

2.0 METHODOLOGY

This methodology statement is prepared as part of the reconnaissance survey tasks. It outlines the research sources identified, field strategies, context development approach, and decision-making structure for the project. It includes the selection criteria used to identify surveyed properties, as well as an annotated list of surveyed properties (Section 5). All project tasks and products will meet the NYOPRHP criteria, methodology, and current standards for an historic resources reconnaissance survey.

The CBCA project team worked in full cooperation with NYSHPO staff member(s) to finalize the methodology and project objectives. Christine Longiaru, CBCA principal investigator, initiated consultation with NY SHPO staff at Peebles Island, NY on November 4, 2003. This initial meeting included the presentation and discussion of the ZVI map by Ms. Longiaru to Bob Kuhn, Mark Peckham, and Claire Ross. Additional consultation included subsequent telephone conversations with Claire Ross for further clarification and additional information regarding changes in the project scope and the methodology.

2.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

A preliminary search for documentary research materials for the Towns of Ripley, Westfield and Chautauqua in Chautauqua County has been completed and forms the basis for the historical overview (Section 3). NYOPRHP files were consulted for existing inventory and National Register forms, and for previous cultural resource surveys reports conducted within the five-mile ZVI radius. Research was conducted at the Chautauqua County Historian's office in Mayville and the Patterson Library in Westfield. Background information on the overall history and development of each of the towns and villages in the project area and of the county as a whole (historic maps and atlases, local histories, and unpublished materials) were identified and examined. The historic overview highlights and summarizes existing planning and historic preservation information on the project study area. A working bibliography appears at the end of the report (Appendix A).

2.2 RECONNAISSANCE FIELD SURVEY

The reconnaissance survey focused on identifying and documenting properties located within the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) of the proposed turbine locations that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The ZVI is defined as a zone within the five-mile radius surrounding the turbine locations from which one or more of the turbines are potentially visible. Locations were determined to be in view of the turbines via GIS software simulation based on topographical elevation. Ecology & Environment (E&E) conducted the GIS simulation and supplied aerial maps with the ZVI results for use in this study. Yellow shaded areas on the ZVI map indicate where the turbines would not be visible within the radius, which is identified by E&E as the "Zone of Zero Visibility." All locations within the five-mile radius not shaded on the aerial maps constitute the ZVI.

Because the ZVI is discontinuous throughout the study area, it was necessary to traverse every road within the five-mile radius. In addition, the SHPO requested that the project team drive the entire project area to assess the architectural character of the region and to note any historic resources not in the ZVI that might be significant (CBCA Initial Consultation with NY SHPO staff, November 4, 2004). In the process of strategically navigating the road network in the project

area, representative photographs showing the proposed locations of the turbines were taken as per SHPO request (Personal communication with Claire Ross, NYSHPO, 11/14/03).

Only buildings sufficiently visible from public roads were evaluated for this survey. Any building that would have required trespassing on private property to observe or photograph was not included. However, only a few buildings were not visible from the public right-of-way. These properties were located in heavily wooded rural areas and, based on historic map analysis, were unlikely to be older than 50 years. Additionally, private communities along the Lake Erie shoreline were not surveyed due to lack of access.

2.2.1 Selection Criteria

Criteria and guidelines were developed to guide the selection of properties for the reconnaissance survey. The criteria were based on the historic themes and property types established in the historic and existing conditions overviews, and on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria for Evaluation. The National Register Criteria are stated as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Actual determinations of eligibility are made by the Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYOPRHP).

The survey team traversed both improved and unimproved public roads within the five-mile radius to locate any buildings in the ZVI that appeared to be over 50 years-old and could be eligible for listing in the NHRP. Properties over 50 years-old that had insufficient integrity because of substantial later alterations, such as vinyl or metal siding, replacement windows, and incompatible additions, were not included because such alterations strongly compromise a building's historic, character-defining features. Buildings over 50 years-old with integrity were photographed with a digital camera. Information recorded about each property included location, style, age, architectural details, condition and integrity. Documentation gathered in the field is presented in the Annotated List of Properties (Section 5).

Buildings known to have historical significance because of their association with events or individuals were also identified for the survey. Consultation with Michelle Henry (Chautauqua County Historian) and Ellen Schwanekamp (Librarian, Chautauqua County Historical Society), and preliminary review of local history materials did not identify any such resources that were not already identified and included as part of historic districts or other surveys. Information obtained from the files of the NYOPRHP identified previously inventoried properties. National

Register Listed and National Register Eligible properties on file with the NYOPRHP were not inventoried as part of the reconnaissance survey. The fieldwork team assessed the integrity of previously inventoried properties without NRHP eligibility determinations and documented those properties that retained their integrity.

In the case of farmsteads, outbuildings were also evaluated for age and integrity since the project area is predominantly rural and has a strong agricultural heritage. Outbuildings were included in the survey even when they had some later additions around a historic core, because these accretions illustrate the evolution of regional farming practices. If the main house of a farm complex appeared to have insufficient integrity, but its outbuilding had age and integrity, the property was included in the survey. The presence of vineyards on the farmstead was also taken into consideration in evaluating the outbuildings, because viticulture is the predominant farming activity in the project area. Dairy barns, another important local heritage landscape feature, were also given particular consideration.

For the purposes of this reconnaissance survey, if both a house and its farm outbuildings had age and moderate architectural integrity then the property was included in the survey. The initial reconnaissance survey of the study area indicated that agricultural outbuildings in the Town of Westfield generally had higher integrity and were more plentiful than in the Town of Ripley. Therefore, the standards for including outbuildings in the Town of Westfield were slightly higher than for including those in Ripley. The survey team recorded representative examples of the agricultural outbuildings in each town because it was important for the overall historical and architectural context of the region, even if some buildings in Ripley had less integrity.

2.2.2 Survey Approach

Fieldwork was conducted during November and early December 2003. Initially, the survey was conducted from west to east and north to south. However, weather constraints necessitated altering this approach somewhat. Revised ZVI maps provided by E&E on November 23rd indicated a larger ZVI area than had been indicated on the maps initially used by the survey team. This change required traversing certain road sections again. It also required including all of the Village of Westfield and more of the Village of Ripley in the survey, areas that were predominantly in the Zones of Zero Visibility, (the yellow shaded areas on the original maps).

Aerial maps generated by E&E indicating the five-mile ZVI served as the baseline maps for the fieldwork. CBCA assigned an arbitrary record number for each property surveyed and identified it on the field maps. All surveyed properties are keyed by street address to a final locational map submitted with the reconnaissance survey (Section 6).

The Village of Westfield had been surveyed previously in the process of establishing two National Register Districts there in 1983, the East Main Street District and the French Portage Road District. However, these districts focus on the main roads and do not include other parts of the village. Also, at the time of the 1983 survey for the historic districts, a large number of properties in the village were not yet 50 years of age. Once it became evident that the village core was in the ZVI, it was necessary to survey the village streets that were not included in the NR Districts.

The progress of the fieldwork was recorded on a fieldmap to ensure that all roads were traversed with no segments overlooked. The fieldwork progressed in stages as follows.

The fieldwork team first traversed the Ripley section of Route 5, then the rural roads south of the escarpment in Ripley, followed by Route 20 in Ripley including the village and its side streets within the ZVI, and then the roads between Route 20 and the escarpment. In Westfield, Route 20 and the rural roads to the south were surveyed first, along with some of the small section of the Town of Chautauqua within the radius.

The remaining sections to be surveyed were the areas around and within Mayville, Route 5 in Westfield, the outskirts of Westfield village and the hamlet of Barcelona. The project team became aware of the increased ZVI area prior to completing fieldwork in these sections. Therefore, when they returned to continue fieldwork, it was necessary to re-visit parts of Routes 5 and 20 in Ripley and parts of the village. Route 5 in Westfield was surveyed next and the hamlet of Barcelona, and then the rural roads west of Mayville. The Village of Mayville, which was partly within the ZVI on the original maps, was entirely outside it on the revised maps. However, the project team did visit Mayville in the process of conducting historical research.

The Westfield Village fieldwork was the last area to be completed in early December 2003. The streets south of Main Street were surveyed first, then the streets north of Main, then the area west of Chautauqua Creek. Lastly, some roads along the outskirts of the village to the east and west were surveyed.

2.3 Annotated List of Properties

The Annotated List of Properties (Section 5) catalogs 287 primary buildings and properties documented by CBCA in the three townships comprising the reconnaissance survey area. Cemeteries are represented in the final count, but outbuildings are not. The list includes more than 36 outbuildings. This number is not finite as many of the farm complexes had multiple outbuildings that were either identified as part of a complex, or they were not visible from the side of the road. For the purpose of clarity, the survey table and architectural summary have been organized according to the following geographic areas.

In Ripley, the area north of the escarpment from Side Hill Road to the lakeshore, the Lake Plains, is one section (Ripley A [RA]. It includes NY Route 5 and US Route 20. The Village of Ripley (Ripley B [RB]), which is within this area, is addressed separately. The rural section atop the escarpment south of Side Hill Road to the end of the five-mile radius is the third area in Ripley (Ripley C [RC]).

In Westfield, a similar three-part division is used: the area north of the escarpment to the lakeshore (Westfield A [WA]), Westfield Village (Westfield B [WB]), and the rural area to the south (Westfield C [WC]). The Town of Chautauqua segment in the southernmost portion of the project area is treated as one area because it is limited and entirely rural.

For the table of surveyed resources, records for the seven geographic survey areas are grouped and labeled as follows:

Ripley Lake Plains- RA
Ripley Village- RB
Ripley Rural South-RC

Westfield Lake Plains- WA
Westfield Village- WB

Westfield Rural South- WC

Chautauqua- C

The table includes a photograph of each resource, location, date, condition, alterations, description, and a rating of the potential significance of the resource. Note: accompanying dates are circa dates based on exterior stylistic details and historic materials. Additionally, providing an accurate and precise time of construction of barns is usually difficult, especially when limited to a reconnaissance survey.

The ratings key is the following:

- Significant: (S) = Extremely high architectural and/or historical significance. Potentially eligible for National Register listing based on observable architectural features, historic integrity, and historic associations.
- Contributing: (C) = Above-average architectural and/or historical significance. Most significant architectural features remain intact. May warrant local designation or may contribute to potential National Register District.
- Non-contributing (NC) = Historic buildings which have been compromised by modern additions or stripped of historic, character defining features.

Individual buildings selected as significant generally have a high quality of design and exhibit a recognizable architectural style such as Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Four-square, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, or Tudor. They retain a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Vernacular houses and outbuildings, that may not represent a particular style, but retain design elements, craftsmanship, or form typical of a historic period have been included.

Those properties identified by CBCA as significant are recommended for the intensive level survey, which will include additional documentation for the completion of NYOPRHP historic resource inventory forms ("blue forms").

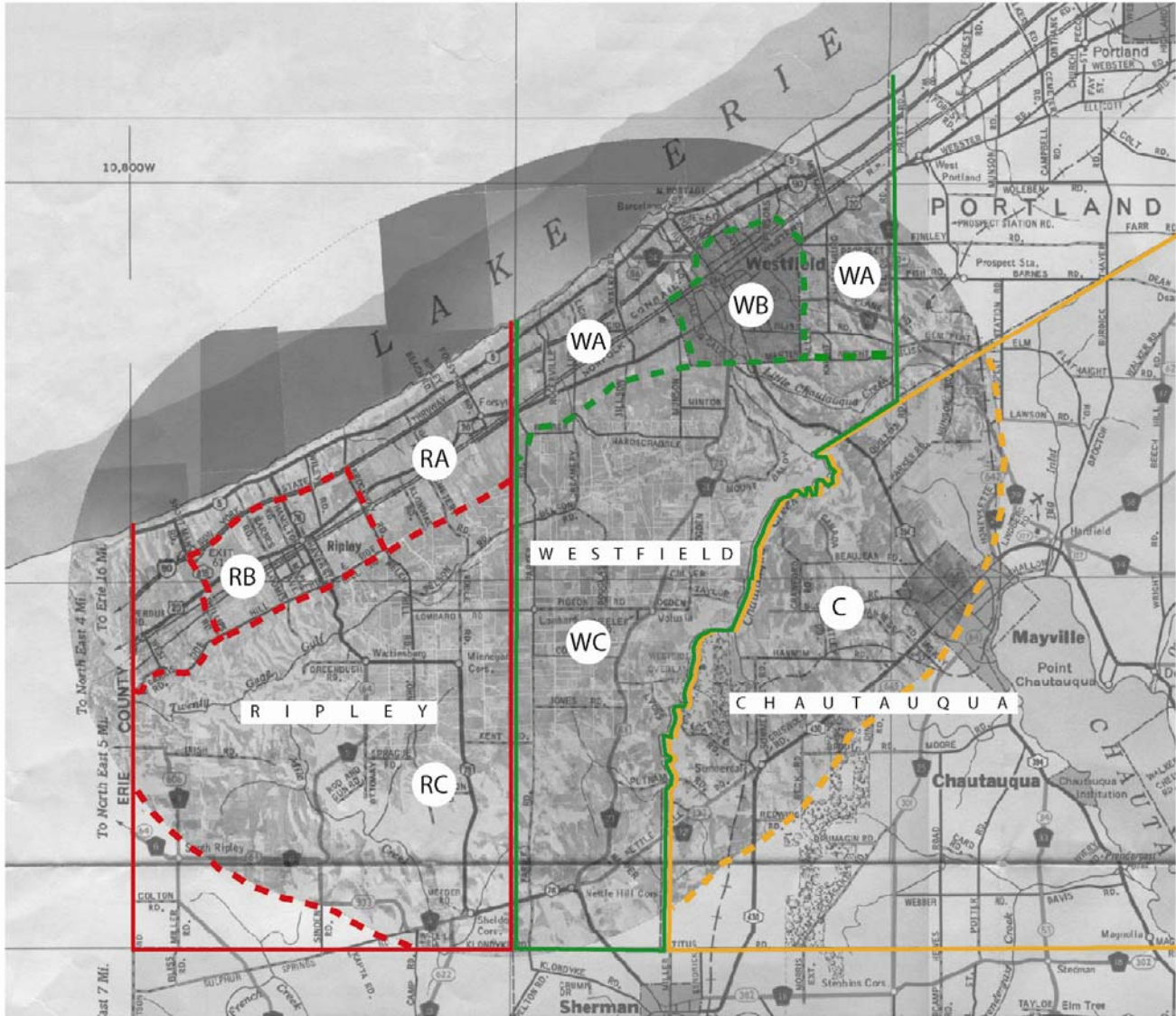


Figure 2-1. Seven geographic survey areas in the Chautauqua Windpower Project study area.

- Ripley Lake Plains- RA
- Ripley Village- RB
- Ripley Rural South-RC
- Westfield Lake Plains- WA
- Westfield Village- WB
- Westfield Rural South- WC
- Chautauqua- C