, it is now used for agricultural irrigation. Ray Meyer altered the configuration of the pond in the 1950s when he constructed the drive leading to the farm complex. The pond's original dam and outlet are not extant.

The **Lower Farm Road (contributing structure)** is a trace road that was present at the time when Van Buren owned the property. It extends from the existing Meyer Farm Road south west to Kinderhook Creek and provided access to the fields of the lower terrace and Van Buren's Black Hay Barn (not extant), which was located on near its southern terminus.

Contributing Object

The **Van Ness Monument (LCS No. 787467, contributing object)** is located on a grassy mound on a cleared portion of the upper terrace field northwest of Lindenwald. Peter Van Ness's son installed the monument in 1847 to mark the location of his parents' graves. It consists of a large granite urn set atop a rectangular granite plinth with a molded cornice.

The east side of the plinth is inscribed: HERE/LIES THE REMAINS OF/THE HONORABLE/PETER VAN NESS,/WHO DIED DEC. 21, 1804/AGED 70 YEARS AND 21 DAYS/HE WAS/A HIGH MINDED, HONORABLE, SENSIBLE/MAN FEARING NO ONE BUT HIS GOD AND/A DISTINGUISHED AND INFLUENTIAL PA/TRIOT IN THE MOST TRYING TIMES HAVING/SERVED HIS COUNTRY WITH GREAT CREDIT/IN NUMEROUS PUBLIC STATIONS, BOTH CIVIL/AND MILITARY, AMONG WHICH WERE THE/COMMAND OF A COMPANY AT THE AGE OF/19 YEARS BY THE UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF/HIS MEN IN THE INVASION AND CONQUEST

OF/CANADA BY THE BRITISH, THE COMMAND/OF A REG[T] AT THE CAPTURE OF BURGOYNE/IN 1777 THAT OF A MEMBER OF THE STATE/CONVENTION WHICH ADOPTED THE FEDERAL/CONSTITUTION AND A LONG SERVICE AS A/STATE SENATOR, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL/OF APPOINTMENT AND CHIEF ? OF/THIS COUNTY.

The north side of the plinth is inscribed: HERE/LIE THE REMAINS OF/ ELBERTIE/WIFE OF/HON. PETER VAN NESS/WHO DIED JUNE 20, 1806/AGED 62 YEARS/*She was a pattern of a virtuous, affection-/ate, amiable and sensible Wife & Mother/To their joint memory this Monument is/erected by their oldest son JOHN on be-/half of himself and other children and/grandchildren.*

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Non-contributing resources consist of 11 buildings, one structure, and one object that were constructed after the period of significance or modified substantially from their historic appearance. Most of the non-contributing resources are associated with the Meyer Farm, which was developed in the mid-twentieth century and is located west of Lindenwald on property that was added to the park boundary in 2009. The Burch House, a late-twentieth-century single family home is located along Albany Avenue at the southwestern extremity of the district. Four non-contributing buildings located within the National Register boundary are used by the NPS for maintenance and storage activities. One non-contributing object, the Old Post Road Marker, is a moved and altered resource that does not retain integrity to the period of significance.

The Meyer farm building complex is located off a paved asphalt drive that extends northwest from the intersection of Old Post Road and NY Route 9H, southwest of the South Gatehouse. It continues past the Upper Pond to a group of farm outbuildings and connects at the upper terrace with an earlier farm road. From that point the two roads extend northeast and northwest to provide access to agricultural fields. The complex of buildings and structures includes a shop, two garages, two greenhouses, a shed, and a silo.

The **Meyer Barn (non-contributing building)** is located on the south side of the asphalt drive, immediately west of the Upper Pond. It is a one-story building that was constructed about 1959 to serve as potato barn. Meyer later operated a candle shop out of the building. The building has a side-gable sheet-metal roof. The exterior walls are clad in horizontal wood boards, painted red. The north elevation has a single rectangular pedestrian door in the center bay, flanked by groups of three multi-pane fixed windows. A gable-front, one-story garage extends from the west side of the office bay. It consists of a large front-gable block that faces east toward the road. The exterior walls have vertical board siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. An oversize rolling garage door fills the south bay of the east elevation. The west bay contains a rectangular pedestrian door with an adjacent paired window.

The **Meyer Farm Garage 1 (non-contributing building)** is located immediately west of the barn. It is a long, one-story, rectangular building with a front-gable roof that faces north toward the farm drive. The building was constructed about 1959 and has a concrete block foundation and walls and an asphalt-shingled roof. The gable end is clad in vinyl siding. The facade (north) elevation contains an overhead garage door in the center bay flanked by three-pane fixed windows. A larger garage bay fills the south (rear) elevation, and the side walls are lined with fixed windows. The area around the building is primarily paved with asphalt.

The **Meyer Greenhouse 1 (non-contributing building)** stands south of the farm drive, near the point where it curves to the northeast after passing the barn. Built about 1975, the greenhouse has a shallow curved roof that comes to a point at the center. The east elevation is clad in vinyl siding and contains a standard vinyl garage door at the center flanked by window openings filled in with vinyl siding.

The **Meyer Greenhouse 2 (non-contributing building)** is located immediately south of, and parallel to Greenhouse 1. The greenhouse was also built about 1975 and is a long and narrow rectangular building that faces east. It has a steeply pitched gable roof composed of rectangular sheets of plate glass. The low side walls are open to the exterior, and the south gable end is clad in vinyl siding. A large rectangular opening is located at the center of the south elevation, adjacent to a smaller rectangular doorway covered with a wood panel. A roughly square section at the north end of the building is completely enclosed, with vinyl-clad walls and an asphalt-shingled roof.

The **Meyer Open Front Barn (non-contributing building)** is located south of the two greenhouse buildings. Constructed in the mid-1960s, it is a large rectangular wood-frame storage building that faces east toward a paved area adjacent to the west side of the farm drive. It has a shallow-pitched side-gable roof made of sheet metal, with exposed wood rafters. The entire east elevation is open and divided into four bays formed by vertical wood posts. The side and rear walls are sheathed with painted clapboards. A small metal shed roof extension is attached to the north side.

The **Meyer Farm Garage 2 (non-contributing building)** is a small wood-frame building adjacent to the southeast corner of the open front barn. It faces north toward a paved area adjacent to the south side of the farm drive. The front-gable roof is made of sheet metal, the walls are clad in painted clapboards, and the floor is concrete. A large garage bay fills the north elevation.

The **Meyer Silo (non-contributing structure)** was built in the early 1970s and stands immediately south of the barn. It is a 15-foot-tall, cylindrical, metal structure with a conical metal roof. The silo is currently unused and appears to be in a poor condition.

The NPS maintenance and storage buildings are located in the immediate vicinity of Lindenwald and were developed to provide for the park's administration and maintenance. The **NPS Maintenance Garage (non-contributing building)** is located west of the Lindenwald, where a wide gravel driveway extends west from the loop of the Entry Drive. A previous property owner constructed the long, low, rectangular building about 1960, and the NPS renovated it for use as a maintenance shop in 1978. The one-story garage measures approximately 50 feet long by 25 feet wide and faces east toward the house. It has a cinder block foundation and walls under an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with a shallow pitch and overhanging eaves. The walls are sheathed in vertical boards, and the gable ends are clad in horizontal clapboards. Three of the four facade bays contain standard overhead garage doors. The NPS replaced the garage door in the southernmost bay with a modern pedestrian door and horizontal sliding window. The garage is surrounded by a grass lawn with several large trees planted near the south end.

A narrow gravel path leads from the NPS Maintenance Garage driveway around the south end of the building and continues west to the **NPS Pole Barn (non-contributing building)**. The NPS constructed the long, low, rectangular building in 1983 to serve as storage space. It is a one-story, side-gable roof building with plywood walls and asphalt shingle roof surfacing. The roof and walls are support by wood poles that are anchored on concrete footings. The facade (east) elevation is broken only by a rectangular metal door opening onto a small wood porch at each end and a paired vinyl casement window adjacent to the south door.

The **NPS Storage Shed (non-contributing building)** is located to the northwest of the Lindenwald, near the northwest woodlot. The NPS erected the shed about 1990. It is a small, one-story, wood-frame building, rectangular in plan with a front-gable sheet-metal roof. The building faces east and is surrounded by overgrown vegetation. The facade is open to the exterior, and wood posts and beams divide it vertically and horizontally into multiple lumber storage bays. The side and rear elevations are sheathed in vertical boards.

The **NPS Maintenance Shed (non-contributing building)** is located to the northwest of the Lindenwald, approximately halfway between the NPS Maintenance Garage and the NPS Storage Shed. The NPS erected the shed about 1990. It is a long, low, rectangular building with a side-gable roof, constructed entirely of sheet metal. The building faces east and is surrounded by vegetation and tall trees. The only opening is a wide double-leaf barn door in the south bay of the facade.

The **Albany Post Road Mile Marker (LCS No. 040752, non-contributing object)** is an example of the mileage markers that historically lined the Albany Post Road. Originally constructed in the early nineteenth century, the marker was in storage from the 1930s until sometime between 1957 and 1973, when it was placed at its current location along the road directly east of the South Gatehouse. The original marker is a vertical marble slab with a semi-circular top with the mileage designation "134 To NY" carved on its face. When the marker was replaced it was encased in a fieldstone surround with a concrete slab gable pediment and granite block and concrete base. While it represents a relatively rare example of an early Post Road marker, the object does not contribute to the district because of its removal from its original location and significant alterations to its original appearance that post-date the period of significance.

The **Burch Residence (non-contributing building)** is located on a cleared lot in the far southeast corner of the district about 0.7 miles south of Lindenwald. It is accessed by a short gravel drive that leads west from Albany Avenue. The one-story, late twentieth-century house faces east toward the road, and dense vegetation along the roadway screens it from view.

Statement of Integrity

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site retains integrity from the period of Martin Van Buren's residency at the estate. Lindenwald, the primary resource in the district, was restored to its 1850s appearance by the NPS in the early 1980s and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The majority of features dating to Richard Upjohn's 1849-1850 design are in place, as well as a significant amount of the Federal-period finishes. Numerous elements of the building's interior configuration are intact and provide valuable evidence for the interpretation of how Van Buren utilized the spaces for both his political and domestic pursuits. Spaces associated with his political life include the long center hall where he hosted his political allies and the library where he worked. The living spaces in the second story contain several pieces of furniture dating from the Van Buren period. The basement level houses intact examples of mid-nineteenth-century service spaces, including the kitchen and servant's chambers.

The Lindenwald Grounds and Fields and contributing outbuildings, structures, and objects that were developed during Van Buren's occupancy of the property and contribute significantly to the integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association of district. Lindenwald's setting creates a strong sense of a substantial, rural, mid-nineteenth-century gentleman's farm that Van Buren developed. The Entry Drive, South Gatehouse, Old Post Road Segment, and the treed front lawn combine to create a formal entrance to the estate and contribute to its feeling and association as a country estate. Most of the farmland that Van Buren owned remains open and under cultivation. The landscape accurately conveys the sense of heavy agricultural use that was characteristic of Van Buren's period of ownership. Roxbury Farm, which currently occupies the former Meyer farm complex buildings and actively farms the surrounding fields, employs organic and biodynamic agricultural practices that are generally reminiscent of Van Buren's scientific farming principles. While the present pattern of fields is somewhat different than that which existed during Van Buren's time, the overall spatial relationship between the variously sized fields and the prominent main house placed closer to the road remains intact. The natural resources that historically defined the estate, such as the Kinderhook Creek that forms the western boundary of the property, the wooded escarpment that separates the formal aspects of the estate from the farm fields, and the combination of terraces and slopes, are intact and remain an easily understood as part of the historic agricultural landscape.

HISTORIC DISTRICT DATA SHEET

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

RESOURCE NAME	LCS/ASMIS ID (NY STATE SITE #)	NR PROPERTY TYPE	DATE	PHOTO #
BUILDINGS – 3				
Lindenwald	LCS 017102	Building	1797, altered 1841, altered 1849-50, restored 1980-1987	1-9
South Gatehouse	LCS 021034	Building	1846-1847	14
Farm Cottage	LCS 787465	Building	1844	17
SITES – 5				
Lindenwald Grounds and Fields	None	Site	1840-1862	10-11
Lindenwald South Native American Site	***ASMIS MAVA00003.00–3.04 (A021-13-5674)***	Site	5,000-3,000 BP	N/A
North Field Native American Site	***ASMIS MAVA00002.00–2.05 (A021-13-0082)***	Site	5,000-1,400 BP	N/A
Lindenwald Estate Site	***ASMIS MAVA00001.00–1.07***	Site	c. 1797	N/A
North Gatehouse and Dump Site	***LCS 040031 ASMIS MAVA00004.00–4.04***	Site	c. 1847	15
STRUCTURES – 5				
Entry Drive	LCS 040750	Structure	c. 1797	13
Well Cap	LCS 040751	Object	c. 1797	16
Old Post Road Segment	***ASMIS MAVA00020.00***	Structure	Early 18th century	12
Upper Pond	None	Structure	1840	18
Lower Farm Road	None	Structure	ca. 1840	none
OBJECTS – 1				
Van Ness Monument	LCS 787467	Object	1847	19
TOTAL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 14				

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

RESOURCE NAME	LCS/ASMIS ID	NR PROPERTY TYPE	DATE	PHOTO #
BUILDINGS - 11				
Meyer Barn	None	Building	c. 1959	22
Meyer Greenhouse 1	None	Building	c. 1975	23
Meyer Greenhouse 2	None	Building	c. 1975	23
Meyer Garage 1	None	Building	c. 1959	23
Meyer Garage 2	None	Building	c. 1959	none
Meyer Open Front Barn	None	Building	c. 1965	23
NPS Maintenance Garage	None	Building	c. 1960	20
NPS Pole Barn	None	Building	c. 1983	21
NPS Storage Shed	None	Building	c. 1990	none
NPS Maintenance Shed	None	Building	c. 1990	none
Burch House	None	Building	c. 1980	none
STRUCTURES – 1				
Meyer Farm Silo	None	Structure	c. 1970	none
OBJECTS – 1				
Albany Post Road Mile Marker	LCS 040752	Object	c. 1800 marker, moved c. 1930, relocated and altered 1957-1973	24
TOTAL NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 13				

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.)

- [X] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [X] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] 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.
- [X] 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.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE
ARCHEOLOGY

Period of Significance

5,000-1,400 BP 2988BC – 612 AD
1797
1839-1862

Significant Dates

1797, house construction
1839, purchase by Van Buren
1849-1850, Upjohn renovations

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Van Buren, Martin

Cultural Affiliation

Late Archaic-Early Woodland
Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Upjohn, Richard (1849-1850 renovations)

Period of Significance (justification)

The periods of significance for the district include an approximate date range of 5,000 to 1,400 BP for two contributing Native American sites that have been identified as dating from the Late Archaic and Woodlands periods. The historic periods of significance consist of 1797, the date of construction of Lindenwald as a Federal-style mansion, and 1839 to 1862, which spans the period of Martin Van Buren's association with the property.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C, and D. It derives its primary significance at the national level under Criteria A and B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with Martin Van Buren (1782-1862) and his political career during the years between 1841 and 1848. During that period, Van Buren, who moved to Lindenwald after his single term as president of the United States (1837-1841), launched two unsuccessful, but historically important campaigns to regain the presidency in 1844 and 1848. The district is also significant under Criterion B as the only surviving property that is associated with the life of Martin Van Buren. The only home that he ever owned, Lindenwald represents the culmination of a remarkable political career that saw Van Buren rise from meager beginnings as a Kinderhook tavern-keeper's son to become the eighth president of the United States. His subsequent development of Lindenwald into a country estate and working farm reflected his Jeffersonian beliefs in the value and virtue of agriculture to a democratic society. Lindenwald is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an important local example of a Federal-style mansion that was redesigned by architect Richard Upjohn to reflect the popular Italian Villa style of the mid-nineteenth century. The district is significant at the local level under Criterion D in the area of Archeology and the subcategories Prehistoric and Historic-Non Aboriginal as a property that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Surveys and excavations conducted on the property to date have identified four sites that address substantive research questions regarding Native American usage of the land, Van Buren's occupancy of Lindenwald, and development of the property by previous and subsequent owners.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criteria A and B – Martin Van Buren and the Presidential Elections of 1844 and 1848

Election of 1844

Van Buren's first four years of residency at **Lindenwald (LCS No. 017102, contributing building)** have been characterized as a sort of political exile. After losing his bid for reelection in 1840 and leaving office the following March, Van Buren returned to his native Kinderhook with the expectation that, in four years' time, the "sober second thought of the people" would return him to the presidency. In the meantime, he spent his time at Lindenwald in the dual pursuits of resurrecting his standing in the Democratic Party and transforming the property into a country estate worthy of an ex-president. Although he often remarked on his happiness to be rid of the hectic life of a politician and claimed contentment as a simple farmer, he certainly did not consider himself retired from politics. Within a year of his arrival at Lindenwald, Van Buren embarked on an extended tour of the nation, using a tactic that had served him well in his past campaigns in an effort to reconnect with the American people. He spent a considerable amount of time in the South attempting to repair strained relations that had cost him dearly in the 1840 election. During a long visit with Andrew Jackson at the Hermitage, the two ex-presidents renewed their friendship and plotted political strategy. Van Buren also

visited his rival Henry Clay in Kentucky and many other political leaders who had previously backed him during his presidency. After traveling more than 7,000 miles, Van Buren finally arrived back home in late July 1842 satisfied that he had done much to rekindle support for another run for the office. While he maintained secrecy about his intentions, Van Buren emerged as the clear frontrunner for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination at its national convention scheduled to be held in Baltimore in May 1844.[2]

The events that occurred in Washington since Van Buren left office added credence to his prospects of regaining the presidency. President William Henry Harrison died after just a little more than a month in office, and Vice President John Tyler assumed his seat. Tyler, a Senator from Virginia who had once been a Jackson supporter, earned his place on the 1840 Whig ticket largely for the Southern votes he would take from Van Buren. Soon after he became president, he demonstrated his anti-nationalistic, pro-state's rights leanings by eviscerating the Whig platform through an unprecedented use of the president's veto power. On September 11, 1841, after Tyler twice vetoed legislation to re-establish the national bank, his entire cabinet, with the exception of Secretary of State Daniel Webster, resigned in an attempt to get him to do the same. It didn't work, and two days later the Whig Party formally broke their ties to the president. Tyler's remaining term was ineffectual, and his attempt to run as an independent candidate in 1844 never gained any traction. At their convention in May 1844, the Whigs nominated Henry Clay, who had already proven twice he could not win a national election. With the Whigs in disarray, the Democratic candidate would almost certainly prevail. Van Buren's main challenge to regaining the presidency, therefore, was gaining his party's nomination.

To retain a sufficient number of delegate votes from the North and South, Van Buren had to choose his strategy carefully. His historically moderate stance on slavery ran the risk of alienating both sides. The South's defense of the institution had grown considerably more militant in response to increasing attacks from anti-slavery forces in the North, particularly in Van Buren's home state of New York. He also had to contend with a growing split among New York's Democrats that gave rise to the formation of the conservative "Hunker" and radical "Barnburner" factions in the early 1840s. The disagreements initially occurred over economic issues. The Hunkers, consisting largely of Tammany Hall Democrats, opposed Van Buren's stance against the Second Bank of the United States, his call for an independent Treasury, and his antipathy toward federal expenditures on internal improvements. The Barnburners, comprised mostly of members of the old Bucktail faction of the party that Van Buren had organized during his early career in state politics, shared views that were closely aligned with their longtime leader. The Barnburners believed that the Hunkers' lackluster support of Van Buren in 1840 had been instrumental in his defeat and were determined to work harder to right that wrong in the next election. As the issue of slavery became more prominent in the mid-1840s, the Hunkers attracted pro-Southern Democrats, while anti-slavery Democrats gravitated to the Barnburners (Earle 2004:62).

During the run-up to the 1844 election, the long-simmering debate on the annexation of Texas brought the divisions in the Democratic Party to the forefront. In the mid-1830s, Texas settlers rebelled against Mexico and requested federal recognition of Texas as a United States territory. Southerners generally supported annexation because of its potential to open an immense area of fertile cotton land to settlement. Many Northerners, however, saw it as an attempt to bring a new slave state into the Union. Van Buren refused to address the Texas issue while president, fearing its potential to create further divides in his party and disrupt his Democratic agenda. The Whigs were strongly opposed to any potential expansion of slavery and during the first few years of the 1840s the issue was largely ignored. After losing favor with the Whig Party, however, President Tyler grasped the issue as a potential avenue to his re-election in 1844. In 1842, he

[2] Except where noted, the information used in the development of the Statement of Significance comes from existing cultural resource management reports prepared for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. Specifically these sources include *A Return to his Native Town: Martin Van Buren's Life at Lindenwald 1839–1862. A Historic Resource Study* (Richards, Miller, and Gilg 2006); *A Farmer in His Native Town: Cultural Landscape Report for the Martin Van Buren Farmland* (Searle 2002); *Historic Resource Study, Lindenwald, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, New York* (Platt and Unrau 1982); *Cultural Landscape Report for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site – Volume I: Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis* (Uschold and Curry 2005); *Historic Structure Report, Architectural Data Section, Lindenwald, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Kinderhook, New York* (Howell 1985); *Furnishings Report for "Lindenwald," Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Kinderhook, New York* (Kohan 1986); *Intensive Archaeological Survey, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Drainage Improvements and Fire Suppression System, Kinderhook, New York* (Ford and Heitert 2005); and *Historic Structures Report: The Gate Lodges of Lindenwald. Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Home of the Eighth President of the United States, Kinderhook, New York* (Scott 2001).

launched a propaganda campaign that played on fears of a potential British takeover of Texas. A small group of his supporters in Congress and the press, along with a number of Southern Democrats, began promoting immediate annexation. In 1843, Tyler's new Secretary of State Abel Upshur, a pro-slavery advocate, began negotiations with Texas authorities on a treaty. After Upshur was killed in an accident in February 1844, Tyler appointed Senator John C. Calhoun, leader of the pro-slavery faction of the Democratic Party, Secretary of State. In April 1844, Calhoun sent the annexation treaty to the Senate. He included with it a copy of a letter he wrote to Richard Pakenham, the British Minister to Washington, denouncing British interference in Texas and justifying the annexation of Texas as defense measure for the protection and expansion of slavery. When Ohio Senator Benjamin Tappan leaked Calhoun's letter to the press, it touched off a firestorm of protest from anti-slavery forces in the North.

The Texas annexation question quickly became the central issue of the 1844 presidential campaign and Clay and Van Buren each received a number of letters requesting clarification of their views on the subject. Clay made his stance against annexation "at this time" known in a letter to the *National Intelligencer* dated April 17. Van Buren's reply came three days later in the form of a letter written from Lindenwald to Mississippi Congressman William Hammett, who claimed to be an unpledged delegate to the Democratic Convention. Undoubtedly aware of the political ramifications of his response and the potential harm it could do to his candidacy, he attempted to lay out a reasoned approach for arriving at what he acknowledged would be an opinion at odds in some respects with what Hammett and other Southern Democrats hoped to hear from their candidate. The long letter began with a detailed history of the actions that the federal government, and Van Buren in particular, had taken in regard to Texas, including attempts to purchase it from the Mexican government in the 1820s and recognition of Texas sovereignty in the 1830s. In his opinion, the situation between Texas and Mexico remained unchanged since his time as president and therefore did not warrant immediate annexation. Any action on the part of the United States to interfere in what was a matter of foreign affairs between two warring countries would harm America's standing among the nations of the world and result almost certainly in war with Mexico. Like Clay, he did not rule out annexation in the future if circumstances changed and the American people were afforded the opportunity to fully consider and debate the ramifications (Van Buren 1844a).

The letter was quickly made public and was reprinted in newspapers and periodicals throughout the nation. Van Buren supporters in the North hailed it as proof of his independence from the pro-slavery faction of the Democratic Party, while those who favored Texas annexation saw it as a definite shift in his position toward the anti-slavery viewpoint. As a result, Southern Democrats began to align against him. Even Van Buren's staunchest Southern ally Thomas Ritchie, who had worked with him since the 1820s to establish the party's powerful Virginia/New York connection, realized that Van Buren's chances in the election were irreparably damaged. Shortly after the letter was circulated, Ritchie introduced a resolution at a state party meeting to release all delegates pledged to Van Buren. This, along with similar moves by local party officials in other Southern states, cast serious doubts on Van Buren's candidacy.

The Democratic Convention convened in Baltimore on May 27, 1844. Southern Democrats opposed to Van Buren were led by Senator Robert Walker of Mississippi. Walker was successful in getting the Convention to invoke a rule requiring two-thirds of the vote rather than a simple majority to nominate a candidate. Although he polled a clear majority of the votes on the first ballot, Van Buren fell 30 votes shy of the total necessary to receive the nomination. His support dwindled on each subsequent ballot, and the convention became deadlocked in its attempts to identify a suitable candidate among the challengers. Finally, on the ninth ballot, the party settled on James K. Polk, a Tennessee slaveholder, whose hard money and pro-annexation views satisfied enough delegates to switch support to him as a compromise candidate. Polk's relative anonymity to that point made him the first "dark horse" candidate elected to serve as an American political party's candidate for president.

Van Buren and his followers found Polk's nomination to be particularly difficult to fathom. Although Polk was previously a consistent Van Buren supporter, his political experience was limited to having served as speaker of the house and as a one-term governor of Tennessee. He had been defeated twice in re-election bids for the governorship. From Van Buren's point of view, the political machinations of the South had cost him the nomination in favor of a political novice who in no way could match the qualifications that Van Buren brought to the job. Even so, Van Buren realized that the party's success in the general election required unity among the Democrats. From Lindenwald on June 3,

he wrote a publicly circulated letter that acknowledged the results of the convention as the will of the people, adding that while he "was by no means unapprised of the occurrences remotely connected with these nominations, which have caused pain and mortification in the breast of many sincere friends throughout the Union," his supporters should put their personal feelings aside to elect the party's nominee (Van Buren 1844b).

With Polk at the head of the ticket, the Democratic victory over the Whigs in the general election was closer than it likely would have been if Van Buren had been nominated. Polk polled 49.5 percent of the popular vote to Clay's 48.1, a margin of just 39,000 votes. It was even closer in the Electoral College, where New York's 36 votes were the difference and the outcome turned on a Democratic plurality of only about 5,000 votes. According to the press, Clay's defeat was the result of a desertion of anti-slavery Whigs to James G. Birney and the Liberty Party, which received 16,000 votes. Van Buren and his followers asserted that Polk's success hinged largely on their work in convincing a reluctant Silas Wright, who had refused the party's nomination to be Polk's vice-presidential running mate, into running for Governor. Wright's name on the ballot increased local Democratic turnout in New York City, offsetting the anti-slavery vote against Polk in New York's upstate counties.

The Free Soil Party and the 1848 Election

After sifting through the returns of the 1844 election, Van Buren and his close advisors recognized the magnitude of anti-slavery and anti-Southern sentiment in parts of New England, New York, and northern Ohio. The leadership concluded that the Texas controversy shifted the balance of power to the abolitionists in dozens of communities in New York, including ten upstate congressional districts, and the state was now in danger of falling into Whig hands. An opportunity for Van Buren's supporters to distance themselves from the South came quickly. In December 1844, a month after Polk's victory, Congressman John Quincy Adams revived a fight that he begun in the late 1830s to repeal an 1836 gag rule against any discussion of slavery in Congress. Each of his previous attempts were voted down with the aid of Van Buren Democrats. This time, however, the Van Burenites refused to come to the aid of their Southern colleagues and provided the swing votes to pass the motion 108 to 80. Of 20 New York Democrats, 18 sided with Adams.

Van Buren's supporters showed their independence again a few months later when the question of the annexation of Texas came to a vote in Congress. After the Senate voted down the treaty of annexation formulated by Upshur and finalized by Calhoun, Southern Democrats embraced a compromise resolution offered by Tennessee Whig Congressman Milton Brown that would enable Texas, once admitted to the Union, to expand into five states. Joined by a number of Southern Whigs, the Democrats were able to cobble enough votes together to pass the Texas bill in the House 120 to 98. Twenty-seven Van Burenites voted against the measure. The refusal to toe-the-line on that crucial issue was tantamount to political treason, placing the Van Burenites in violation of the dictates of the party caucus.

After Polk took office, the Barnburners expected acknowledgement in the form of high level cabinet posts for their contribution to delivering New York and securing the president's victory. When Polk solicited Van Buren's advice on cabinet appointments, Van Buren suggested his long-time ally Benjamin F. Butler for secretary of state. Polk instead chose his Van Buren's political rival James Buchanan of Pennsylvania for the post. Robert Walker, the Mississippi delegate who had led the opposition to Van Buren's nomination at the convention, was named secretary of the treasury. William L. Marcy, once a New York ally but now a conspicuous enemy who headed the Hunkers, was chosen as secretary of war. The Barnburners were also shut out in favor of Hunkers for scores of lower federal positions. These obvious snubs added to the growing rift between the Van Burenites and national Democratic Party.

The Van Burenites found an outlet for their anger in the political fight to enact the Wilmot Proviso. During the last days of the congressional session of the summer of 1846, a group of Northern Democrats met to debate a last-minute request by Polk for $2 million "to provide for any expenditure which it may be necessary to make in advance for the purpose of settling all our difficulties with Mexico." They decided to introduce an amendment to the bill that would prohibit slavery in any land obtained by virtue of the appropriation. David Wilmot, an obscure Pennsylvania Democrat who was friendly with the South and would have little trouble gaining the floor, was chosen to present the amendment and thereafter it

became known as the Wilmot Proviso. The Proviso passed the House by a four-to-three margin, but neither it nor what was labeled the "Two Million Bill" got through the Senate in the few hours before adjournment.

Relations between the White House and Van Buren's supporters deteriorated even further that fall. In a battle for control of the New York party, some of Polk's Hunker appointees sabotaged the re-election bid of Governor Silas Wright, the Barnburner candidate, who lost the election by 5,000 votes. Preston King and many other Bucktails returned to Congress in December determined to reintroduce the Wilmot Proviso in an attempt to signify a clear break with slaveholding interests to their New York constituents. Polk waited two months before renewing his request for funding, this time requesting $3 million to cover "extraordinary expenses" for making peace with Mexico. King and his cohorts prodded Wilmot to add to this bill a tougher version of his Proviso that would bar slavery in "any territory on the continent of America which shall hereafter be acquired." In February 1847, they succeeded in bringing the Proviso up for a vote. Joined by Northern Whigs, the Van Burenites were able to pass the Proviso and the Three Million Bill by a vote of 115 to 106. Shortly thereafter, the Senate, led by Calhoun, rejected the Proviso and passed its own Three Million Bill without any mention of slavery. The Senate bill came before the House on March 3, the last day of the session. Anti-slavery forces again tried to attach the Proviso, but this time they were defeated, 97 to 102.

Van Buren feared that the increasingly radical actions of the Barnburners would lead to irreparable damage to the Democratic Party. He tried to convince the younger leaders of the faction to take a more cautious approach. When the Hunkers took a stand against the Wilmot Proviso at the New York State Convention in 1847, however, a bitter fight ensued between the two groups over control of the New York party. Van Buren's son John was one of the chief leaders in the Barnburner revolt. Nicknamed "Prince John" by the Whig press, John was a Yale graduate and trained for the law under Van Buren's old law partner, Benjamin Butler. After the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1844, John put all his energies into New York politics. He won appointment to the position of New York State Attorney General in 1845 and gained notoriety for prosecuting several leaders of the Anti-Rent War, representing the climax of a long fight between settlers seeking to homestead lands controlled by the powerful landholding families of the Upper Hudson River Valley. John's role in that event put him at odds with many of his father's Democratic supporters in upstate New York counties, but he soon made amends and ultimately emerged as one of leaders of the Barnburners and was instrumental in the formation of the Free Soil Party in 1848.

In October 1847, to the dismay of his father, John rallied 4,000 Barnburners to meet at Herkimer, New York, where they agreed to oppose any candidate who supported the expansion of slavery. Their action further split the New York party and led to a sweeping Whig victory in the state elections. Shortly thereafter, the elder Van Buren decided to reassert his leadership over the New York party. To do so, he moved into Julian's Hotel in Washington Square, New York City. From there, with editorial assistance from his son John and Samuel J. Tilden, he wrote what came to be called the "Barnburner Manifesto." The uncompromising statement defended the Wilmot Proviso, treated the Hunkers as heretics, and demanded that the Democratic Party seat only the Barnburners as the delegation from New York at the upcoming national convention. The manifesto infuriated Hunkers but was so well received by Barnburners that John tried to convince his father to let the Barnburners nominate him for president. Knowing that the South would not accept him, Van Buren refused permission to have his name placed before the convention. He gave his son and the Barnburners explicit directions that they should work within the party structure to achieve their goals. They should stress that they opposed the expansion of slavery in the territories, but at the same time they should be open to supporting pro-slavery Democrats. Above all, they must insist that they, not the Hunkers, be seated as the Democratic delegates of New York. If the convention failed to recognize them, Van Buren instructed that the Barnburners should bolt the convention.

During the May 1848 Democratic Convention in Baltimore, the party voted to seat both the Barnburner and Hunker factions on the condition that the New York vote would be split between them. This was unacceptable to the Barnburners and, in adherence with Van Buren's instructions, the entire group walked out in protest. With Polk having already determined not to run, the convention nominated Lewis Cass of Michigan for president, a pro-Southern candidate whose views on slavery in the territories made him extremely unpopular with Northern anti-slavery Democrats. The Barnburners in particular, hated Cass because of his central role in defeating Van Buren at the 1844 Democratic Convention.

After returning to New York, the Barnburners issued a call for a convention of their own to be held in Utica in late June for the purposes of forming a third party and running a slate of candidates in the upcoming election. Once again, Van Buren was asked to allow his name to be used as the party's presidential nominee. In a long letter to party officials dated June 20, 1848 Van Buren again refused to authorize his nomination but included his clearest statement yet on his position against the extension of slavery, stating that it was at odds with the "principles of the Revolution" and that Congress had the power to limit the institution and ought to do so (Widmer 2005:153–154).

On the same day, he wrote to New York senator John Adams Dix, about the party's intentions at Utica:

> The exhibition of a desire to nominate has since appeared so universal with the Radical Democracy of the State, and the reason assigned in favor of it so strong, as to satisfy me that I ought not advise against it, and it is quite certain a nomination will be made. Application has been made to me for permission to use my name, which I have refused to give on the ground that I have long since retired from public life, with the tacit approbation of my friends, and I am resolved never again to be a candidate for public office (Dix 1883:234).

Van Buren went on to encourage Dix to accept the nomination if offered at the Utica Convention, but Dix declined. When Van Buren's letter to Dix was read to the convention, the assemblage, thrilled at his approval of their actions, disregarded his objections and nominated him as their candidate on a Free Soil Democratic Party ticket for the presidency for the 1848 election.

After the Utica Convention, Van Buren remained ambivalent about his intentions, but evidence suggests that he privately agreed with his old law partner, Benjamin Butler, that the time had come to form a "northern Democratic party" that would bring "the despots and ingrates of the South . . . to their senses." While John Van Buren worked publicly to marshal support for the movement to draft his father for the party's nomination, Martin worked behind the scene providing advice and plotting Free Soil strategy from Lindenwald.

One of the key surviving pieces of evidence of this arrangement between father and son arose during the lead up to the Free Soil Party's national nominating convention to be held in Buffalo in August. It was apparent that the New York Barnburners needed to broaden their base if they were to make a decent showing in the election. Consequently, they made overtures to other Free Soil and anti-slavery factions to join at the convention. The issue over who should be invited, however, caused divisions among the leadership. John Van Buren was forced into the awkward position of having to work alongside old enemies who had characterized his father as the North's "worst doughface," a term implying an undesirable willingness to let others mold and shape his political opinions. In early July, John Van Buren invited a number of prominent Barnburners to his home in Albany to discuss, as one of his guests Lucius Chittenden put it, "whether the call should be made broad enough to invite such men as Charles Sumner and Charles Francis Adams, who had never been either Democrats or Abolitionists." After two days of debate, John suggested to the men that they "drive down to Lindenwald and spend the Fourth with father. He shall give us a good dinner and help us to a settlement on this question" (Chittenden 1893:10).

Chittenden, a devout Vermont Free Soiler who later became a Republican and served in the Lincoln administration, published a detailed account of what proved to be a critical meeting at Lindenwald in his memoirs:

> Although our host was probably informed of the occasion of our visit, the day passed without any reference to it. After a delightful dinner the cloth was removed, and then Prince John made a brief but entirely fair statement of the point of difference. William Curtis Noyes, who was a master of the art of concise statement, gave the reasons on one side and Mr. Tilden on the other. There was a very mischievous twinkle in the eyes of the ex-President as he said:
>
> 'I am delighted with your success, Mr. Tilden. I was not aware before that the Barn-Burners were so strong.'

'I have said nothing about our strength, Mr. Van Buren!' replied Mr. Tilden.

'True; you have only implied it,' answered our host. 'You must be very strong if you are already picking and choosing from the recruits who offer themselves for enlistment. I had supposed that we wanted every man who was opposed to the extension of slavery. Would it not be well first of all to defeat General Cass, and show the pro-slavery party that they shall not invade free soil? To that end, is not the vote of Gerritt Smith just as weighty as that of Judge Martin Grover?'

A brief silence followed, broken at length by Mr. Tilden.

'I had half converted myself,' he said. 'Mr. Van Buren is to be our candidate. His opinion is obvious. Unless some gentleman wishes to discuss the subject farther, I move the adoption of the call for a national *Free Soil* Convention presented by Mr. Noyes, and that the convention be held at Buffalo on the 9th day of August.'

There were several seconds, and the motion was unanimously adopted. Our mission was ended. Subsequent events are now historical (Chittenden 1893:11–16).

Some 20,000 people attended the Buffalo convention. Its 465 delegates from 18 states voted to create the national Free Soil Party under the slogan "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor, and Free Men." The chief goals, according to the party's platform, were to stop the expansion of slavery, Southern domination of the national government, and "the aggressions of the slave power." The party's ticket reflected the coalition to which Van Buren had alluded as being necessary to accomplish unity. John and his allies made one of their former enemies, Seth Gates of Wyoming County, their candidate for Lieutenant Governor. They made another, Charles Francis Adams, the son of their old nemesis John Quincy Adams, the presiding officer of the convention and ultimately their vice-presidential candidate. Most importantly, the delegates chose Martin Van Buren to be the party's standard bearer, and, in the spirit of resignation to the popular will of the party, Van Buren accepted it.

John carried out the campaign for his father, making trips and delivering speeches on his behalf. Taller and more handsome, he also had the charisma that his father lacked. While his father tended to be grave, urbane, and deliberate in debate, John could sway crowds with wit and enthusiasm. Van Buren was content to let his son speak for him, preferring to stay home to tend his garden at Lindenwald and keep up a steady stream of correspondence that kept him in touch with the campaign's progress at the national level. Outside New York and isolated pockets of New England and the Mid-West, the new party gained little support. Even Van Buren's close friends—Thomas Hart Benton, Francis Blair, George Bancroft, and Theodore Sedgwick—could not be convinced to abandon the Democratic Party.

By the fall of 1848, it was apparent to Van Buren that the election could not be won, but some of his supporters held the hope that he might take enough votes away from Cass and Whig candidate Zachary Taylor to throw the election into the Senate where he might emerge as a compromise choice. The election, however, turned out to be a resounding defeat for Van Buren, who failed to garner a single electoral vote. He was more successful in the popular vote where he polled a respectable 10 percent of the total number cast for the presidential election, making the Free Soil Party the most successful third party to that time in U.S. history. More importantly for the Free Soilers, much of Van Buren's support came from voters that would have otherwise supported Cass. The swing in the vote made Zachary Taylor's election possible and kept the detested Cass from becoming president.

Van Buren's role in the establishment of the Free Soil Party proved to be a crucial turning point in American political history. The Free Soil Party was the first broad-based political expression of discontent with the power that pro-slavery forces had in national political affairs. While Van Buren later rejoined the Democratic Party in 1850, the base of the Free Soil Party went on to become a major element in the founding of the Republican Party in 1854. Just six years later, the

Republicans succeeded in electing Abraham Lincoln president. The free soil ideals that were first given broad national expression in 1848 ultimately led to the end of slavery as Lincoln steered the nation through the Civil War.

Criterion B – Martin Van Buren, 1782-1862

In addition to its associations with Van Buren's political career in the 1840s, the Martin Van Buren National Site is the only property that survives to represent his achievements as one the leading political figures in early nineteenth century American history. While historians consistently rank Van Buren's single-term as president (1837-1841) as mediocre, recent scholarship has focused on the central role he played in the creation of the Democratic Party and the emergence of the partisan, two-party system that dominates politics to the present day. His decision to buy the former estate of Peter Van Ness in his native Kinderhook for the purpose of transforming it into a pastoral presidential retreat represented the culmination of a lifelong pursuit of wealth and political power and was in keeping with one of the early republic's dominant political traditions that identified the nation's vigor and morality with independent farmers.

Van Buren's Early Life (1782–1811)

Martin Van Buren was born in Kinderhook on December 5, 1782. He was the third of six children born to Abraham and Marie Hoes Van Buren, and he had three half-siblings that Marie Hoes had from a previous marriage. Abraham's ancestors had emigrated from Holland and settled in the Hudson River Valley in the 1630s. His grandfather, Marten Van Buren, came to Kinderhook in 1669. His ancestors were "all farmers, cultivating the soil themselves for a livelihood, holding respectable positions in society and sustaining throughout unblemished characters" (Van Buren 1920:9).

Abraham Van Buren was a farmer, a tavern keeper, and, like many New Yorkers of the time, a slave owner. The Van Buren tavern was a center of Kinderhook village life, serving as a place to receive news brought by guests or the mail traveling along the Post Road between Albany and New York City. Martin was introduced to a broad cross-section of travelers with varying political opinions and was likely influenced by his father's strong anti-Federalist views. Martin attended the local public academy but left school at the age of 13. Possessed of what he called "an uncommonly active mind," he regretted that his father was unable to afford to give him a better education. He believed that his lack of knowledge on the wide range of subjects that a formal education would have afforded put him at a disadvantage throughout his political career. He was a quick study, however, and when presented with an unfamiliar subject that required his attention he was able to master it in short order (Van Buren 1920:9; Widmer 205:23–26).

In 1796, at the age of 14, Van Buren gained a place as a clerk in the law office of Francis Sylvester of Kinderhook. The position provided Van Buren with rudimentary training in law and also introduced him to the highly charged politics of the period as practiced by the powerful local elites of Kinderhook. Sylvester and other members of his family were ardent members of the locally dominant Federalist Party and soon recognized Van Buren's keen sense for politics. Van Buren, however, resisted overtures by Sylvesters to join the Federalist ranks, leading to friction that jeopardized his employment. By 1800, Van Buren was friends with members of the prominent Van Ness family, who belonged to the Republican Party and shared his anti-Federalist views. Judge Peter Van Ness, the head of the family, was a wealthy landowner in Kinderhook and owned Kleinrood, the estate that Van Buren would eventually purchase and rename Lindenwald. Van Buren's first direct involvement with political campaigning came in 1801 when he assisted John Van Ness in winning a nomination to Congress at a caucus in nearby Troy. As a reward, he was offered a position with John's brother, William Van Ness, in New York City that year. William was a rising star in the Republican Party and a close friend of the newly elected vice president Aaron Burr. Van Buren's admiration of Burr grew through his regular meetings with him, as did his esteem for Thomas Jefferson, whose agrarian republican principals formed the foundation of Van Buren's own political outlook (Widmer 2005:28–29).

Van Buren passed the bar in November 1803 and returned to Kinderhook to practice law in partnership with his half-brother, James J. Van Alen. His analytical nature, shrewd common sense, amiable personality, and skills as a debater made him an excellent lawyer. He soon distinguished himself among a talented group of contemporaries in the Hudson

River Valley region. In 1807, he was admitted as a counselor of the New York Supreme Court and moved his growing practice to the new town of Hudson, where he would be closer to the river that supplied the best transportation route through the region. The following year, Van Buren was made surrogate of Columbia County. Along with his private practice, the surrogate position brought Van Buren into contact with a broad range of people from all classes and backgrounds that later helped to further his political career. Unafraid of making enemies among the largely Federalist-leaning social elite of the Upper Hudson, Van Buren gained a reputation for the defense of the rights of the small farmer (Shepard 1888:18; Widmer 2005:32–35).

On February 21, 1807, Van Buren married Hannah Hoes, a distant cousin whom he had known since childhood. Nine months later, Hannah gave birth to their first child, Abraham Van Buren (1807–1873). Abraham was followed by three more boys, John (1810–1866), Martin (1812–1855), and Smith Thompson (1817–1876). Little is known about Hannah and the couple's relationship. After her death from tuberculosis in 1819, Van Buren never remarried, seldom talked about her, and made no mention of Hannah in his memoirs written later in life (Shepard 1888:18; Widmer 2005:32).

Rise to Political Prominence (1812–1836)

While continuing his law practice and raising his new family, Van Buren began pursuing his political ambitions. He ran for state senator in 1812 after beating two wealthy candidates for the Republican nomination. Against great odds, Van Buren won the election by a narrow margin of about 200 votes over Federalist Edward Livingston, the scion of one of the great landholding families in the region (Widmer 2005:36). His term in the state Senate began less than a month after the beginning of the War of 1812. British military strategy centered on gaining control of New York, the commercial center of the United States. As a freshman senator, Van Buren threw his full energies into the protection of the state and forcefully defended the policies of President James Madison's Republican administration, which came under attack by the Federalists. During the most trying period when it appeared that the war might be lost and the British would succeed in taking New York, Van Buren introduced radical legislation in September 1814 authorizing the conscription of white men between the ages of 18 and 45 for military service. The signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, 1814, precluded the need for implementation of the conscription call. However, the passage of the "Classification Bill," drafted by Van Buren with the aid of Aaron Burr[3], contributed to Van Buren's growing reputation as a defender of American democratic freedoms (Widmer 2005:40–42).

On the strength of his record in the state Senate, Van Buren was appointed attorney general of New York in 1815. While serving in that position, he gathered around him a group of young New York politicians who shared his Jeffersonian Republican views. Among them were fellow Kinderhook native and law partner Benjamin F. Butler, who would later serve as Van Buren's attorney general during his term as president, and two future New York governors and United States senators, Silas Wright and William L. Marcy. The group was initially known as the "Bucktails" after the deer buck tails they wore on their hats as an insignia. Journalist and political opponent Thurlow Weed later coined for the group the more elegant title of the "Albany Regency." Van Buren's strict code of loyalty and party discipline helped the Bucktails develop into one of the best organized and most powerful machines in New York's political history. They strongly opposed powerful centralized government and Governor DeWitt Clinton's administration in particular. Their chief goals included a return to Jeffersonian principles of limited government and an expansion of suffrage as a way to check the inordinate political power wielded by the wealthy elite. The Bucktails made significant gains running their own slate of candidates during the state elections of 1819. Van Buren also orchestrated the Bucktail's proposal to rewrite the New York state constitution that resulted in significant changes to the operational rules of state government, a reduction in the gubernatorial term from three to two years, and the loosening of restrictive suffrage rules that added more than 160,000 men to the voting rolls (Widmer 2005:46-47, 49–50).

3 Burr's political career was wrecked by his involvement in the duel that resulted in Alexander Hamilton's death in 1804 and his subsequent trial in 1807 on charges of treason for conspiring against the U.S. Government to foment war with Spain. In 1808 he fled to Great Britain and lived there until 1812 when he returned to New York and reestablished his law practice. Although Burr was a political pariah, Van Buren continued to seek his astute legal and political advice.

In 1821, Van Buren won a hotly contested election in the New York State Legislature to the United States Senate.[4] He carried with him to Washington the political clout of being a senator from New York, which was rapidly becoming the most important economic and political state in the Union. He also had an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of party politics and a reputation as a master at political manipulation that some admired and others found distasteful. His successful career as a lawyer enabled him to afford a comfortable lifestyle. He dressed the part of an aristocratic gentleman with finely tailored suits and colorful accoutrements. His charming disposition and affability made him popular among his peers and he actively participated in Washington's lively social scene. He cultivated friendships among leading lawmakers from all sections of the country, including members of the Southern state delegations. Many Southern politicians agreed with his Jeffersonian Republican principles of limited federal government and similarly opposed the Federalist-supported National Bank and large expenditures of federal money on internal improvements. The social assets he possessed and the ideological alliances he developed helped to ease his transition into Washington society and facilitated his intentions to establish his brand of disciplined organization at the national party level (Widmer 2005:57–59).

The 1824 national election offered Van Buren the first opportunity to test his abilities. The strong slate of candidates that included John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and William Crawford had no clear front-runner. Van Buren initially supported Crawford, believing that his principles aligned most closely with that of the Jeffersonian Republicans. In February, Van Buren convened a caucus to test the amount of support Crawford could count on from a growing coalition of Northern and Southern Republicans who disagreed with many of President Monroe's policies. Shortly thereafter, however, Crawford suffered a debilitating stroke that effectively removed him from consideration. Jackson won the popular vote, but along with the other candidates was unable to garner the necessary number of electoral votes. The election was thrown into the Senate, which voted to confirm Adams. For his role in orchestrating what Jackson supporters referred to as the "corrupt bargain," Clay was rewarded by being named secretary of state (Widmer 60–63).

After the election, Van Buren saw the opportunity to build a larger coalition by organizing the Calhoun and Crawford supporters behind the increasingly popular Jackson. As a behind-the-scenes operative, he built consensus through incremental steps and personal interaction. He also recognized the power of the press and used newspapers and other periodicals like the *Albany Argus,* which he helped to found in 1813, to disseminate the party's views to the general public. He entertained visitors in the fashionable resort of Saratoga in his home state, which he frequented during the summer, and made numerous trips to other parts of the country to cement relationships. Thomas Ritchie, an influential newspaper editor and leader of the Richmond Junto, Virginia's political counterpart to the Albany Regency, was one of his most important political contacts. Van Buren's biographer Ted Widmer called the letter that Van Buren addressed to Ritchie on January 13, 1827, the one piece of vivid evidence of Van Buren's role in the reorganization of the "Old Republican Party." Van Buren offered to ally New York and Virginia, the two most politically powerful states, behind Jackson's candidacy and a clearly defined political platform. Ritchie's acceptance of Van Buren's proposal three months later marked the beginning of a new Democratic Party (Widmer 2005:65–66).

Van Buren's relationship with Jackson, which began as one of mutual suspicion when they served in the Senate together in the early 1820s, grew closer as the 1828 election drew near. Jackson appreciated Van Buren's role in organizing the party's campaign and increasingly relied on his political advice. Van Buren, partly to galvanize support for Jackson in New York, ran for governor of his home state and won by a landslide. When the presidential election resulted in a resounding victory over Adams, Jackson offered to make Van Buren his secretary of state, the most prestigious post available in his cabinet. Van Buren resigned as New York governor in March 1829 and took up full-time residency in Washington to assist the new president in implementing the platform that Van Buren himself had constructed (Widmer 2005:70–71).

[4] The election of U.S. senators at that time was conducted by vote of the respective state legislatures. Election of senators by direct popular vote was not standardized on the national level until the ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1913.

Other members of Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet," in particular his vice president, Calhoun, envied Jackson's friendship with Van Buren. Calhoun, who had also served as vice president under Jackson's predecessor, had helped to bring in the Southern vote that, together with Jackson's strength in the West and Van Buren's in New York and Virginia, formed the basis of the Democratic Party coalition. Calhoun and Van Buren had mutual respect for one another, but their political ambitions both centered on becoming president after Jackson. The first major rift occurred in 1829, when Calhoun had a serious falling out with both Jackson and Van Buren over what became known as the "Peggy Eaton Affair." Peggy Eaton, the wife of Jackson's good friend and secretary of war John Eaton, had a questionable past and was married to another man when she began her relationship with Eaton. Her arrival in Washington sparked a major scandal among Washington society. Calhoun and his wife led the group who publicly snubbed Eaton, while Jackson and Van Buren both came to Eaton's defense. Van Buren's public show of support made Calhoun furious, but further cemented Van Buren's friendship with Jackson. From that point on, it was clear that Jackson would choose Van Buren as his would-be successor and Calhoun became increasingly alienated from his inner circle (Widmer 2005:78–80).

In May 1832, the first ever Democratic Party convention nominated Van Buren as Jackson's running mate. In the months leading up to the election, Van Buren acted as a moderating influence on Jackson's famous temper in the battles against the Second Bank of the United States and Calhoun's threat to withdraw South Carolina from the Union through nullification. Jackson easily won re-election over his principal challenger Henry Clay, who ran at the head of the National Republican ticket. His second term was characterized by growing national prosperity that flowed from the administration's policies on banks, the tariff, and the distribution of federal lands. In his roles as vice president and president of the Senate, Van Buren continued to support the administration's policies and worked to keep the disparate elements of the Democratic Party together (Widmer 2005:85–86).

With Jackson's active support, Van Buren was chosen unanimously as the Democratic candidate for president at the party's second national convention in May 1835. The newly formed Whig Party put forward a novel strategy to oppose him in the election. They ran a slate of three regionally strong candidates—William Henry Harrison, Daniel Webster, and Hugh Lawson White—in hopes of peeling off enough Van Buren votes to throw the election into the Senate, where one of their candidates might emerge as the victor. The strategy was ineffective against the strong organization of the Democratic Party, and Van Buren won easily, getting 170 electoral votes to a combined 124 for the Whig candidates (Widmer 2005:88–91).

President Van Buren, 1837-1841

Only 13 days after Van Buren's inauguration, a financial panic occurred that resulted in one of the worst economic depressions the nation had yet seen. Rampant land speculation and related monetary policies had contributed to the prosperity of the previous administration but had also created an overheated and unsustainable economy. Near the end of his term in 1836, Jackson issued the Specie Circular, which commanded that the Treasury no longer accept paper notes in lieu of gold and silver specie as payment for public land purchases. The move resulted in a severe contraction in credit upon which the speculative land bubble was built. By the spring of 1837, prices of goods rose dramatically, sparking a panic that resulted in a rash of bank failures. Other factors also contributed to the subsequent depression. Several significant food crop failures during the late 1830s, as well as an overproduction of cotton, resulted in a free fall of prices that severely affected the Southern economy. The implementation of the Tariff of 1833, which imposed a gradual reduction of the tax rate on imported goods, was felt in Northern industrial centers where production fell off in the face increased competition from Great Britain and other nations. The result was deep cuts in wages and rampant unemployment that spread out from the major cities to all areas of the country (Widmer 2005:100-101; Markham 2002:149).

As the depression deepened, Van Buren came under increasing fire for his support of Jackson's policies that many believed caused the calamity. He responded by calling a special session of Congress in September 1837, the first such assembly that was not called to address a military situation. He asked for the suspension of federal surplus distribution to the states and the creation of an independent Treasury for federal deposits that would be separate from the banks. He also offered to delay federal lawsuits against banks that had suspended payments to the Treasury and urged that the Treasury

issue notes to ease the credit crunch. With the exception of the independent Treasury, which passed the Senate but was defeated in the House, his measures were well received and helped to ease the initial crisis. However, the crisis helped to galvanize support for the Whig Party, which won state elections in Tennessee, Mississippi, Maine, North Carolina, and New York in 1837. In New York, Whig leaders William Seward and Thurlow Weed developed a political organization that rivaled in organization and power what Van Buren had created through the Bucktails (Widmer 2005:101–105; Markham 2002:150).

Van Buren faced a number of other serious issues that arose out of the increasingly complex nature of American society in the late 1830s. The most significant was the growing movement to abolish slavery, or at least limit it to the states where it already existed. Van Buren carefully avoided taking a strong stance for or against slavery, producing suspicion of those on both sides of the issue. His record suggests that he at least did not oppose slavery in the states where it existed based on Constitutional grounds. He spent much of his career courting Southern Democrats, who were the key to his national coalition, by acknowledging their rights to own slaves. During his presidential election campaign, he supported efforts by Southern lawmakers to suppress anti-slavery rhetoric that resulted in a gag order initiated by Congress in 1836 against all discussion of the subject. As president, Van Buren did not publicly oppose slavery and, in some cases, expressed his support for it. For example, he ordered that slaves who had revolted and seized control of the schooner *Amistad* be imprisoned and returned to their Spanish owners. However, in another instance where a naval officer was brought up on charges of brutality, Van Buren angered his Southern constituency by ruling that black seamen had the right to testify (Widmer 2005:113–121).

Van Buren also continued his predecessor's brutal policy toward Native Americans. Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830, which was encased in the argument that it was more humane to remove Southern tribes to new lands west of the Mississippi rather than exposing them to incursions by white settlers, resulted in a long and costly series of military actions against tribes that resisted. The Second Seminole War (1835–1842), waged largely during Van Buren's administration, cost more than $30 million and resulted in the deaths of thousands of Seminoles as well as 1,500 U.S. soldiers. In May 1838, General Winfield Scott commenced the forced removal of the Cherokee Nation along the infamous "Trail of Tears." Thousands more Native Americans died from starvation and disease as they were marched across the country and deposited on infertile reservations.

A partial economic recovery in 1838 briefly stopped the Whig surge, but a second economic tailspin in 1839 gave it new life, just in time for the 1840 presidential election. The economic depression, combined with Van Buren's attempts to steer a middle course throughout his presidency, left him vulnerable to attack from all sides. Although a unified Democratic Party had nominated and elected him, he had made a considerable number of political enemies as Jackson's lieutenant. Van Buren had none of Jackson's charisma as a leader, and his looks and manner of dress made him easy prey for the many cartoonists and editorialists who lampooned him. Critics of his brand of political manipulation, considered an unattractive quality for a gentleman, referred to him as a schemer or by derogatory nicknames such as the "Red Fox of Kinderhook," "Little Magician," or "American Talleyrand" (Widmer 2005:89–90).

The Whig Party exploited their advantage in the election of 1840. Under the guidance of Van Buren's New York rival Thurlow Weed, the Whigs unified behind William Henry Harrison and initiated the famous "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" campaign. The campaign favored pageantry over substance, inflating Harrison's record as a minor hero in the War of 1812 and portraying him as a self-made man who had risen above the poverty of his youth. Whig periodicals excoriated Van Buren's record and portrayed him as a defender of the Catholic Church and a tool of the Southern Slave Power. Damaging cartoons lampooned Van Buren's flamboyant dress and showed him surrounded by luxury in the White House while the rest of the country was in the midst of a deep economic recession. The Democratic Party did what it could to mount challenges against the Whig slate. Both parties offered candidates for every office from president down to sheriff. For the first time, a truly national two-party system competed in virtually every state and congressional district. Voter turnout for the presidential election reached record levels, with more than 80 percent of the voting age public heading to the polls, an increase of more than 900,000 voters from 1836. Harrison beat Van Buren by just 411 votes in Maine and a mere 350 votes in Pennsylvania, but "Old Tippecanoe" scored a smashing victory in the Electoral College, garnering 234 electoral votes to Van Buren's 60. He carried 19 of 26 states, including New York. The Whigs had successfully used Van

Buren's own political tactics against him, causing the pro-administration *Democratic Review* to state, "We have taught them how to conquer us!" (Shepard 331–335).

Withdrawal from Politics, 1848-1862

After his two presidential campaigns in 1844 and 1848 described above, Van Buren never again entertained any thought of running for public office. In essence, his defeat in 1848 marked the beginning of his retirement from politics. In April 1849, within six months of the election, he wrote his friend and banker Gorham Worth that he would "not again" trust his "nerves to so near an approach to one of the seats of political & Bank corruptions." He subsequently rejoined the Democratic Party and kept up his steady correspondence with his friends and political acquaintances. In the fall of 1849 his longtime political foe Henry Clay, who was on a tour of the northeastern states, accepted an invitation to visit Van Buren at Lindenwald. Over the course of Clay's three-day stay, the two aging statesmen engaged in spirited conversations about their divergent political principles, but "the feuds of the past and the asperities caused by them," as Van Buren wrote in his autobiography, "were as completely ignored…as if they never existed" (Van Buren 1920:665).

During the remaining years of his life, the still highly regarded "Sage of Kinderhook" remained an active advisor on political affairs, but shunned overt involvement in the national political issues that led the country down the path toward Civil War. He was troubled by Stephen A. Douglas's Kansas-Nebraska Act, which in 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and allowed the settlers of U.S. territories to decide by popular sovereignty whether to allow slavery. While he "mourned over its adoption," he did not speak out against it. When approached by his old ally Francis P. Blair, who had become an ardent Free Soiler, about his willingness to serve as a delegate, and perhaps the presiding officer of the 1856 Republican national convention, Van Buren declined. On the eve of the Civil War in 1861, Van Buren was asked to lead a group of ex-presidents in finding some solution to the country's sectional crisis, but again declined due to his age and belief that the errand was futile. While he supported Democratic tickets in the elections of 1852, 1856, and 1860, after the war began in April 1861, he fully backed Abraham Lincoln's administration.

In the late 1850s Van Buren spent much of his time in his library working on two books, a history of American politics and an autobiography. The latter was started during an extended trip to Europe earlier in the decade that Van Buren made to seek medical care for with his son, Martin Jr., who was suffering from tuberculosis. In his writings, Van Buren characteristically identified political parties as the key to a healthy republic and held in contempt James Monroe and others who opposed the party system. He celebrated Thomas Jefferson and his "plain republican" allies. Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists took the central role as the villains of democracy. His political history did not go much beyond the War of 1812, and his autobiography reached only the 1830s. The unfinished manuscripts were not published until after his death.

Van Buren died on July 24, 1862. The funeral services were first held at Lindenwald and then at the packed village church, where guests included the Governor of New York and a large deputation from Tammany Hall. He was buried in Kinderhook Cemetery in a grave marked with simple granite shaft bearing his name, his title as the eighth president, and his birth and death dates.

Criterion C – Architecture

The district derives its significance under Criterion C from Lindenwald, a locally prominent mansion that embodies distinctive characteristics of major stylistic trends in American architecture during the late eighteenth century and mid-nineteenth century and is an example of the work of renowned American architect Richard Upjohn. The house was initially constructed in 1797 as a Federal-style building. Its size, materials, and architectural adornment made it one of the area's most elegant private residences and echoed the major public buildings in the vicinity. After acquiring Lindenwald in 1839, Martin Van Buren was content to keep the exterior of the house largely intact, but made several significant changes to the interior spaces in order to accommodate his political and social activities and domestic life. In 1849, Van Buren's son, Smith, hired Upjohn to update the house to reflect contemporary architectural trends in the upper Hudson

River Valley. Upjohn's Italian Villa-style additions, most notably the five-story tower he added to the rear, dramatically altered the size and appearance of the house.

Lindenwald was initially constructed and named Kleinrood by its original owner, Judge Peter Van Ness. In floor plan and ornament, the large two-and-one-half-story, end-gable, four-over-four building, combined elements of the Georgian style that had long prevailed in the Northeast with emerging preferences of the Federal period. The large house was one of a growing number of brick buildings that were developed in Kinderhook around the same time. Previously, architecture in the area was dominated by vernacular wood-frame houses that were heavily influenced by Dutch building traditions. Van Ness and the house's builder, who is unknown, may have drawn inspiration from the nearby Columbia County Courthouse, which was constructed 10 years earlier in 1787. It was a two-story, end gable structure, with five bays across the facade under a roofline embellished with dentils and modillions like those at Kleinrood. Houses of the eighteenth-century elite often served public functions, as a community's political and ecclesiastical leadership performed some of the duties of their office in their residences. Justices of the peace, for example, frequently held court in the most formal spaces of their own home, usually the parlor. Whether or not Van Ness harbored such intentions, the house he built echoed the architecture of the courthouse and other public buildings in the region and was obvious display of his authority, wealth, and social standing in the community.

Martin Van Buren likely attached the same connotations to the outward appearance of the house when he purchased it in 1839. Other than painting over the brick exterior with a fashionable buff-yellow paint and changing the trim colors to brown and cream, he made very few changes to its exterior during his first decade of ownership. He did, however, make extensive interior modifications to rework spaces to fit the needs of his political ambitions, provide better accommodations for his family and staff, and introduce modern conveniences that made it more comfortable and efficient. Within several months of purchasing the property, Van Buren, along with his sons Smith Thompson and John, took a five-week summer tour that included a stop at Lindenwald in late July. He used the occasion to begin planning improvements to the house that were directed toward the creation of a country estate that would double as a politician's retreat. He needed additional space to host visitors for extended periods as well as strategic planning meetings and wished to "enlarge and improve the formal entertaining spaces of Lindenwald." To this end, he decided to create a center hall large enough to accommodate a dining table that would comfortably seat 30 people. This change necessitated tearing down a wall and replacing the original stairs in the entry hall with a new stairway. The placement of the stairway in turn mandated several alterations to the second story, including the installation of a wall along the south side of the new stairway and new doors in some of the upstairs rooms. Van Buren also added storage rooms to the basement that were geared toward entertaining, putting in wine racks and shelving for provisions to set his table.

Architectural historian Mark Wenger has explored the evolution of these wide central passages into living spaces during the early to mid-nineteenth century. As the Victorian notion that homes were a refuge from public life took hold a greater separation between public and private spaces was required. While Van Ness likely did much of his entertaining in a large room in the second story, Van Buren's renovation of the hall/dining room afforded his guests the opportunity to move between this to the house's formal parlor, reserving the second story for private space. The new central dining room also afforded Van Buren a showplace in which to exhibit his substantial wealth through its furnishings. The room's centerpiece was the large, accordion-action, mahogany dining table, which could be closed to create more space in the room during times when additional dining space was not needed. The table was based on an English design that, according to some sources, was similar to the work of master cabinetmaker Duncan Phyfe of New York City. After the completion of the dining room, parlor, and new stairway in 1841, Van Buren redecorated the interior of all the first-story rooms and much of the upstairs both to satisfy his taste and to "blend together the new and existing walls and woodwork." Among the alterations were the removal of chair rails (creating the smooth, unbroken wall surfaces preferred in nineteenth-century formal rooms), the replacement of wooden fireplace mantelpieces with marble mantelpieces (upgrading the quality of the interior architectural embellishments), the installation of pier mirrors and wallpapered fireboards, and the carpeting of various rooms (bringing the house into form with prevailing interior fashions). For help selecting appropriate interior furnishings, Van Buren turned to Harriet Butler, whom he had known for over 20 years and on whom he had come to rely for domestic advice. Butler had grown up in the nearby town of Hudson, and her residency in New York City gave her ready access to the newest fashions and most stylish goods.

Throughout the 1840s, Van Buren added other "comforts and elegancies" to Lindenwald that reflected his genteel status. A mechanized bell system connected the first- and second-story rooms with the servants' quarters in the basement. The cranks that operated the system were mounted on the chimney breasts in some of the rooms. Indoor plumbing, while commonplace in many wealthy Manhattan neighborhoods by the mid-nineteenth century, was still rare in rural areas like Kinderhook. Van Buren boasted in an 1846 letter to his longtime friend and personal banker, Gorham Worth: "When you visit me again you shall wash off the impurities of Mammon in the bath which has been put up in part with the interest you have [been] so kind as to collect for me."

Van Buren's improvements to the house were largely completed by 1847 and brought Lindenwald in line with modern aristocratic tastes of the mid-nineteenth-century Hudson River Valley. An English woman who visited about that time complimented Van Buren, remarking that "the comforts and elegancies of his residence exactly resemble those we find in the country house of an English gentleman of fortune who lives upon his estate."

The most substantial alteration to Lindenwald occurred in 1849-1850 when Van Buren offered to make Smith Thompson the heir to his estate. According to a letter that Van Buren wrote to his friend Francis Blair at the time, "Smith made it an indispensable condition that he should be permitted to add sufficient to my house to make as many rooms as he may want without entering upon what I now have." Van Buren agreed and, while retaining complete control of the grounds, gave Smith permission to expand the size of the house to accommodate his family according to their tastes. Although he dreaded the disruptions it would cause to his quiet life as well as the cost that was estimated at $10,000, Van Buren found some amusement in "the idea of seeing in life, the changes which my heir would be sure to make after I am gone."

Smith decided that the project required the services of a professional architect as having an architect-designed home had become fashionable and popular among the Hudson Valley elite. Accordingly, he hired Richard Upjohn, the famous ecclesiastical architect who had performed a similar service for the Van Rensselaer mansion in Albany earlier in the decade. A native of Shaftsbury, England, where he was educated and apprenticed to a builder and cabinetmaker, Upjohn came to the United States in 1829 and initially settled in New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he continued his trade. He received his first true commission as an architect in 1833 when he was employed by lumberman Isaac Farrar to design his mansion named Symphony House in Bangor, Maine. Several other residential commissions followed, and in 1834 he decided to take advantage of greater opportunities that might be available in a larger city. Upjohn moved to Boston, where he collaborated with Alexander Parris and other prominent local architects on a number of designs, including the City Courthouse and the gates to Boston Common. His next important commission was for the Oaklands, the R.H. Gardiner House (1835) in Gardiner, Maine, which displayed his talent for designing in the Gothic Revival style. He subsequently received his first ecclesiastical commission to design Bangor's St. John's Church (1836-1839), also in the Gothic Revival. His reputation for the Gothic Revival style grew with subsequent commissions, and in 1839 he was called to New York City to take charge of the proposed alterations to Trinity Church. When those plans were abandoned, he was given the commission of designing and overseeing the construction of an entirely new church. The project consumed much of his time until its completion in 1846. The Trinity project set a new standard in Gothic architecture, and churches across the country—especially Episcopal churches—soon sought Upjohn's help in building more modest structures. Among his many subsequent commissions were St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kinderhook (1852) and two others in Columbia County: St. John's Wilderness Episcopal Church (1852) in Copake, where Upjohn also designed the parsonage, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church (1859) in Clermont (Upjohn 1939:30-39).

By the time Smith Van Buren approached Upjohn, the architect had developed an interest in a new style of architecture. Dubbed the Italian Villa style, it was derived from the country villas of Renaissance Italy. Usually these villas had a cupola on the roof that was not just decorative but provided a panoramic view of the countryside. Sometimes the villas were asymmetrical with an attached Romanesque bell tower. The chief purveyor of the style in the Hudson River Valley was Andrew Jackson Downing, who through his designs and writings was responsible for making it and Gothic Revival the styles of choice for the many country homes constructed by wealthy New York elite during the period. The Van Buren commission was significant to Upjohn's blossoming career due to the honor of having an ex-president as a client.

Van Buren later provided him a letter of introduction that proved valuable in opening doors in Europe during his first trip overseas in 1850 (Upjohn 1939:94).

Restricted by the pre-existing Federal-period design and siting of the house, which did not take full advantage of the available high ground, Upjohn designed a five-story tall belvedere from which views of the surrounding countryside could be had. He also added a one-story addition with a full basement. He adorned the addition with a hipped roof, a square skylight, and arched, six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows. The plans also included major changes to the original house, most notably the addition of an ornate porch over the main entrance and several gable dormers on the original roof. Alterations to the fenestration included the removal of some windows and the replacement of others with single arched openings, and the replacement of the two chimneys on the south end of the house with one huge chimney. Inside, however, he retained the finely executed Federal-style woodwork.

The renovations greatly expanded the interior living space. In the first story, the addition housed a new library, two bedrooms, a stair hall, a bathroom, a water closet, a small hall, a nursery, a main entrance hall, another small hall, a privy, and a closet. The inclusion of a nursery in the first story provided a dedicated space for the youngest members of the household and reflected a shift in attitudes toward childrearing that occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century. In outfitting the library for his father's use, Smith looked to an Albany neighbor's library for inspiration: "I saw a library designed for Mr. Barnard in Albany which pleased me and only cost $200. It was black walnut and plain. . ." After selecting the material and pattern, Smith hired Isaac Hellenbeck, a cabinetmaker from nearby Berne, to make Gothic-style bookcases for the room. Some of the changes to the second story were intended to assist Martin Jr.'s convalescence from tuberculosis. They included adding a south-facing bay window to his bedroom to provide a better source of light and air. The window also brought the exterior of the house into form with the desired Italian Villa style.

Upjohn's designs also changed the lives of the Van Buren's hired help. The belvedere tower included a stairwell that became the primary passage for the domestic servants traveling between the various floors and the basement. Ten new rooms in the basement of the addition included a new kitchen, laundry, stair hall, basement entry, chamber, hall, vaulted tunnel, privy pit, and coal storage room. The kitchen became the center of domestic work life at Lindenwald. A room adjacent to the kitchen was dedicated to laundry, one of the most important, and arduous, chores in a household the size of Lindenwald. A large fireplace at the center of its east wall enabled the heating of water and irons, as well as the drying of damp clothing and household textiles. The addition of three new dormered chambers in the half-story also improved the previously low-ceilinged servant accommodations.

By 1850, the updated Lindenwald fit squarely in the context of contemporary Hudson River Valley estates of the type illustrated by Downing and described by Downing's partner, architect Calvert Vaux, as "villas" and "cottages." The belvedere tower also enabled fine views of the entire property, with the Kinderhook Creek as a middle ground and the Catskill Mountains in the distance. Van Ness had originally sited the house in an earlier era and in response to more practical considerations. The house was too far from the escarpment (that separated the upper and lower terraces of the farm) to take advantage of the scenic prospects available elsewhere on the site. Short of moving the house, the construction of the tower was one way of making a classic passage of Hudson River Valley scenery part of the experience of the house, as it was for many newer residences in the region that were sited specifically to take advantage of scenic viewpoints.

Criterion D – Archeology

The level of archeological excavation and documentation at Lindenwald has been fairly comprehensive, comprising 15 projects conducted from 1979–2009 ranging from overview and assessment surveys, identification surveys, site evaluations, construction monitoring, and remote sensing surveys. The work has been conducted primarily to effect compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA in advance of proposed ground-disturbing activities with the goal of identifying and delineating potentially significant resources associated with the pre- and postcontact history of the

The Archaeological Sites Management and Information System (ASMIS) records list a total of 20 archeological sites contained within the property. Many of those sites, however, have been identified strictly on the basis of documentary evidence with no corroborating archeological data. To develop a more meaningful statement regarding archeology at Lindenwald, the following three criteria have been applied to the ASMIS-listed archeological sites to identify those that may be classified as "contributing" to the significance of the property. In order to be considered contributing, 1) the site must have been subject to some level of subsurface archeological investigations, 2) the resultant archeological data must be substantively and defensibly linked to the site in question, and 3) the site must have a demonstrated and potential ability to address substantive research issues within the identified areas of significance for the park and/or ancillary research issues important to regional pre- and/or post-contact period contexts.

The Lindenwald property lies on the second terrace above Kinderhook Creek, a tributary of the Hudson River. This area was occupied repeatedly throughout the pre- and postcontact periods, and is highly sensitive for archeological resources from the Archaic period to the twentieth century. Drawing from regional models concerning settlement patterns within the Hudson Valley as well as from the history and archeological data specific to the property itself, several research issues can be developed to assess the significance of the identified archeological sites at Lindenwald. Important pre- and postcontact research issues include: a clarification of the construction chronology of Lindenwald; a clarification and expansion of the landscape history of the property, especially Van Buren-era improvements; an expanded understanding of the historic period occupation of the property to include tenants and laborers with a specific emphasis on how those groups reflect the larger social, economic, and political currents of the period; and the clarification and expansion of the nature of precontact occupation of the property as contextualized within the larger Hudson River drainage.

Using the above criteria, a total of four contributing archeological sites have been identified at Lindenwald to date. These sites include the ***Lindenwald South Native American Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.00–3.04, contributing site); North Field Native American Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.00–2.05, contributing site); Lindenwald Estate Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.00–1.07, contributing site);*** and the ***North Gatehouse and Dump Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.00–4.04, contributing site).*** In addition, archeological investigations along the former alignment of the ***Old Post Road Segment (ASMIS# MAVA 00020.00, contributing structure)*** identified subsurface evidence of the roadbed.

The Lindenwald South Native American Site comprises four loci (subsites) of largely non-diagnostic lithic materials recovered from intact and disturbed soil contexts. First identified as a find spot by Thomas Mahlstedt (1979), the site boundaries were expanded and elaborated during the archeological survey work conducted as part of the Historic Grounds Study (Simon 1982a, 1982b) and supplemented by materials collected by Fiero (1980), Ford and Heitert (2005), and Heitert and Banister (2007). While many of the materials collected during Simon's survey are unreported and/or missing (see below), those materials that are available from her work as well as subsequent surveys suggest a Late Archaic date (ca. 4900–4100 years ago) for the site overall.

The Simon Native American Locus 1, Carriage House Area (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.01) is located west of the Van Buren house and includes primarily shale and chert flakes recovered from largely undisturbed topsoil horizons. No diagnostic materials or features were identified, so no temporal affiliation could be assigned. The Simon Native American Locus 2, Garden Area (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.02) is located at the southwest corner of the park in the former location of the Van Buren garden. While identified as a locus of precontact material, the materials are not described in Simon's report text or provided as an artifact catalog, and cannot currently be located at the park or at any other designated curatorial facility. This locus also encompasses a find spot reported by Mahlstedt (1979) as containing 11 chert flakes and one scraper, and recorded on a New York State Site Form as A021-13-5674. The locus also may have been the former site of a Van Buren-era hothouse and is the known location of a garden dating to that period, although no indication of either resource was identified during either the Simon or Mahlstedt excavations.

The Simon Native American Locus 3, Southeast Quarter Area (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.03), located in the southeast portion of the property adjacent to the Old Post Road and the South Gatehouse, and Simon Native American Locus 4, The Mansion (ASMIS# MAVA 00003.04), identified in a broad swath around the mansion, similarly were described by Simon as loci of precontact material. Like Locus 2, the associated cultural materials are not described in the report

text or provided as an artifact catalog, and also cannot currently be located. Again, no features were identified and the context of the recovered materials is not clearly described, so no specific temporal affiliation can be assigned.

Locus 4, however, encompasses several other excavations pre- and post-dating Simon's work that provide a somewhat better idea of the cultural affiliation and occupational date range of the site. Earlier work conducted by Fiero in 1979 and reported in 1980, for example, resulted in the recovery of a chert Brewerton corner-notched projectile point and a 3-inch biface from a builder's trench around the mansion. Two more recent surveys conducted by PAL resulted in the recovery of 18 pieces of chipping debris and a Brewerton point from the builder's trench on the west side of the mansion (Ford and Heitert 2005), and 20 chert flakes and a possible charcoal feature in the yard area east of the mansion (Heitert and Banister 2007). The charcoal feature identified during the 2007 survey was located at the A/B interface, while the lithic assemblage, although somewhat mixed with nineteenth-century domestic and architectural debris, was recovered from a relatively undisturbed topsoil horizon. Recorded as the Lindenwald Pre-contact Site, the feature and lithics are more properly grouped within Simon's Locus 4.

The North Field Native American Site comprises five loci (subsites), including four loci recorded by Gerald Kelso during his survey work in the field north of the mansion (Kelso et al. 1991) and an assemblage recovered by Simon during the survey work for the Historic Grounds Study (Simon 1982a). For recording purposes, the loci are grouped under a single New York State Site form as A021-13-0082. One chert flake and Brewerton- or Vosburg-type point were collected from mixed contexts during later site evaluation excavations at the North Gatehouse (Banister and Heitert 2008), and are close enough to the North Field Site to be tentatively associated with it.

The Kelso Native American Area D Locus (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.01) was identified as part of testing for the proposed construction of the Visitor Center at the northeast corner of the property. Subsurface testing recovered eight flakes, one Meadowood projectile point dating to the Early Woodland period, and a possible burned post feature characterized by oxidized soils and charcoal from four test pits and one excavation unit. The lithic materials were recovered from plowed contexts in association with a low density of post-contact period materials, while the hearth feature was identified at the plow zone/subsoil interface. The Kelso Native American Area E Locus (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.02), identified west of Locus D in the proposed location of a pole barn, and the Kelso Native American Area F Locus (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.03), identified at the original northwest property boundary, contained approximately 15 untyped lithic flakes each, all of which were recovered from plowed contexts in association with a low density of post-contact period materials. The Kelso Native American Area A Locus (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.04), located south of Locus D, included six untyped lithic flakes and a Brewerton projectile point also recovered from plowed contexts in association with a low density of post-contact period materials. The Simon Native American Locus 5 (ASMIS# MAVA 00002.05) is located at the original northwest corner of the property. This locus identification pre-dates Kelso's work and spatially incorporates all of Kelso's loci. Simon's work, however, does not address the content, temporal affiliation, or stratigraphic characteristics of the locus, but merely cites it as the location of precontact cultural materials.

The Lindenwald Estate Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.00) encompasses all of the property within the original National Register boundaries for the park, and comprises seven subsites associated with the use and transformation of the property during the historic period. The Mansion and Perimeter (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.01) subsite includes the Lindenwald basement and the yard area immediately surrounding the mansion. The associated cultural material assemblage and features are derived from a range of archeological investigations conducted over the past three decades, with the baseline inventory consisting of domestic features identified by Fiero during her excavations conducted in support of the Historic Structures Report (1980). Many of those features include modern (post-1950) electrical lines and PVC pipes, but nineteenth- and early twentieth-century resources also were delineated including privy clean-out shafts, builder's trenches, subsurface tanks, coal chutes, window wells, cesspools, and cobblestone flooring, which provided important information regarding the construction sequence of the mansion, remodeling episodes, and sanitation upgrades (Capozzi 1991; Fiero 1980). Excavations conducted in 2004 identified three new features associated with the Lindenwald Estate Site including a cistern (Feature I) and two subsurface tanks (Feature G and Feature M), as well as re-identifying two of Fiero's original features, a small stone room beneath the rear steps and walkway (Feature 19) and a stone-lined privy access shaft (Feature 20) (Ford and Heitert 2005).

The Mansion Outbuildings Compound (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.02LR) subsite comprises both known and potential outbuildings associated with the Van Buren, Wagoner, and DeProsse ownership periods. The archeological data concerning the locations of these structures is equivocal at best. More work is necessary to resolve the actual locations of the many outbuildings that once existed on the property.

The Carriage House Foundation (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.03) subsite is believed to lie in the wooded area northwest of the mansion in the middle of the former western boundary for the property. The building was tentatively identified by Simon (1982a) on the basis of a series of fieldstone clusters, two rectangular depressions, and a ramp-like form running from a clearing in the woods to piles of bulldozed rubble. Subsequent excavations in that location resulted in the identification of two late-eighteenth- to early-nineteenth-century trash pits and a layer of compacted gravel, but no structural evidence of the building. A field inspection conducted by staff from University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services resulted in the identification of rubble, building debris, and soil staining and artifacts consistent with carriage house activities (Kelly et al. 2004:111). At the time of the inspection, the rubble extended west into a plowed field that was not currently within the park boundaries. The new district boundaries, however, place the rubble, and thus the entire structure, within the park.

The Farm Office/Smokehouse Foundation (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.04) subsite, located southwest of the mansion, is believed to be the remains of a structure built around 1800 during the Van Ness tenure. Archival photographs indicate that it was a one-story, 11-x-11-foot (ft) building with a stone foundation and hipped roof. While the exact function of the structure is ambiguous, historical documentation and map data suggests that it was used variously as a storehouse, smokehouse, and farm office. The surviving foundation elements were identified through remote sensing and later ground-truthed with the identification of a stratified builder's trench (Simon 1982b). The contents and configuration of the trenches indicated that at least two buildings formerly stood in that location. Additional testing conducted in 2007 in the purported location of the farm office, however, did not identify (or re-identify) any discrete cultural material deposits or structural remains that could be associated with the building (Heitert and Banister 2007). This subsite was listed individually as the Farm Office site as part of the original 1979 National Register documentation for the property, but as of that date it had not undergone formal archeological investigation. The completion of several surveys in and around Lindenwald as well as work at the Farm Office site itself (see above) helped to clarify the physical and functional boundaries of the estate, and resulted in the resource being subsumed as the Farm Office/Smokehouse Foundation subsite within the larger Lindenwald Estate Site.

The Van Ness/Van Buren Garden (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.05) subsite, located southwest of the mansion, was likely used by both the Van Ness and Van Buren households as a garden before being plowed under during the 1950s. During the Van Buren tenure, the area contained a greenhouse, hothouse, and an espalier, although their specific locations are not known. A "west garden house" also is depicted at the northwest corner of the garden; this structure was later removed and attached to the North Gatehouse. Simon's survey work found no clear evidence of the garden feature, although it is possible that evidence of it exists in untested portions of the site.

The Front Lawn and Garden (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.06) subsite is defined as the large area between the mansion and the original alignment of the Post Road bounded by the semi-circular driveway. During the Van Buren period, a small ornamental garden was planted immediately in front of the main entrance but was lost through neglect sometime during the 1920s. Similarly, a reflecting pool was built in the lawn in the 1950s, but was completely overgrown by the 1970s. Simon speculated the twentieth-century pool was located in the same spot as an earlier Van Buren-era, but she was unable to find any evidence of that earlier pool during her survey, although she did find the possible remains of a circular walkway in that location (Simon 1982a). The existing lawn exhibits no evidence of a plow zone, but does exhibit several episodes of grading and filling that suggest that the front lawn was "created" for formal landscaping purposes (Gallagher 1984; Quirey et al 2010:5).

The Semi-circular Driveway/Allee (ASMIS# MAVA 00001.07) subsite, also known as the Locust Allee, comprises the front entry drive to the mansion. This landscape feature existed before Van Buren bought the property and, based on survey work conducted by Simon (1982a) and Gallagher (1984), appears to remain in substantively its original

configuration. More recent excavations conducted in 2009 also successfully documented this historic feature at a depth of approximately ½-ft below the current ground surface (URS 2009).

The North Gatehouse and Dump Site comprises the remains of one of the two Van Buren-era gatehouses used to house estate staff. As originally constructed in 1846, the gatehouses were a matching pair of one-and-one-half-story carpenter-Gothic Revival buildings located at each end of the entry drive. The North Gatehouse was sold and dismantled in the 1950s. The South Gatehouse stills stands in its original location, and its surrounding yard area (identified as the South Gatehouse Yard, ASMIS# MAVA 5.00) has been surveyed on three separate occasions with inconclusive results (see below).

The initial excavations at the site were conducted by Simon (1982a) who positively identified the house foundation (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.01) and a high-density historical dump (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.02); a well (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.03) and privy (ASMIS# MAVA 00004.04) are known to have existed in the surrounding yard area, but have not yet been identified. Site evaluation excavations were conducted at the site in 2003 by NPS personnel and reported by PAL (2008). The purpose of the excavations was to gather basic information about the site including its boundaries, content and complexity, dates of occupation, and integrity, and use that data to address a range of research questions about the architectural history of the building and the role of the gatehouses in the social and economic evolution of the Van Buren estate.

Several basic observations concerning the occupational history of the site were derived from the excavation results. These included the presence of children at the site as inferred from the recovery of marbles and doll parts, the performance of piecework as a means of supplemental income, and the possible association of unusual German smoking pipes with German families recorded as having lived at the North Gatehouse. The changing nature of the ceramic assemblage at the site also seems to document a decline in the fortunes of the tenants over time as they moved from employees of the Van Buren family to tenants under increasingly disinterested owners of the estate. Finally, based on an analysis of the recovered artifacts, it appears that the gatehouse "annex" (the "west garden house" formerly located within the Van Ness/Van Buren Garden subsite, ***ASMIS# MAVA1.05***) was appended to the main structure sometime after 1897 and likely was used to house temporary laborers working on the farm. Based on the site evaluation results, the North Gatehouse and Dump Site was recommended as a National Register-eligible historic property under Criteria B and D.

The Old Post Road Site is associated with the Old Post Road Segment, which is included in the district as a contributing structure. The ¾-mile long segment was part of a much longer historic road that served as the main thoroughfare between Albany and New York City. It is a remnant of the original road that was cut off when it was realigned and straightened during the construction of Route 9H in the first half of the twentieth century. Hand and machine-trench excavations across and perpendicular to the surviving road segment documented the original post road as a leveled, hard-packed road capped by a thin layer of gravel (URS 2009). Based on the observed profiles, it appears that the original road did not extend farther than 2–3 ft in either direction from the existing relict road edge.

Several ceramic sherds dating to the mid- to late eighteenth century and two ball clay tobacco pipe stem fragments also were recovered during the excavations at the Old Post Road Site, and were tentatively associated with the Hait-Everts House Site (ASMIS# MAVA 00006.00). Located in the sliver of land between the Old Post Road and Route 9H, the site is believed to contain structural remains of a residence that was built ca. 1808 and demolished in 1888. Previous survey work conducted by Simon (1982a) and PAL (2007) in that location found no evidence of any structural remains, and none of the recovered domestic/architectural debris could be linked to a discrete residential occupation. The low density of materials recovered during the URS survey suggests that the link to the Hait-Everts House Site is similarly tenuous and cannot be considered proof of the survival of the house in the absence of more compelling structural, landscape, or feature data.

Materials collected near the South Gatehouse also present tenuous associations with that building and the South Gatehouse Yard Site (***ASMIS# MAVA 00005.00***) sufficient to preclude its inclusion as a contributing site. Surveys conducted by Simon (1980), PAL (2007), and URS (2009) all collected a low to moderate density of post-contact period

cultural material primarily from fill deposits. The materials consisted primarily of domestic and architectural debris, and while they are indicative of the continued occupation/manipulation of the yard surrounding the South Gatehouse during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, they were not recovered in association with cultural features and do not represent discrete archeological deposits. The material cannot be tied in any interpretively meaningful way to the former occupants of the house and as such cannot be considered a potentially significant archeological context.

The Value of Archaeology to Lindenwald

The location of Lindenwald on a well-drained terrace above Kinderhook Creek made it a prime spot for precontact period use and settlement. The grounds of Lindenwald, and specifically the plowed fields surrounding the mansion, have been surface collected for many years. The first terrace west of the mansion has yielded untyped Archaic Period materials while, as early as the Van Buren tenure, farm workers recovered intact birch bark and charcoal from several feet below the surface while excavating muck beds in the same general location.

Within this larger context, the Lindenwald South Native American Site ***(ASMIS#MAVA 00003.00–3.04)*** and the North Field Native American Site ***(ASMIS# MAVA00002.00–2.05)*** provide important, "controlled" excavation data with which to contextualize the materials collected in an uncontrolled fashion along the first terrace. The common factor linking both sites (inclusive of all subsites) is that the precontact materials were recovered primarily from plowed or otherwise disturbed soil contexts. Given the long agricultural and landscape development history of the property this is not surprising and, more importantly, does not preclude the overall precontact archeological sensitivity of the property. The highly desirable environmental context of the Lindenwald property combined with the local lithic profile of the recovered chipping debris and tools suggests that the materials were re-deposited from the immediate surroundings and likely have not moved very far from their original point of deposit.

The identification of a possible hearth feature in the North Field Native American Site during Kelso's 1991 survey also suggests the strong possibility for intact cultural deposits within more outlying portions of the property such as the newly acquired lands along the first terrace of the creek. It is unclear why Kelso broke down the site into four loci in the absence of any clear functional or temporal differentiation among the various deposits. When viewed as a whole, however, the assemblage provides unequivocal evidence of the precontact use of the Lindenwald property during the Late Archaic Period.

More expansive excavations at the two known precontact sites on the property ***as well as at potential site locations along the first terrace*** also may provide information about the use of the tributary networks of the Hudson River throughout the precontact period. The main trunk of the river served as an important transportation and trade route, especially in moving chert throughout the river valley, but the exploitation of the many minor tributaries is somewhat less well understood. Because the park property has largely escaped the depredations of wide-scale commercial, industrial, and residential development that has destroyed archeological resources in similar environmental contexts to the north and south, it has the demonstrated and potential ability to contain precontact archeological sites that could illuminate local and regional trends in settlement and trade patterns in secondary riverine locations.

The Lindenwald Estate Site (***ASMIS# MAVA00001.00–1.07***), the North Gatehouse and Dump Site (***ASMIS# MAVA 4.00–4.04***), and the Old Post Road Site (***ASMIS# MAVA 20.00***) have yielded substantive information about the architectural and landscape evolution specific to Lindenwald that is not otherwise available through more standard historical resources (e.g. archival photographs, primary and secondary documentation, maps). Archeological work at the Lindenwald Estate Site and its various subsites has provided data about the range of practical and aesthetic improvements made to the house following the Van Buren tenure and then later abandoned (e.g. sewer lines, septic tanks, coal chutes). These patterns not only reflect technological changes, but also the various occupants' willingness to invest in the maintenance of the property. These same patterns are visible during Van Buren's occupation. His preservation of the original entry drive as demonstrated through archaeological investigations may reflect both functional considerations as well as an informal acknowledgement on the part of Van Buren of the importance of retaining some landscape integrity associated with the original estate organization.

Archeological work conducted at the North Gatehouse and Dump Site has provided data concerning an under-documented resource, the rural farmstead, and the equally under-documented residents of those farmsteads, tenant farmers and overseers. The site maintains good stratigraphic integrity and contains a range of structural and landscape features (some explored, some currently unexplored) with the potential to provide substantive information about the architectural, social, and economic history of the North Gatehouse and its former occupants. More detailed study of the site has the potential to shed additional light on the relationship of Lindenwald's various owners, especially Martin Van Buren, with their employees and, perhaps, with the larger agrarian economy of the Hudson Valley of which those people were a part.

A number of potential site locations have been identified within the newly added park property. ***These sites include the former locations of the Red and Black Barns (ca. 1845); a shed foundation; the former location of the Old Stone House (ca. 1682) on the first terrace above Kinderhook Creek; and historic ditch traces. The foundation of the Red Barn reportedly is still visible. The Old Stone House, a stone dwelling house and farm complex built and owned by Lambert Van Alstyne (Van Buren ancestor), has yielded a range of early eighteenth-century Dutch domestic debris from surface-collected plowed contexts.*** To date, however, none of the sites has been subject to professional recordation or survey and as such cannot be included as formally contributing sites. Future documentation of these resources as part of Section 106 or 110 compliance projects or through negotiated research excavations, however, may contribute substantive new information about the physical, social, and economic evolution of the Van Buren estate over time. ***For example, the Old Stone House has the potential to provide information about early Dutch settlement sites within the lower Hudson River Valley. Excavation along the first terrace above the creek could conclusively identify its location, contents, and integrity. Controlled excavations of the site would likely prove particularly productive as a comparative archaeological example to the Luykas Van Alen House (ca. 1737), an extant example of an early Dutch farmhouse located just north of Lindenwald.***

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Martin Van Buren's Early Associations with Lindenwald

Van Buren's decision to buy Kleinrood, the former home of Judge Peter Van Ness, was undoubtedly influenced by his memories of the place as a grand estate and seat of local political power in Kinderhook during his youth. He also possessed an ancestral connection to the Van Ness property, as he later noted in his autobiography: "the estate was originally settled by a family who were relations of my father. It was sold at the close of the Revolutionary War to pay the debts of the then head of the family." As one of the few areas of the Upper Hudson River Valley that was not initially included in a large estate, Kinderhook attracted Dutch settlers in the mid-1600s who strove for independent ownership of their land. In 1664, the Lindenwald parcel was included in the Thomas Powell Patent. Sometime between 1671 and 1686, Powell's widow, Denjke Powell, sold the tract including the Lindenwald parcel to Jan Martense Van Alstyne, the progenitor of the Van Alstyne line in America. Van Alstyne's 3,000-acre farmstead was located in the southern part of the Groote Stuck, encompassing lands on both sides of Kinderhook Creek. In 1682, Van Alstyne and his wife granted a 698-acre farmstead on the east side of the creek to their son, Lambert Jan Van Alstyne, who was Martin Van Buren's great-grandfather on his father's side. Lambert Van Alstyne established a farm on the property and built a stone house on the terrace flats near Kinderhook Creek. In a deed recorded in 1787 but probably drawn earlier, Lambert Van Alstyne, William Van Alstyne, and Lucas Hoes sold the Van Alstyne farmstead, dwelling, outbuildings, and lands for 100 pounds to Peter Van Ness.

Van Ness was born and raised in the neighboring village of Claverack and came to Kinderhook some time before 1782, perhaps at the time he purchased the Van Alstyne property. He rose from humble beginnings as a wheelwright to become a Revolutionary War commander, local justice of the peace, state senator, chief judge, and one of Kinderhook's wealthiest landholders. The property that later became Lindenwald consisted of about 260 acres, and Van Ness resided originally in the old stone house that the Van Alstynes had built along Kinderhook Creek. Van Ness improved the

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Van Buren was 15 years old and just beginning his law apprenticeship at that time. Through his personal and professional acquaintances with Peter Van Ness's sons John and William, Van Buren probably visited the residence several times in the early 1800s. One memorable visit occurred in 1804. Van Buren had recently had a falling out with the family due to his support of Republican Morgan Lewis over Aaron Burr's independent candidacy for governor of New York. The Van Nesses publicly challenged Van Buren's right to vote in the election, an "indignity" that Van Buren later wrote he never forgot. He put his personal feelings aside, however, when several months later William Van Ness requested that he defend him against charges stemming from his role as Burr's second in his infamous duel with Alexander Hamilton on the heights of Weehawken, New Jersey, on July 11, 1804. Kleinrood figured in that event when Van Ness, fearing prosecution as an accomplice to Hamilton's death, fled to Kinderhook and appeared at his father's door seeking refuge. At one point during the early stages of the affair, Van Ness requested that Van Buren meet him at Kleinrood to discuss his case. Van Buren's later recollections detail this meeting:

> As I approached the porch of the house built and then owned and occupied by Judge Van Ness, I perceived that the lower half of the old-fashioned front door which was divided through the middle (a style greatly favored by our Dutch ancestors) was closed, and the upper open, at which the Judge was seated close to and with his back against the lower door, for the benefit of the light, reading a newspaper. Hearing my steps he looked around and perceiving me, instantly resumed his reading in a manner that precluded me from addressing him. The door for explanation, as well as that for entrance, being thus closed upon me, and not feeling disposed to retreat, I seized the knocker which was hanging near his head, and gave it a somewhat emphasized rap, and as I did so I saw a smile upon his countenance of which my position afforded me a profile view. His son answered the summons immediately, spoke to his father, (who passed into the drawing room without looking behind him) and opened the door for me. He proposed a walk to the neighboring bank of the creek to prevent interruption from visitors. We passed thro' the Hall, and, as we left the house by the back door, he apologized to me for having forgotten the relations between his father and myself, which would have made it more proper for him to come to me. I told him he was not to blame, for, in the pre-occupation of the moment, I had forgotten them myself, but thought the circumstances bid fair to improve our intercourse, and then described the old gentleman's irrepressible amusement at the free use I had made of the knocker. He laughed and said that he had no doubt his father was pleased with the way, so much in character with his own decisive temper, in which I had extricated myself from the embarrassment in which he had placed me (Van Buren 1920:17).

Van Buren went on to acknowledge the importance to him of the door and knocker as symbols of his ultimate rise in stature above the elite that had lorded over him in his youth. "In the many alterations and improvements I have made in the house, I have preserved the old double-door, and its knocker, as interesting memorials of my last interview with its original owner" (Van Buren 1920:17).

Upon the death of Peter Van Ness in 1805, the estate, valued at $40,000, was divided among his three sons, John, Cornelius, and William. William gained the property that included the house and, a short time later, acquired John's portion encompassing much of the main farm lands. Kleinrood served as a welcome retreat for William Van Ness while the memory of his involvement in the Burr-Hamilton duel faded. He threw his energies into improving the property as a gentleman's farm, commencing a concerted landscaping effort that included the hiring of a master gardener to lay out ornamental shrubs and other plantings, including locust trees, ordered from New York City. As the political climate

changed, Van Ness was able to resuscitate his career and returned to practicing law. By 1810, he had left Kleinrood to take up permanent residence in New York, leaving the management of the estate to an overseer. In 1812, President James Madison appointed him to a seat on the United States District Court of New York. Despite his prominent position, Van Ness accumulated substantial debts to the point where he was forced to sell Kleinrood at a sheriff's auction in 1824. The property went to a close friend, William Paulding, Jr., for $8,500.

Paulding, who was then about to begin the first of two terms as mayor of New York City, may have purchased the Kinderhook property to assist his friend in anticipation of his regaining his financial footing. However, Van Ness died in 1826, before that could occur. Paulding showed little interest in maintaining the estate, although he did buy a neighboring parcel in Kinderhook and may have rented some Kleinrood land to local farmers. In 1838, Paulding broke ground on a new country estate in Tarrytown, named Lyndhurst. Alexander Jackson Davis designed the ornate Gothic Revival-style mansion, now a National Historic Landmark. The impressive plans for Lyndhurst probably made Paulding eager to rid himself of his property in Kinderhook. When President Van Buren, a long-time friend and political ally, inquired about its availability in 1839, he readily agreed to sell it for a price of $14,000.

Developmental History of Van Buren's Farm at Lindenwald, 1839-1862

When Van Buren purchased Lindenwald in 1839, he was 56 years old and had yet to show much interest in owning a house, much less an extensive agricultural estate. Despite having grown up just a few miles away in the agricultural village of Kinderhook, he had little experience with the practical aspects of farming. His father was a farmer but spent most of Van Buren's boyhood running a tavern. Martin's own successful careers in law and politics exposed him to the aristocratic urbane lifestyles of New York City, Albany, and Washington, D.C. However, his upbringing in agricultural surroundings and his belief in farming as an essential democratizing agent remained strong influences throughout his political life. His political heroes Jefferson and Jackson, along with many other political giants of his day, championed the "moral balance" and reinvigorating and democratic appeal of working the soil. Van Buren devoutly adhered to Jefferson's bucolic vision that identified the nation's vigor and morality with independent yeoman farmers. After losing the 1840 election, he eagerly took up the challenge of remaking Lindenwald into a working farm that reflected his interest in the progressive scientific agricultural principles of the day.

Historian Reeve Huston argued that farming was essential to Van Buren's status as a gentleman within the context of the traditions of elite society in the mid-nineteenth century. Van Buren participated in what Tamara Thornton calls the gentleman's tradition of "rural retirement" by turning Lindenwald into a refined estate with manicured lawns, orchards and fields, and a dignified home. Genteel Americans aspired to the ideals represented by refined country life, which offered opportunities for peaceful contemplation, communion with nature, and aesthetic freedom in direct contrast to the crass materialism and pursuit of power associated with business and politics. Van Buren's interest in making improvements to Lindenwald, while in line with his political ideology, also provided a welcome diversion from political affairs. Over time, as he grew more entrenched in his comfortable surroundings, he became less inclined to leave them in pursuit of public office.

Van Buren applied the same strategy to farming that he had to politics when presented with issues he knew nothing about. He read voraciously on agricultural subjects and gathered advice from reliable sources. He enthusiastically experimented with the most recently developed breeds, seeds, fertilization methods, and crop rotation theories. He also reclaimed land through clear cutting and installing drainage systems. As his knowledge of farming grew, he was better able to speak the language of progressive agriculture. Van Buren frequently traded advice, cuttings, and seeds with his acquaintances who were likewise engaged in farming. Among them was Andrew Jackson, to whom he boasted in 1843:

> My farming operations for the present [have] been very successful & I am fast getting my farm in good order. My hay crop is, to the surprise of those who could not or would not believe that I could turn my mind to the subject, larger than a single one of my neighbors,...among them some of the best farmers in the country.

Soon after purchasing the property, Van Buren embarked on an ambitious program to improve the **Lindenwald Grounds and Fields (contributing site)** that took more than a decade to complete and transformed the place into both a comfortable country estate and a working farm. Since Van Buren had last seen it, the Kleinrood estate had changed considerably. He noted later that "nothing but the house and the trees are where they were." The farm, like the house, was in a state of disrepair. Writing in 1845, a correspondent for the *Albany Cultivator* noted that:

> When [Van Buren] entered on the occupancy of his place, on his retirement from the Presidency, it was much out of order; the land having been rented for twenty years and been under cultivation for the period of 160 years. Several of the [?] had become poor, the fences were old and rotting down; and bushes and grass of wild growth had taken possession of the farm.

In the fall of 1839, Van Buren hired John R. Harder to live on the property and oversee the rehabilitation of the farmland. He apparently worked without a design consultant, making decisions on the crops and layout of the farm himself or possibly with the advice of several of his brothers who had become farmers and remained in the area. The following spring he bought seeds and fertilizer with plans to plant rye, fence the rye field, and construct a hothouse. He hired Thomas Millikin to oversee this work as well as the construction of two fish ponds: the **Upper Pond (contributing structure)** near the southern end of the house and the Lower Pond (not extant) down the ravine toward the lower terrace. Van Buren's visit to Monticello in 1824, where Jefferson had built a pond off the south wing stocked with fish for supplying his dinner table, may have served as the initial inspiration for the ponds. By the 1840s, such ponds were fashionable among wealthy New Yorkers with country estates who fished them for both food and recreation. Fishing for sport was widely touted as a healthy "respite from urban life and business pressure." Two stone dams constructed across a little brook that flowed from springs on the property created the two ponds at Lindenwald. A wooden sluiceway inserted in the upper dam allowed water to flow into the Lower Pond. Upon completion, the ponds were stocked with trout, pickerel, and perch. Van Buren later spent many hours on the ponds. He loved fishing and often boasted of having the fish he caught for breakfast. The 1845 *Albany Cultivator* article described the usefulness of the ponds and recommended that readers of the magazine consider something similar:

> Among the objects that give beauty and interest to the grounds, are two artificial ponds in the garden. They were easily made by constructing dams across a little brook originating from springs on the premises. Soon after they were made (three years ago), some fish were put into them, and they are now so well stocked with trout, pickerel and perch, that Mr. Van Buren assured us they will afford an abundant supply for his table. This is a matter well worthy of consideration. There are many situations where such ponds may be made; and with trifling expense, the luxury of eating fine trout or pickerel, may be had at any time.

After Van Buren moved back to New York in the spring of 1841, his first major phase of renovations accelerated. In addition to readying the Lindenwald mansion for occupancy, the work involved shaping the grounds into truly working order. Writing to Andrew Jackson in the mid-summer of 1841, one month after officially taking residence, Van Buren mentioned "I have been extremely busy all summer getting my place in order and have nearly succeeded, the carpenters are, however, yet on the grounds, making stables, woodhouses etc." The stables referenced were possibly those appended to the house, a development mentioned by Van Buren in a subsequent letter.

The first mention of the new name "Lindenwald" for the estate appeared in July of 1841. Van Buren appears to have originally favored naming it "The Locusts," after the locust trees that lined the drive leading to the house. That name was vetoed, however, because of James Fenimore Cooper's use of it for a house in his novel *The Spy*. By November 1841, a pen sketch published in the *New York Commercial Advertiser* reported that Lindenwald was taking on a respectable air:

> Thus far the state of the farm does credit to [Van Buren's] skillful administration. A large garden has been laid out, with a green house, and a long wall for espaliers and for the protection of fruit trees, a copious spring has been made to supply a succession of fish ponds, and the process of making into good meadows the moist lands covered with useless bushes, is going on with great activity. . . . I saw a great

> variety of young pear trees, ordered from Hamburgh eight weeks before, and now in the ground, healthy and flourishing; they were of those fine kinds lately introduced by the improvers of the pear, who are making it the most delicious of all table fruits, and a table fruit of all seasons.
>
> The ex-President's begins the day with a ride of ten or fifteen miles on horseback; after breakfast he is engaged with workmen till he is tired, and then betakes himself to the library, which he is constantly enlarging.

A sketch map of Lindenwald, probably drawn sometime between 1840 and 1845, provides the first detailed image of the farmstead. It records the **Entry Drive (LCS No. 040750, contributing structure)** developed initially during the Van Ness tenure and retained by Van Buren. The drive extended in an arc that sprang from two entrances on the Albany Post Road to the house at its apex. It provided a formal entrance and circulation for the carriages that brought visitors to the place. The Albany Post Road, which was built in the late eighteenth century, was likely a significant factor in Van Ness's choice of location for the house as connection with the road facilitated transportation and communication with Albany and other towns in the region. A segment of the original road, the Old Post Road Segment **(ASMIS No. MAVA00020.00, contributing structure)**, survives in the district. Between the road and the house was an expansive front lawn that drew comment from a number of visitors. One writing in 1845 stated that the house was "fronted by one of the most beautiful lawns, I ever saw. This lawn that looked so fresh and smoothly shaven is dotted with rare old trees of every variety…" The main garden plot was located off the south elevation of the house and was bordered on the northeast and northwest corners by rectangular outbuildings and on the south by a pond. Of the two outbuildings, the easterly one was closest to the house and was probably the farm office or a smoke house. The westerly one may have become the annex to the North Gatehouse, moved there and converted to dwelling space once the gardens were abandoned in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Neither building is extant. A ravine leading down to the lower terrace was bordered on the north by an orchard. This area may have been part of the area referred to in a subsequent description of the estate as the "pleasure grounds." A small path or road led to the main entrance to the garden in the north fence and then continued on to a small rectangular building or structure that may have been the greenhouse noted in the *Advertiser* description. The second terrace slope was probably covered in part by the South Orchard and was probably traversed by the access road to the original stone house on the property constructed during the Van Alstyne period of ownership. The Old Stone House (not extant) was located northwest of the outbuildings near the southern bank of Kinderhook Creek. Two large outbuildings (not extant) stood to the north of the house that likely served as a horse barn and a carriage house. Potable water was initially provided via a well that likely dated to Van Ness's ownership and was located directly behind house. The stone **Well Cap (LCS No. 040751, contributing structure)** is extant. A circulation system consisting of paths around the house and roads into the farm fields was present at the time, but little of it remains. A remnant of the historic farm road system is represented by **Lower Farm Road (contributing structure)**, which extends from the non-historic Meyer farm drive southwestward to Kinderhook Creek.

During the first half of the 1840s, Van Buren took steps to enlarge his holdings, making three subsequent purchases of adjoining lands. In July 1843, he bought 28 acres in two lots from Lambert, James, Elizabeth, and Mariam Dingman for $1,699.50. The second acquisition consisted of a 12-acre lot also purchased from Lambert Dingman several months later for $1,222.50. The final major addition was a 43-acre tract bought from Van Buren's brother-in-law Peter I. Hoes and his wife Maria, and Van Buren's brother Lawrence and his wife Harriet for $1,400.00 in the autumn of 1845. With the Hoes purchase, the Lindenwald farmstead included approximately 225 acres.

In 1843, Van Buren reclaimed a 13-acre tract of "bog land," described in the 1845 *Albany Cultivator* article as his most important agricultural improvement to that time:

> …[The lands] are covered with luxuriant crops of grass or oats-Three years ago this land was worthless. It was first drained by ditches; the stumps and bushes were then cut out and burned, and the ashes spread on the land. It was afterwards sown to grass, using a mixture of timothy and redtop seed–3 pecks to the acre. The whole cost of reclaiming was $38 per acre, and the land will now pay the interest of a hundred

> to a hundred and fifty dollars per acre. To this Mr. Van Buren has set a good example, which we hope will be followed by other farmers in the neighborhood who have lands similarly situated.

In 1844, while in the midst of campaigning for re-election to the presidency, Van Buren wrote that he had "built me what I call a beautiful cottage, (for my foreman) on the brow of the hill and a large hay barn in the Meadows . . . and am as busy as a bee in finishing off my improvements." The one-and-one-half-story wood-frame **Farm Cottage (LCS No, 787465, contributing building),** although altered over time by subsequent owners, remains standing in its original location along the Meyer farm drive and is an important surviving element related to Van Buren's agricultural development of the Lindenwald estate.

The *Albany Cultivator* described Van Buren's gardens and crops as follows:

> ...During the short time it has been under Mr. Van Buren's management, the place has been greatly improved, and a course is now fairly begun by which a handsome income may be derived from it. The garden and pleasure grounds have been enlarged and newly laid out hot-houses have been erected–and a large number of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery etc. have been planted. The green-house contains a collection of exotic fruits and plants, among which were some fine grapes. In the garden we noticed some fine samples of all the fruits of the season.
>
> ...The potato crop is one of considerable consequence on his farm, as well as on others in the vicinity. Mr. Van Buren raises the variety called the Carters, produced from the bull a few years ago by the Shakers. He considers these by far the most profitable kind known. Mr. Van Buren assured us that all which could be raised would readily command fifty cents a bushel by the quantity in New York City.
>
> All the crops appear to be well managed–Leached ashes were tried last season with excellent success. Great benefit has also been derived from ploughing in clover.
>
> Mr. Van Buren keeps but little stock, a considerable object being the sale of hay. The management of the farm is under the immediate supervision of Mr. Van Buren, who finds in it a salutary exercise for the faculties of the mind and body. In his rural retreat, removed from the cares of State and turmoil of political wars, he now drinks the pure pleasure of a rural life.

The agricultural fields formed the majority of the Lindenwald grounds, as Van Buren kept the bulk of the estate in crops or hay. By 1848, he reported having 191 acres under cultivation. This constituted a high percentage of the total amount of land he owned and indicated that he used the land efficiently, leaving unused only the steep escarpment that divided the upper and lower terraces of the estate and some areas that were too wet to plant. The crops included rye, corn, oats, potatoes, grapes, and hay. Van Buren applied scientific farming practices in the rotation of the crops and the fertilizers he employed. Writing to Jackson in 1843, he averred:

> You can have no idea the interest I take in farming or of the satisfaction I derive from it. The Whigs would hardly believe that a much larger portion of my time is taken up devising ways & means to multiply the quantity & improve the quality of manure than in forming political plans or any other such matter.

He occasionally adopted agricultural technologies against the advice of more knowledgeable Kinderhook farmers. On one occasion he conducted experiments with a new subsoil plough purported to be well suited for breaking up the clay soils that predominated on the farm, to the "amusement of some of my neighbors, one of whom said he would not put a thing of the kind in his land on any terms."

Hay was the farm's chief crop, and Van Buren grew considerably more of it than could be used on the estate. In 1848, almost half the land devoted to crops was in hay. Van Buren's potato crop consisted of a variety called Carter potatoes,

which he obtained from the Shakers and claimed were "preferred in the New York Market uniformly by a shilling or two a basket." He harvested an average of about 200 bushels per year and proudly shipped them to friends to use as seed for their own farms. These presents were accompanied with detailed instructions on the proper planting and care of the crop. Over time, Van Buren experimented with other crops, including wheat, buckwheat, peas, beans, beets, hops, melons, and cabbage. Unlike many of his contemporary gentleman farmers, he was less interested in raising livestock, although his herd of sheep numbered about 125 in 1855. He maintained a stable of horses and oxen for travel and field tasks and enough cows, swine, and poultry to supply butter, eggs, and meat for the estate. In 1849, while the house was undergoing renovation, Van Buren constructed what was referred to as the Red Barn (not extant) on the slope behind the farm cottage to house his livestock.

In an 1846 letter, Van Buren wrote, "If I were to tell you half the improvements I have made since you were here & am still engaged upon it would make you stare. Paulding says I am stark mad & will soon be Bankrupt." The following June he noted, "I counted yesterday the number of people--painters, carpenters, Masons, Farmers & ditchers &c I had in employ and found them to reach the enormous number of twenty-six, one fifth of which were of the last and most useful denomination." It was probably around that time that Van Buren decided to build gatehouses at either end of the curving entry drive to better accommodate his farm hands. Built in a Gothic Revival style to match certain elements of the redesigned house, each gatehouse was one-and-one-half-stories tall. The building at the north gate (not extant) had a dormer, which made it slightly bigger. The North Gatehouse was later removed, and only its foundation remains are visible. The site of the North Gatehouse contributes to the district under Criterion D as explained below. The **South Gatehouse (LCS No. 021034, contributing building)** remains as the most significant surviving building besides the house that is associated with Van Buren's occupation of Lindenwald, although it has been modified considerably over time.

In 1847, the son of Peter Van Ness approached Van Buren to gain permission to erect a fitting memorial stone at his father's grave site in the fields of the upper terrace. The granite **Van Ness Monument (LCS No. 787467, contributing object)** was built in the obelisk form and provides a detailed inscription of the highlights of Van Ness's life.

The remodeling of Lindenwald undertaken by Smith Thompson Van Buren in 1849-1850 marked the end of the major developmental projects at the estate. In the spring of 1853 Van Buren took his ailing son, Martin Jr. to seek medical care for tuberculosis in Europe and remained there for two years until Martin Jr. died in 1855. Upon his return to Lindenwald, he began operating the farm on a tenancy basis, providing housing for the farm family and equipment and materials for the farm operation in exchange for 75 percent of the money generated through sale of the crops. Only minor improvements were made during this time. He continued, however, to fish his ponds, make his rounds, and presumably tend to his accounts and agricultural experiments until his death in 1862.

Summary History of Lindenwald after Van Buren's Death, 1862-present

In his will prepared in 1860, Van Buren divided his real estate equally among his three sons, with the following provisions: (1) Smith Thompson be compensated for his expenditures in modernizing "the dwelling house and outbuildings, and (2) if any of the three wished Lindenwald, he buy his two brothers out at a fair market price." On May 6, 1863, John Van Buren became the sole proprietor of the estate after purchasing his brothers' shares for $20,000. Although his motives are undocumented, he evidently planned to make the estate the primary residence for his daughter Anna and himself, while keeping a law office in New York City. However, John soon found that arrangement unsatisfactory and moved to the city probably before the winter of 1863, making that autumn the last season a Van Buren resided at Lindenwald.

In April 1864, less than one year after taking title, John Van Buren executed a one year lease of the property to Isaac Collins, who was the foreman in charge of the farming operation at the time. Ten days later, he transferred ownership to Leonard Jerome. This rapid transition from leasing to sale, combined with the monetary aspects of the deal, gave rise to rumors that John Van Buren may have lost Lindenwald at the gaming table. Jerome, a wealthy New York entrepreneur and paternal grandfather of Winston Churchill, owned the estate for three years. He may have used the estate grounds for

pasturage for race horses he owned, but otherwise had almost nothing to do with it. The property subsequently passed to several other short-term owners, including a partnership in the mid-1870s between a Van Buren and a Van Alstyne, both distant relatives of the Van Burens of Lindenwald. During this period, portions of the estate were sold off in smaller lots.

Subsequent longer-term owners of the Lindenwald house lot included brothers Adam E. and Freeman E. Wagoner, who owned and farmed the property from 1874 to 1917, and Dr. Bascom Birney, who purchased the remaining 184-acre farmstead for $7,500 in 1917. Dr. Birney, a surgeon turned financier, kept Lindenwald as his main residence but rented out the crop fields, meadows, and orchards to local farmers. Birney renovated sections of the house by putting on a slate roof, adding a rear porch, and installing a septic tank and new heating system, but he evidently made no capital investment in the outbuildings and appears to have done little to change the disposition of the grounds. In July 1922, Birney turned Lindenwald over to his oldest daughter Marian Birney who in turn sold the property to her sister Clementine DeProsse for the cost borne by their father. For the first five years after the 1925 transfer, the main house was unoccupied, as Clementine and her husband William were in college and later worked out of state. They rented out the farm cottage, fields, and orchards. With the advent of the Great Depression, the DeProsses returned to Lindenwald and started to tend the land themselves.

Faced with shrinking resources, the family was unable to meet the demands of physical maintenance required by the estate, and Clementine DeProsse advocated for the accession of Lindenwald by the federal or state governments. As early as 1910, the New York Assembly considered the possible use of Lindenwald as public property, and in 1914 a short-lived proposal was initiated to make the estate the Governor's summer residence. After the passage of the National Historic Sites Act of 1935, the NPS showed interest in obtaining Lindenwald and in 1936 assigned historian Melvin Weig to prepare a report on the house and its history. The Park Service, however, did not at the time have the funds necessary to purchase the property and the owners were unwilling to donate it. The Association for the Preservation of Lindenwald was also founded in the 1936, intensifying the drive to integrate Lindenwald into the New York State system. During this time, the DeProsses lived in the Lindenwald mansion only in the summer, shutting it down in the winter and relocating to the smaller Farm Cottage. In the late 1930s and for several summers after World War II, they rented the main house to a theatrical company. Between 1946 and 1949, a summer tearoom operated out of the building. The DeProsses subsequently turned Lindenwald into a nursing home capable of accommodating up to 30 patients. In the early 1950s they upgraded the kitchen and installed new plumbing and septic systems.

By 1949, Clementine DeProsse decided to sell off the bulk of the Lindenwald holdings, including the Van Buren farm component and most of the landscape associated with Van Buren's gardens, fishponds, and pleasure grounds. Of the Wagoner/Birney 184 acres, the DeProsses reserved two tracts, a 6-acre wood lot and a 12.8-acre parcel containing the house and the original northeast corner of the Van Buren farmstead and Van Ness house lot. The remaining 165 acres were transferred to Ray Meyer. Subsequent changes to the landscape included the plowing over of the west end of the carriage house and alterations to the area around the garden ponds, which was overgrown, crosscut by a farm road, and dredged out for an irrigation pool. The new owners enlarged the foreman's cottage and leveled the red hillside barn; the black hay barn burned. A new farm complex was established on the upper terrace adjacent to the Lindenwald parcel, including silos, greenhouses, storage sheds, migrant workers' housing, privies, etc.

After nearly 40 years in the family, the DeProsses sold the 12.8-acre mansion lot to Kenneth Campbell in 1957 for $9,000. Campbell constructed a new front porch, updated the interior, and upgraded utility services, especially for the kitchen. He ran an antiques business out of a shop he built on the premises by the South Gatehouse in the late 1950s. Behind the mansion, Campbell removed Van Buren's farm office and sections of a barn/shed/garage and built a cinder block garage and storage building (now the NPS Maintenance Shop) on part of the barn/shed site. The south boundary of the reduced Lindenwald tract was subsequently allowed to grow wild, as was the site of the North Orchard. Only a farm road served to mark the edge of the field that rounded out the southwest quarter of the property, and the neighboring cornfield encroached upon this tenuous boundary line. Heavy plowing in Campbell's section of the field behind the house, combined with the bulldozing of the North Orchard boundary that clipped the western segment of the carriage house site, probably had adverse effects on any archeological features remaining in those two areas. A key event during Campbell's ownership was the listing of Lindenwald as a National Historic Landmark in 1961.

In 1973, Campbell sold the 12.8-acre Lindenwald parcel to the National Park Foundation for $102,000. The sale provided a transition period that both protected the property from possible adverse development and allowed the NPS a chance to organize resources and assemble a staff for its management. Campbell continued to reside in the house and operate an antique shop out of the South Gatehouse. Lindenwald finally attained National Historic Site status in 1974. When the NPS officially took possession of Lindenwald in 1976, the property was in poor condition, with the house in need of repair and the grounds overgrown. Over the past 28 years, the NPS restored the mansion and surrounding grounds in an effort to convey the story of Van Buren's life, particularly his years at Lindenwald, to visitors.

In 2004 the Open Space Institute (OSI) of New York was granted a conservation easement on 101 acres of the former Van Buren estate grounds that included much of the property formerly owned by Ray Meyers. The primary purpose of easement was to ensure that the property remain in agricultural use by protecting its soils and agricultural viability while also protecting the historic values of Van Buren's Lindenwald. The property was subsequently operated by Roxbury Farm, an internationally recognized leader in biodynamic agriculture that provides a valuable point of reference for understanding the agricultural practices of Van Buren's day. In March 2009 Congress passed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act, in response to the recommendations of a 2003 NPS study that called for the addition of approximately 261 acres, including the Roxbury Farm property, to the current park boundaries. The boundary expansion was an important move in reassembling the Van Buren era property and protecting Martin Van Buren's agricultural lands from development. Additional property directly north and east of the Van Buren lands was also added to the boundary to provide a buffer against development and for viewshed preservation.

Collections Statement

The Martin Van Buren National Historic Site museum collection reveals a great deal about Van Buren's elegant and convivial lifestyle at Lindenwald. The evidence cited in the Historic Furnishings Report (Kohan 1986) supporting the period room installations is extensive, documenting furnishings for a large formal dining room, two parlors, an ample library, numerous bedrooms, domestic workspaces, and a nursery. Taken together, the furnishings help to recreate the feeling and style of the household, bustling with family, friends, political allies, and household workers. Further, while Lindenwald was the rural household to which Van Buren retreated after his loss of the 1840 election, it immediately became the base from which he maintained his power as a leading figure in national politics in the 1840's. From Henry Clay's stay in the "Best Bedroom" in 1849 shortly before his Compromise of 1850 was promulgated, to the discussion of Van Buren's nomination as the Free Soil presidential candidate after "a delightful dinner," Martin Van Buren National Historic Site's collection contributes a unique way of understanding Van Buren's social and political life at Lindenwald in the period of significance through material culture.

Van Buren's return to Kinderhook to occupy the old Van Ness estate was a manifestation of his remarkable transformation from tavern-keeper's son to refined gentleman. The museum collection contains numerous artifacts representative of this transformation, none more articulate than the original 1797 door knocker, which Van Buren said he had retained as a memorial to his complicated relationship with Peter Van Ness. Van Ness, who once lorded his superior social position over the young Van Buren, was superseded as owner of the estate by the eighth president of the United States.

Van Buren's loss of the presidency and return to Kinderhook was due in part to the success of Whig campaign strategy to portray him as an effete aristocrat, in contrast to the humility represented by William Henry Harrison's fictive "log cabin." Van Buren had long endured political criticism for his taste for stylish attire. But the infamous "Gold Spoon Oration" of Charles Ogle, delivered before the Senate in 1840, charged Van Buren with a foppish extravagance in furnishings also, for example of having purchased for the White House "golden-framed mirrors, NINE FEET HIGH and FOUR FEET and a HALF WIDE." While of course Ogle's speech was Whig propaganda, Lindenwald's collection does not refute the essential point that Van Buren had indeed acquired a fondness for elegant décor. Two floor-to-ceiling gilt pier mirrors in Lindenwald's parlors, although not of the dimensions described by Ogle, are in keeping with the fine wallpaper and carpets reproduced from the originals in the park's collection. Mahogany chairs and beds original to

Lindenwald--side and armchairs from Meeks and Roux, a sleigh bed made by cabinetmaker William Shipman of New York City, a classical-styled sideboard -- established Van Buren as a man of taste and wealth.

Van Buren's gentility was not merely a matter of gracious post presidential retirement; the furnishings in Lindenwald communicated his stature as he planned a return to political office. From Lindenwald Van Buren pursued the Democratic presidential nomination in 1844, entertaining political luminaries and conducting extensive and influential correspondence. The mahogany secretary-bookcase in the Van Buren bedroom may be the one at which Van Buren penned his famous Hammet letter opposing the immediate annexation of Texas, a position that lost him the nomination he sought.

Visitors in the 1840s included Henry Clay, David Wilmot, Samuel Tilden, and Silas Wright, all of whom enjoyed the hospitality of the center hall dining room. The furnishings in this space include an extravagant 66-piece gilt-decorated green glass dessert service, and ten of the original thirty chairs Van Buren purchased for the dining table, the very ones in which John Van Buren and his colleagues, seated around the table after dinner, proposed Van Buren as the Free Soil presidential candidate.

The steady stream of house guests and formal dinners described in visitors' accounts and correspondence make clear that Van Buren had a large staff of domestic servants. The museum collection contains evocative artifacts representing this dimension of life at Lindenwald: checks from the Bank of Kinderhook written to Catherine Kelly, fragments of the original call bell system, and a ceramic dog that descended in the family of one of the Lindenwald servants.

Throughout Van Buren's residence at Lindenwald, but heightening after his retirement from formal political life after the 1848 campaign, the museum collection reflects a household that was always full of family and friends. A Gothic revival card table and chairs complement written descriptions of family games, and the sheer number of bedsteads suggests a robust household sometimes so full of guests that, as Angelica Singleton Van Buren commented, family sometimes had to resort to the sofas, some of which are now in the collection.

One of the site's most compelling artifacts is a Bible given to Van Buren as a gift by Hannah Hoes's niece Christina Cantine. That this was a family deeply immersed in politics is made apparent by the prayers she transcribed inside the Bible, appealing to God to "defend our country in its hour of peril." By 1852, it was becoming clear even to less politically astute Americans that peaceful solutions to the slavery question were failing.

Throughout Van Buren's career as architect of Democratic Party unity, the North and South had sustained an uneasy equilibrium of power. This was the larger context for Christina's inscription in the Bible, asking God to "preserve the goodly heritage which thou gavest to our fathers." The more personal context was apparently the fact that this was a subject on which Van Buren and his niece had shared their thoughts. Below Christina's inscription, "To my Uncle on his 70th birthday," she added: "To teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." This evocative object and the museum collection assembled in the Lindenwald period rooms conjure an image not just of a statesman witnessing the deterioration of his country, but of a family at Lindenwald's hearthside, anguishing over the approach of the great Civil War.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
_X_ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_X_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_X_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # NY-6021
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 176.95 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	0606886	4691545	C	18	0606364	4691752

E. 18 0606038E 4691590N
F. 18 0606274E 4690911N
G. 18 0606357E 4690966N
H. 18 0606355E 4691104N
I. 18 0606444E 4691236N
J. 18 0606549E 4691122N

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

The National Register district boundary encompasses a total of 176.95 acres of land within the 300-acre authorized boundary of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. The boundary is depicted on the attached historic district map. It boundary includes the 18.12 acres of land owned by the NPS in fee simple, 10.60 acres of land controlled by the NPS through recorded easement, and 148.23 acres of privately held land. The following land tracts are included in the boundary and are shown on the attached U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Land Resources Program Center Map:

Tract
01-101
01-102
01-103
01-108
01-110
01-114
01-115
01-119
01-120

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register district boundary encompasses the contiguous land within the authorized boundary of Martin Van Buren National Historic Site that was owned by Martin Van Buren during the period of significance. It includes the Lindenwald house lot and most of Van Buren's farmland. The house and about 39 acres of surrounding land became a unit of the NPS in 1974. In March 2009, the authorized boundary was expanded under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act to encompass Van Buren's farmland and several tracts that were added to preserve the setting of the estate. The latter tracts, along with several others east and south of the district boundary that are owned or controlled by the NPS, are not included in the district due to their lack of direct association with Van Buren.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Olausen, Laura Kline, Kristen Heitert, Carey Jones
organization The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. date April 2011
street & number 210 Lonsdale Avenue telephone 401.728.8780
city or town Pawtucket state RI zip code 02860
e-mail solausen@palinc.com

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.

  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.)

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: Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

City or Vicinity: Kinderhook

County: Columbia **State:** New York

Photographer: Carey L. Jones; PAL, 210 Lonsdale Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Date Photographed: September 29 and 30, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 24. Context view of Lindenwald and grounds, facing north.

2 of 24. Lindenwald facade (east) elevation and north side, facing southwest

3 of 24. Lindenwald rear (west) elevation and north side, facing southeast.

4 of 24. Lindenwald rear (west) elevation, facing southeast.

5 of 24. Lindenwald south side, facing north.

6 of 24. Lindenwald interior view of dining hall.

7 of 24. Lindenwald interior view of library in 1849-1850 addition.

8 of 24. Lindenwald interior view of north parlor.

9 of 24. Lindenwald interior view of Martin Van Buren's bedroom.

10 of 24. Lindenwald Grounds, facing southeast from top of belvedere tower.

11 of 24. Lindenwald Agricultural Fields, facing west from top of belvedere tower.

12 of 24. Old Post Road Segment, facing south from north Entry Drive.

13 of 24. Entry Drive, facing southwest from Old Post Road.

14 of 24. South Gatehouse, north elevation and west side, facing southeast.

15 of 24. North Gatehouse Foundation, facing east.

16 of 24. Well Cap, facing north.

17 of 24. Farm Cottage, south side and east elevation, facing north.

18 of 24. Upper Pond, facing west.

19 of 24. Peter Van Ness Monument, facing northwest.

20 of 24. Non-contributing NPS Maintenance Garage, east elevation, facing west.

21 of 24. Non-contributing NPS Pole Barn, east elevation, facing north.

22 of 24. Non-contributing Meyer Barn, north elevation and east side, facing southwest.

23 of 24. Non-contributing Meyer Farm outbuildings (right to left - Greenhouse Nos. 1 and 2; Garage 1 and Shed), facing south .

24 of 24. Non-contributing Albany Post Road Mile Marker, north face, facing south.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name National Park Service, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

street & number 1013 Old Post Road (State Route 9H) telephone 518.758.9689

city or town Kinderhook state NY zip code 12106

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Van Buren, Martin, National Historic Site (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 5/25/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/20/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/05/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/11/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000406

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

X ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 7/11/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

Redacted Info highlighted!

RECOM./CRITERIA A,B,C,D

REVIEWER Abernathy DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

X ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 7/11/12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA A,B,C,D

REVIEWER Abernathy DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 1 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 2 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 3 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 4 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 5 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 6 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 7 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 8 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 9 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 10 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 11 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 12 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 13 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 14 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 15 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 16 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 17 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 18 of 24

ELBERTIE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 19 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 20 of 24

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 21 of 24

ROXBURY FARM
PENSKE
Local
One Way
Truck Rental
PENSKE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 22 of 24

COUNTY
WASTE
1-888-54 WASTE

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 23 of 24

1824
FNY

Martin Van Buren National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY
Photo 24 of 24

Van Buren, Martin
National Historic Site
Kinderhook, Columbia Co., NY

A 18 0606886E 4691545N
B 18 0606617E 4691455N
C 18 0606364E 4691752N
D 18 0606125E 4641695N
E 18 0606038E 4691590N
F 18 0606274E 4690911N
G 18 0606375E 4690966N
H 18 0606355E 4691104N
I 18 0606444E 4691236N
J 18 0606549E 4691122N

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STOTTVILLE QUADRANGLE
NEW YORK—COLUMBIA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6268 IV NE (RAVENA)
6268 I NE (EAST CHATHAM)
6268 I NW (KINDERHOOK)
6268 IV SE (HUDSON NORTH)
6268 I SE (CHATHAM)
6268 II NE (HUDSON SOUTH)
6268 II NW (CLAVERACK)
6268 I NW (HILLSDALE)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field checked 1953

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, east zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters south and 35 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — 4 LANE | 6 LANE — Light-duty
Medium-duty — 4 LANE | 6 LANE — Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route — State Route

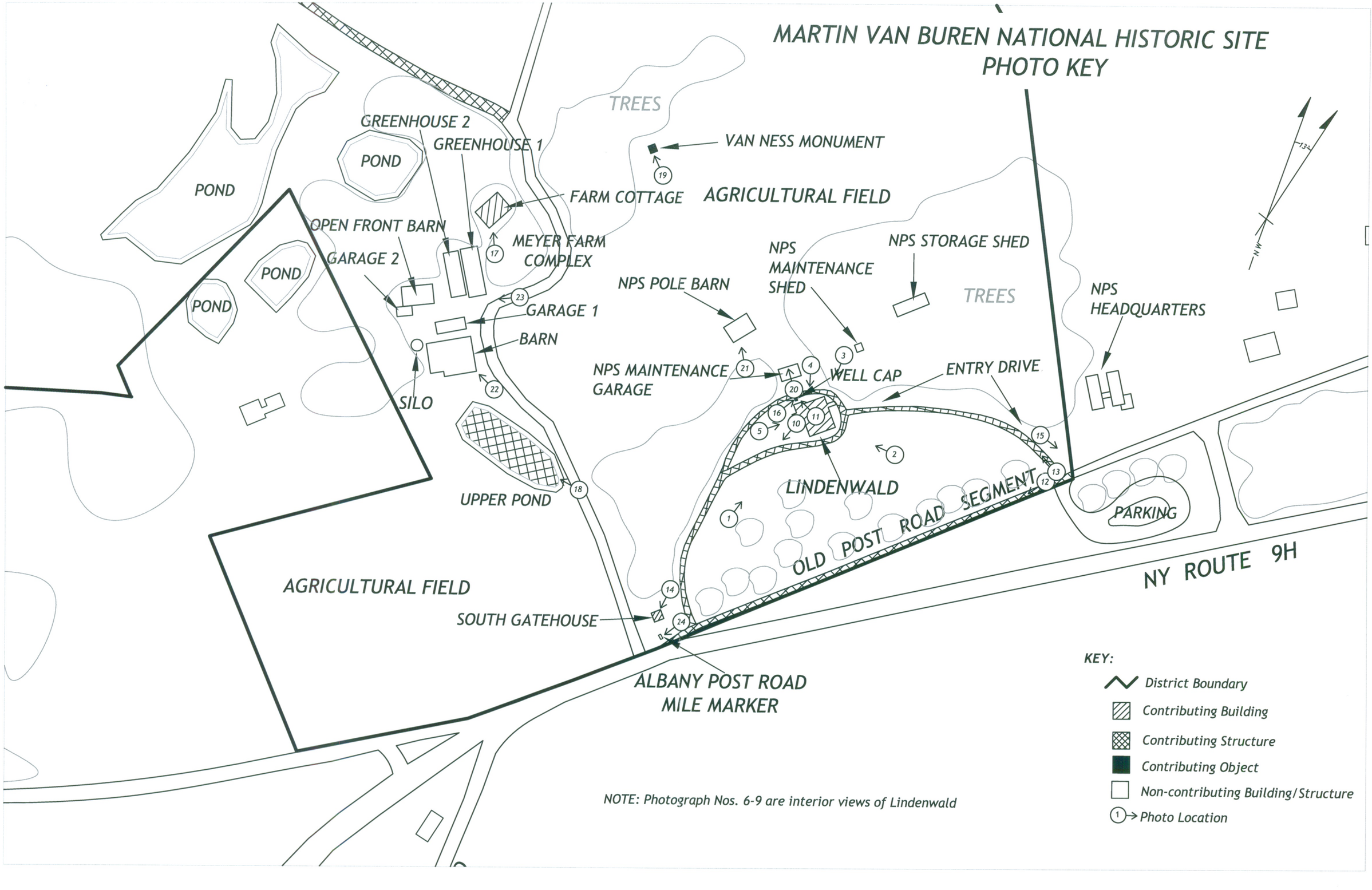
STOTTVILLE, N.Y.

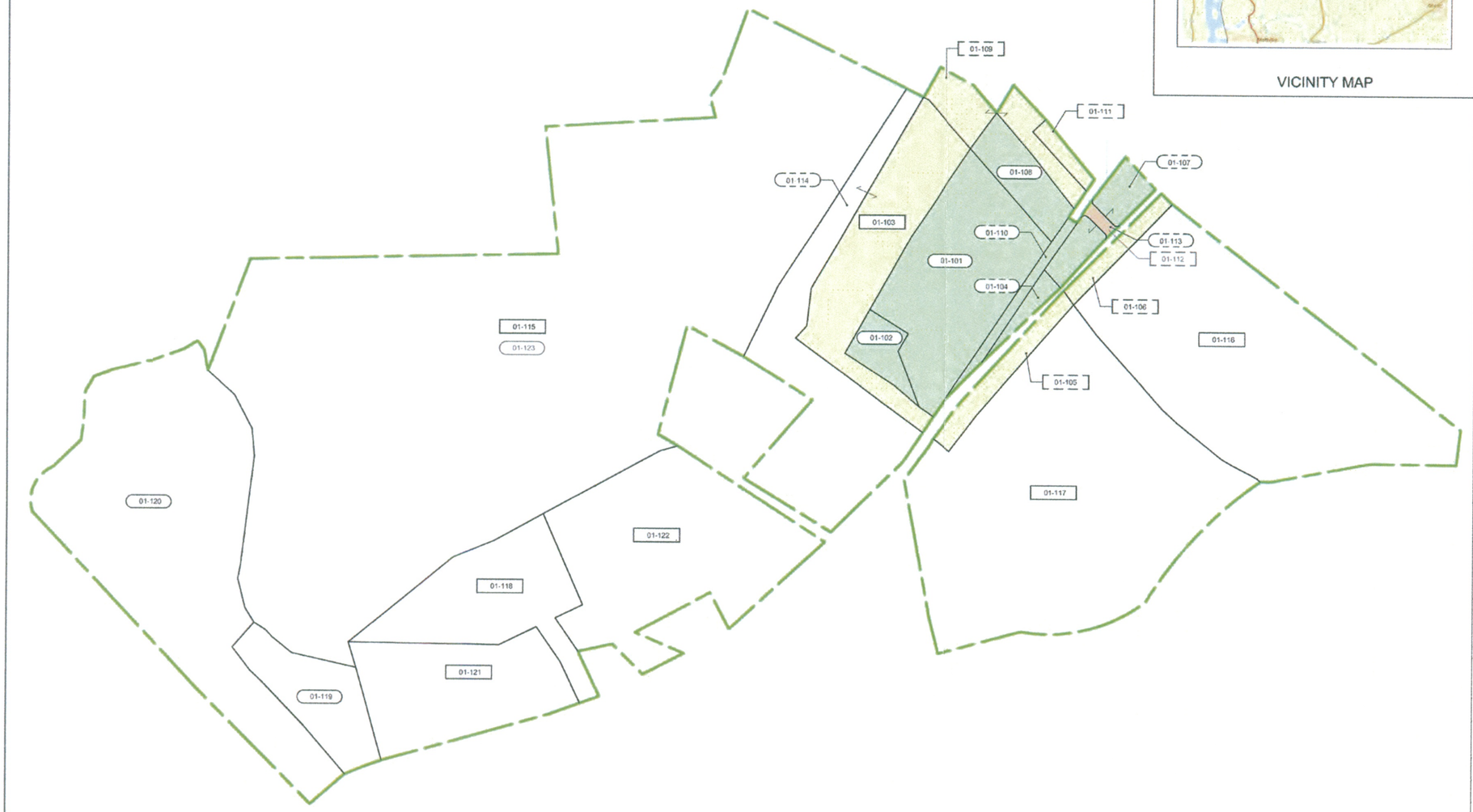
N4215—W7337.5/7.5

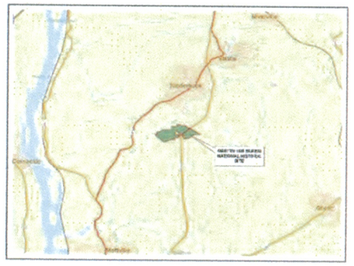
1953
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 6268 I SW—SERIES V821

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1981

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
PHOTO KEY







VICINITY MAP

TRACT REGISTER

DEED	TRACT	OWNER	ACRES	INT.
PUR-D1	01-101	NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION	12.84	FEE
COM-D2	01-102	MEYER, DUDLEY RAY JR.	1.48	FEE
COM-D2	01-103	MEYER, DUDLEY RAY JR.	10.60	EASE
DON-D3	01-104	COUNTY OF COLUMBIA	0.59	FEE
COM-D2	01-105	PIZZIRUSSO, ANTHONY ET UX	2.17	EASE
COM-D2	01-106	SHUFELT, BEATRICE	1.73	EASE
COM-D2	01-107	BRENNAN BERNARD T.	2.60	FEE
COM-D2	01-108	BRENNAN BERNARD T.	2.75	FEE
COM-D2	01-109	BRENNAN BERNARD T.	2.86	EASE
EXC-D4	01-110	KINDERHOOK, TOWN OF	1.05	FEE
COM-D2	01-111	CUTRO, JOSEPH A. & ANGELA C.	0.88	EASE
D/E-D4	01-112	TO: TOWN OF KINDERHOOK	(0.24)	FEE
	01-113	KINDERHOOK, TOWN OF	0.24	FEE
	01-114	OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY,INC.	12.86	FEE
	01-115	OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY,INC.	101.89	EASE
	01-116	OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY,INC.	31.03	EASE
	01-117	WORSFOLD ROBERT M., ET UX	27.83	EASE
	01-118	COURTENS JEAN PAUL, ET AL	9.58	EASE
	01-119	BURCH TREDWELL JR., ET AL	5.48	FEE
	01-120	BURCH FORREST N., ET AL	28.00	FEE
	01-121	OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY,INC.	10.38	EASE
	01-122	OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY,INC.	18.33	EASE
	01-123	COURTENS, JEAN PAUL, ET AL	0.00	FEE

ACREAGE SUMMARY

TOTAL ACRES ACQUIRED:

FEE	**21.07**
LESS THAN FEE	**18.24**

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

AUTHORIZED: P.L. 93-486, 88 Stat.1461(OCTOBER 26,1974)
REVISIONS: P.L. 111-11(MARCH 30, 2009)

LEGEND

- PRIVATE LAND
- FEDERAL LAND (FEE)
- FEDERAL INTEREST (LESS THAN FEE)
- PUBLIC LAND
- 01-101 TRACT NUMBER (FEE)
- 01-101 TRACT NUMBER (LESS THAN FEE)
- TRACT BOUNDARY
- PARK BOUNDARY

GENERAL NOTES

1. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP DATA COMPILED FROM DEEDS, PLATS, SURVEYS, AND OTHER SOURCE DATA ARE SHOWN ON THIS BASE. THIS IS NOT AN ENGINEERING QUALITY DRAWING AND SHOULD BE USED FOR GENERAL SCALING PURPOSES ONLY. ACREAGES HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM DEEDS, SURVEYS, AND OFFICE COMPILATIONS.
2. TRACTS NOT LISTED HAVE BEEN DELETED.
3. NEW YORK STATE PLANE, EAST ZONE, NAD83, US FOOT

DATE	REVISIONS	DATE	REVISIONS
01/05/2010	DIGITAL DATA CONVERSION		
11/12/2009	CHANGE ORDER 9		
10/21/2009	CHANGE ORDER 8		
07/31/2000	CHANGE ORDER 7		
06/28/1999	CHANGE ORDER 6		
06/18/1986	CHANGE ORDER 5		
10/01/1982	CHANGE ORDER 4		
04/09/1980	CHANGE ORDER 3		
04/17/1979	CHANGE ORDER 2		
04/04/1979	CHANGE ORDER 1	12/18/2009	CHANGE ORDER 10

ESTABLISHED: OCTOBER 26, 1974
BOUNDARY CHANGE: MARCH 30, 2009

DATE DRAWN: SEPTEMBER 20,1977
DATE REVISED: JANUARY 5, 2010

REGIONAL OFFICE: NORTH EAST REGIONAL LANDS OFFICE

250 0 250 500 750 1000 FEET

N

DN. BY: JMO CK. BY: DF
APPR. BY: RM
REGION: NERO
DRAWING NO: 480/80,000
SHEET: 1 OF 1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
LAND RESOURCES PROGRAM CENTER

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

COLUMBIA COUNTY
NEW YORK

TITLE: SEGMENT 01

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
DISTRICT MAP
SHOWING LOCATION OF HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY SITES
(CONTAINS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION DO NOT RELEASE)

KINDERHOOK CREEK
AGRICULTURAL FIELD
LOWER FARM ROAD
AGRICULTURAL FIELD
AGRICULTURAL FIELD
TREES
POND
POND
POND
GREENHOUSE 2
GREENHOUSE 1
POND
TREES
VAN NESS MONUMENT
FARM COTTAGE
AGRICULTURAL FIELD
OPEN FRONT BARN
GARAGE 2
MEYER FARM COMPLEX
NPS MAINTENANCE AREA
NPS STORAGE SHED
NPS POLE BARN
TREES
NPS HEADQUARTERS
GARAGE 1
BARN
SILO
NPS MAINTENANCE GARAGE
ENTRY DRIVE
UPPER POND
LINDENWALD
OLD POST ROAD ALIGNMENT
PARKING
NY ROUTE 9H
BURCH HOUSE
TREES
AGRICULTURAL FIELD
SOUTH GATEHOUSE
NORTH GATEHOUSE & DUMP (MAVA 4.00)
LINDENWALD ESTATE SITE (MAVA 1.00-1.07)
ALBANY POST ROAD MILE MARKER
ROBIN ROAD
ALBANY AVENUE (COUNTY RD 25)
NY ROUTE 9H
OLD POST ROAD

0 500 1000ft
0 150 300m

KEY:

- District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Contributing Structure
- Contributing Object
- Contributing Historic Archeology Site
- Non-contributing Building/Structure

CONTAINS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION
DO NOT RELEASE

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
DISTRICT MAP
SHOWING LOCATION OF PRE-CONTACT ARCHEOLOGY SITES
(CONTAINS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION DO NOT RELEASE)

KINDERHOOK CREEK

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

LOWER FARM ROAD

TREES

POND

POND

POND

POND

GREENHOUSE 2

GREENHOUSE 1

FARM COTTAGE

OPEN FRONT BARN

GARAGE 2

MEYER FARM COMPLEX

GARAGE 1

BARN

SILO

VAN NESS MONUMENT

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

NPS MAINTENANCE

NPS STORAGE SHED

NPS POLE BARN

TREES

NPS HEADQUARTERS

NPS MAINTENANCE GARAGE

WELL CAP

ENTRY DRIVE

UPPER POND

LINDENWALD

OLD POST ROAD SEGMENT

PARKING

NY ROUTE 9H

BURCH HOUSE

TREES

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

SOUTH GATEHOUSE

NORTH FIELD NATIVE AMERICAN SITE (MAVA 2.0-2.05)

ALBANY POST ROAD MILE MARKER

LINDENWALD SOUTH NATIVE AMERICAN SITE (MAVA 3.00-3.04)

ROBIN ROAD

ALBANY AVENUE (COUNTY RD 25)

NY ROUTE 9H

OLD POST ROAD

0 500 1000ft

0 150 300m

KEY:

- District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Contributing Structure
- Contributing Object
- Contributing Pre-Contact Archeology Site
- Non-contributing Building/Structure

MARTIN VAN BUREN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
DISTRICT MAP

KINDERHOOK CREEK

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

LOWER FARM ROAD

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

TREES

POND

POND

POND

POND

GREENHOUSE 2

GREENHOUSE 1

VAN NESS MONUMENT

FARM COTTAGE

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

OPEN FRONT BARN

GARAGE 2

MEYER FARM COMPLEX

NPS MAINTENANCE SHED

NPS STORAGE SHED

NPS POLE BARN

TREES

NPS HEADQUARTERS

GARAGE 1

BARN

SILO

NPS MAINTENANCE GARAGE

WELL CAP

ENTRY DRIVE

UPPER POND

LINDENWALD

OLD POST ROAD SEGMENT

PARKING

BURCH HOUSE

TREES

AGRICULTURAL FIELD

SOUTH GATEHOUSE

NY ROUTE 9H

ALBANY POST ROAD MILE MARKER

ROBIN ROAD

ALBANY AVENUE (COUNTY RD 25)

NY ROUTE 9H

OLD POST ROAD

0 500 1000ft

0 150 300m

KEY:

- District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Contributing Structure
- Contributing Object
- Non-contributing Building/Structure

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32 (NER-HPPC)

FEB - 7 2012

Memorandum

To: Federal Preservation Officer, WASO

From: for Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: National Register Documentation for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site

We are forwarding, for your approval, National Register of Historic Places documentation for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. This recently completed documentation updates the original documentation and takes into account a boundary expansion, additional areas of significance, and an expanded period of significance. Notification letters have been sent to the chief elected official and the chair of the local historic district commission pursuant to 36 CFR 61.6. No comments were received.

This document was prepared by Laura Kline, Steve Olausen, Kristen Heitert, and Cary Price of Public Archeology Laboratory, Inc., with extensive input from Supervisory Staff Curator Patricia West and Superintendent Dan Dattilio. The document was reviewed by the Northeast Region's National Register Coordinator Elizabeth Igleheart.

The documentation was submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office for review and comment and signed by Ruth Pierpont on October 27, 2011.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Igleheart, National Register Coordinator, Northeast Region, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109; Elizabeth_Igleheart@nps.gov; or call 617-223-5018.

Attachments

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED 2280
MAY 25 2012
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

May 29, 2012

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Deputy Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service 5/29/2012

Subject: National Register Nomination for Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, Columbia County, New York, Additional Documentation

I am forwarding Additional Documentation for the National Register nomination for the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site. Expansion of the park boundary was authorized by Congress in 2009; this nomination update documents the expanded boundaries, accounts for contributing and non-contributing resources, and defines its areas, periods, and levels of significance. Park History program staff has reviewed the documentation and supports the revisions.