

## 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, 1979YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall, Guilderland TELEPHONE: 518-356-1980  
N.Y.

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

IDENTIFICATION

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

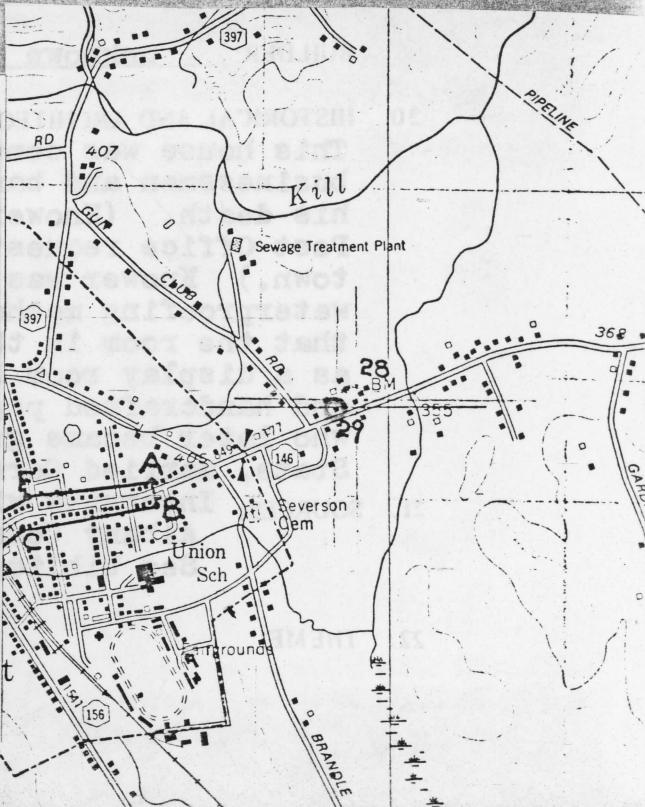
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints   
 b. wood frame with light members   
 c. masonry load bearing walls   
 d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. other \_\_\_\_\_

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):  
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  
 decorations on mantels, large central hall with elliptical  
 significance

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

Historic Resources of  
Guilderland (Phase I)  
Knower House  
Albany Co., NY  
For HCRRS use only

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Building Number 29

Item number 18

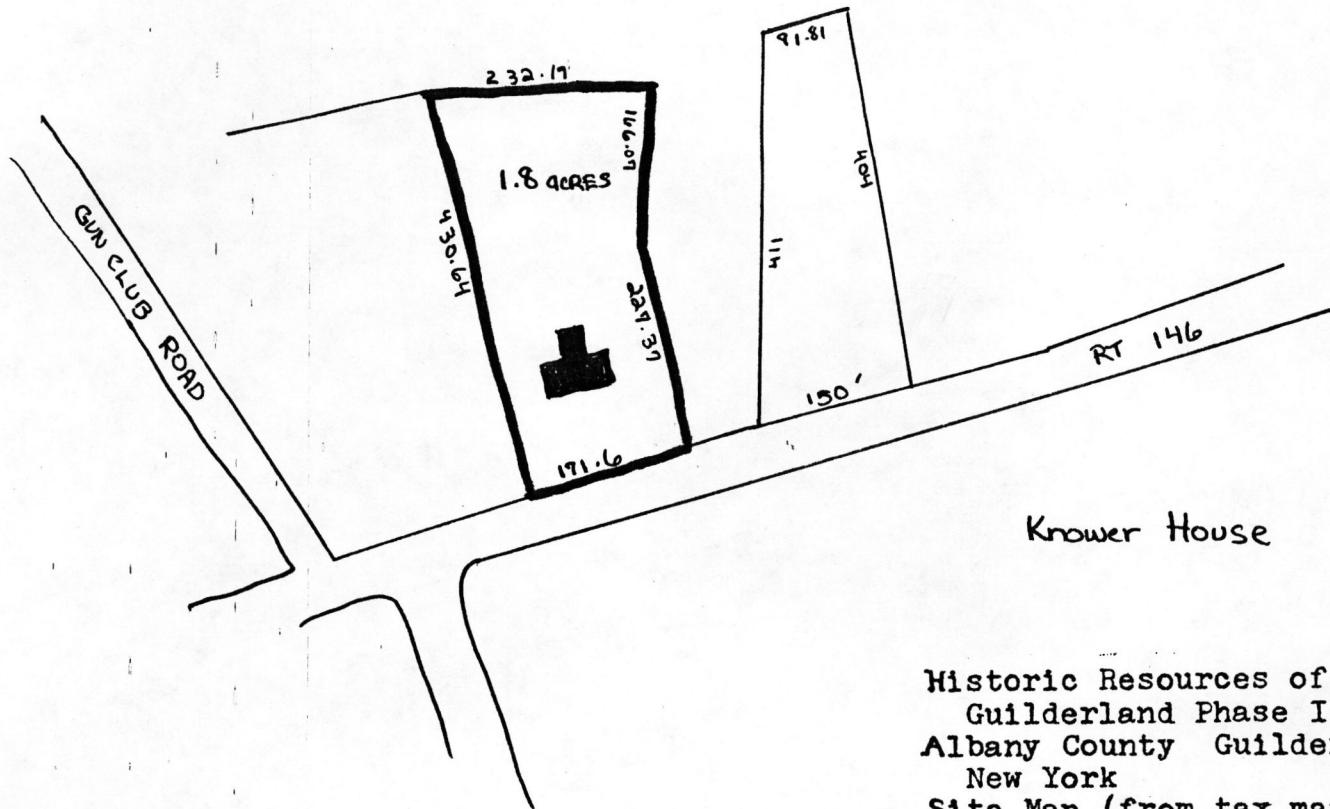
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received

date entered

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.



Knowles 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

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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

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES****EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Knower House (Guilderland MRA)  
Albany County  
NEW YORK

Working No. 9/29/82-22682

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"/> original site		
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	<input type="checkbox"/> date	
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

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**

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

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

U.S.GS 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.



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.





EDWARD O. BEE  
RD #1 Box 12  
ALTA MONT NY  
12001

DEAR MR LEHMAN:

I wish to provide you with additional information on the Knower House located in Altamont N.Y. Enclosed you will find a copy from the Book that the Town Historian (Mr Arthur Green) 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 Knower was the founder of Altamont which was called Knowerville at the time. I have spent a considerable amount of money restoring the house and am very

over

Proud if the outcome  
is I would be honored to  
have the known on House List  
and will continue to work  
to preserve its history

Sincerely

Edward O. B. O.