

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name The Leis Cottage  
other names/site number Camp Leisure

**2. Location**

street & number 26 Algonquin Avenue | | not for publication  
city, town Saranac lake (town of Harrietstown) | | vicinity  
state New York code NY county Franklin code 033 zip code 12983

**3. Classification**

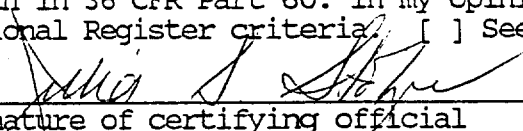
Ownership of property	Category	Number of resources within property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listings: Village of Saranac Lake  
Multiple Documentation Form

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, this property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

  
Signature of certifying official  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4/9/92  
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ see continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Function  
(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Health Care/sanitarium

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Other: cure cottage

Materials(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone & concrete

walls Wood/shingle

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The two-and one-half story Leis Cottage stands on a six-acre parcel, facing west onto the LaPan Highway near the intersection of that road and Algonquin Avenue. The wood frame structure has a gable roof running parallel to the street with a projecting cross-gable containing a tripartite window. A one story, L-shaped porch wraps around the southern and western facades of the house, continuing out to the north to create a porte-cochere over the driveway. A cobblestone chimney stands on the northwest corner, with a smaller stove chimney toward the rear of the house. A non-contributing two-car garage and two other non-contributing buildings are also located on the property.

The Leis cottage was remodeled several times in its history, and plots of land were also added to the original parcel. Several porches was added to and removed from the building at various times as well. Prior to 1928, a wing was added; the resulting L-shaped plan.

The cottage exterior is clad in wood shingles. The main entrance is off the porte-cochere on the northwest corner of the house. A second entrance is located on the southwest corner of the house.

## 8. Statement of Significance

8. Statement of significance  
 Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:        ☐ nationally    ☐ statewide    ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations                      [ ] A    [ ] B    [ ] C    [ ] D    [ ] E    [ ] F    [ ] G

## Areas of significance

### Period of Significance

### Significant Dates

Health/Medicine

1904-C.1940

1904

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

n/a

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Leis Cottage is architecturally significant as a representative example of a private home built specifically for housing a person with tuberculosis. It was built around 1904 by Henry Leis, son of a German cabinet and piano maker, who came to Saranac Lake in 1896 seeking a cure for pulmonary tuberculosis. In 1899, Henry and his brother, also ill, built and operated an inn at 33 Algonquin called "The Governor" while curing in tents on the hotel grounds. In 1903, Henry left the hotel business to operate Henry P. Leis Co. Pianos at 3-5 Bloomingdale Avenue (see the Leis Block nomination for details). It is thought he built this house around this time. Henry married Mary Disco, a dressmaker, in 1911, and the family owned the house until three or four years after Henry's death in 1940.

Originally the Leis Cottage was only used in the summer months, and the family spent winters in the village, first in rental units, later in an apartment in the Leis Block, where Henry had his piano showroom and warehouse. The house was known by the family as Camp Leisure, a word play upon the family's German surname. It is not known when the house was first adapted for year-round use, but its remodeling over the years mark the evolution of a single family's changing needs. The large veranda and the second-story sleeping porch remain as indicators of the curing needs of its residents.

[X] see continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

The Leis Cottage  
26 Algonquin Avenue  
Saranac Lake, Franklin County, NY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8    Page 2

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The cure cottages of Saranac Lake were predominantly built between the years of 1870 and 1930 and represent almost every housing type popular in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth century. They represent vernacular expressions of architectural styles which include Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and bungalow stylistic features. The majority of the cottages which remain were built between 1890 and 1930.

The most common cure cottages are vernacular expressions of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, with multiple gables, balloon frame construction, decorative wooden architectural detail, multiple windows of various sizes and shapes, and associated porches or verandas. Glass-enclosed porches, used for the curing of tuberculosis patients, are the most salient feature of the cure cottage. They can be found on local structures built long after porches had gone out of fashion elsewhere.

Cure cottages are structures which can be commercial, residential or institutional in scale and expression. Many were built specifically to function as private commercial sanatoria, multiple unit dwellings, boarding houses, or private homes. Equally large numbers of cure cottages were adapted for that use from vernacular single family dwellings. All cure cottages display certain architectural features which were necessary for specific functions in the process of curing tuberculosis outdoors. Whether added at a later date or incorporated into the original building design, these features can include multiple-storied cure porches, sliding glass panels, call bells and wider-than-usual doorways without sills.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ames, Forrest B. Health Survey, 1917

Gallos, Philip L. Cure Cottages of Saranac Lake: Architecture and History of a Pioneer Health Resort, Saranac Lake, NY: Historic Saranac lake, 1985

TB Society blue card

Pearce, Marie Leis. Interview. Saranac lake, NY. 1990.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 8.98 acres

UTM References

A 1181 15678000 149076200  
Zone Easting Northing

C 1111 11111111 11111111  
Zone Easting Northing

B 1111 11111111 11111111  
Zone Easting Northing

D 1111 11111111 11111111  
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Leis Cottage is shown as the heavy black outline on the accompanying map entitled "Leis Cottage, Saranac Lake, Franklin County, NY."

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property include the parcel historically associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Bliven, Preservation Consultant, Troy, New York

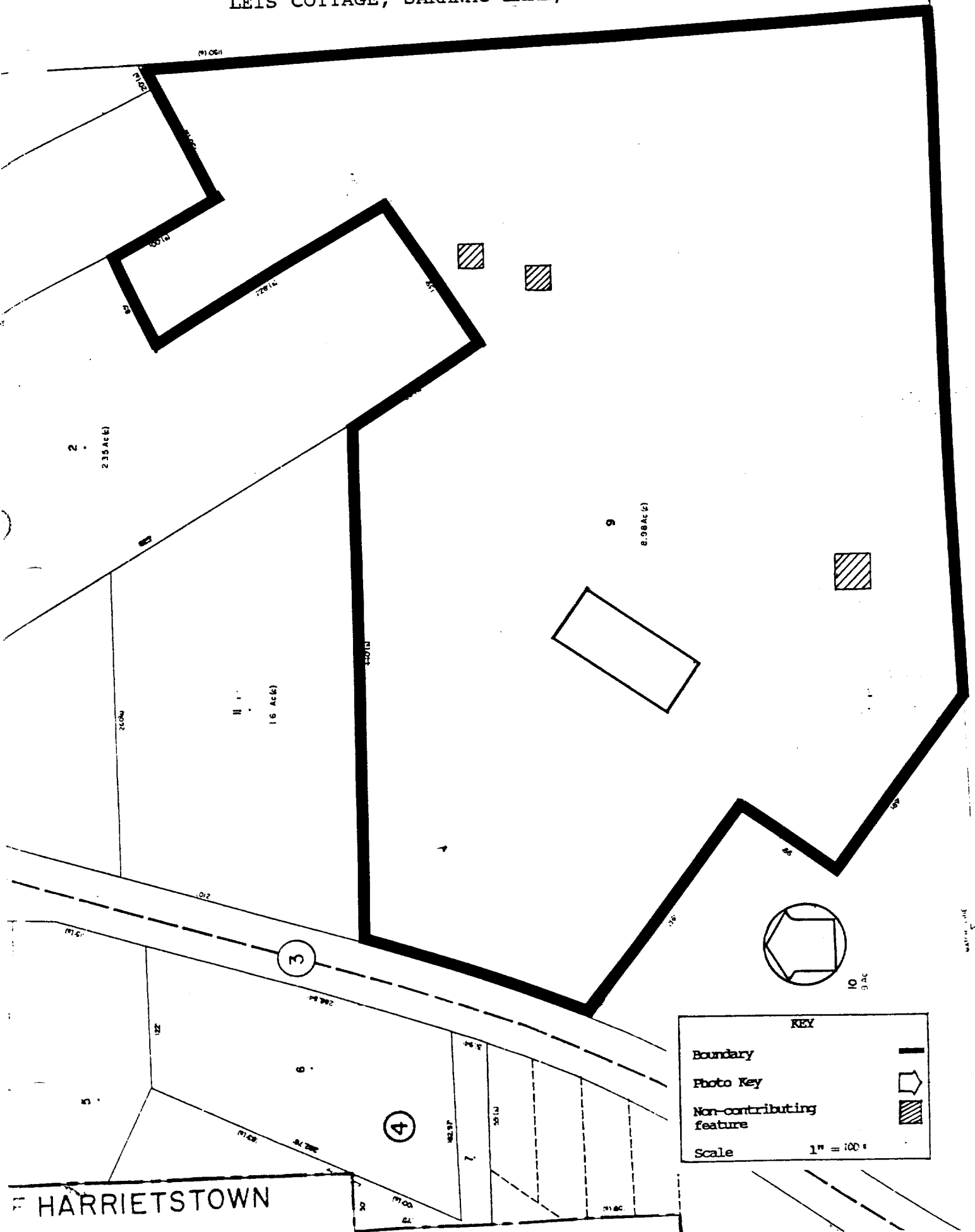
John A. Bonafide, Program Assistant

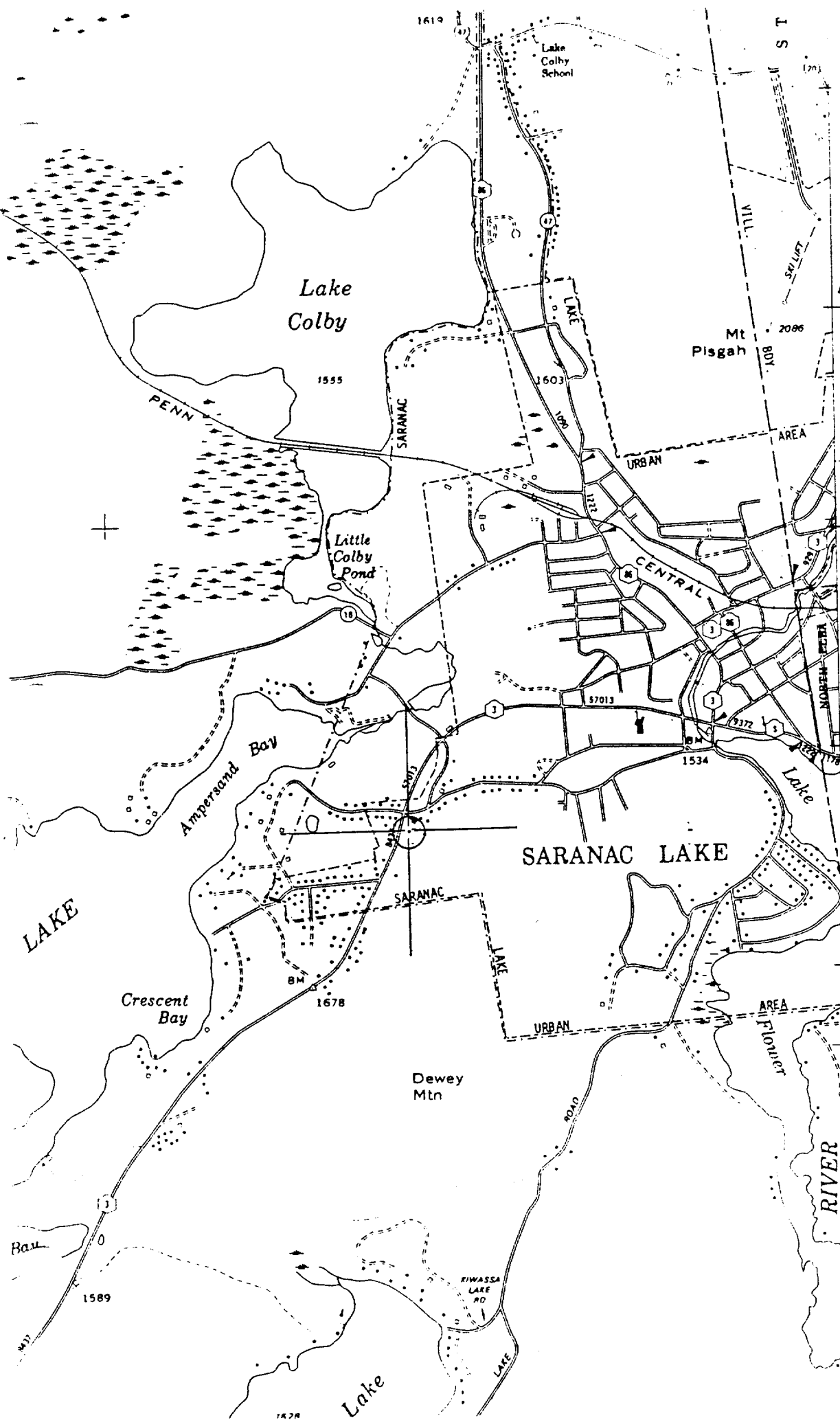
organization N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation date September 1991

street & number E.S.P. Agency Building 1 telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state New York zip code 12238

# LEIS COTTAGE, SARANAC LAKE, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY.





4910000m. N.

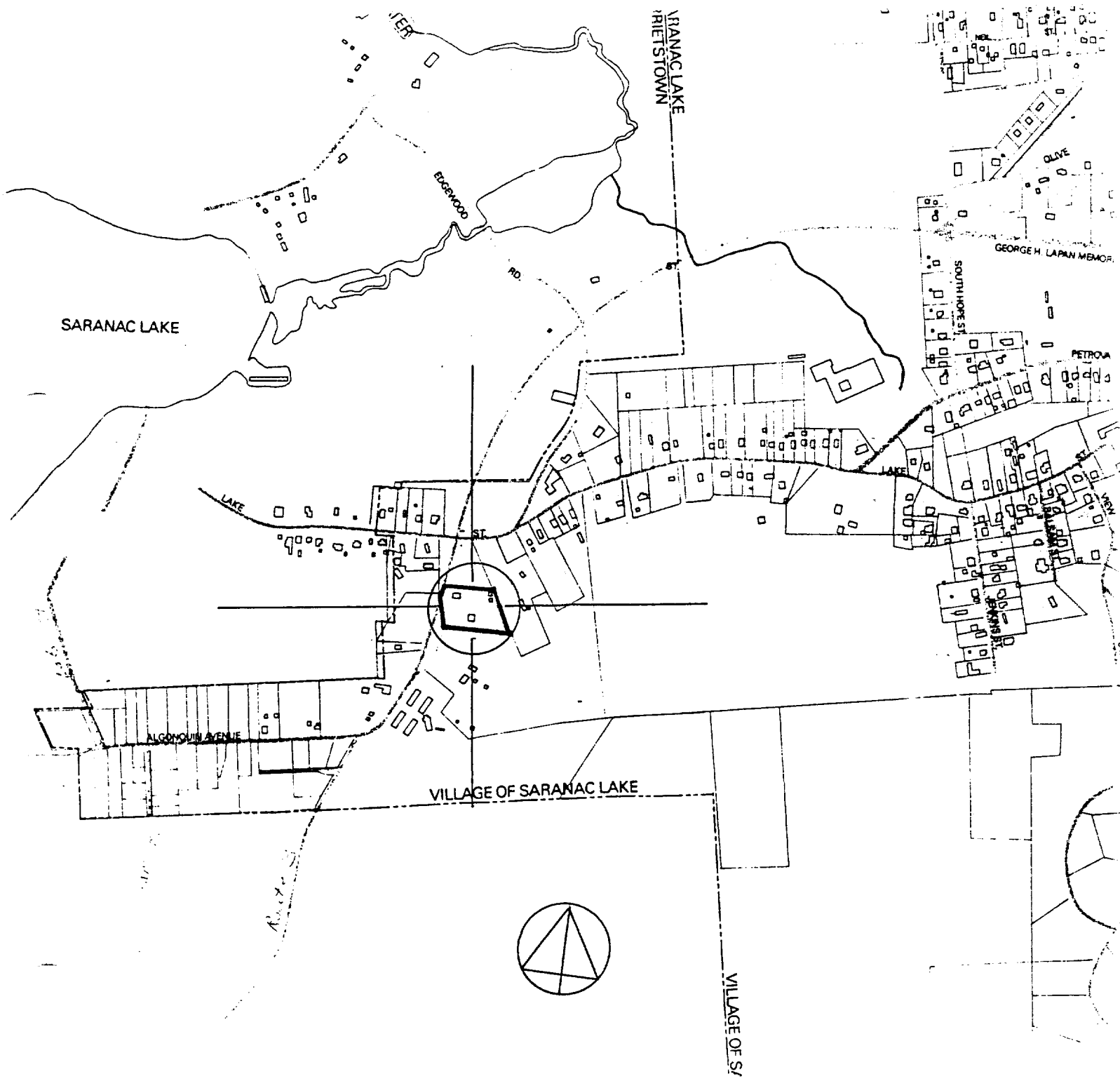
The Village of  
Saranac Lake  
M.P.D.F.

Saranac Lake, NY  
Zone 18  
Scale: 1:24,000

Easting 567800  
Northing 4907620

1570000

4905000m. N.



SARANAC LAKE

SARANAC LAKE  
RIEISTOWN

ELGINWOOD

RD.

GEORGE H. LAPIN MEMORIAL

SOUTH HOPE ST.

PETROLA

LAKE

ST.

ALGONQUIN AVENUE

VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE

VILLAGE OF ST.