

The Town History Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

Occasionally the question is raised, "Is my house on the Register of Historic Places?" This past summer a question was asked of this Historian, "Do I have to repaint my business place the same color maroon-red?" Published here is the most recent of such listings in the Town of Dryden. At the conclusion of this column is a list of "caveats," as to the inquirer's choices. Certainly, it is expressed that an owner, of a home or structure to not use some gaudy or psychedelic scheme.

Places in Town of Dryden, NY on the Register of Historic Places in New York State

Known listings as of 29 October 2009

Dryden (Town):

- **Dryden District No. 2 School:** At 2670 Slaterville Rd.
- **District No. 5 (8 Square) School:** At 1748 Hanshaw Rd.
- **Ellis Methodist Episcopal Church:** At 1768 Ellis Hollow Rd.
- **West Dryden Methodist Episcopal Church:** At 606 West Dryden Road at Sheldon Road, West Dryden.

Dryden (Village):

- **Historic District:** Encompasses an area roughly bounded by East Main, James, Lake and South Streets. It is a historic section of the village of 44 properties of mostly residential, built during the period 1800-1905
- **Jennings - Marvin House:** At 9 Library Street.
- **Lacy--Van Vleet House:** At 45 West Main Street.
- **Luther Clarke House:** At 39 West Main Street.
- **Methodist Episcopal Church:** At 2 North Street.
- **Rockwell House:** At 52 West Main Street.
- **Southworth House:** At 14 North Street
- **Southworth Library:** At 24 West Main Street.

Steps to Obtaining Register of Historic Places in Dryden, NY

1. Carefully document in writing (with good quality photos and records) the history and uniqueness of the property.
2. Contact the State Historic Preservation Officer (addresses may be found on: < <http://nysparks.state.ny.us> > for particulars and to be sure that the property is not already on the Register of Historic Places.
3. Criteria for listing include:
 - It must be significant in American history.
 - Is it associated with events that made a valuable contribution to the broad pattern of history?
 - Is it associated with the lives of persons significant to the past?
 - Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, a period of time, or a particular method of construction?
 - Does it represent the work of a master builder, or possess high artistic characteristics?
 - Has it yielded or might be likely to yield information about history.
4. Obtain and complete the form and submit.
5. Count on at least 3 to 6 months, or even longer, through these steps to expire for final acceptance by the National Register.

Some caveats: A property does not have to be nominated by its owner; anyone can nominate a property, but can not be listed without the owner's consent. --- National listing is an honor! --- **Real protection comes from local and state laws and regulations.** --- **Listing does not mean that a building can not be altered or even demolished.** --- It does not restrict the owner's rights to choose what they want to do with the property. --- It is not a guarantee that listing will survive the centuries unscathed against the throes of progress. --- **Listing generally affects activities that are funded, licensed, owned, or managed by "Federal undertakings" (i.e. Federal agencies).** --- Any final nomination record form can never be changed or altered. --- The process of nominating a property includes the expense of photography, research documents, legal searches, et cetera and may ultimately cost hundreds of dollars, if not thousands, during the steps of the nominating process.