

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. \_\_\_\_\_  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Nancy Todd, Neil Larson DATE: September 1986

YOUR ADDRESS: E.S.P. Agency Bldg 1 TELEPHONE: 518-474-0479

ORGANIZATION (if any): Division for Historic Preservation

\*\*\*\*\*

**IDENTIFICATION**

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Pultz Farmhouse (Individual Component #8)
- 2. COUNTY: Dutchess TOWN/CITY: Rhinebeck VILLAGE: NA; Wurtemberg vicinity
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Wurtemberg Rd; west side, north of Frost Rd.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public  b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: John Storm ADDRESS: Box 477, RD #2, Rhinebeck 12572
- 6. USE: Original: residence Present: residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes  No   
Interior accessible: Explain no; private residence

**DESCRIPTION**

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard  b. stone  c. brick  d. board and batten   
e. cobblestone  f. shingles  g. stucco  other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

See item #18

12. PHOTO: N. Todd, 1986  
Rhinebeck Historical Society, 1984

13. MAP: See continuation sheets  
Acreage: 3



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  e: contributing  
 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)

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: ca. 1750; ca. 1800

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See continuation sheet

21. SOURCES:

See cover sheet, item #9

#8. Pultz Farmhouse  
Wurtemberg Road  
page 1

17. The Pultz Farmhouse is located on the west side of Wurtemberg Road on the north end of the crossroads hamlet of Wurtemberg, an important farming community established by German (Palatine) settlers during the eighteenth century. The sparsely settled rural road, running parallel to and immediately east of 9G in the southeast corner of the town, is characterized by scattered historic and modern residential and religious properties, including three intact historic residences (the Pultz House, and the John H. Traver House, Individual Component #17) and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Parsonage and Cemetery, Individual Component #18. The historic properties are not within sight of each other; each is surrounded by rural, generally undeveloped woods, meadows and/or cultivated farmland.

The Pultz Farmhouse sits close to the road on a three-acre parcel of land that slopes westward and abuts Route 9G. A grassy lawn with shrubbery and mature trees surrounds the farmhouse; thick brush characterizes the west end of the property along Route 9G. The land slopes gently to the south towards a small, natural pond at the southeast corner of the lot. Behind the house to the southwest is a contributing, nineteenth-century frame machine shed. The heavy black outline on the attached county tax map identifies the boundary of the nominated property.

Contributing buildings: 2

18. The Pultz Farmhouse (ca. 1750; 1800), oriented eastward towards Wurtemberg Road, is a one-story, three-part rectangular frame building with modest vernacular design features. Like other regional vernacular rural dwellings of the eighteenth century, the Pultz House displays a linear, multi-room plan which reflects its staged evolution over a long period of time. Although the exact pattern of growth of the Pultz house (and other eighteenth-century vernacular farmhouses) cannot be ascertained, the main block, the central, five-bay center-hall unit, is believed to date from 1750. So also is the two-bay-wide north wing, although it is believed originally to have been a separate structure. The two units appear to have been joined ca. 1800, at which time the southern, three-bay-wide wing was added at a slightly lower grade, creating a linear, tripartite building with a broken gable roof. The salt-box wing attached to the rear of the northern block (and spanning the two north bays of the middle block) may also have been added ca. 1800.

#8. Pultz Farmhouse

Wurtemberg Road

page 2

In its final form, composition, and decoration, the farmhouse clearly evokes the vernacular building tradition. Embanked into a hillside, the fieldstone foundation is fully exposed on the rear (west) elevation. The superstructure is sheathed with clapboards on the front (east) and side elevations and flush board horizontal siding on the rear elevation. The gable roof has slightly projecting eaves and is sheathed with standing-seam metal (an early twentieth century addition) and pierced by four irregularly placed brick chimneys: the northernmost chimney is located on the interior end wall of the north wing, the middle two chimneys are the interior end chimneys of the main, center block, and the last chimney, featuring an exposed, fieldstone fireback, is an interior end chimney on the south wall of the ca. 1800 south wing. Fenestration throughout the various sections of the farmhouse is generally asymmetrical. Window openings contain eight-over-twelve, twelve-over-twelve, six-over-nine or six-over-six double-hung sash and have simple wooden trim and, on the front facade, louvered wooden shutters.

The front (east) facade features three asymmetrically placed entrances, one per block. The main block features a central entrance flanked by narrow, five-paned, half-sidelights with simple wooden surrounds. A small, gable-roofed entrance porch supported by square columns was added during the early twentieth century. A wide frieze embellished with decorative scroll brackets (a mid-nineteenth century addition) accentuates the roofline. Four eight-over-twelve, double-hung sash windows flank the entrance.

The east facade of the northern block, flush with the plane of the main block, features an off-center entrance flanked by half-sidelights containing six-over-four, double-hung sash. An eight-over-twelve, double-hung sash window occupies the south bay of the facade. The wide, bracketed frieze across the main block extends to span the facade of the north wing.

The south wing, on a different plane and axis than the middle and north blocks, projects eastward and is set at a slightly lower grade. The three-bay-wide front (east) facade features an off-center entrance flanked by two irregularly placed nine-over-six, double-hung sash windows with simple wooden trim. A small gable-roofed entrance porch supported by decorative turned posts was added during the early twentieth century. A wide, unembellished frieze accentuates the roofline.

North and south side elevations of the building feature a variety of asymmetrically placed windows. The rear elevation is

#8. Pultz Farmhouse  
Wurtemberg Road

page 3

dominated by the broad salt-box addition which spans the rear of the ca. 1750 north wing and the two northern bays of the middle block. The fully exposed, random-course fieldstone foundation features an off-center service entrance to the full, unfinished basement beneath the north wing and the crawl space beneath the northern half of the middle block. The main story of the salt-box wing features four asymmetrically placed six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. A small shed-roofed entrance porch is attached to the south end of the salt-box and adjoins the rear elevation of the main block, sheltering the main block's rear, center-hall door. The door is surmounted by a five-paned transom light and surrounded by simple wooden trim. The remainder of the rear elevation of the main block features irregularly placed double-hung sash and large, attic windows.

The rear elevation of the recessed south wing features a service entrance to the partial basement underneath the south end of the main block and provides access to the south wing's kitchen. Several irregularly placed windows light the kitchen space.

A variety of historic fabric survives intact throughout the interior of the farmhouse, including wide, random-width floorboards, restrained door, window and baseboard woodwork, Dutch-type exterior doors, panelled interior doors with original hardware and massive, exposed beams. The primary entrance (through the east facade of the main block) opens onto a wide, center hall flanked by two large parlors. The south parlor retains a brick fireplace with a simple, yet elegant, pre-Federal wooden mantelpiece. At the middle of the center hall, a narrow, enclosed staircase with simple woodwork winds up to the attic story, which is currently divided into sleeping quarters. The secondary, rear entrance at the end of the center hall features a Dutch-type door with original hardware. The south wing retains a large brick kitchen hearth with a simple wooden mantelpiece. (The south wing houses the present dining room and, at the rear, a modern kitchen.) The north wing with salt-box addition features intact floorboards and wooden trim and serves as a den and bedroom space.

There is one contributing outbuilding on the nominated property. Located southwest of the farmhouse, the machine shed (believed to date from the late nineteenth century) is a relatively large, rectangular frame building with a gable roof. The building is sheathed with wide, horizontal flush-board siding and features several large, irregularly placed garage doors.

20. The Pultz Farmhouse (ca. 1750; 1800) is architecturally

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area  
Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, New York

#8. Pultz Farmhouse  
Wurtemberg Road  
page 4

significant as an outstanding, intact example of a rural vernacular farmhouse in the town of Rhinebeck. With portions believed to date from as early as 1750, the farmhouse displays a linear, multi-room plan that reflects its staged evolution over an extended period of time and clearly evokes the local ethnic building tradition. In layout and pattern of growth, the Pultz farmhouse is similar to a number of early- to mid-eighteenth century Palatine stone houses included in the multiple resource area; yet, its more formal, five-bay, center-hall Georgian-inspired facade is more closely related to broader vernacular building traditions of the period. Thus the Pultz farmhouse represents the late evolutionary stages of the regional vernacular as it moved towards a greater organization of forms and space in the late eighteenth century and can be grouped stylistically with the Cox Farmhouse and the Jan Pier House of the mid-eighteenth century (Individual Components #12 and 7, respectively), both of which also display Georgian-inspired facades. Together, the three farmhouses are early examples of a house form and type that, by the late eighteenth century had begun to proliferate throughout the town, region and state. The Pultz farmhouse is also important as a rare surviving example of the local vernacular house form executed in wood, the majority of similar examples being stone. The Marquardt Farmhouse (ca. 1810; Individual Component #9), the Orlot Farmhouse (1790; Sixteen Mile Historic District) and the St. Peter's Parsonage (ca. 1790; Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter), although of slightly later dates than the Pultz Farmhouse, are comparable frame farmhouses of the period.

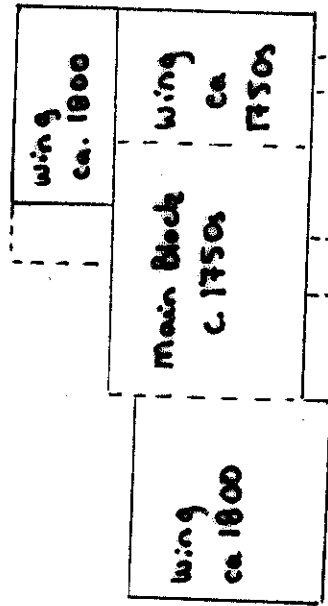
The property is additionally significant for its association with the early history of the Palatine settlement of Wurtemberg. Wurtemberg was settled during the second quarter of the eighteenth century by second and third generation Palatines from the community of Ryn Beek several miles to the north and by additional German immigrants. (J. Smith, p. 275; for additional information on the early history of Wurtemberg, see Cover Sheet, Item 8, p. 9-10.)

Nothing is known about the builder and/or first occupants of the Pultz Farmhouse until 1850 when, according to historic maps, the property was owned by a G. Pultz. The name of the nominated property is derived from this attribution. The property appears to have been owned by the Pultz and Ackert families in 1858 and by J.C. Ackert in 1867 and 1876. Both the Pultzs (originally Boltz) and the Ackerts were early Palatine settlers of the Wurtemberg community and are known to have been active in the early history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wurtemberg (Individual Component #18) and remained prominent figures in the community throughout the nineteenth century.

ROUTE 9G



Carriage shed



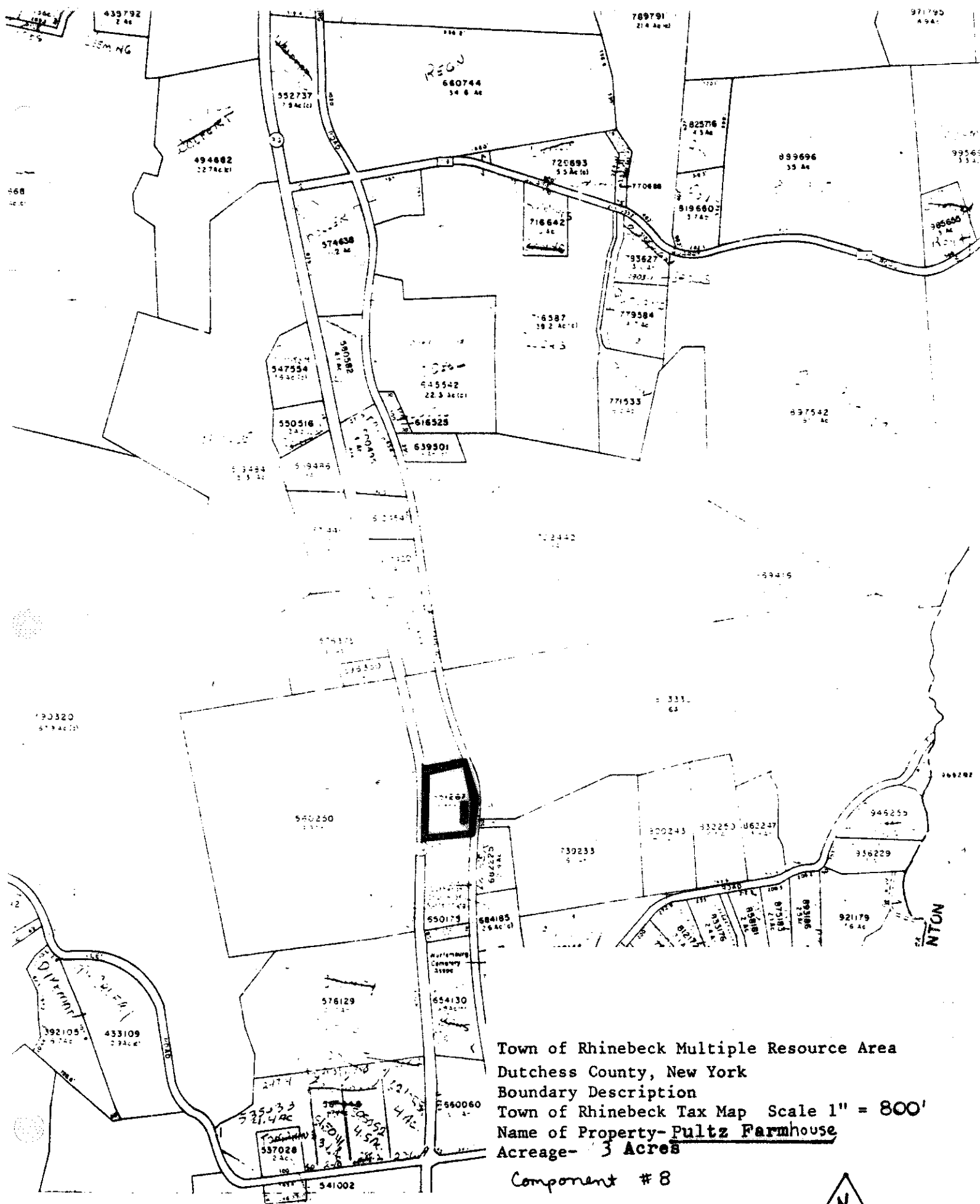
Pultz Farmhouse

Individual Component #8

Rhinebeck Town Multiple Resource Area, Rhinebeck Dutchess County, NY

Site map; not to scale - approximate location and orientation of components

WURTEMBERG ROAD

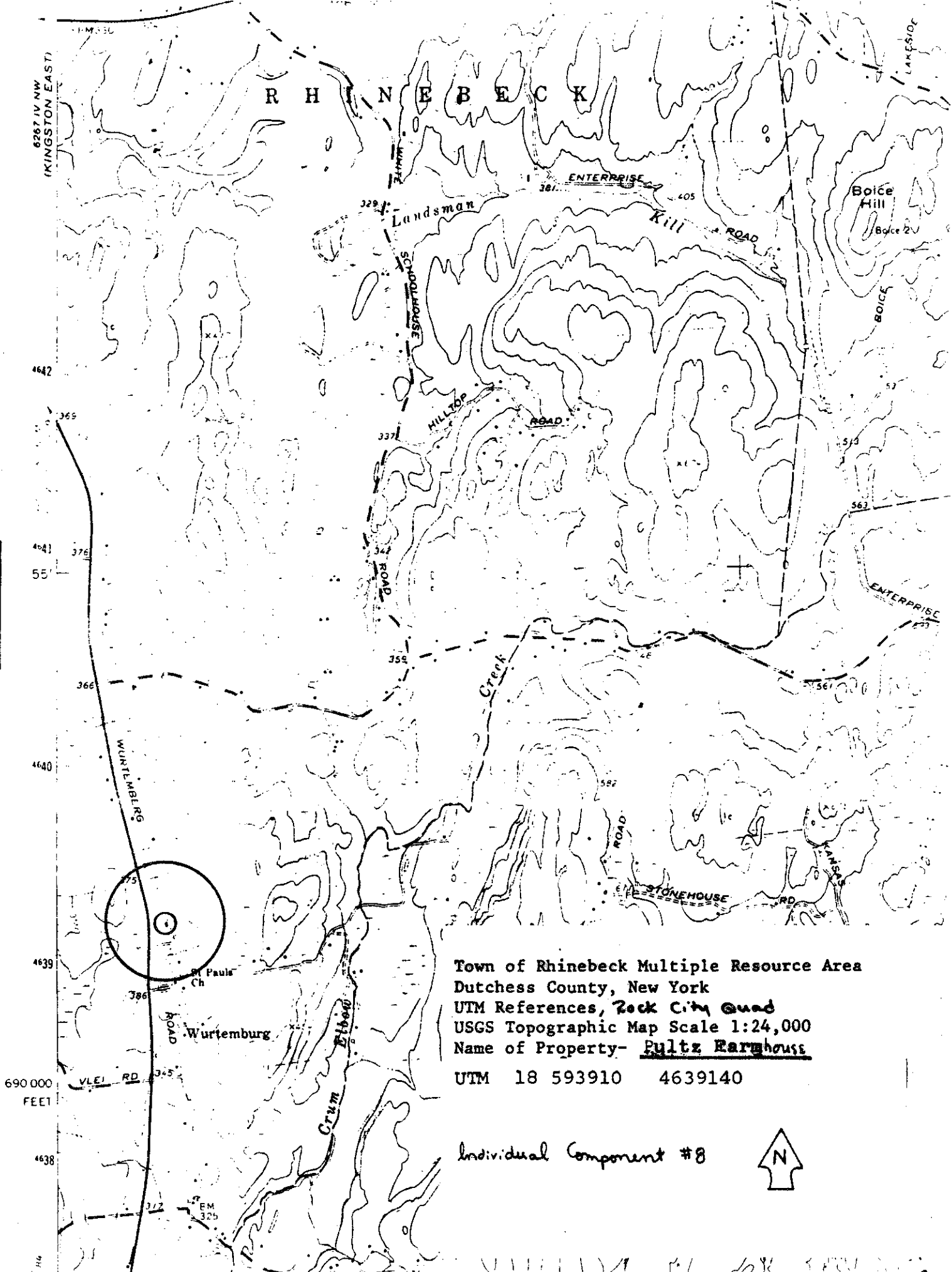


Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area  
 Dutchess County, New York  
 Boundary Description  
 Town of Rhinebeck Tax Map Scale 1" = 800'  
 Name of Property- Pultz Farmhouse  
 Acreage- 3 Acres

Component # 8







Town of Rhinebeck Multiple Resource Area  
 Dutchess County, New York  
 UTM References, Rock City Quad  
 USGS Topographic Map Scale 1:24,000  
 Name of Property- Pultz Farmhouse  
 UTM 18 593910 4639140

Individual Component #8

