BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 S. Fitzhugh St. Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

* *

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Dr. Adiel Buell House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 355 Elmgrove Road (S.W. corner of St. Pierre Dr.)
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Mr. & Mrs. John M. Bonin ADDRESS: 2020 Reed Rd. Bergen, NY 14416
6. USE: Original: residence Present: apartments.
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
   Interior accessible: Explain private residence/apartments

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☒ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐ e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: vinyl & asphalt siding.
   Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = pargeted fieldstone.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known)
   a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☒
   b. wood frame with light members ☐
   c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
   d. metal (explain) _____
   e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☒ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
    c. list major alterations and dates (if known):

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"Oh, dear - there's not much left here as it's been so remodelled. There is some detailing in the rear of the house: frieze windows, pilasters. I'm afraid that 'yellow' is about the best we can do for this in its present condition." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Yellow

An Equal Opportunity Agency

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☒
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous trees & shrubs
j. other: _____

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☐
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: Erie Canal borders south property line; Elmgrove Rd. canal bridge to S.E. of house.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1852

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: residential

11c.

Vinyl and asphalt shingles have been installed over the original wood clapboard siding (post-World War II?).

The historic square, chamferred wood front porch posts, railing and steps were removed in 1994 (replaced with contemporary, pressure-treated wood posts, railing, and steps.

The one-story enclosed porch and gabled entrance porch on the south elevation are 20th-century additions.

The Chicago-style picture windows on the facade are a c. 1920s-40s addition.

The house has been subdivided into apartments.

The brick chimney, metal fire escape, and one-car garage on the north elevation are of 20th-century construction. The one-story open porch has also been enclosed with contemporary windows and doors (post-World War II?).

17. Located opposite Ridgeway Avenue, this mid 19th-century vernacular house is located on the west side of Elmgrove Road (on the southwest corner of St. Pierre Drive) in the southwest quadrant of the town. The front elevation faces east. The Erie Canal extends along the south property line of this .58-acre site. Immediately southeast of the property, a contemporary bridge carries Elmgrove Road over the canal. The driveway is located to the west of the house. The surrounding neighborhood is mostly residential, with a mixture of 19th and later 20th-century houses. The Greece Canal Park is to the north and west of this site.

18. A two-story, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular house with Italianate influences. The house is built atop a pargeted fieldstone foundation. The house is clad in painted, asphalt shingles with a small section of vinyl siding on the second story of the north elevation. The house consists of a gabled two-story front section; it is three-bays wide by three-bays deep. The gable-roofed, middle section is a lower, two-story structure. The rear (west) section of the house is also gable-roofed and is one-and-one-half stories high.

Fenestration is regular in the main section of the house;

18. continued

asymmetrical in the middle and rear wings. Windows include historic 6/6 double-hung sash and four small frieze sash on the north elevation (under the eaves). The middle and rear (west) sections of the house include contemporary 1/1, double hung sash. The facade of the house has two picture windows in the "Chicago style" - a single, fixed center pane flanked by two 1/1, double-hung sash. A small, louvered window is in the front (east) gable.

The main (front) porch includes chamferred, wood pilasters and a decorative, wood door surround. The historic porch posts were removed in 1994. They were in the vernacular Italianate style and featured square, wood posts with chamferred corners. The one-story north porch (now enclosed) retains its square, chamferred, wood posts.

A brick chimney with corbelling tops the west gable end of the house. A 20th-century brick chimney is located on the north elevation and along the main east-west ridgeline of the roof.

The north elevation has a contemporary enclosed, entrance porch, while the south elevation has an enclosed porch and a smaller, enclosed porch by the southwest entrance door.

A non-contributing, two-car garage is located to the southwest of the house.

20. This c. 1852 house is architecturally significant as a representative example of a mid 19th-century vernacular house with simple Italianate detailing. Historically, the house is significant for its associations with the development of the South Greece hamlet, as well as its associations with Dr. Adiel Buell, an early physician in the this community.

Although the windows, porch and siding have been changed with modern replacements, the basic form and massing of this vernacular house are intact. The design of the house is typical of homes constructed c. 1830s - 1860s. Characteristics include a broadly-pitched front gable and 6/6 double-hung windows. The decorative front porch posts - with their Italianate, chamferred design - were removed in 1994. Similar posts remain intact on the north enclosed porch. The architectural significance of this house would be improved if the siding was removed, the clapboards repaired, and a porch

20. continued

with chamferred posts and railing (such as the original) was re-built.

The 1852 map shows a building on this approximate site with "J.Snow" listed as owner. At the time, the Erie Canal was located to the north of the house (before the later realignment to the south). A number of other buildings are located immediately to the south in the hamlet.

The 1872 county map shows the South Greece hamlet and a building marked "Dr. A.S. Buell" on this site. The canal still extends along the north side of the property. Elmgrove Road is shown, but no name is indicated.

South Greece, a little hamlet also known as "Henpeck" (some say because its residents claimed to be greatly "henpecked" by their spouses), once had much activity in its daily life, centered around the canal and the Niagara Falls Branch railroad station located slightly south of the intersection of Elmgrove Road and Ridgeway Avenue.

At its height, canal warehouses, groceries, an inn and the red brick District School #12 ringed the canal's banks. Here was the distinctive residence of Dr. Adiel Buell (the house here at #355 Elmgrove Rd.), his office, and that of his son, Dr. Emsley Buell, who lived just down the road. There was a post office, the Eight Mile Grocery Store, a blacksmith shop, a wire weaving shop, a dry house for preserving fruit and a small scattering of houses.

The 1902 county map shows this house, now owned by "Chr. Fay." To its immediate north is a warehouse and dry house (present St. Pierre Dr.) owned by George Payne and beyond that, the Erie Canal, which curved through the hamlet in an arc that flowed north, then west.

The 1924 county map shows major changes in the South Greece hamlet. The "old canal bed" is indicated to the north of George Payne's warehouse next door. Now owned by Arthur Carter, this property at #335 Elmgrove is a 3.75-acre site that is bordered by the old canal on the northwest and the new "Barge Canal" on the southwest. Elmgrove Road is listed as "South Greece Road."

The 1959 county map shows this area and its 20th century changes. St. Pierre Drive has been laid out to the north of

20. continued

this house. Elmgrove Road is shown as "Elmgrove Circle." It extends south of this house, then turns east, crossing the Barge Canal at the historic Elmgrove Road bridge to the southeast (the present Elmgrove Rd. bridge is northwest of this crossing).

The present alignment of Elmgrove Road and its bridge over the canal appears to have occurred in the 1960s-70s.

21. See final report for bibliography.

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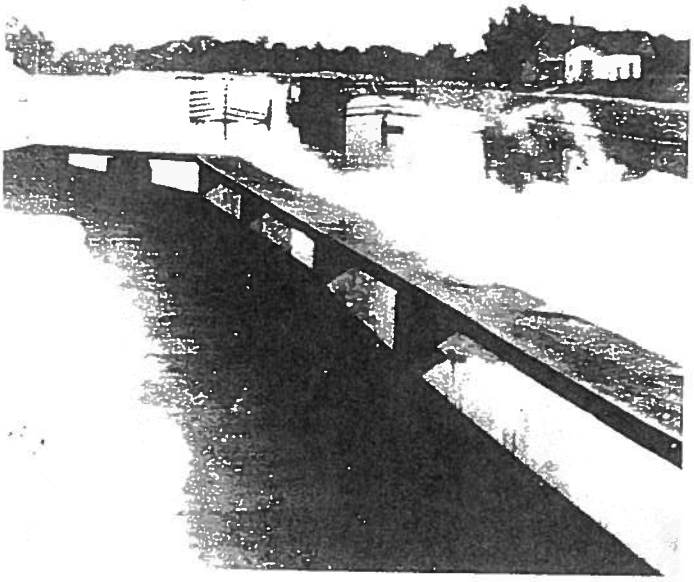
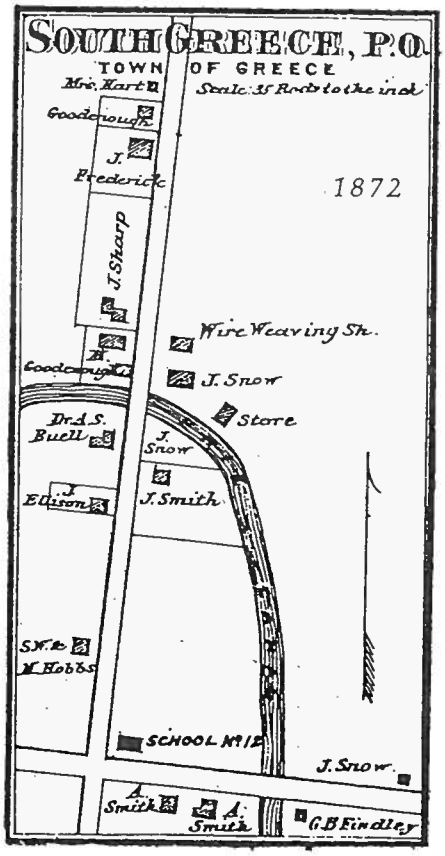
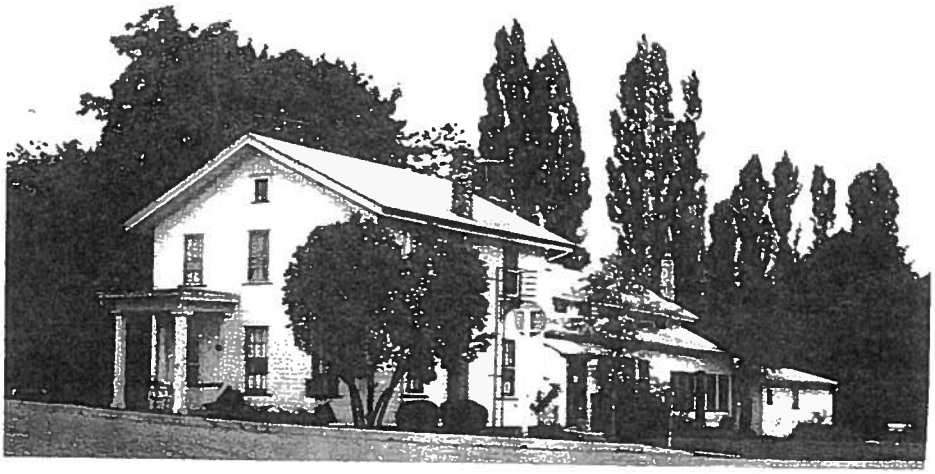
South Greece and the Canal

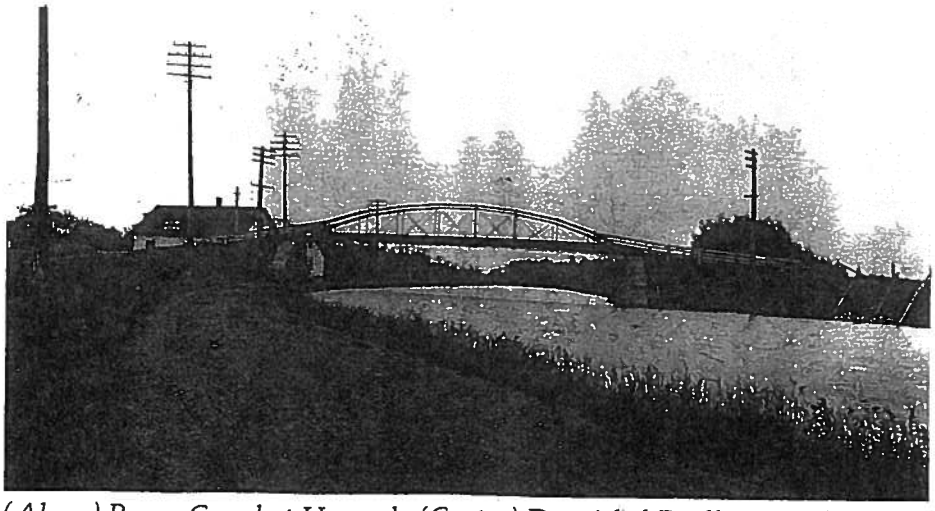
South Greece, a little hamlet also known as "Henpeck" (some say because its residents claimed to be greatly "henpecked" by their spouses), once had much activity in its daily life, centered around the canal and the Niagara Falls Branch railroad station located slightly south of the intersection of Elmgrove Road and Ridgeway Avenue.

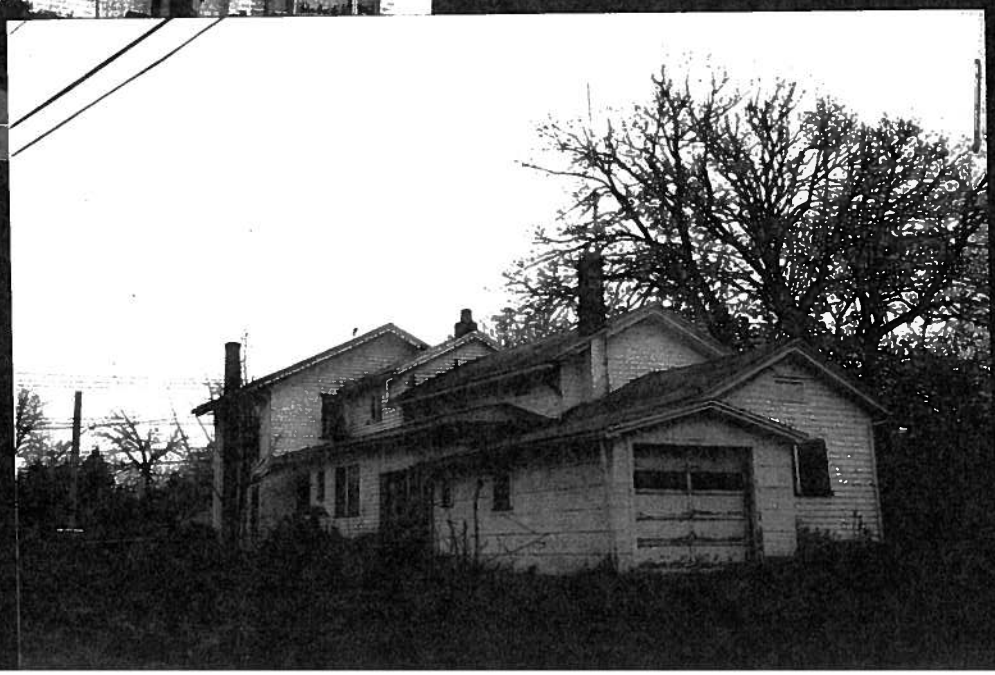
In the days of its greatest glory, canal warehouses, groceries, an inn and the red brick District School #12 ringed the canal's banks. Here was located the palatial Victorian residence of Dr. Adiel Buell, his office, and that of his son, Dr. Emsley Buell, who lived just down the road. There was a post office, the Eight Mile Grocery Store, a blacksmith shop, a wire weaving shop, a dry house for preserving fruit and a small scattering of houses.









(Above) Barge Canal at Henpeck, (Center) Dr. Adiel Buell House, (Below) "Old" Henpeck Bridge.

355 Elmgrove Rd.