

SITE #10: THE RYERSON PROPERTY

The Ryerson house must have been one of the most impressive structures in what has become Black Rock Forest.¹ The size of both the existing foundation and the stones comprising it indicate that the Ryerson home could accommodate a large number of people. A smaller structure, located just south of this foundation, was most probably the Ryerson barn. The expansive Black Rock Forest pine planting just east of these foundations suggests that the Ryersons maintained fields nearby (most Black Rock Forest plantings took place on previously farmed land). The young forest growth behind the Ryerson home also implies farming in this location also. The swamp which today nearly encircles the Ryerson homestead may also at one time have been cultivated fields. Because they lived in such close proximity to the waters of Mineral Springs, which became well-known for their curative properties during the late 19th century, the Ryersons most probably catered to tourists visiting these healthful waters, perhaps taking in borders in their large stone house.² (Additional oral interviews still to be done concerning this Black Rock Forest property).

¹ The location of the Ryerson place is noted on Black Rock Forest Compartment XVII Map, Black Rock Forest Archives, Cornwall, New York.

² A good description of the popularity of Mineral Springs can be found in Lewis Beach, *Cornwall* (Newburgh, New York: E.M. Ruttenber Publisher, 1873), 50.

