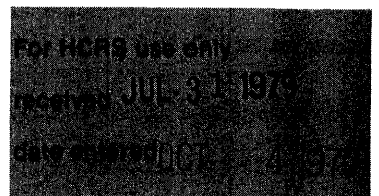


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic

and/or common Historic Resources of N.Y.S. Route 9, Town of Colonie (Partial
Inventory: Historic and Architectural properties)

2. Location

All properties bordering N.Y.S. Route 9 within the Town of Colonie
street & number commencing at the Albany City boundary line and not for publication

ending at the Mohawk River

city, town Town of Colonie (Albany vicinity of congressional district 28

Vic., Loudonville, Cohoes Vic.)

state New York code 036 county Albany code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See inventory forms)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albany County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Albany state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of
title Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state New York

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The town of Colonie occupies a triangular piece of land at the junction of the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers. The terrain is fairly level tableland formed from glacial deposits. Until the middle of the twentieth century, the area was mostly farmland and had only a few scattered hamlets, summer residences and small suburbs. Most of the early population was concentrated along the Hudson River in communities which coalesced as the cities of Cohoes and Watervliet and are no longer a part of the town.

Within the past twenty-five years, Colonie has mushroomed into a vast suburb of the Tri-Cities area, with commercial strip development along its major routes and large regional shopping malls. Road patterns emphasize the north-south routes because land travel in this area has been concentrated on the west side of the Hudson since the seventeenth century. Two east-west routes are State Routes 5 and 7.

State Route 9 (Loudon Road) is a four lane, north-south road which traverses the town of Colonie from the Albany city line to the Mohawk River at Crescent. One property on this road, the Newtonville Post Office, was listed on the National Register on March 14, 1973.

During 1976 and 1977, a survey of Route 9, Colonie, was conducted by Barbara Ruch under the supervision of Jean Olton, Town of Colonie Historian. In consultation with the staff of the State Historic Preservation Officer, a decision was made to inventory every structure which bordered Route 9, beginning at the Albany city line (284 Loudon Road) and extending northwards as far as number 576 Loudon Road.

From number 576 northwards to the Crescent Bridge, a windshield survey of Route 9 revealed no buildings worthy of being inventoried with the exception of number 1313 Loudon Road.

The character of properties lining Route 9 changes drastically throughout its length from fine tree-shaded residences on large plots at the south to strip commercial at the north (See DOT map).

The southernmost section, which extends from the Albany city line to Crumitie Road, consists of one family residences constructed in a variety of mid-twentieth century styles from c. 1930 to the present. Historically, this land was part of the D.D.T. Moore farm, and was not subdivided until modern times.

This southern portion of the road is remarkable in that the buildings are set back from the busy highway and are almost invisible in summer because of the dense roadside vegetation.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Historic Resources of N.Y.S. Route 9
Albany County

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DATE ENTERED	OCT 4 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

From Crumitie Road northwards to the commercial strip, Loudon Road is lined with buildings derived from its various periods of growth; early nineteenth century farmhouses, mid-century farms and summer homes, late nineteenth century mansions of the affluent, and early twentieth century suburban residences. Nineteenth-century churches, schools and stores remain as well.

The stretch of Loudon Road between Crumitie Road and the Menands crossroads was found to have integrity and to most truly reflect the history of the road, as a result of which, this section was selected for a district nomination. The entrance to the Loudon Road District at Crumitie Road is announced visually by the old schoolhouse on the east side and the Ransom House on the west side (see photo 1). It terminates at the Menands Road because of the presence of modern intrusions. In addition, the district continues the heavy roadside vegetation, landscaped grounds, and preponderance of trees found in the early twentieth century suburb to the south. North of the Menands Road, this roadside vegetation disappears, giving the road a different character. Intrusions and loss of integrity on individual buildings increases until the commercial strip development takes over the road. Side roads contain modern residences.

Examination of the inventory forms and field visits disclosed eight single buildings outside of the Loudon Road District which meet the criteria for listing. Some additional buildings of historical note, presently enveloped in modern sidings, may be able to meet the criteria in the future if the historic appearance is restored.

As a result of the survey and inventory process, the following properties were found to meet the criteria for listing:

1. The Loudon Road Historic District (includes numbers 381 to 427 Loudon Road, plus numbers 5 and 6 Cherry Tree Lane)
- 2. The Hughson Mansion (379 Loudon Road)
- 3. The D.D.T. Moore Farmhouse (352 Loudon Road)
4. The Elliot House (347 Loudon Road)
- 5. Bryan's Store (435 Loudon Road)
- 6. The Whitney House (489 Loudon Road)
7. The Wheeler House (485 Loudon Road)
- 8. Springwood Manor (498 Loudon Road)
- 9. Elm Tree Farm (1313 Loudon Road)

See attached inventory forms for detailed descriptions.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Originally a path which led northwards from Albany into the wilderness, present day Loudon Road (Route 9) is bordered by buildings which recall the history of almost two hundred years of changing land use, as wilderness gave way to farms, farms to summer homes, summer places to mansions and mansions to early suburban residences. Despite the fact that this is a four-lane highway, hemmed in on all sides by modern development, the Loudon Road Historic District and eight individual properties which have been selected for nomination represent the ideals of the Victorian suburb to a high degree, combining gracious rural living with proximity to the cultural life of Albany.

The earliest European occupants of the area were Dutch settlers who left the safety of their original settlement at Fort Orange (now Albany) in search of good farmland in the Colonie of Rensselaerwyck. Loudon Road shows clearly on a 1756 map of Rensselaerwyck and the 1767 Bleeker map shows several farmhouses along this path. With the coming of the British, the early oxen road became a plank road over which the army transported supplies to northern New York. During the Revolution, Loudon Road was used by General Knox to move his artillery from Fort Ticonderoga.

After the Revolution, the Van Rensselaer family gradually disposed of its lands. As happened elsewhere in the state, the sparsely populated area received an influx of settlers with New England backgrounds, whose tastes were reflected in buildings. Four residences which retain early nineteenth century features are included in this nomination. The Whitney Mansion (#489) shows the influence of the Georgian mode, the Ransom (#384) and Godfrey (#1313) houses have Greek Revival porticos and the Ireland house has a five-bay center hall design. Ireland had a hotel and store at Ireland's Corners, now the Menands Road crossroads. One of the earliest schools in the state, altered in the mid-nineteenth century, was built in 1811 on Loudon Road (#385). It is now a residence and office.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, Loudon Road had become the Albany Mohawk Plank Road. The (now vanished) Toll Gate for this road is shown on the 1866 map by Beers. The road provided access to prosperous farms which served a growing Albany. The D.D.T. Moore farmhouse (#352) represents this period, although, like many of the earlier buildings, it was remodeled at a later period, reflecting the continued demand for fine residences. Moore had a 2,500 acre prize-winning farm.

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DATE ENTERED

267 4 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Wealthy Albany businessmen were establishing homes and summer cottages along Loudon Road. Albion Ransom, a stove manufacturer, lived at 384. A prominent doctor built a summer cottage at 402; he later founded Albany Medical Cottage. This half-timbered cottage, after it was enlarged, became a home for Charles Stedman, another active citizen. Loudon Cottage (4 Cherry Tree Lane) was the summer home of U.S. Senator Ira Harris; it was moved a short distance.

A lithograph of 1883 shows a bucolic and pastoral landscape, with elegant homes, verandas, carriage houses, fountains and greenhouses (see attached copy of lithograph). A more picturesque retreat for family living could not be imagined. By the end of the century, Loudon Road had become a popular early suburb of Albany with a general store (435) providing a focal point. The Hughson Mansion (374) and many other homes pictured on the lithograph still survive, as does the lush, park-like setting. The Hughson Mansion, executed in Second Empire Style, remains intact on the property of the Loudonville Community Church. P.K. Dedrick, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery, owned the imposing home at 389. Two exceptional Shingle-Style homes at 395 and 410 echo the work of Stanford White.

In 1888, members of the little community (now Loudonville) built Loudon Hall (423) to be used as a Sunday school and community center. Fuller and Wheeler of Albany were the architects, a firm which designed many of Albany's finest buildings in Romanesque and Colonial Revival styles. This building reflects Fuller's early interest in the Queen Anne style.

Loudonville reached its golden era in the 1920's. At this time, older houses were rebuilt or replaced by dignified Colonial style mansions. There was subdivisions of some estates, but the green spaces remained. Albany was a bustling port and farm products were readily transported by train. Now the D.D.T. Moore farm was subdivided to create a suburb south of Crumitie Road. John Manning of the Behr-Manning Company built Springwood Manor (498). Charles Whitney of the Whitney department store in Albany moved into the Georgian mansion at 489. The Wheeler House (485) and the Elliot House (347) showing the contemporary passion for an antiquarian approach. The Colonial Revival architecture of this early twentieth-century suburb predominates in the Loudon Road Historic District today.

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DATE ENTERED

Historic Resources of N.Y.S. Route 9
Albany County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

3

Despite the prestige of many of Loudonville's citizens, Loudon Road is continually under pressure from commercial and other interests. Route 9 is a state highway which carries heavy traffic. It is hoped that the recognition provided by National Register listing will assist the community to maintain its suburban character in the face of these pressures.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Properties bordering New York State Route 9 in the Town of Colonie.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Doris Manley

Division for

organization Historic Preservation

date 6/28/79

street & number Agency Bldg. #1

telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany

state New York

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Historic Preservation Field

title Services Bureau

date 7/24/79

For HCRC use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date 10-4-79

date 10-4-79

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OCT 4 1979

Historic Resources of N.Y.S. Route 9
Albany County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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