



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old and Historic Leesburg District includes "all areas encompassed by the original town as the boundaries are shown on a map designated 'Grays New Map of Leesburg,' drawn from special surveys in the year 1878 and located in the town of Leesburg Zoning Office." The exact legal description of the boundaries may be found in Article 10A, section 1, of the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Leesburg as amended March 31, 1968. The district covers approximately thirty-six blocks or portions of blocks which conform to a rough grid plan and takes in the central and major portion of the modern town of Leesburg.

Near the center of the district is the court square which is surrounded by architecturally agreeable commercial and administrative structures of mostly nineteenth century origin. The court house is located near the intersection of King and Market Streets which are the principal commercial streets. The remaining streets in the district are almost entirely residential and contain a harmonious assemblage of townhouse types dating from the late-eighteenth century through the twentieth century. The visual quality and charm of the streets is enhanced by an abundance of large shade trees, brick sidewalks, and pleasant, well maintained yards. The approaches to the town from the north and west are as yet largely unspoiled, but those from the south and especially the east are badly marred by vulgar commercial development. Leesburg is surrounded by what it considered to be some of the most beautiful countryside on the eastern seaboard.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |   |                                       |  |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian) | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century   | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The town of Leesburg was established in 1758 by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia authorizing Nicholas Minor to sell lots from a sixty acre tract surrounding his tavern. The town was to serve as the county seat for the newly formed Loudoun County. A committee of three men had been appointed a year earlier to lay out "proper streets" and their report, which still exists, forms the basis for the present layout of the community. The settlement had been known as Georgetown in honor of King George II until the county was formed in 1758, and the name was changed to Leesburg in honor of Francis Lightfoot Lee.

The town grew significantly during its first several decades, but expansion slowed considerably from the War Between the States to the post-World War II era. As a result, Leesburg possesses an important collection of structures dating from the late-eighteenth century through the early-nineteenth century, most of which are well maintained. Especially notable structures include the following: The Laurel Brigade Inn, an early stone tavern still in operation; Osburn's Tavern, scene of a reception for Lafayette during his visit in 1825; the "Old Tavern," an architecturally distinguished structure built in the late-eighteenth century; and the County Office Building, a dignified Greek Revival building erected circa 1844 as the Leesburg Academy. The brick Classic Revival Loudoun County Court House was completed in 1895 on the site of two previous court houses. Also located in the town is the significant site of the Old Stone Church, demolished in 1900. The lot, which was purchased by the Methodists on May 11, 1766, was the first property owned by the Methodists in America.

The numerous early dwellings and commercial buildings, along with the structures cited, combine to make Leesburg one of the best preserved and most picturesque communities in Virginia. Fortunately the historic integrity and scenic quality of the town have received protection through historic zoning established in recent years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

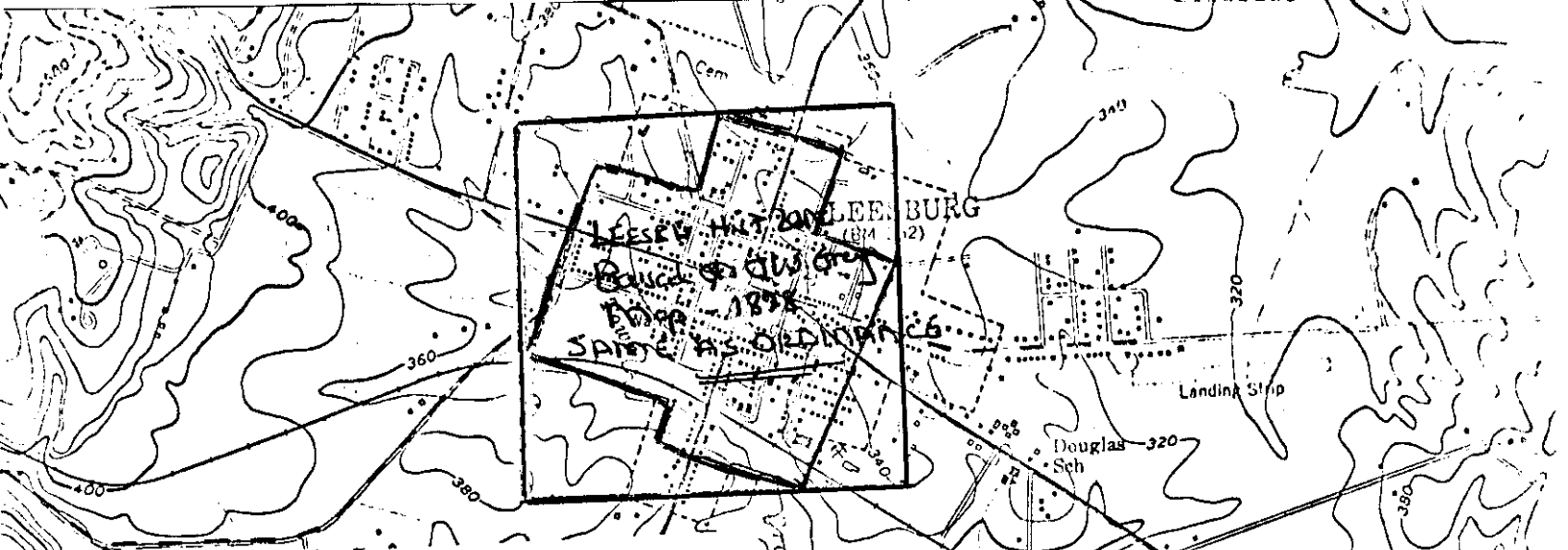
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Loudoun	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

- 6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 08

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #253-1  
1969 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

- 2. In order to preserve the unique cultural heritage represented by the original section of the town, there is hereby established in the Town of Leesburg a district to be known as the "Old and Historic Leesburg District" which shall include all areas encompassed by the original town as the boundaries are shown on a map designated "Grays New Map of Leesburg," drawn from special surveys in the year 1878 and located in the Town of Leesburg Zoning Office. The boundaries are as follows:  
"Beginning on the east at the intersection of Loudoun and Market Streets and running northeast parallel to Church Street to the intersection of a line in projection of North Street; thence northwest in a straight line to and along North Street to the intersection of Church Street; thence northeast in a straight line parallel to King Street to the intersection of a line in projection of Union Street; thence in a straight line northwest to and along Union Street to the intersection of a line in extension of Liberty Street; thence southwest in a straight line to the intersection of Liberty and North Streets; thence northwest in a straight line in extension of North Street until intersecting a line in projection of Ayr Street; thence southwest to and along Ayr Street to a point 100 feet southwest of the intersection of Ayr Street and Town Branch Creek; thence in a straight line in extension of South Street southeast to a point 200 feet west of King Street, still on an extension of South Street; thence in a straight line southwest parallel to King Street to a point 500 feet south of the railroad; thence east across King Street in a straight line parallel to South Street for 1700 feet; thence northeast in a straight line parallel to King Street to the intersection of Loudoun and Market Streets."



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)  
 Leesburg, Va.-Md. (1952)

(USES GARYS  
 MAP of 1878  
 for Boundaries)

Leesburg Preservation Zone

Latitude	Longitude
NW 39° 07' 14"	77° 34' 22"
NE 39° 07' 14"	77° 33' 32"
SE 39° 06' 34"	77° 33' 32"
SW 39° 06' 34"	77° 34' 22"

TO: Denning on Top Map  
 PEC

270471  
 29 March 71

