

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

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This methodology statement is prepared as part of the project 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. All project tasks and products will meet the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) criteria, methodology, and current standards for Historic Resource Surveys.

The survey area encompasses those properties within the survey area defined by the City of Lockport. This survey area covers the portion of the City bounded by Transit Street to the west, High Street to the south, Washburn Street to the east and the Erie Canal and Ontario Street to the north (refer to figure 1.1). A phased approach to survey work was selected by the Lockport Historic Preservation Commission since available funding did not allow for a survey of the entire extents of the City of Lockport. The goal was to maximize the eligibility of property owners for the tax credit programs. Thus, the reasons for targeting this area of the City were two-fold: this area contains a collection of largely intact commercial and residential properties in the older areas of the City, and also because this neighborhood contains several census tracts which are eligible for the State Historic Preservation Tax Credits for Residential and Commercial property owners.

After a visual review of 615 resources, this survey is aimed at identifying potentially significant historic resources which were documented in the annotated list. Based on the buildings identified in the historic resources survey, recommendations for further historic designations will be made. As noted in Section 1.0, the Erie Canal and its adjacent landscape are excluded from this survey.

The CBCA project team worked in full cooperation with contacts in the City of Lockport which included Kevin McDonough, City of Lockport Community Development, and Robert Hagen, Chair of the City of Lockport Historic Preservation Commission. CBCA also worked closely with Craig Bacon, Deputy Niagara County Historian and HPC member. CBCA has also worked with New York State Historic Preservation Office National Register Survey specialist Dan McEneny to finalize the project objectives, review report materials and survey information, clarify issues, and establish contacts.

### **2.1 Background Research**

A search for documentary research materials for the City of Lockport has been completed and forms the basis for the analysis and recommendations for historic designations. The bulk of the historic research involved identifying the major themes in the history of Lockport, including architectural, Erie Canal, industrial

and other related information. Research also focused on understanding the historic function, ownership and construction information for significant properties identified in the historic resources survey. Research was conducted at the Niagara County Historians Office, the Lockport Public Library, and the Lockport Historical Society. These resources maintain files on city history, maps, significant buildings and sites and other information. Research was also conducted utilizing online databases such as ProQuest, HeritageQuest, Digital Sanborn maps, JSTOR and others. A working bibliography appears in Section 7.

## 2.2 Historic Resources Field Survey

In general, buildings that are a minimum of 50 years of age are considered historic. The current survey was limited to above-ground historic resources which could be viewed from the street. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites were outside the scope of this study. The City of Lockport survey area base map was generated by Jeremy R. Tracy, City of Lockport Department of Engineering using the County's GIS data (Section 8). The CBCA survey team used the map in the field to locate and record significant properties.

According to the *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning* bulletin issued by the National Park Service, a Reconnaissance level historic resources survey may be thought of as a preliminary step in locating and identifying an area's resources. A reconnaissance level survey may be considered "a 'once over lightly' inspection of an area, most useful for characterizing its resources in general and for developing a basis for deciding how to organize and orient more detailed survey efforts. In conjunction with a general review of pertinent literature on the community's past, a reconnaissance may involve such activities as:

- A "windshield survey" of the community-literally driving around the community and noting the general distribution of buildings, structures, and neighborhoods representing different architectural styles, periods, and modes of construction.
- a "walkover" archeological inspection, perhaps coupled with small-scale test excavations, to get a general idea of the archeological potential of portions of the community.
- a study of aerial photographs, historical and recent maps and city plans, soil surveys, and other sources of information that help gain a general understanding of the community's layout and environment at different times in its history.
- detailed inspection of sample blocks or areas, as the basis for extrapolation about the resources of the community as a whole."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Patricia L. Parker. *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*. Vol. 24. Washington DC: National Park Service, 1985. National Register Bulletin. Web. 6 July 2010; 12. <<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb24.pdf>>

Selection criteria and guidelines were developed to guide the selection of those properties within the specific survey area determined by the City of Lockport and SHPO that were inventoried. The criteria were based on the National Register Historic Places 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.*

Information collected in the field for each inventoried property was recorded on a historic resource survey matrix form for use in preparing comments and recommendations. The type of information gathered for the survey included a street address, site-building-lot (SBL) number, property/owner name (if known), architectural style, architectural and stylistic details, approximate date of construction, and notes on condition and integrity if appropriate. All inventoried properties were photographed with a 7.1 MP digital camera. All inventoried properties are presented in the report in an annotated list of properties (Section 3). An historical overview is featured in Section 4, the architectural overview is contained in Section 5 and recommendations for future historic designations are included in Section 6.

### **2.3 Analysis and Recommendations and Bibliography**

Jennifer Walkowski, with assistance from Dan McEneny, NYSHPO Field Office, directed the historic resources field survey in the City of Lockport survey area and compiled the analysis and recommendations portion of this report for the City of Buffalo (Section 6). Based on field observations of the survey area as well as historic research on the history of Lockport, the analysis and recommendations sections provide a means for the identification of significant properties and recommendations for their recognition and designation. Based on National Register Criteria for Evaluation, these properties are recommended for local designations or for nomination to the State and National Register of Historic Places. As a Certified Local Government, the City of Lockport has the power to establish both individual local landmarks and local historic districts under Chapter 116, Article IV of the City Code. The bibliography (Section 7) represents a

working list of sources used in developing the historical and architectural overview, and those that were useful in documenting historical facts about the resources that were subject of the historic resource survey.