

# Main Street District Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



70 Main

On December 5, the LeRoy Downtown Historic District was officially added to the New York State Register of Historic Places and on February 6, the district was officially added to the National Register of Historic Places.

A lot of credit for the success of the nomination goes to Derek King of the Preservation Studios in Buffalo. He was hired to write the nomination and it was a daunting task. At first it was to include Main Street from the Main Street bridge west to just beyond the intersection of Route 19, and to include the Keeney home, which is already on the National Register, but the district was enlarged, at the request of the NYS regional representative. The Historic District now extends to 61 and 62 West Main Street. Derek spent quite a bit of time gathering information from the files at the Historical Society. One source of information is a survey that was done in the 1970s of many of the historic buildings in LeRoy. Those "blue sheets" are on file at the Historical Society and

provided much necessary information for the state nomination. The state also conducted a survey of buildings along Route 5 that would be eligible and the information from that survey also contributed to the narration submitted for the nomination.

The new district includes about 33 acres with 67 primary buildings and 13 secondary buildings. Only 5 buildings are considered "non contributing." (Walgreens, Bank of Castile, McDonalds, an apartment building west of the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus. The water tower is also in the district and is a non-contributing structure.) There are four buildings in the new district that are already included on the National Register of Historic Places: the Keeney Home and carriage house at 13 West Main Street, designated in 1980; the U.S. Post Office designated in 1989; and the Presbyterian Church and manse on Clay Street, which received their designation in 2014.

The nomination states: "The highly intact collection of residential and commercial build-

ings, built between 1811 and 1963 along the primary traffic artery through LeRoy, demonstrates its growth from frontier settlement to a bustling community at the turn of the 20th century." Each building is described in the nominations. For example: 70-72 Main Street c. 1895

Three story, three-bay, brick Queen Anne commercial building. Flat roof. The first floor contains a single storefront in the first and third bay, separated by a wood entry door for access to an interior staircase. The center of the first floor is recessed, which is supported by a single cast iron column with an Ionic capital. Each of the two storefronts have large display windows and a wood entry door with transom above. The second and third floor are identical with a two story bay window in the first and third bay with a mix of one-over-one and two-over-two double hung windows. The spandrel below each bay window features a swag and garland motif. The center bay is a single one-over-one window at each floor with a flat stone lintel. The composition is completed by a metal cornice with paired brackets at either end and the same swag and garland motif as the bay windows below.

41-45 Main Street c. 1885  
Ross Block



Ross Block

Two story, three-bay brick Italianate commercial building. Flat roof. The first floor contains a storefront in each bay with a recessed entry door, cast iron columns, large display windows with transom, and wood spandrel panels. A wood door with

transom between the first and second storefront is present for access to an interior staircase. The second floor has three, single one-over-one vinyl double hung windows in the first and third bays with a polygonal oriel in the center bay with single lite windows and a flat roof supported by curved brackets. Windows in the first and third bay all have simple hoods supported by curved brackets. The composition is completed by a metal cornice with "birdhouse" details defining each of the three bays and curved brackets across the whole length. The center portion projects above the roof line with an arch top and letters denoting the building as the "ROSS BLOCK" and noting the construction date as "1885." Now that the district is registered both with the state and listed on the National Register, owners can apply for state and federal tax credit. Owners of commercial properties can learn more about the tax ramifications, by contacting Jennifer Walkowski, Historic Preservation Specialist, National Register Unit – Western New York Region, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-1089 Phone 518-268-2137 or email Jennifer.walkowski@parks.ny.gov or visit the website at www.nys-parks.com

A request will be sent to The Pomeroy Foundation for the purchase of a historic marker, to be placed within the new district. The Foundation supplied the funds for the LeRoy 2012 Bicentennial marker that is located on Trigon Park as well as the marker that was placed near the Marion Steam Shovel on Gulf Road. The Pomeroy Foundation recently accepted the request for a Historic Landmark marker to be placed near the LeRoy Post office.