

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 03347.000011
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

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YOUR NAME: Phil Gallos/Mary B. Hotaling DATE: 9/21/83

YOUR ADDRESS: Box 59, Saranac Lake TELEPHONE: (518) 891-3080 ext 59

ORGANIZATION (if any): Historic Saranac Lake

IDENTIFICATION

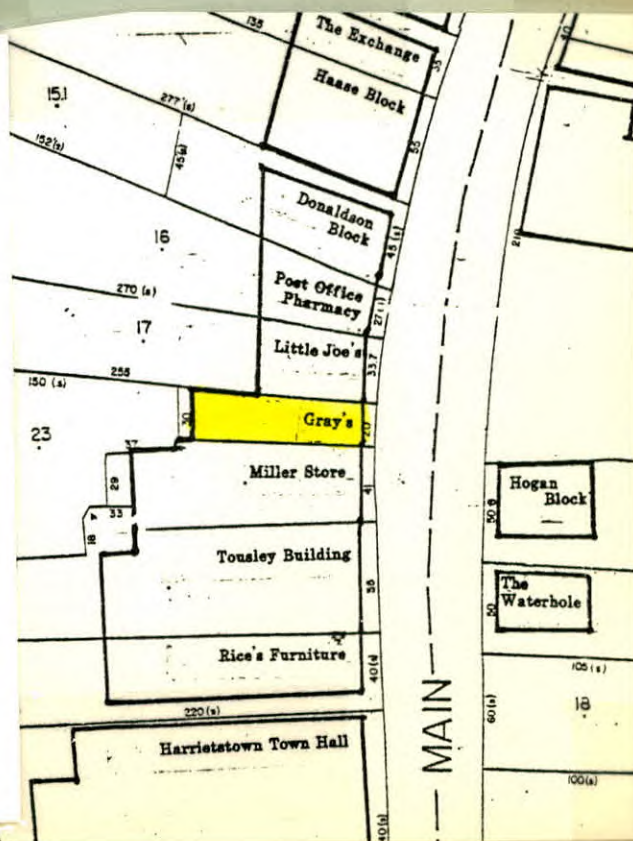
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): The Gift Corner-Yum Yum Tree; Gray's Bookstore
- 2. COUNTY: Franklin TOWN/CITY: Harrietstown VILLAGE: Saranac Lake
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 46 Main St.
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Mary Fredenburgh ADDRESS: 46 Main St., Saranac Lake, N.Y. *1000 55 Main*
- 6. USE: Original: book store Present: gift shop
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain retail operation

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: concrete facing
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) steel frame and brick
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
1982 - new owner and remodeling of interior

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
 d. developers e. deterioration
 f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
 a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
 d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
 g. shop h. gardens
 i. landscape features: _____
 j. other: _____
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
 a. open land b. woodland
 c. scattered buildings
 d. densely built-up e. commercial
 f. industrial g. residential
 h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
 (Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

In the Berkeley Square Historic District.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
 Tin ceiling

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1925
 ARCHITECT: William G. Distin, Sr.
 BUILDER: Earl Lenier Gray, owner.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

SEE ATTACHED.

21. SOURCES: Franklin County Clerk's records, Malone, N.Y.

22. THEME: Pioneer Health Resort

GRAY'S

In April, 1921, Clinton J. Ayres, who was in the real estate business, bought the land on which 48-50 Main Street stands. The purchase was made from the Miller Estate and included the narrow strip between that building and the Miller Store which was then a vacant lot. Six months later, Ayres resold the property to John Ridenour, publisher of the Adirondack Enterprise, who made the purchase for investment purposes. Ridenour, in turn, sold the developed part of this land to Walter Sagendorf in June, 1922, but retained the vacant portion until June, 1925, when it was purchased by Earl Lenier Gray. (For more information on Ridenour and Sagendorf see the discussions of the Fowler Block and the Blue Gention, respectively.)

Here, Gray built the building now bearing the address 46 Main St. The design was by William G. Distin, Sr.

In his new building, Gray opened a shop selling books, school supplies, "tasteful" souvenirs, art supplies, and fishing equipment. His brother, Bertrand H. Gray, (who with E. B. Hay owned the Adirondack Art Company) was an avid sportsman. Though the two brothers were very different in temperament and were not business partners, "Ber" Gray did have an influence on Earl to the extent that they designed and manufactured a fishing lure which they sold at the store (they were made in the basement on a die-stamping machine purchased for that purpose).

While Ber Gray was the sportsman, E. L. Gray (no one remembers him being called "Earl") was the "gentleman". He always comported himself as such and conducted his business in a gentlemanly manner -- selling nothing cheap or gaudy and running the store everyday dressed in a three-piece suit.

Occasionally, his strictness about business matters caused problems. Gray had the contract with the local school district to supply textbooks. He would invariably order precisely as many as he was told would be needed, and he almost as invariably would run short. Years after he retired and the business was owned by Bill Harvey, Gray advised the younger man, "Don't get involved with textbooks."

In Dec., 1955, Gray sold "The Bookstore", as it is still sometimes called, to Donald R. Moreau who, five years later, sold the

business to William L. Harvey, Jr. but retained ownership of the building. It is currently occupied by a patisserie, a gift shop, and an office supply store which have all come in during 1982 and 83.

E. L. Gray died in the early 1960's He was pre-deceased by his wife, Beatrice. He had no children, so most of his estate went to a distant cousin. He did, however, leave \$30,000 to the Saranac Lake Free Library -- a most appropriate gift from a bookstore proprietor.

The body of The Book Store building is steel-frame and brick. Because of the slope from Main Street to the river, it is one story high at the front and two stories at rear. The rear windows are steel-frame casement.

This very narrow, very deep building has a concrete facing that reflects in its outline the curves of the Second Empire structures that are its neighbors. The storefront is quiet and dignified and has an exceptionally deep, trapezoidal entry. The display windows are bronze-trimmed and rest upon a "black granite" base. In a slightly recessed panel above a series of transom lights above the storefront, the words "THE BOOK STORE" are written in slender, bronze letters.

On the concrete facing to either side of the display windows, there were once two bronze plaques. Each bore the name "GRAY'S".

by Phil Gallos

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