



HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
P.O. BOX 189, WATERFORD, NY 12188
(518) 237-8643

OFFICE USE ONLY

USN: _____

IDENTIFICATION

Property name(if any) _____
Address or Street Location 25 Leitch Avenue
County Onondaga Town/City _____ Village/Hamlet: Skaneateles
Owner Thomas Hackler Address same as above
Original use Single-Family Residence Current use Single-Family Residence
Architect/Builder, if known _____ Date of construction, if known 1905

DESCRIPTION

Materials -- please check those materials that are visible

Exterior Walls:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wood clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> vertical boards	<input type="checkbox"/> plywood	
	<input type="checkbox"/> stone	<input type="checkbox"/> brick	<input type="checkbox"/> poured concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete block	
	<input type="checkbox"/> vinyl siding	<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> cement-asbestos	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	
Roof:	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt, shingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> asphalt, roll	<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> metal	<input type="checkbox"/> slate
Foundation:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> stone	<input type="checkbox"/> brick	<input type="checkbox"/> poured concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete block	

Other materials and their location: _____

Alterations, if known: _____ Date: _____

Condition: excellent good

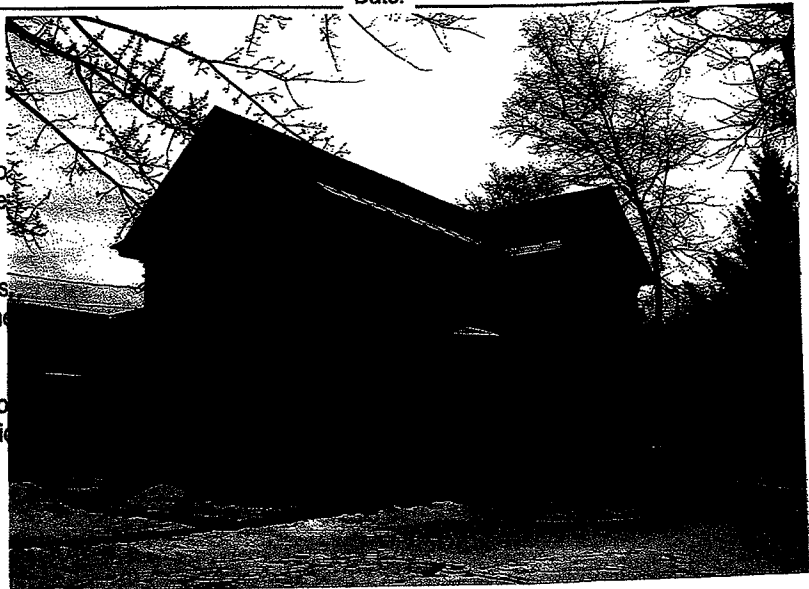
Photos

Provide several clear, original photographs of the property proper whole. For buildings or structures, this includes exterior and interior views. Color prints are acceptable for initial submissions.

Please staple one photograph providing a complete view of the structure submitted in a separate envelope or stapled to a continuation sheet.

Maps

Attach a printed or drawn locational map indicating the location of the property and recognized features so that the property can be accurately positioned on a map, if possible.



Prepared by: Matthew Kear address 106 West Sibley Hall Ithaca, NY 14853

Telephone: (607) 255-4331 email mrk75@cornell.edu Date Fall 2007

(See Reverse)

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

IF YOU ARE PREPARING A NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION, PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS

Narrative Description of Property: Briefly describe the property and its setting. Include a verbal description of the location (e.g., north side of NY 17, west of Jones Road); a general description of the building, structure or feature including such items as architectural style (if known), number of stories, type and shape of roof (flat, gabled, mansard, shed or other), materials and landscape features. Identify and describe any associated buildings, structures or features on the property, such as garages, silos, privies, pools, gravesites. Identify any known exterior and interior alterations such as additions, replacement windows, aluminum or vinyl siding or changes in plan. Include dates of construction and alteration, if known. Attach additional sheets as needed.

See Continuation Sheet

Narrative Description of Significance: Briefly describe those characteristics by which this property may be considered historically significant. Significance may include, but is not limited to, a structure being an intact representative of an architectural or engineering type or style (e.g., Gothic Revival style cottage, Pratt through-truss bridge); association with historic events or broad patterns of local, state or national history (e.g., a cotton mill from a period of growth in local industry, a seaside cottage representing a locale's history as a resort community, a structure associated with activities of the "underground railroad."); or by association with persons or organizations significant at a local, state or national level. Simply put, why is this property important to you and the community. Attach additional sheets as needed.

See Continuation Sheet

Narrative Description of Property:

25 Leitch Avenue is set on the west side of Leitch Avenue, approximately 184 feet south of the intersection of Leitch Avenue with Academy Street. The property is bounded on the east by Leitch Avenue, with 21 Leitch Avenue on the south, 5 Palmer Place on the west, and Palmer Place on the north. The house appears to fill much of the depth of this rectangular lot and is set to the eastern side. The western side of the lot is a paved grassy yard with a number of large pine trees. This portion of the property has been enclosed in a low, metal fence. A short, paved walkway connects the principal entry to the sidewalk. A paved driveway connects Academy Street to an attached garage. A wooden fence separates this driveway from Palmer Place, running from the sidewalk to the western edge of the lot.

The house was built in the Queen-Anne "Free Classic" style of architecture. The prevalence of asymmetrical design, seen in the placement and composition of the windows and doors throughout; the second story overhang gable on the northern façade; and the sheer size and massing of the plan, are all features common to the Queen Anne Style of architecture. The classical colonnaded entry porch; the Palladian window in the massive, front-gable; the massive broken gables; and the wide-band cornice line are all classical elements common to the Free Classic subtype of that architectural style.

There is a single-story, side-gabled wing on the west façade of the principal building. According to a 1909 Sanborn Insurance Map, the house was originally square with a smaller wing projecting from the northern half of the west façade. This wing was part of the second story by 1927. When the house was built there was also a small projection from the north façade. It was on this location in the 1940s that the garage was added onto the house; the garage being part of the single-story, side-gabled wing on the west façade. There may have been a side door to the house, on the driveway, which was enclosed within the garage. In the 1950s the classical entry porch was added to the principal façade.

Narrative Description of Significance:

The house at 25 Leitch Avenue was built around 1905, most likely for Elias Riggs Forsyth, his wife Catherine, and their daughter Elizabeth, who arrived in Skaneateles in 1902. Elias Forsyth spent much of his professional life as a cashier for the First National Bank in Greensburg, Indiana, where he was born. He was better known in Skaneateles for his involvement in the Presbyterian Church where he served as elder as well as being active in numerous other church activities.

When Forsyth died in 1924, the house remained in his family, passing to his daughter Elizabeth, who resided there until her death in 1943. Following her death the house was sold to Carl and Viola Grapotte. Carl Grapotte was an industrious resident. He owned the Main-Hunt business which included the International Harvester Agency and the Fennell Street coal business, among other branches, all of which he sold, on different occasions, by 1957. Grapotte served as Mayor of Skaneateles from 1951 to 1957 and Deputy Purchasing Agent for Onondaga County. When Grapotte was appointed as Deputy

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25 Leitch Avenue

Skaneateles, NY

Narrative Description of Significance (Continued):

Purchasing Agent for the county, in 1960, he and his wife relocated to Syracuse and sold their house to Dale A. and Barbara H. Metzler.

The Metzlers resided in the house until 1967, when they sold it to John and Jean Cecil. The Cecils remained in the home for 34 years, selling it in 2001 to the current owners, Thomas and Patrice Hackler.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses* New York: Alfred A. Knopf Publishing, 1984

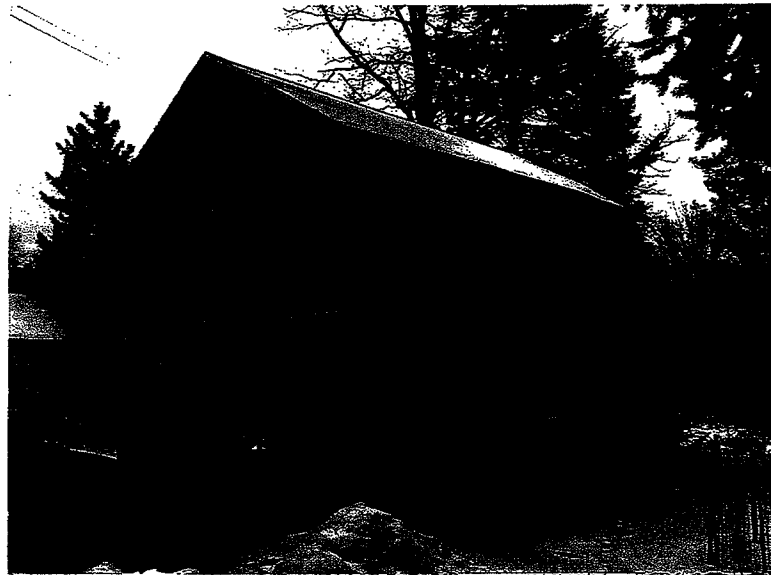
Skaneateles Historical Society Archives

Skaneateles Sesquicentennial, 1833-1983 Skaneateles: Skaneateles Sesquicentennial Committee, 1983

Woodcock, Sue Ellen. *Skaneateles* Charleston: Acadia Publishing, 2001

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25 Leitch Avenue
Skaneateles, NY

Photo:



Map:

