



# 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 59 Leitch Avenue  
County Onondaga Town/City Skaneateles Village/Hamlet: Skaneateles  
Owner Marc and Meghan Leonardis Address 59 Leitch Avenue  
Original use Single-family residence Current use Single-family residence  
Architect/Builder, if known \_\_\_\_\_ Date of construction, if known c. 1875-1880

## DESCRIPTION

Materials -- please check those materials that are visible

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

Other materials and their location: \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations, if known: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

## **Photos**

Provide several clear, original photographs of the property proposed for nomination. Submitted views should represent the property as a whole. For buildings or structures, this includes exterior and interior views, general setting, outbuildings and landscape features. Color prints are acceptable for initial submissions.

Please staple one photograph providing a complete view of the structure or property to the front of this sheet. Additional views should be 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 in relationship to streets, intersections or other widely recognized features so that the property can be accurately positioned. Show a north arrow. Include a scale or estimate distances where possible.

Prepared by: Natalie W. Franz address 106 West Sibley, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14850  
Telephone: 607-255-4331 email nwf5@cornell.edu Date September 15, 2008

**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.

The house at 59 Leitch Avenue is a two-story gable front rectangular structure, with a series of one-story projections and additions. The east elevation of the building, has four windows, two evenly spaced on each floor, six-over-one double-hung sash flanked by shutters. To the south and set back from the gable front, a one-story side-gable addition protrudes, forming a T. In the reentrant angle to the east, there is a one-story shed-roof porch with simple conical porch supports interspaced with simple balusters. Two doors open onto this porch, one from the two-story structure and one from the one-story addition. The porch is approached by several steps, and the area under the porch is obscured by a lattice porch skirt. Beyond this, the home lacks ornamentation. The house appears to be sheathed with vinyl, and the foundation is either poured concrete or concrete parging over another material.

Viewing the south elevation of the building, the addition in the west reentrant angle of the T can be seen. A shed roof addition with a small gable vestibule over the doorway on the facade there are also a triple window of one-over-one sash. The vestibule is approached by a small flight of wooden steps. On the gable end of the T, as well as on the easternmost bay of the two-story structure are windows like those described for the east elevation: six-over-one double hung sash flanked by shutters. On both the north and south facades, the foundation is exposed with half height rectangular windows. Situated on a relatively flat parcel, the lot of 59 Leitch Avenue covers .21 acres.

**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.

Leitch Avenue was originally known as John Street, and acquired its present name when D. Kellogg Leitch donated land to widen the road in 1871. The north-south road traversed a swampy area that had experienced some drainage problems, so the street was slower to develop. Though some lots were developed as early as the 1840s, the majority of building took place between 1871 and 1920. 59 Leitch Avenue was a part of this building boom. The lot of 59 Leitch was divided out from a neighboring lot in 1873, and sold for \$200 to James Lockton. In 1882, Lockton sold the parcel to Mary A. Tucker for \$1,000, indicated that a house had been built during that time. In 1904, the house was occupied by Martha Smith, beginning a long tradition of Smith women living in and caring for the house at 59 Leitch Avenue. Martha passed away in 1949 at the age of 80. The house was also lived in by her three daughters, Amy, Lena, and Hazel. Two of the sisters became career women, unusual for the time when they began. Lena was a teacher in Johnson City schools, but most notably Hazel rose to the position of Senior Executive Secretary at the Solvay Process Division of Allied Chemical Corp. Though her position was about 20 miles from Skaneateles, an article published upon her retirement in 1964 noted that Hazel remained at 59 Leitch Avenue, logging approximately 350,000 commuter miles in her 38 years of service. Her method of commuting changed from trolley line to carpool over the course of her career. The life outside the home for these unmarried women was representative of larger changes in society, as well as the development of Skaneateles from a small industrial town to a commuter community.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM – Continuation Sheet  
59 Leitch Avenue, Skaneateles, New York

**Sources:**

Building Permits, Village of Skaneateles. (Accessed by Code Enforcement Officer Jorge Battle, November 2007.)

Ionta, Helen W. "Our town-Skaneateles." 1993. Collection of Skaneateles Historical Society.

Leslie, Edmund Norman. *Skaneateles: History of its Earliest Settlement*. Kellogg, 1902.

Onondaga County Deed Records, Onondaga County Clerk's Office. Syracuse, New York.

Onondaga County Office of Real Property Services. Aerial Photograph of Skaneateles, April 4, 2006.  
<http://ocfintax.ongov.net/imate/> (Accessed August 16, 2008)

Skaneateles Historical Society. "Smith Family" Folder. Collection of Skaneateles Historical Society.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM – Continuation Sheet: Photographs  
59 Leitch Avenue, Skaneateles, New York



HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM – Continuation Sheet: Maps  
59 Leitch Avenue, Skaneateles, New York

