

Village home designated to historic register



Helen McKay's Church Street home has been added to the register of historic places.

By ADAM BOSCH

If at first you don't succeed apply, apply again.

That would seem to be the motto of Helen McKay, who finally got her home at 32 Church Street in the Village of Walden designated to the state and national historic registers after 30 years of unsuccessful attempts.

McKay, a former village clerk, began compiling historic information and pitching the history of Church Street to state and county officials in 1975. Her efforts were fruitless across three decades until her house, formally named the "Gilbert Millspaugh House," was designated to the state and national lists.

"In 1975 I started out to do the whole street with the church as a landmark," McKay said. "But after a while the people in control died and the records disappeared. I still wanted to do something so in 1996 I got start-

ed working on the house."

McKay and her husband, Nelson, bought the house after he returned from World War II. McKay said the house and its barn required numerous repairs and upgrades in the years after her family bought it. The house was built in 1874 for Richard T. Masten and his wife according to bank records.

A tireless history buff, McKay is also working to complete a chronology of the history of Walden. The chronology was begun by String Cooper, who has since died according to McKay.

"I want to finish it to honor him," she said. "He finished up to 1955 and I'm finishing from '56 to now. I only have eight years left."

McKay is researching the history of the village through local newspapers and material from the village library. She will present it to the village for approval when it is complete, she said.