

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 001-06-0137  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Town of Guilderland DATE: June 1, 1979

YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall, Guilderland TELEPHONE: 518-356-1980  
N.Y.

ORGANIZATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
IDENTIFICATION  
(Guilderland MRA)

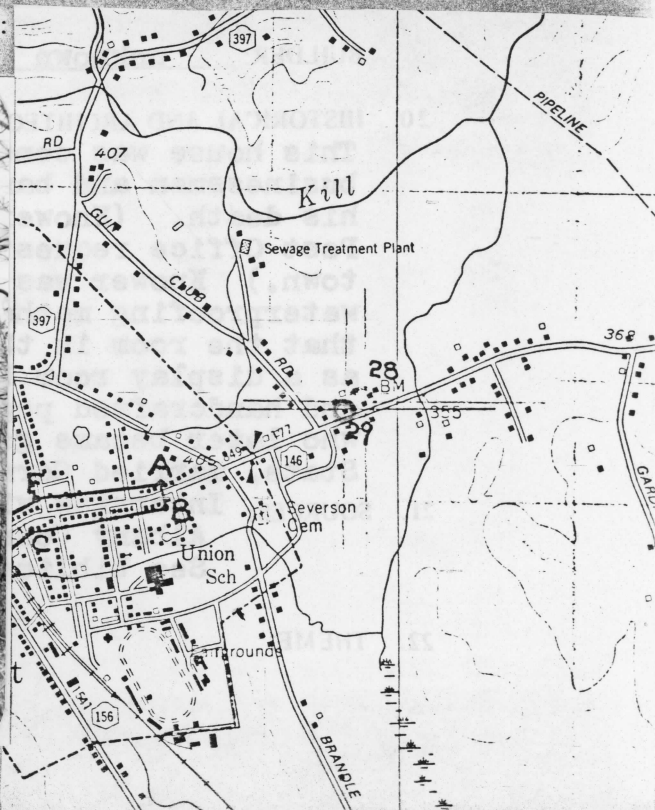
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Knower House (Building #29)
2. COUNTY: Albany TOWN/CITY: Guilderland VILLAGE: Altamont VIC.
3. STREET LOCATION: 3921 Altamont Rd.
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Edward Gee ADDRESS: 3921 Altamont Rd. Altamont, N.Y.
6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence 12009
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain by appointment

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: asbestos shingles
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☒  
(if known) 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):  
shingles ca. 1950

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



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 ☒ (not historic)  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The house is located in what was the center of the village along the Schoharie plank road and is located next to the Crounse Inn.

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

This two-story Georgian Colonial house is five bays wide with center entrance with Palladian window above. Although presently sided with asbestos shingles, the owner is starting to remove the shingles and restore the original clapboards; the interior retains much of the original features including hand-carved

SIGNIFICANCE decorations on mantels, large central hall with elliptical

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1800

(See CONTINUATION)

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house was constructed for Benjamin Knower, a prominent businessman and banker for whom the village was named after his death. (Knowersville became Altamont in 1887 when the Post Office requested the change to avoid confusion with another town.) Knower was a hatter by trade and developed a waterproofing method for his beaver-skin hats. It is believed that the room in the western side of the second floor was used as a display room because of the unusual barrel vaulted ceiling and handcrafted peg boards around the entire room. William L. Marcy, who later became governor of the State and U.S. Secretary of State, married Cornelia Knower in the grand hall of this

21. SOURCES: Interview with owner, house in 1824.  
Albany County Clerk's Office,  
See bibliography

22. THEME:



United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Knower House

Albany Co., NY

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

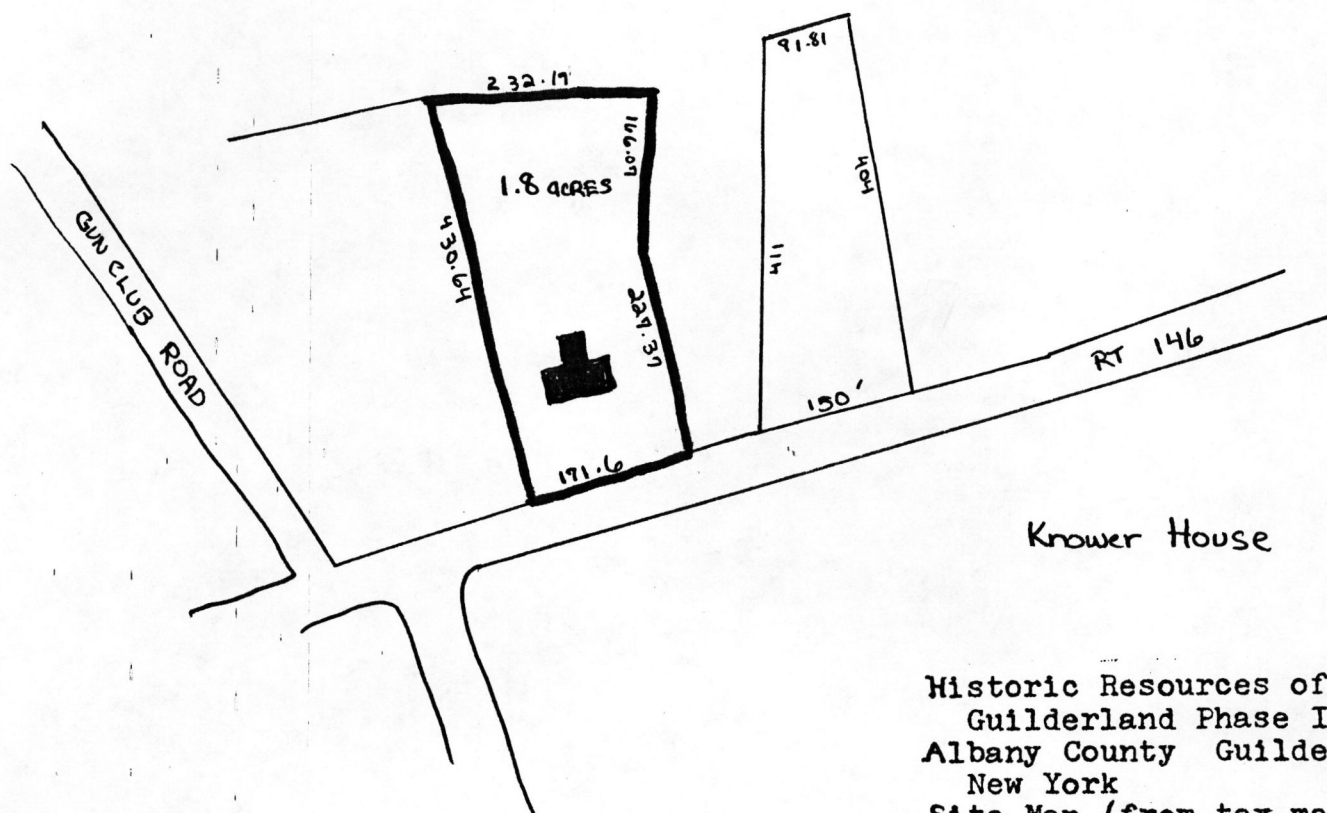
Continuation sheet Building Number 29

Item number 18

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arch and carved newel post, raised paneled doors with original strap hinges.

Although the exterior has been covered with asbestos shingles, many significant architectural details remain intact. A central, second story tripartite window, cornice returns, a carved newel post on the interior staircase, and delicate interior mouldings contribute to the character of the building. The structure survives amidst modern suburban development and is particularly significant relative to these surroundings.



Building #29

Krower House

Historic Resources of  
Guilderland Phase I  
Albany County Guilderland  
New York  
Site Map (from tax map)  
Smith & Mahoney 1979

N ↑

1" = 200'



EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 4

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Guilderland Multiple Resource Area  
State New York

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |       |   |                                     |               |                                 |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ 102 | 1. Altamont Historic District               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 2. Apple Tavern                             | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 3. Guilderland Cemetery Vault               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 4. McNiven Farm Complex                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| ✓ 106 | 5. Crounse, Jacob, Inn                      | Substantive Review                  | Keeper        | <u>James Lee Dwyer</u> 11/10/82 |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 6. Knowler House                            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 7. Gardner House                            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 8. Crounse, John and Henry,<br>Farm Complex | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
|       | 9. Crounse, Frederick, House                | Entered in the<br>National Register | for<br>Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 11/10/82   |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |
| ✓ 11  | 10. Vanderpool Farm Complex                 | Substantive Review                  | Keeper        | <u>James Lee Dwyer</u> 11/10/82 |
|       |   |                                     | Attest        | _____                           |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Knower House (Guilderland MRA)  
Albany County  
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-2682

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/13/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 11/16/82

Entered in the ☐ RETURN ☐

National Register ☐ REJECT ☐

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection



## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Form Prepared By**

## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Historic Resources of  
Guilderland (Phase I)  
Guilderland, New York  
Albany County

KNOWER HOUSE  
BUILDING #29

Detail of newel post in the  
central hall.



• JUL 80



• JUL • 80

Detail of hardware on front  
door.



KNOWER HOUSE  
Historic Resources of  
Guilderland (Phase I)

BUILDING #29



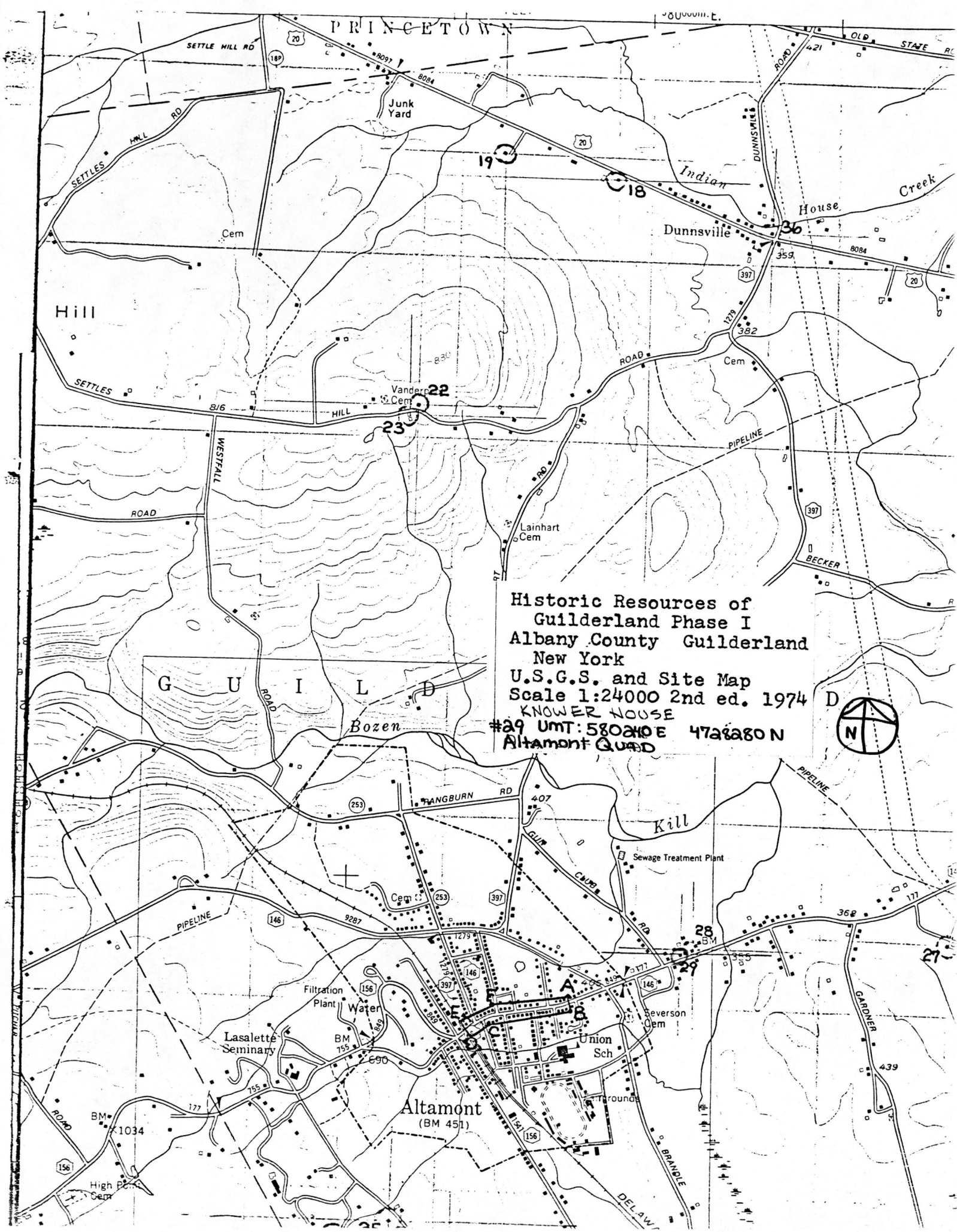
Detail of archway in the central hall.



Fireplace in the first story east parlor.



Detail of carved decoration on mantel in the east parlor.



Historic Resources of  
Guilderland Phase I  
Albany County Guilderland  
New York  
U.S.G.S. and Site Map  
Scale 1:24000 2nd ed. 1974  
KNOWER HOUSE  
#29 UMT: 580240 E 4728280 N  
Altamont Quad







EDWARD O. BEE  
RD #1 Box 12  
ALTAMONT N.Y.  
12007

DEAR MR LEHMAN:

I wish to provide you with  
ADDITIONAL information on the KNOWE-  
HOUSE LOCATED in ALTAMONT N.Y.  
ENCLOSED you will find a copy from  
the book that the town HISTORIAN  
(MR ARTHUR BEE) wrote some  
time ago. IT includes DATES  
ETC. I would like our house  
to be included in the NATIONAL  
REGISTER AS IT DOES REPRESENTS  
ONE of the first houses in  
the area.

MR KNOWE WAS THE  
founder of ALTAMONT which was  
called KNOWESVILLE at the time

I have spent a considerable  
amount of money restoring  
the house and am very  
OVER

Proud of the work.

I would be honored to  
have the Knowen House listed  
and will continue to work  
to preserve its history

Sincerely  
Edward Obee