



Clinton Brown Company Architecture / ReBuild
The Full Service Historic Preservation Architecture Firm

April 2011

To Mayor Tucker and the City of Lockport,

Clinton Brown Company Architecture is pleased to convey this Historic Resources Survey to the residents, property owners, elected officials and all who have an active interest in the preservation and revitalization of the City of Lockport. This report reflects a Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey that we completed in association with you and City staff. Initial fieldwork of observing more than 600 structures was completed in Fall 2010 and formed the basis for selecting the most significant buildings and sites that are noted in this report.

Carved from the wilderness of the Western New York frontier during the early 1820s, the City of Lockport has a long and rich history as one of the nation's premier canal towns which makes it a unique place here in Western New York and in our nation. As a port city, driven by the economic engine of the Erie Canal, Lockport thrived as a center for industry, invention and culture throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth-centuries. Today's Lockport deserves a higher level of recognition for its fine collection of buildings and structures, many of which are among the oldest in Western New York. These building reflect the birth of our nation as a bi-coastal power.

Today, the City of Lockport is at a crossroads when it comes to utilizing its remaining historic architecture as a tool for redeveloping and rebuilding its economic prosperity. Like many cities and towns across New York State and elsewhere, Lockport is facing issues such as population loss, unemployment, urban blight and rising crime rates - all factors that can mean the deterioration, decay and destruction of the historic architectural fabric of the area and its unique sense of place. A strong community effort has worked tirelessly over the past several years to seek greater recognition of the unique architecture, history and culture of the City of Lockport; this Historic Resources Survey presents the first step towards this goal.

The City's leadership in commissioning this Historic Resources Survey as a means to identify, record and develop a greater understanding of the previously undocumented architecture in the City of Lockport is an excellent first step down a new road for a brighter future. This report should serve as a foundation for further preservation efforts and further raise public awareness of the value of the Lockport survey area. Numerous individually significant buildings as well as several potential historic districts, all containing buildings of national importance, have been identified in this report. The next steps would be to begin the process of nominating them to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and also continue to survey the remaining extents of the City. Additional treasures in Lockport are just waiting to be "discovered" through additional survey work.

On behalf of the Clinton Brown Company Architecture team, thank you for the opportunity to present this Historic Resources Survey.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Walkowski, CBCA Architectural Historian

We collaboratively design the revitalization of heritage buildings and communities

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