NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property	
historic name Fort Schuyler Club Building	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number 254 Genesee Street	[] not for publication
city or town <u>Utica</u>	[] vicinity
state New York code NY county Oneida	_ code065 zip code13502
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standar Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements as [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommer [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional community of certifying official/Title New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau	rds for registering properties in the National Register of s set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. in my opinion, the property nd that this property be considered significant []/nationally
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Registormments.)	ster criteria. ([] see continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
Out F-deal array and burger	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
/	of the Keeper Beautie of action 5/12
[] removed from the National Register	
[] other (explain)	

Fort Schuyler Club Building Name of Property		Utica, Oneida Co. NY County and State			
5. Classification		Odditty	and Otate		
Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)			
[X] private [] public-local [] public-State [] public-Federal	[X] building(s) [] district [] site [] structure [] object	Contributing 1		buildings sites structures objects	
		1	. 1	TOTAL	
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
N/A		N/A	N/A		
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
DOMESTIC/single dwellin	g	SOCIAL/clubhouse			
SOCIAL/clubhouse					
400					
April 1					
		-			
		_			
7 0					
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal		foundation STC	NE		
		walls BRICK			
		roof METAL			
		other			

Narrative Description (See continuation sheet)

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Fort Schuyler Club Building
Name of Property
Utica, Oneida Co. NY
County and State

Description

The Fort Schuyler Club is located at 254 Genesee Street at the northwest corner of Genesee and Court Streets in the central business district of the city of Utica. Located at the intersection of two of Utica's principal streets, thie imposing brick building is surrounded by a variety of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial retail and office buildings, civic structures and religious properties. The nominated property is bounded on the east by Genesee Street, on the south by Court Street, on the west by Broadway and on the north by a twentieth century commercial building. Directly opposite the Fort Schuyler Club on Genesee Street is the former New Century Club, (National Register, 1895). The Stanley Theatre, (National Register, 1976) is also located on Genesee Street south of the nominated property. The Fort Schuyler Club property occupies less than one acre. There are no outbuildings.

The present Fort Schuyler Club Building was constructed in three distinct stages between 1830 and 1929. The front (east) portion of 1830, is a three-bay, three-story, brick block with a four-bay, three-story, recessed wing to the north side. The entire front portion of the structure is supported on a high ashlar masonry foundation. A one-story entrance porch incorporating a straight flight of wooden stairs, a paneled balustrade, round wood columns and a flat roof surrounds the heavy oak entrance which is located in the recessed wing. (A modern enclosure has been built around the entrance to conserve energy.) A century ago, the porch extended eastward into the sidewalk far enough to incorporate a second flight of stairs on the south side to create a double-entry stair. At that time, the roof of the porch served as an outdoor seating area. The facade of the 1830 house and wing incorporate 1/1, double-hung sash in many windows. Cut sandstone paneled lintels are located on the first two stories of the main block; radiating voussoirs mark the window openings of the recessed wing. A simple entablature on the Genesee Street facade incorporates a cornice that projects about one foot from the roof line. (This cornice dates from the twentieth century when an earlier Italianate bracketed cornice and roof balustrade were removed.) The original chimneys also have been reduced in height.

The facade of the Court Street (south) elevation extending west from Genesee Street to Broadway is comprised of three distinct units. These stages are unified by their red brick material, but differ in height, foundation treatment, window and cornice design. These units reflect the series of additions and alterations that occurred as the nature and needs of the organization grew and changed.

The middle stage of the building is a three story, brick addition of 1899-1902 characterized by large windows, including a projecting bay containing leaded glass sash. One important feature of this addition was the creation of a ground-floor entrance below a tripartite window that provided separate access to the Ladies' Annex. A final two story, three bay addition was appended to the west end of the club building in 1929. constructed beginning in 1929 and involves two stories and alterations to earlier sections of the building. The street level of this incorporates a Colonial Revival style entrance and two projecting bay windows.

The interior floor plan reflects the needs of the club as it expanded and evolved over the past century. Significant design changes began soon after the residence was purchased in 1883 and adapted as a clubhouse. The interior exhibits architectural features representing the stylistic influence of the Colonial Revival and the Arts and Crafts movements.

The Genesee Street main entrance leads into a large foyer (36' by 16'). Wide openings with varnished oak architraves provide access on the south side of the foyer to the Presidents' Room and Library; a single sliding door on the north side of the foyer opens to the coat room and offices. At the western end of the foyer, the Tap Room is accessed through French doors. The foyer walls are finished in oak-paneled wainscot and plaster. The foyer incorporates a staircase with varnished oak balustrade along the north wall.

The most significant formal rooms of the main floor include the Presidents' Room and the Oak Room. These spaces generally reflect the renovations of the period 1899-1902. The Presidents' Room is a reception area characterized by dark-stained, molded wood trim in wainscoting, door and window architraves, an ornate mantel, cornice molding and exposed beams of the cove ceiling. A large and ornate chandelier is suspended from the ceiling beams above the center of the room.

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Alternative to

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Fort Schuyler Club Building
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The Oak Room was traditionally known as the Men's Dining Room. The elaborate and deeply molded plaster ceiling is the most striking feature of the room, incorporating a pattern of quatrefoils, lozenges and crosses. The walls of the Oak Room, are paneled in dark brown-stained wood from the floor to the frieze. The windows contribute to the Jacobean-Elizabethan period theme of the room. A large projecting bay window is glazed in clear leaded glass with heraldic insets of stained glass. The dark-stained hearth molding and elaborate wood mantel attached to the projecting chimney breast reinforces the richness of the Oak Room.

	chuyler Club Building of Property	Utica, Oneida Co. NY County and State
	ement of Significance	Sounty and State
Applic (Mark "x	able National Register Criteria "in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance: (Enter categories from instructions)
for Natio	nal Register listing.)	SOCIAL HISTORY
[X] A	Property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
[]B	Property is associated with the lives of persons	ARCHITECTURE
[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	Period of Significance:
	distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1830-1929
[] D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates:
		1830, 1883, 1899-1902, 1929
	a Considerations " in all boxes that apply.)	
[] A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person:
[]B	removed from its original location	N/A
[]C	a birthplace or grave	
[] D	a cemetery	
[]E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure	Cultural Affiliation:
		N/A
[]F	a commemorative property	
[]G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years	Architect/Builder:
		N/A
Narrat	ive Statement of Significance	
(See cor	ntinuation sheet)	
9. Maj	or Bibliographical References	
	graphy	
	en, Frank E. <i>Utica: A City Worth Saving.</i> Utica, 1976. us documentation on file (NPS):	Drimany location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested.	Primary location of additional data: (Y) [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[]	previously listed in the National Register	[] Other State agency
	previously determined eligible by the National Register	[] Federal Agency
	designated a National Historic Landmark	[] Local Government
	recorded by historic American Building Survey	[] University [] Other repository:
[]	#recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	[] Guidi iopoditory.
	#	

10. Geographical Data

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1

Fort Schuyler Club Building
Name of Property
Utica, Oneida Co., NY
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Statement of Significance

The Fort Schuyler Club is significant as a rare and substantially intact example of a late 19th-early 20th century social club building in downtown Utica. Originally erected as a private residence in 1830, the three-story, hip roofed, brick building was converted to a private clubhouse in 1883, the year the club was founded. the Fort Schuyler Club has remained a gathering place for Utica's prominent business and civic leaders to the present day. Expanded and remodeled in several stages during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the club building exhibits a wealth of decorative detail reflecting the succession of architectural styles popular during the period of significance. Despite minor exterior alterations, the historic Fort Schuyler Club Building remains an important landmark on Genesee Street, Utica's principal thoroughfare.

During the nineteenth century, the city of Utica (incorporated 1832) evolved into the principal manufacturing and transportation center of the western Mohawk Valley. From its origins as Fort Schuyler, a frontier outpost during the colonial period, Utica grew to prominence as a seat of milling, heavy industry and regional commerce. Locate astride the principal transportation route between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River Valley, the city and its fortunes rose with the building of the Erie Canal (1817-1825), the Chenango Canal (1836) and the New York Central Railroad (1853). Utica's population reached 60,000 by 1900 and continued expanding until the onset of regional economic decline after World War II.

The building occupied by the Fort Schuyler Club originally was erected in 1830 as a Federal style townhouse by Samuel Farwell, a prominent canal contractor. Farwell purchased several building lots along Genesee Street from Nicholas Devereux, a real estate speculator. The residence that Farwell built at the corner of Genesee and Court Streets was a three story, brick block on a high ashlar foundation. The original facade design of this residence closely resembled a townhouse design that appeared in Asher Benjamin's pattern book, *American Builder's Companion* (1827). The principal entrance to Farwell's residence was located at the corner of Genesee and Court Street and was approached by a stairway leading from the Genesee Street sidewalk. A Federal period mantel in the basement kitchen of the main block remains from the original townhouse. In 1878, the Farwell family sold the brick house to John F. Hoyt, owner of an insurance business. Hoyt in turn sold the residence to the Fort Schuyler Club in 1883 for use as a clubhouse.

The Fort Schuyler Club had organized earlier that year of 1883 as a social club composed of Utica's business and professional leaders. Members envisioned a gathering place where business transactions and political connections could be cultivated in a relaxed social atmosphere. The early membership included prominent Utica industrialists, financiers, and business figures and attorneys. Among the club's early members were distinguished national leaders including U. S. Senator Francis Kernan, New York Governor Horatio Seymour, James S. Sherman (Vice President under Theodore Roosevelt), Elihu Root, who served as U.S. Senator, Secretary of State and Secretary of War, Charlemagne Tower, Ambassador to Russia and Germany and Ward Hunt, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

When the Fort Schuyler Club purchased the former Farwell residence, The club began a long period of alterations to the original Federal style building that continued in stages over several decades. These modifications were designed to enlarge, improve and modernize the building to accommodate the club's social activities as well as the stylistic preferences of the membership. Interior design changes and decorative elements incorporated features from the Aesthetic, Colonial Revival and Arts and Crafts styles. The installation of electric lights occurred in 1888 and the structure is considered to be the first building in the city of Utica to have acquired this improvement.

Changes that occurred in the early years of club ownership 1883-1890 included alterations to the room configurations in the eastern portion of the main block. One of the first decisions was to designate the upstairs space in the southeast corner as a Billiard Room in 1884. In 1888-1889 the House Committee with Thomas R. Proctor, chairman, recommended alterations to the hall and stairway and the membership authorized other "repairs" to the clubhouse. By April, 1890 the project was underway; for the months of June, July and August until re-opening of the club on September 11, 1890, members socialized at the Butterfield House, a downtown hotel.

The major alteration to the exterior facade during the early years of the club involved the removal of the principal entrance from the southerly bay of the Genesee Street facade and the insertion of a window in place of the entrance. Today,

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Fort Schuyler Club Building
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evidence of this alteration may be detected in the pattern of the brick and the extant Federal style lintels around the window bays. The Genesee Street entrance to the clubhouse was re-located to the recessed wing immediately north of the main block. This wing appears to have been constructed prior to the club's purchase of the building. The porch surrounding this entrance which exists today formerly extended farther eastward into the sidewalk and incorporated a double stairway.

The next major changes to the club building occurred following a fire in the building in January, 1899. Committee minutes note that an architect with the surname of Wilkinson on March 11, 1899 presented club members detailed plans for extensive changes to the building. The resulting building program extending from 1899 to 1902 included the construction of the ballroom, several bedrooms on the third floor, the installation of bowling alleys in the basement, construction of the Palm Room and redesign of the Reading Room. Prominent Utica philanthropist and art collector Thomas R. Proctor, who chaired the club's House Committee, in 1899 paid for the refurbishment of the Reception Room. Since 1899, the Reception Room has been known as the President's Room or the Oak Room.

The alterations and additions of 1899-1902 included the construction of a Ladies' Annex at the western side of the building along Court Street. During the 1890s, discussions at official club meetings included proposals to allow women access to the club's dining spaces met with disapproval; addition of the Ladies' Annex reflects a change in attitudes by the turn of the century. The separate entrance to that annex (now known as the Old Annex), which included a Ladies' Café, is located in the mid-point of the Court Street facade beneath the arched window.

The final renovations to the original Fort Schuyler Club Building occurred in 1929. A major addition to the western end of the building incorporated a Ladies' Dining Room, second-floor lounge, a graceful curved stair to the dining room and a ground level dining room. A new entrance to these spaces was built on Court Street at the western end of the addition.

Since the major addition of 1929, public spaces and room configurations have experienced few changes. With the repeal of Prohibition, the bar was installed in its present location to the west of the entrance foyer and re-decorated in 1936. The "colonial" bar and lounge area incorporated varnished pine wainscot and paneling and built-in glass shelving.

In recent years, refurbishment of the décor has endeavored to retain the club building's overall integrity and enhance its architectural features. Because the Fort Schuyler Club Building was designed in phases and incorporates features from a series of architectural styles, it reflects the changing tastes and stylistic preferences that prevailed in Utica during the years from 1830 to the mid-twentieth century. Club membership continues to promote civic and business ties integral to the daily life of downtown Utica. The Fort Schuyler Club Building survives as an important architectural landmark that continues to contribute to Utica's Genesee Street urban corridor.

Fort Schuyler Club Building Name of Property	<u>Utica, Oneida Co. NY</u> County and State
Acreage of Property <u>less than 1 acre</u>	-
Utica East quad. UTM References 1	3 118 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
2 [1]8 [] [] [] [] []	4 1 8
Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property includes all that parcel delineated on the enclo Boundary Justification The nominated property includes the historic building on its current parcel. 11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Raymond W. Smith, Program Analyst	
organization New York State Office of Parks, Rec. & Hist street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 city or town Waterford	toric Preservation date <u>January</u> , 2004 telephone <u>518-237-8643</u> state <u>NY</u> zip code <u>12188-0189</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indica A Sketch map for historic districts and prope	ating the property's location erties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photograph	hs of the property.
Additional items (Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO	or FPO)
name	
street & number	telephone

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. 470 et seq.)

zip code

city or town

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20503

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Fort Schuyler Club Building
Name of Property
Utica, Oneida Co., NY
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Additional information provided by:

Virginia Kelly Box 237, Main Street Holland Patent, NY 13354

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Fort Schuyler Club Building
Name of Property
Utica, Oneida Co., NY
County and State

All photographs:

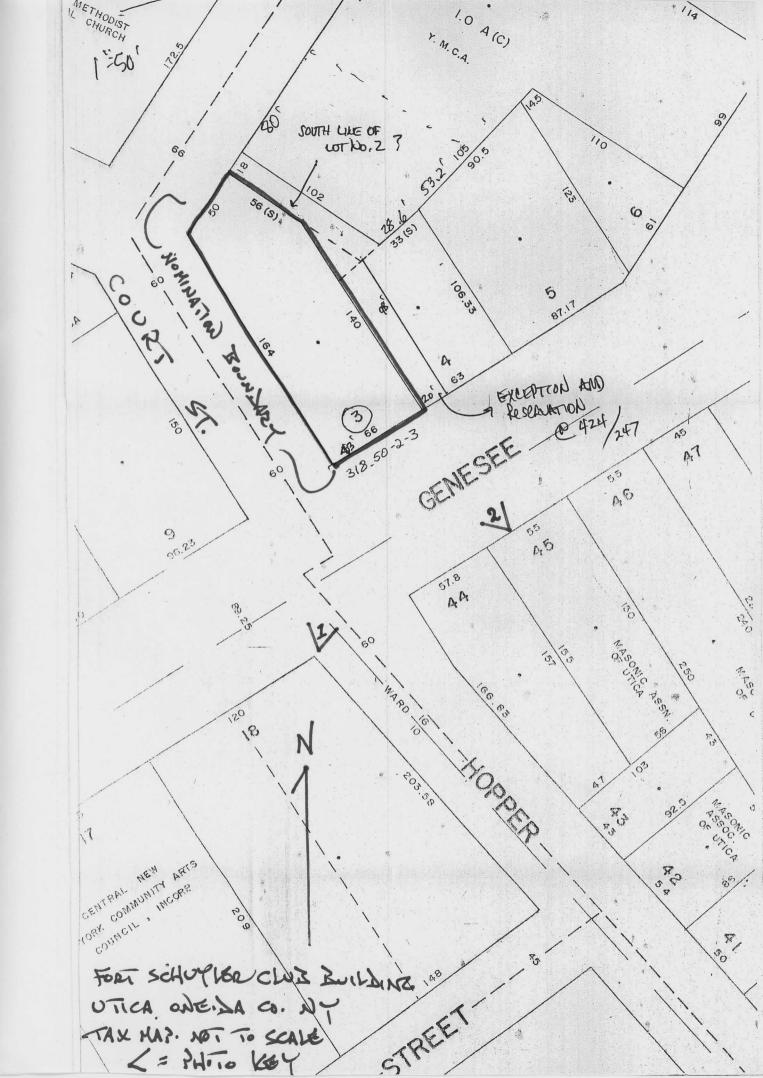
Fort Schuyler Club Building Utica, Oneida Co., NY R. W. Smith, 2003 Negatives @ NYSHPO, Waterford, NY

Photo 1: South (L.) and East elevations, view West;

Photo 2: East elevation, view West;

Photo 3: Entrance hall and staircase;

Photo 4: Dining room.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fort Schuyler Club Building

NAME:				
MULTIPLE NAME:				
STATE & COUNTY: NEW	YORK, Onei	da		
DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	4/01/04 5/06/04		PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	
REFERENCE NUMBER: 0-	1000436			
APPEAL: N DATA PROD OTHER: N PDIL: REQUEST: N SAMPLE:	N PE		PROGRAM UNAPPR	
COMMENT WAIVER: N		/	1. 1	
ACCEPT RETU	RNRE	$\frac{5}{2}$	/2/04DATE	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COM	MENTS:			
	Entered	in the		
RECOM./CRITERIA		_		
REVIEWER		DISCIPLIN	IE	
TELEPHONE		DATE		
DOCUMENTATION see at	tached comm	ments Y/N se	ee attached SLR	Y/N
If a nomination is r	eturned to	the nominat	ing authority, on by the NPS.	the



FOR SCHUYEL CWE BUILDING UTICA, ODEIDA CO. DY

D



FORT SCHUY KOU CLUD BUILDING UTICA, ONG DA CO. DY





THE SCHUTTER CLUB BUILDING



FORT SCHUY KEN CLUB BUILDING UTICA, ONE: DA CO. NY





THE FORT SCHUYLER CLUB
254 GENESEE STREET • UTICA, NEW YORK 13502

WENDY A. HALLOCK CLUB MANAGER

(315) 797-0170 + FAX (315) 797-0071

JPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of



I, William F. Licke VF , am the owner of the property at (print or type owner name)

Fort Schuyler Club Building, 254 Genesee St., Utica, Oneida Co. NY (street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Fort Schuyler Club, 254 Genesee St., Utica NY 13502

(mailing address)



Landmarks Society Of Greater Utica

NOV 17 2003

1124 State Street / Utica, NY 13502 / 315.732.7376

November 7, 2003

Raymond Smith
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

RE: Fort Schuyler Club Building Utica, Oneida County

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in support of the above mentioned building and agree that it should be nominated to the National and State Registers. Speaking as the incoming President of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica and a Member of Utica's Scenic and Historic Commission the building is as important as any other building or district currently on the list in the area. As you know, the New Century Club is across the street and is listed. As a local, we always considered the Fort Schuyler Club the "men's" club and the New Century Club as the "Women's" club for the who's who of the local society.

The building, and I argue, from the intersection of Hopper Street and Genesee Street to Steuben Park and as well as Park Ave, from Steuben Park to South Street could have been included as contributing areas to the Rutger-Steuben Historic District. The elegant mansions of the Rutger-Steuben Historic District reflect the prosperity of Utica between 1830 and 1890 when the flourishing textile mills, together with the opening of the Erie and Chenango canals, brought major economic growth. The District includes properties around Steuben Park, and Rutger Street from Steuben Park east to Taylor Avenue and Second Street.

The Fort Schuyler Club was built in 1830 about the same time as number 3 Rutger Park (Miller-Conkling-Kernan House). The owner was an early important transportation type businessman. The building later becomes the site of the most prestigious men's club. These facts alone only supports my argument that if the New Century Club and the Rutger-Steuben Historic District have been found worthy of nomination, so can the Fort Schuyler Club Building be deem worthy of nomination because of its similarities of its' historic functions, origin and siting.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Rizzo

Vice President of the Landmarks Society of Greater Utica

Commissioner, Scenic and Historic Commission Resident of the Rutger-Steuben Historic District