1840 Census of Greene County, NY
A Record of the Individuals Who Resided on the Historic Property
This was the first U.S. Census to record the mental health of individuals through terms of ‘insanity’ and ‘idiocy’. An overwhelming amount of free Black individuals were placed in these categories, and pro-slavery advocates saw this as an opportunity to argue that freedom was the cause of this disparity.

This added category was also in the interest of the newfound establishment of mental institutions in the country. Frances Bartow, sister to Maria Bartow Cole, was one of a growing number of individuals sent to attend the Hartford Retreat for the Insane between 1846-1848. Frances was seen to have experienced dissociation and possible signs of depression. She is later recorded as ‘insane’ in an 1870 census of the household. To learn more about Frances and other individuals who lived and labored on the property, visit thomascole.org/household.

11 people were recorded as living on the historic property in 1840. 

Here marks Thomas Cole’s occupation as an artist.

Here marks John A. Thomson’s agricultural occupation.