

# 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. 001-06-0019  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Town of Guilderland DATE: June 1, 1979

YOUR ADDRESS: Town Hall, Guilderland, N.Y. TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Strassburg Residence
2. COUNTY: Albany TOWN/CITY: Guilderland VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. STREET LOCATION: 1 McKown Rd.
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Mary Strassburg ADDRESS: 1 McKown Rd., Albany, N.Y. 12203
6. USE: Original: Residence Present: Residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain by appointment

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☒ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☒ g. stucco ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_
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) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☐ b. moved ☒ if so, when? circa 1945  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):  
New foundation ca. 1945

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)

There are commercial properties on the north side of the property and residential communities on the east and south. The house was moved in 1945 from the corner of McKown Rd. & Western Ave. to its present site behind its carriage house.

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

Two-story, multi-gable roof, Queen Anne Style design, square tower with flared eaves and crowned with wrought-iron finial, exposed framing in end gables, house and carriage house have pressed-tin roofing shingles, porch posts are decorated with carved fan brackets.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1887

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The largely unaltered house and matching carriage house are outstanding examples of the modest scaled Queen Anne style buildings surviving in the town. At one time the house was located on the eastern corner of Western Avenue and McKown Road and a similar house was located on the western corner. The move to a rear lot prevented this house from becoming the severely altered commercial structure its "sister" building became. Although not in its original setting, the building retains its integrity of design and materials and is a well-preserved example of its type and period in a suburban area where such survivals are extremely rare. The original setting has been encroached upon by commercial develop-

21. SOURCES: Albany County Clerk's and Assessor's office,  
Arthur B. Gregg, Town historian

22. THEME:

Historic Resources of Guilderland (Phase I)  
Guilderland, NY  
Albany County  
Strassburg Residence (Building #2)

continuation sheet

20. ment and would no longer provide a character appropriate to the detailed residential building.

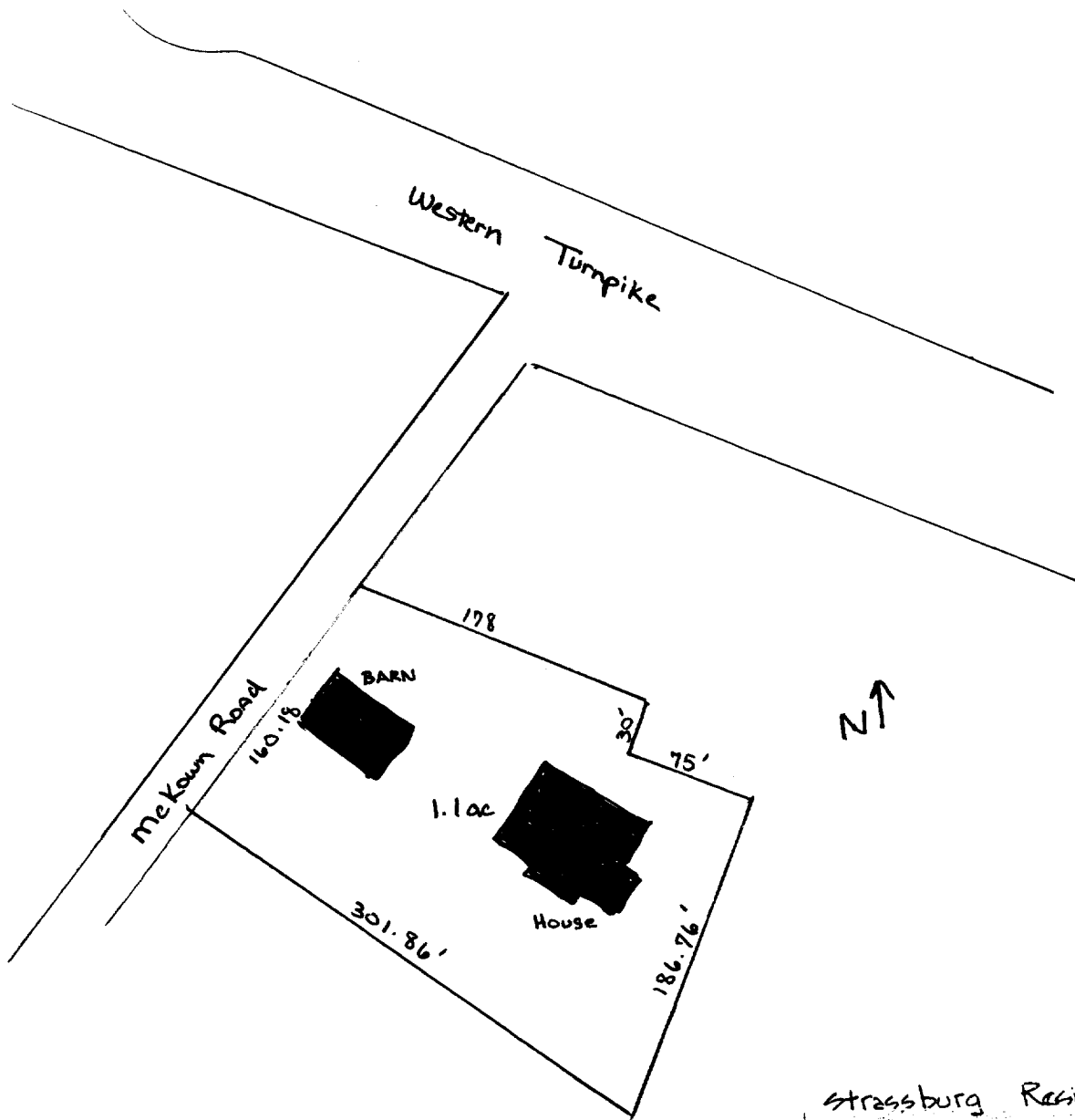
The two-story building is distinguished by turned porch posts with carved fan brackets, bands of fishscale shingles which contrast with the first and second story clapboard, gable ornamentation and brackets. Its irregular plan and massing, incorporated tower, and encircling veranda are classic and defining characteristics of the Queen Anne style. The pressed metal roofing shingles are unusual surviving examples of late nineteenth century roofing materials.

Historic Resources of  
Guilderland (Phase I)  
Guilderland, New York  
Albany County  
BUILDING # 2 - *Strassburg Residence*

Carriage barn  
looking south

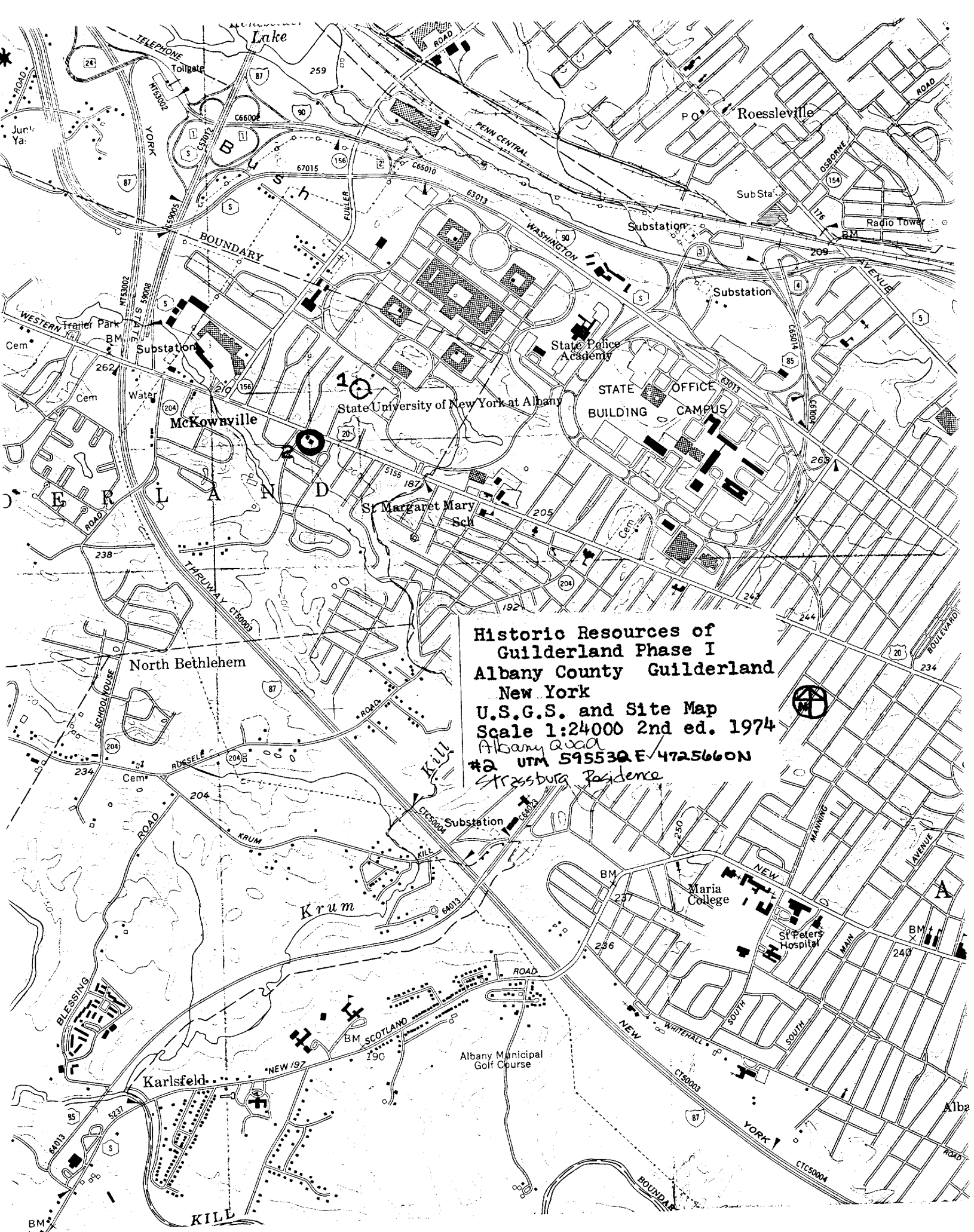
1 McKown Rd

Building #2



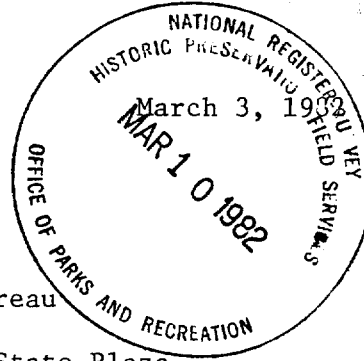
Strassburg Residence  
Historic Resources of  
Guilderland Phase I  
Albany County Guilderland  
New York  
Site Map (from tax map)  
Smith & Mahoney 1979

1"=100'



Historic Resources of  
Guilderland Phase I  
Albany County Guilderland  
New York  
U.S.G.S. and Site Map  
Scale 1:24000 2nd ed. 1974  
Albany Quad  
#2 UTM 595530E 4725660N  
Strassburg Residence

*AW's  
appeal  
action*



RECEIVED  
MAR 8 1982 27  
TRANSMISSION

Mr. Orin Lehman  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Field Service Bureau  
Agency Building #1  
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Re: Mary I. Strassburg  
1 McKown Road  
Albany, New York 12203

This is not a Historic Site. This property simply is not within the realm, and I have no interest and do not want to be considered.

Sincerely,

*Mary I. Strassburg*  
Mary I. Strassburg

MS

P.S.: Attachment (3 pages)

*Arlene E. Herbert*

ARLENE E. HERBERT  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Albany County  
My Commission Expires March 30, 1983

RECEIVED

MAR 10 1982  
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
A W S

March 3, 1982

Mr. Orin Lehman  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Field Service Bureau  
Agency Building #1  
Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12238

Re: Mary I. Strassburg  
1 McKown Road  
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Received your letter dated February 24, 1982 Re: 1 McKown Road  
Multiple Resources of Guilderland, Albany Co.

This house now is not like the picture of the past and I feel it is unfair to judge it today with yesterday's pictures. This house has been in the Strassburg's possession for approximately 34 years. I was shocked to receive in my mail, papers that the house was to be considered as a landmark with all this commercial property surrounding this home now.

I do not believe this is a landmark, or should be considered as such for the following reasons:

1. This house was moved from the original site (it was located where the gas station is now). Atlantic-Richfield owned it, sold it to the Hammonds and they had it moved to its present location. The front of the house faced Western Avenue - when moved the front was faced on McKown Road. When my husband and I purchased the home, we were told it had no meaning other than being an older home and it was purchased as such. Also, the town permitted our request to convert it to a 2 family home with no restriction in remodeling. Therefore, the entire inside was stripped, rooms changed, an addition removed, water, electric and bathrooms installed. With the major renovations there is no historic significance in the interior of this house.
2. The exterior, due to a leaking roof that damaged the walls, now has a conventional roof (originally the roof was tin). Some of the gingerbread had to be removed and the porch steps replaced. I wanted to remove the porch, but I was told it would shift the building. Upstairs, the rooms were panelled and the same should be done downstairs.

This house cannot be painted. I have had two painters give me an opinion. Due to old dry wood the only thing is siding and all gingerbread has to be removed to do this. There is, at present, quite a heat loss due to the old, dry wood. Also a construction man agreed that the house should be aluminum-sided instead of painting.



March 3, 1982

3. The barn is in very poor condition and the windows have been boarded. The door cannot be opened due to shifting of the building.

4. I am now surrounded by 4 commercial buildings and businesses. Cars are parked on 3 sides of my house all day and some at night and weekends. Trucks, trailers, gas delivery trucks and cars are going through all day in the back of the garage building, which is on the side of my driveway. Across the street, a landmark home was just demolished and a business went up and the delivery and pick-up dock is across from my driveway in front of my house. Also a rubbish bin was put there. Long exposed windows and cars are my view. The windows have signs and materials displayed, the gas/garage business has a rubbish bin, tires, boxes, etc.; all in view of the side of my house. Garbage is thrown across the fence onto my property by workers from Tusang/Barhydt lunching (spring, summer and fall). Snow is pushed by the businesses to the edges of their lines which meet mine and close me in. My trees are broken down by pushing the snow back. Trees I had planted to hide some of the undesirable views, are ruined by gas fumes and cars pushing up against the trees. On McKown Road and Westlyn Street beer cans, food, liquor bottles and boxes are tossed and blown onto my property and driveway.

I cannot open the bottom half of my drapes in the diningroom. It faces the gas/garage business, where cars are parked on the edge of my driveway and in the evening a multi-colored neon sign shines into the room - not a pleasant diningroom view.

I have been advised to remove certain trees that overhang on the house as they will damage the conventional roofing. If this is done, I will be more exposed to the businesses.

If this house was considered a landmark, why then when the garage requested expanding further back towards my house and the latest commercial business was constructed, a stop was not issued to the developers? Mr. Barhydt of Tusang and Barhydt said he was thinking of adding another floor on top of the building and has permission to do so. He said at the time the present building was built, the roof was done in such a manner that a second floor could be added at a future date. All of this has and will further lower the value of my residence. If he does not add the second floor, if when or if he sells that is an added feature.

5. When the businesses are closed - it is a "hang out." Not exactly a safe spot for a house. A prospective buyer looks at it as undesirable for a home as I know, as I have tried to sell it.

6. I would not think this house would be an asset to McKownville (Guilderland) to be known as a historic landmark. It is also unfair to me after all these years as a property owner. Prospective buyers of a historic house would not be interested in this because of the commercial businesses surrounding my property.

March 3, 1982

If this house is on a "register" it will hinder any possibility I have to sell it at the best offer I can get. The house was not sold to the Strassburgs as a landmark of any kind, and I do not believe it should be designated as such now that all the commercial businesses were permitted to surround the house. The house was bought with no restrictions and I feel it should remain as purchased.

7. The barn and house was zoned as "business" by the town.

8. The Town Assessor had lowered (from the original full assessment) my assessment, due to the latest commercial business erected across the road from my house. All the commercial businesses are too close for a residential home to be desirable.

9. I do not intend to avail myself of any loans under any "historic" program. I shall do the necessities, and if I remain here then all gingerbread comes down, plus the porch, to put siding on the house.

10. I have been in many historic/landmark homes in Albany and in other cities, but they are historic interior and exterior and in nice settings. The rehabilitation in Albany (downtown) is by blocks, not a single old house as this one is, is surrounded by commercial businesses.

I do not wish that my house be designated as a historic site because of the surrounding commercial properties. I request this house to be left as an older home under which description it was purchased.

Very truly yours,

*Mary I. Strassburg*  
Mary I. Strassburg

MS

P.S.: I am (Mary I. Strassburg) the sole owner of this property, and I live in it alone.

*Arlene E. Herbert*  
ARLENE E. HERBERT  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Albany County  
My Commission Expires March 30, 1983