

Historic Preservation Commission

Cemetery Designation For

The Finger Ground Cemetery Established 1773



Town of Saugerties Part II General Legislation Chapter 145 Historic Preservation

145-1 Legislative Intent

... **the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of landmarks** and historic districts **are necessary** to promote the cultural, economic and general welfare of the public.

The Town has many significant and interrelated historic resources that constitute its heritage. These include ... cemeteries ...

Inasmuch as **the identity of a people is founded on its past**, this chapter is intended to:

A.

Protect, enhance and promote the landmarks and historic districts which present distinctive, informative and educational elements of the historic, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage of the Town;

B.

Focus and stimulate attention on and foster civic pride in the historic accomplishments and resources in the Town;

C.

Protect and enhance the attractiveness of the Town to residents and visitors, thus supporting and providing stimulus to the local economy; and

D.

Ensure the harmonious, orderly and sensitive development of the Town.

...

145-5 Designation of landmarks and historic districts.

A.

The Commission may propose an individual property for designation as a landmark if it:

(1)

Possesses special character or historic or aesthetic interest or value as part of the cultural, political, economic or social history of the locality, region, state or nation;

(2)

Is identified with historic personages

...

145-18 Addendum: Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

LANDMARK designation which may include any structure, landscape feature, **site or area having historic, architectural, archaeological, cultural or aesthetic significance.**

EXHIBIT A
The Finger Ground Narrative
(Researched by Ken Myer Jr, Peigi Mulligan, David & Jenny Carr)



Established 1773

The Finger Ground in Saugerties contains 12 documented Revolutionary War graves, making it one of the most historically significant patriot burial sites in Ulster County.

In 1901, the Saugerties Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) compiled a list of Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the Plattekill Cemetery. They identified **12 veterans**, with page references to New York in the Revolution:

- Ensign Peter Brink (1750–1818) – Fourth Ulster. Pages 187, 200
- Stephen Myer (1760–1841) – Page 189
- Peter B. Myer (1762–1841) – Page 189
- Tennis (Teunis) Myer (1757–1831) – Page 189
- Wilhelmus France (1751–1848) – Page 188
- John C. Brink (1763–1843) – Page 187
- Benjamin Myer (1730–1819) – Page 189
- Peter C. Brink (1757–1839) – Page 187
- Benjamin Winne (1754–1808) – Page 191
- Tjerck Burhans (1757–1832) – Page 187
- Jacob Conyes (1731–1815) – Page 187
- Johannes Snyder (1750–1815) – Page 190

Restoration Efforts

The site has seen waves of preservation activity. **Bob Chappelle of Post 72** began early restoration, later continued by **David and Jenny Carr**, with support from volunteers such as **Ken Myer Jr**. Their work includes resetting headstones, clearing brush, and restoring dignity to the grounds.

Naming and Historical Context

The cemetery's earliest recorded name is **Plattekill Cemetery**, as used in the DAR's 1901 report and Lila James Roney's 1924 Gravestone Inscriptions of Ulster County.

In 1925, Poucher's Old Gravestones of Ulster County referred to it as the **Finger Ground**, located "near the residence of Clinton Finger, Mt. Marion." Despite the name, no members of the Finger family are buried there.

Over time, the site has also been called the **Old Plattekill Cemetery**—a distinction made after the incorporation of the "New" Plattekill Cemetery in 1862, which is located on the other side of Kings Highway (today part of Mount Marion Cemetery).

Property History

Deeds and local histories tie the Finger Ground to several early families.

The cemetery **may trace to the 1688 patent of Cornelis Lambertsen Brink**. By 1795, it belonged to **Benjamin Winne (1755–1808)**, a Revolutionary War veteran buried here, whose wife Margaret Brink was Cornelis Brink's granddaughter.

Benjamin's property stretched across to the Plattekill Church and today's Mount Marion Cemetery, bordering lands of Peter H. Brink and Henry L. (later Clinton) Finger. Part of Benjamin's stone house still stands at the end of today's Dussol Road (re-built after a fire).

According to Benjamin Myer Brink's Early History of Saugerties, this land was part of the **Peter Winne 40-acre grant of 1692**, and an additional **86-acre deed** surveyed in **1686**.

The oldest recorded stone in the cemetery is that of **Adam Short (1725–1773)**. His mother was a Winne.

Although there is no dedicated cemetery deed, the property is consistently referenced as an exception in later transactions. For example, in the 1874 deed transferring property from John P. and Margaret (Winne) Myer to Ira Snyder, **the "Old Burying Ground" is explicitly excluded**. This exception carried forward through subsequent sales.

Today, the Ulster County Parcel Viewer lists the site as part of **618 Kings Highway**, the address of the Mount Marion Cemetery Association, though the Association does not claim ownership of the Finger Ground.

EXHIBIT B
Bibliography

Report of Daughters of the American Revolution, US Congressional Serial Set, Vol 4250, 1902

New York in the Revolution as colony and state ... NYS Comptroller's Office; James Arthur Roberts; 1898

Olde Ulster, Lineage of the Brink Family; Benjamin Myer Brink

The Early History of Saugerties, Benjamin Myer Brink; 1902

Old Gravestone of Ulster County ... J. Wilson Poucher, 1931

Gravestones Inscriptions of Ulster County, Lila James Roney F.G.B.S., compiled 1924

The Saugerties Telegraph, June 20th, 1924

searchiqs.com; UC Deeds; Book 100 p551 24 April 1811; Book 187 p279 30 March 1874

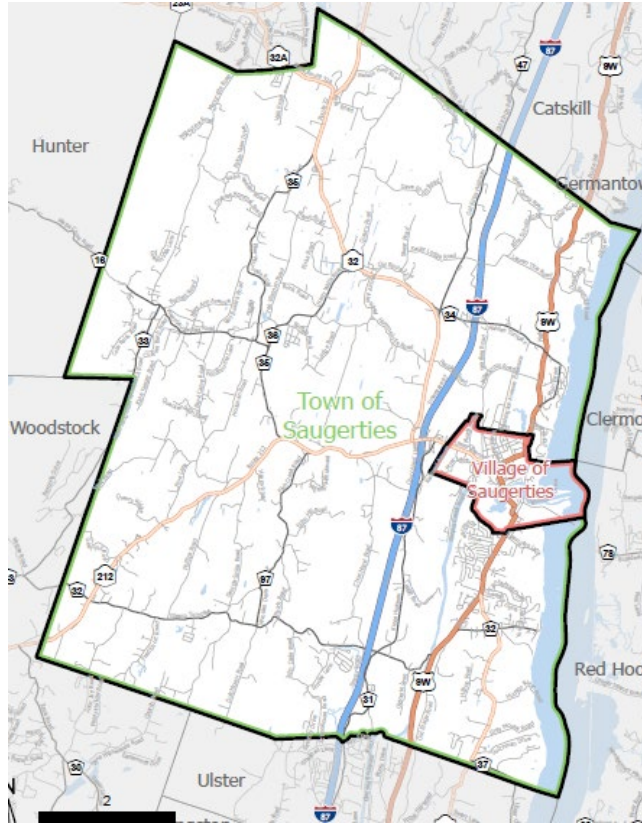
Ulster County Parcel Viewer

Michael Sullivan Smith's greatknot.com

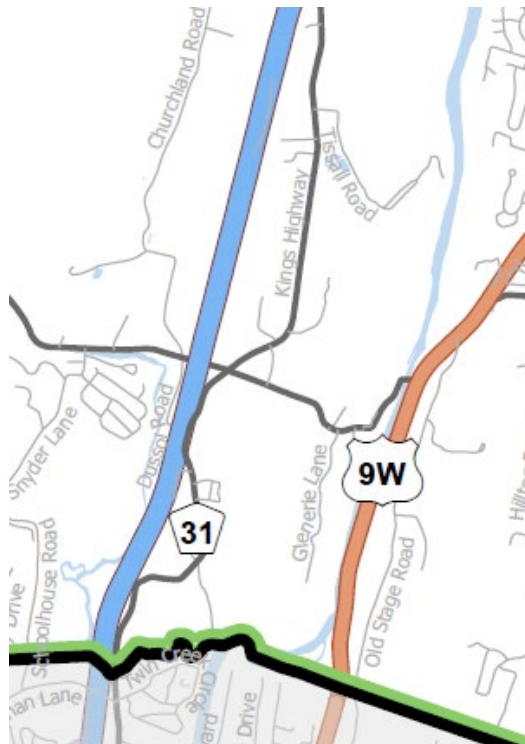
findagrave.com

EXHIBIT C
Maps

Saugerties Town Map

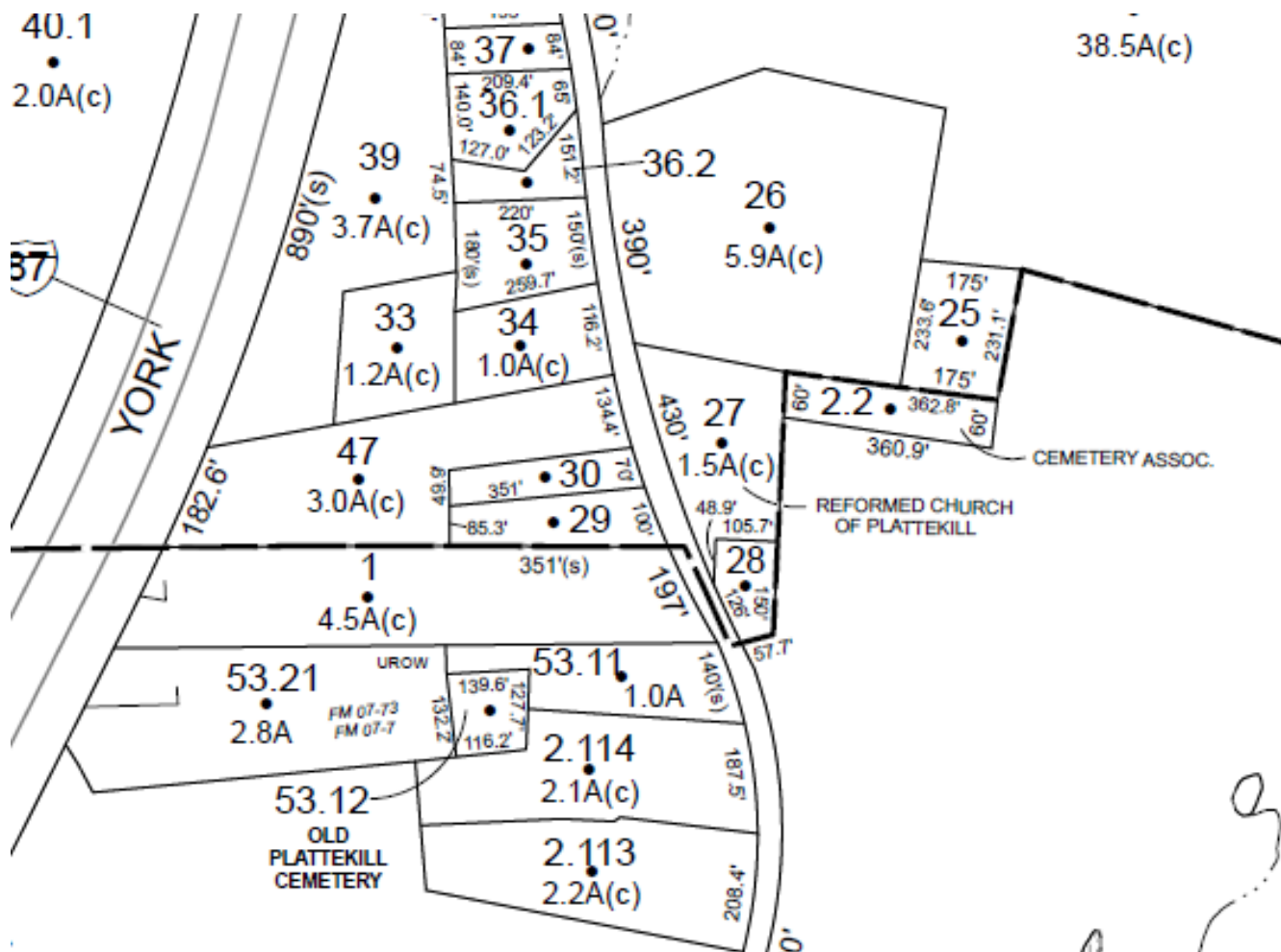


The Finger Ground is under the Rt 31 Marker, on left side of Kings Highway
The Mount Marion Cemetery, on right side of Kings Hwy, is indicated just above the 31 Marker

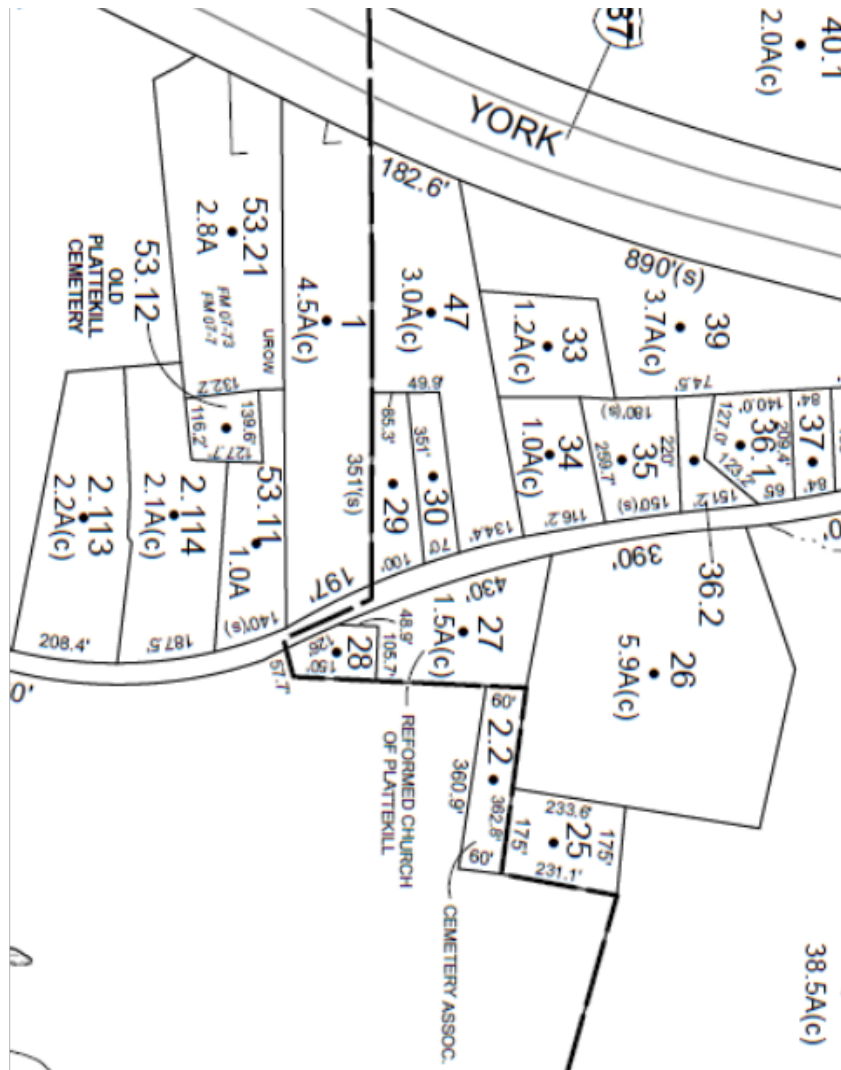


Tax Map

53.12 Old Plattekill Cemetery (aka The Finger Ground)



Looking in from Kings Highway



ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS

Rear

53.21

609 Kings Highway
Howard Goodrich and Deborah Drake

Front

53.11

607 Kings Highway
Amelia Critzer and Harrison Grover

Left of Burial Ground

2.114

601 Kings Highway
Krista Dixon

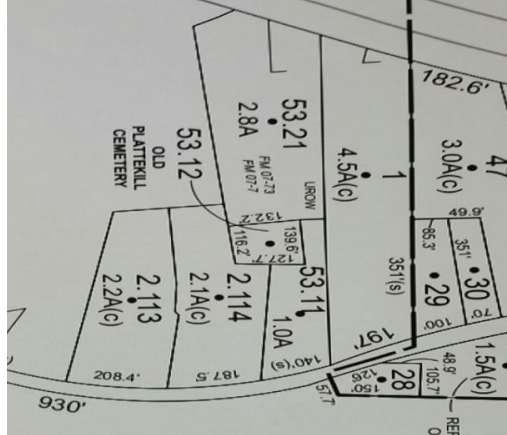
Ulster County Parcel Viewer
Property Description Report For: Kings Hwy, Municipality of Town of Saugerties

		Status:	Active
		Roll Section:	Wholly Exem
		Swis:	514889
		Tax Map ID #:	28.4-10-53.120
No.Photo.Available		Property Class:	695 - Cemetery
		Site:	RES 1
		In Ag. District:	No
		Site Property Class:	N/A
		Zoning Code:	N/A
		Neighborhood Code:	N/A
Total Acreage/Size:	0.38	School District:	Saugerties
Land Assessment:	2024 - \$7,600 2023 - \$7,600	Total Assessment:	2024 - \$7,600 2023 - \$7,600
Full Market Value:	2024 - \$7,600 2023 - \$7,600		
Equalization Rate:	----	Property Desc:	
Deed Book:		Deed Page:	
Grid East:	630559	Grid North:	1164490
Area			

EXHIBIT D

Photos

Looking in from Kings Hwy – Finger Ground has right-of-way up to 53.21 property
There is some parking available at the Burial Ground



The Entrance to The Finger Ground, From Kings Highway

Cones just visible in middle of photo at brown house driveway adjoining Plattekill DRC



**The house in front, on right of right-of-way - Amelia Critzer 607 Kings Hwy
53.11 on above map**



The right-of-way through front house property to The Finger Ground



The gravel right-of-way extends up to the boundary of the house in the rear, just visible in pic below



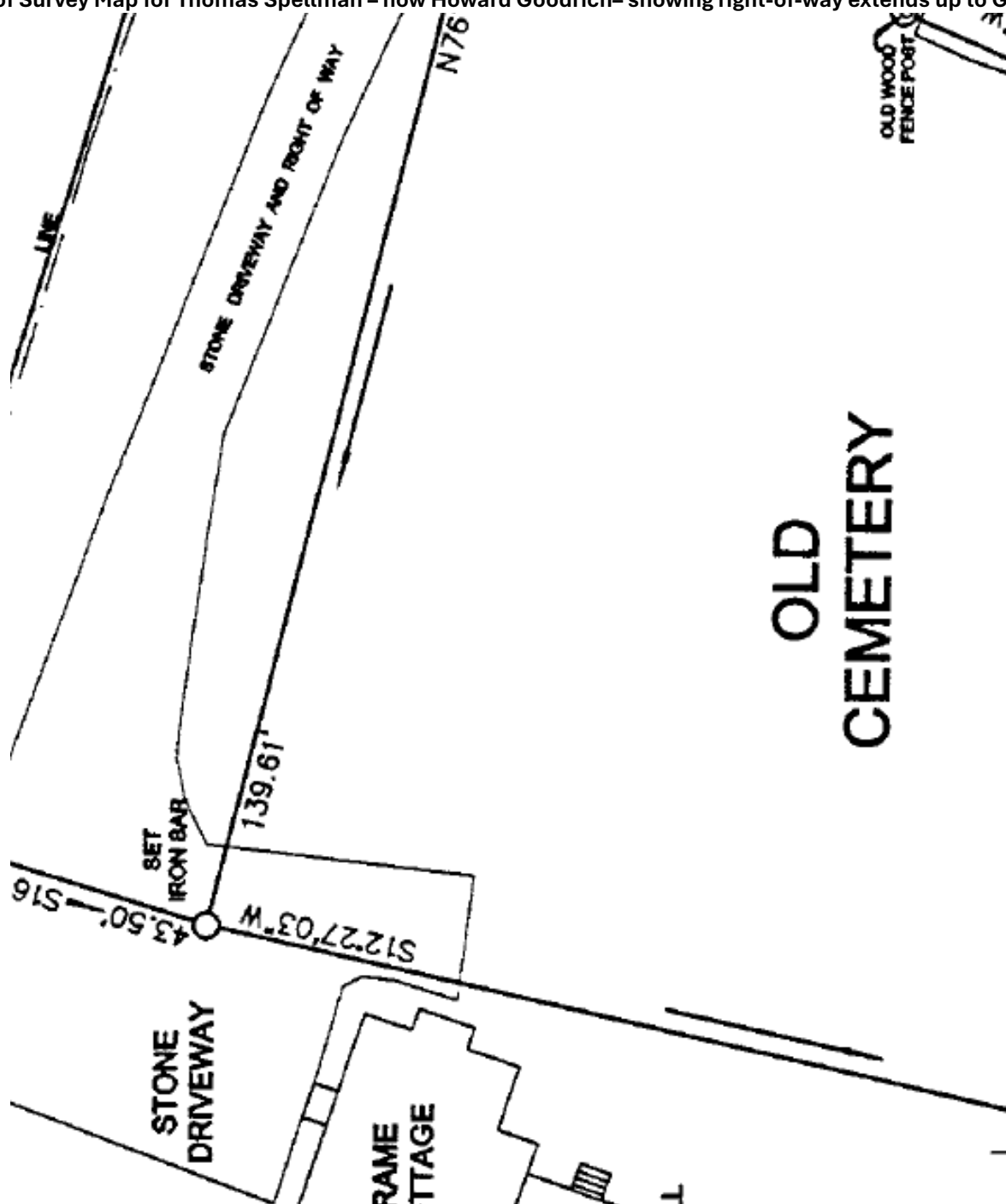
**Fencing is being replaced
Krista Dixon property on other side of this section of fence - 601 Kings Hwy
2.114 on above map**



The house in the rear, behind the Burial Ground, boundary is end of right-of-way – Howard Goodrich 609 Kings Hwy 53.21 on above map



Crop of Survey Map for Thomas Spellman – now Howard Goodrich– showing right-of-way extends up to Goodrich



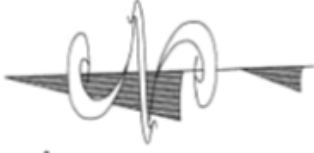
MAP OF SURVEY

PREPARED FOR

THOMAS F. SACCOMAN JR.

TOWN OF SAUGERTIES
ULSTER COUNTY, N.Y.
DECEMBER 18, 2006
SCALE 1" = 40'

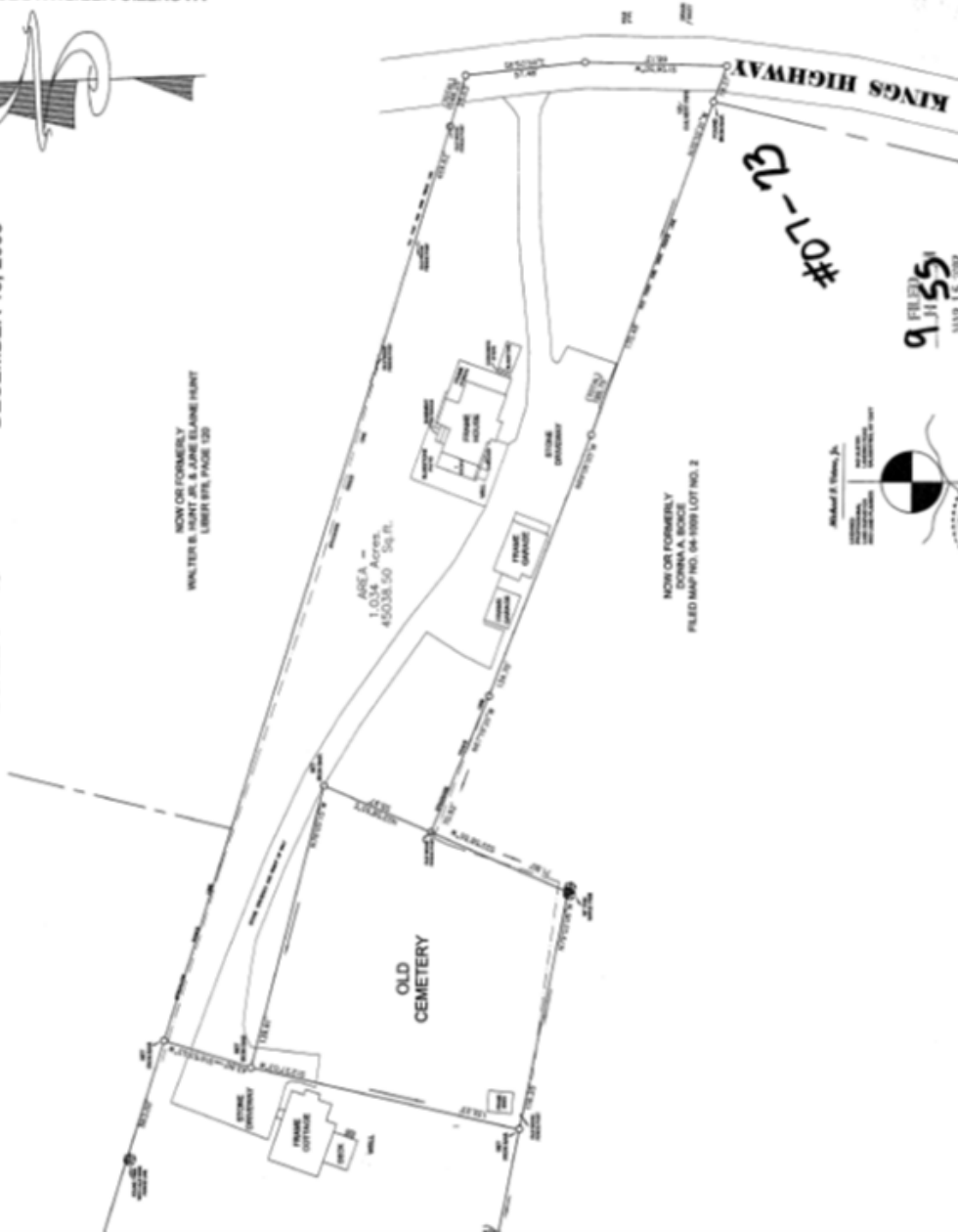
MAGNETIC MERIDIAN DECEMBER 2006



NOW OR FORMERLY
WALTER B. HUNT JR. & JANE ELAINE HUNT
LIBER 876, PAGE 128

AREA =
1.034 Acres
45038.50 Sq. Ft.

NOW OR FORMERLY
DONALD A. BOICE
FILED MAP NO. 94-1009 LOT NO. 2



Michael B. Thomas, Jr.
Surveyor
State of New York
No. 1009



9 FILED
MAR 15 2007
MAR 15 2007

AREA POSTOFFICE
ULSTER COUNTY CLERK

10.6
