

**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 Leathers, H.G., House

and/or common Leathers House

**2. Location**

street & number 22957 Rum River Blvd. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town St. Francis \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Anoka code 003

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Robert E. Leathers (Etta)

street & number

city, town St. Francis \_\_\_ vicinity of state Minnesota

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anoka County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Anoka state Minnesota

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978, 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		(rear portion only)

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The H.G. Leathers House is scenically located on a heavily wooded lot overlooking the Rum River. This well-preserved Victorian house is a significant architectural element in the small, rural rivertown of St. Francis.

The rear section of the house, composed of a two story rectangular shaped building with an attached one story addition, was constructed ca. 1883 as a residence for the Leathers family and as a store. It was originally constructed on a lot nearer the Rum River, and moved to its present location ca. 1890. This section of the house is constructed of wood frame with clapboard siding on a partial basement. It contains a storeroom (the original store building), and a kitchen on the first floor, and two bedrooms on the second floor.

The front, or west section, of the house was constructed of wood frame with clapboard siding ca. 1890. The front, the most decorative, facade of the house is composed of three bays -- a two and one half story conical tower is flanked by steeply gabled two and one half story bays. Elaborate fretwork is located in each of the front gables. A colonnaded veranda graces the front facade. Pilaster strips appear at each corner of the house. A porch with turned posts and spandrels and a two story projecting bay window, with a pent roof at the second story level, embellish the south facade. The interior of this section contains a formal entry, two parlors, and a dining room on the first floor, and two bedrooms, a bath, and a formal landing on the second floor. The turn of the century woodwork and hardware have been preserved throughout the interior of the house.

# 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 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca.1880; ca.1890      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The H.G. Leathers House is primarily significant for its association with a family that has contributed to the commercial, social, and religious history of St. Francis for three generations. Additionally, the house, maintained in its original condition, is an excellent example of one of Anoka County's rare Victorian residences.

In 1883, H.G. Leathers, a native of Anoka County, settled in St. Francis. In that year, Leathers, a pharmacist, started the town's first drugstore in conjunction with a dry goods store. The store, which moved to several locations in St. Francis, was operated by the Leathers family until 1977. In addition, H.G. Leathers served as postmaster of St. Francis from 1904 until his death in 1932. His son, Robert, served as postmaster from 1932 until 1969. In addition to operating a store and post office, the Leathers' family operated a Ford car dealership (begun in 1918). The organization and construction of the St. Francis Methodist Church (1892) was largely the work of the Leathers family.

Although this house cannot be neatly categorized under one style heading, its design contains features of several Victorian architectural styles. These features, including ornamental fretwork in the front gables, decorative stickwork, a conical tower, a veranda, and stained glass windows, represent one of Anoka County's only Victorian residences.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name St. Francis

Quadrangle scale 7.5

**UMT References**

A 

1	5	4	7	1	9	3	0	5	0	2	5	6	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

St. Francis Plat  
Lot 6  
Block 6

**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 Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth

organization Minnesota Historical Society date May 1979

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House contact Dennis Gimmetad  
telephone (612) 296-9545

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

# 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 Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/1/79

For HCERS use only

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

Sally G. Olden

date 12/26/79

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Kristin O'Connell

date 12/26/79

Chief of Registration