

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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Clinton Brown Company Architecture, pc has completed the Historic Resources Survey of a portion of the City of Lockport, under contract to the City of Lockport and was funded by the City of Lockport and also with a grant from the Certified Local Government program, a grant program of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

The Historic Resources Survey project manager was CBCA Project Manager, Alma O'Connell-Brown. The primary researcher and author of this report was Jennifer Walkowski, CBCA Architectural Historian, assisted by Meagan Baco, CBCA Historic Preservation Project Assistant. Ms. Walkowski completed the field documentation in November of 2010. Clinton E. Brown, RA, FAIA, NCARB, provided services as Heritage Architect. The CBCA project team members meet or exceed 36 CFR Part 61 "Professional Qualification Standards" of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. CBCA project team resumes are included in Appendix II of this document.

Historic buildings, landscapes, structures, and other features are distinct components of communities that highlight history on the local, regional, and national levels. A survey of the City's historic resources located within the City of Lockport is an important first step in identifying and recognizing and protecting the significance of these properties and keeping them a vital part of the community's built environment. Placing a resource in a larger context provides a sense of place. The information gained from documenting historic resources forms the foundation for integrating historic preservation into planning, community development, and economic revitalization efforts.

The area surveyed of the City of Lockport is a mixed-use residential, commercial and industrial area located just south of the Erie Canal in the City of Lockport in Niagara County, New York (fig 1.1). As home to the famous "Flight of Five" locks along the historic Erie Canal, Lockport grew as a small frontier village beginning in the 1820s, populated by many Irish and Scottish immigrants who came to work on the construction of the canal. Later in the nineteenth-century, Lockport was home to a thriving industrial and manufacturing trade, and was home to notable inventors such as Birdsill Holly (inventor of the first integrated fire hydrant system) and Herbert C. Harrison (founder of Harrison Radiator Company, now a part of General Motors, which pioneered the modern honeycomb automobile radiator). The survey area contains a large collection of buildings which date to the City's earliest pioneer era in the 1820s and 1830s including many early houses and significant churches. This area also contains the primary commercial and governmental district of the City of Lockport, located generally along Main Street between Transit and Washburn Streets. Originally this area contained numerous contiguous nineteenth-century commercial buildings, primarily 3 and 4 stories in height, but it was significantly transformed through Urban Renewal in the 1960s and 70s.

The Lockport survey area contains four census tracts: 235, 236, 237 and 239.01. The majority of the properties in the survey area are located within census tract 237 which is a tract which meets the eligibility requirements for the new State residential and commercial historic preservation tax credit program. 235 and 236 are also eligible census tracts. Only those properties located along the south side of High Street are located in tract 239.01 which is an ineligible census tract at this time. Those properties located in eligible tracts 235, 236 and 237 already meet one of the two needed components to take advantage of the historic preservation tax credit program; all that is missing is their listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.¹ This historic resources survey is the first step in identifying those buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts which appear to meet the requirements for listing on the State and National Registers.

The objective of this survey of the City of Lockport is to complete a Reconnaissance Level survey of 615 properties located within the survey area as defined by the City of Lockport and the Lockport Historic Preservation Commission in order to locate and identify significant individual properties and potential districts. The survey boundaries include all streets within the boundaries defined as the east side of Transit Street to the west, the west side of Washburn Street to the east and both sides of High Street to the south. The northern border is delineated by the Erie Canal, Ontario Street and Exchange Street (fig 1.1). These boundaries were selected since they encompassed a large swath of the older portions of the City and because this area is located in historic preservation tax credit eligible census tracts. The boundaries encompass a large swath of the intact, older areas of the City of Lockport, containing many intact historic houses and also commercial buildings along the Main Street commercial corridor. The Erie Canal and its adjacent landscape are not included in this survey, due to the specialized engineering and technical background needed to evaluate this structure; the focus of this survey is on reviewing the above-ground extant building stock. This area of Lockport has not been previously surveyed.

This report begins with the project methodology (Section 2), which explains how the objectives of the historic resources survey were carried out. The next section is an annotated list of properties (Section 3). A historical overview of the City of Lockport is featured in Section 4. Also included is an architectural overview of the types and styles of buildings and structures identified in the report (Section 5). Recommendations for further designation of significant properties or districts are included in Section 6. A working bibliography is included in Section 7 and mapping is included in Section 8. Section 9 contains a log of photos. Appendix I contains additional information on the topics including the NY State historic rehabilitation tax credit programs for residential and commercial property owners. Appendix II contains resumes for the Clinton Brown Company project team.

¹ Data is only now becoming available from the 2010 Federal Census. Pending analysis of the results, which is currently unavailable at the time of this report, this may result in a change to the eligibility of census tracts. Note that these results can change; please verify eligible census tracts once this new data is available.

Selected Parcels in Lockport, NY



Figure 1.1
 City of Lockport Reconnaissance Level Historic Resources Survey Boundary Map
 For larger map, please see Section 8

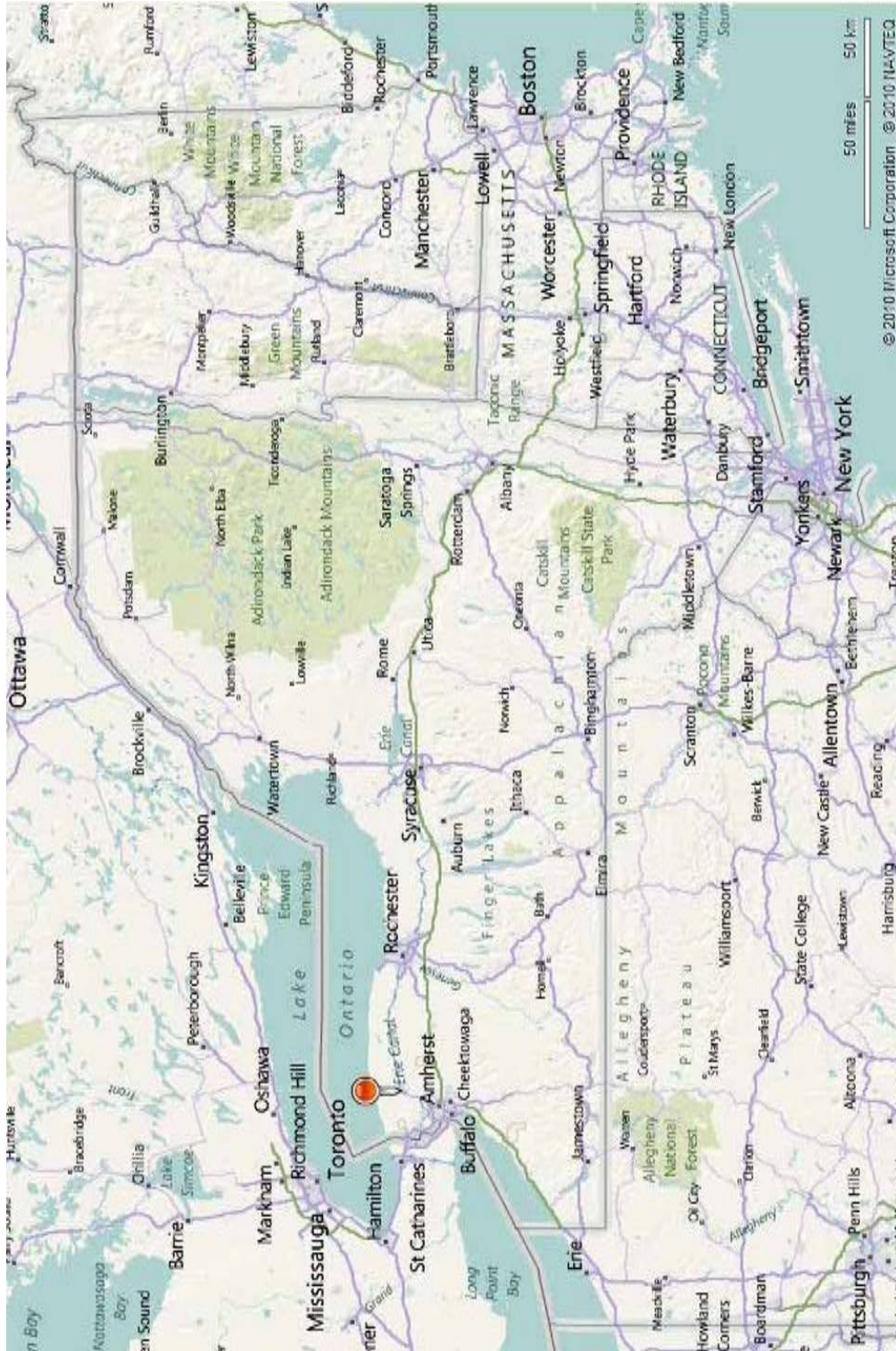


Figure 1.2
City of Lockport, located in Western New York State

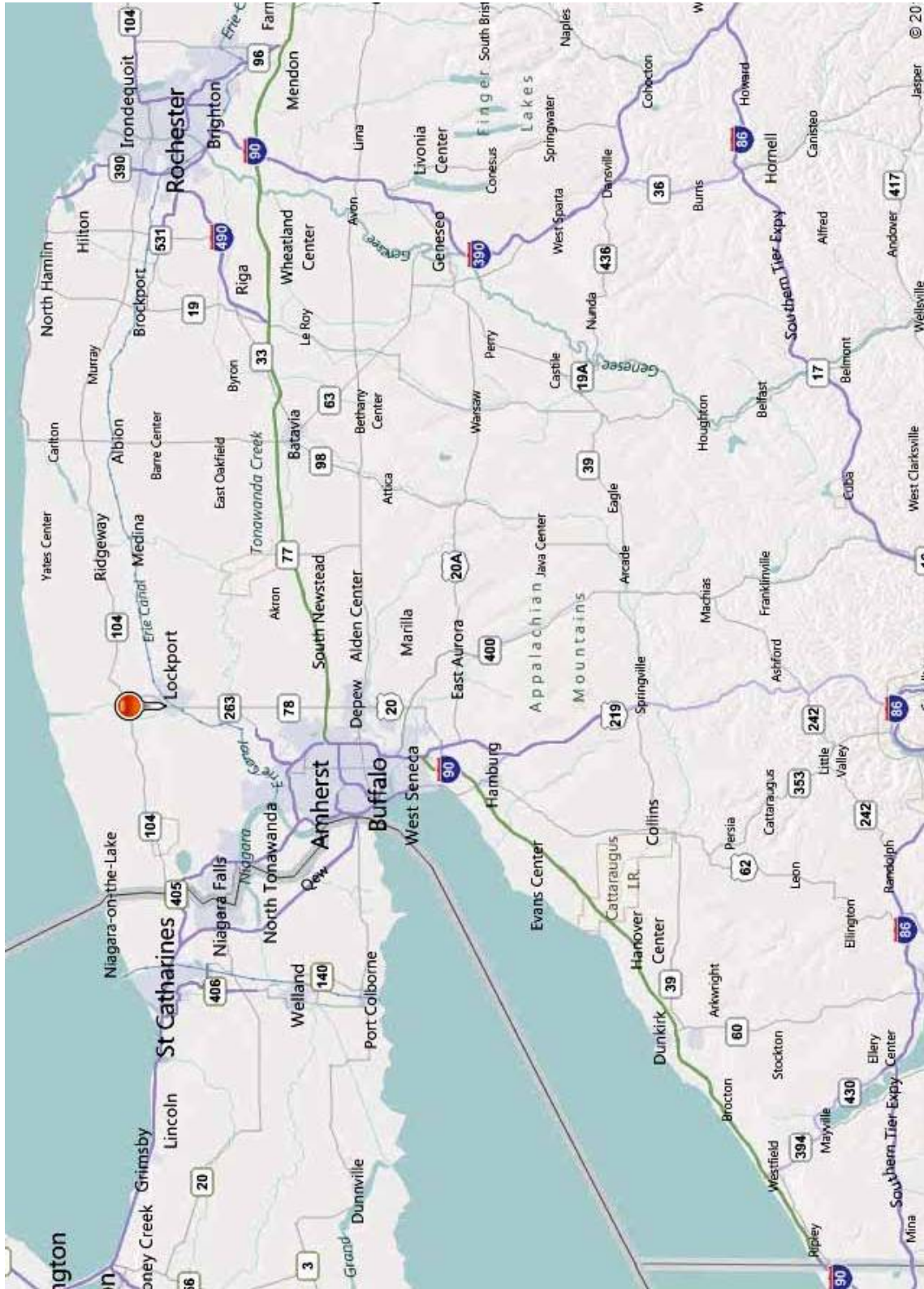


Figure 1.3
City of Lockport, located in the Buffalo-Niagara metro areas

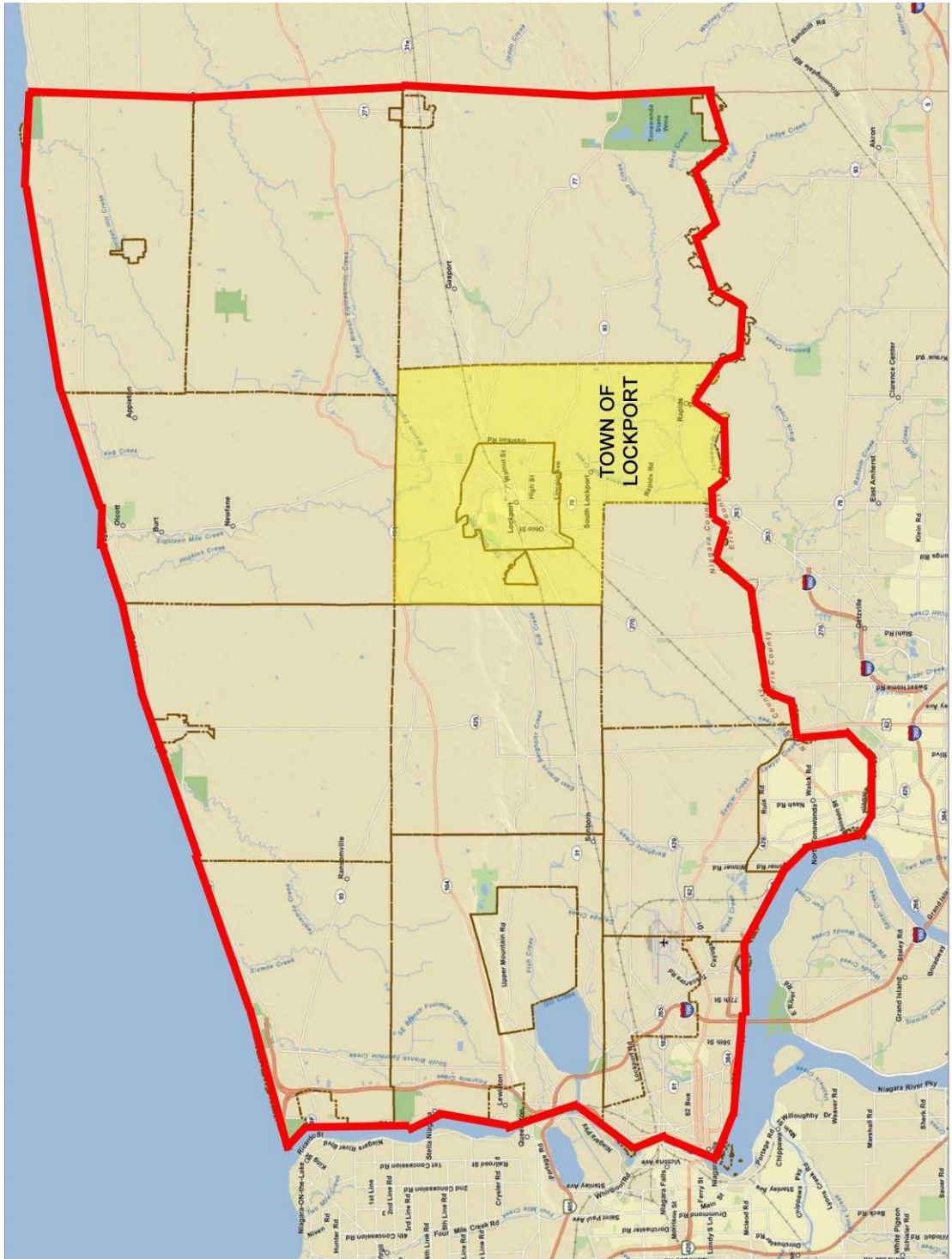


Figure 1.4
Niagara County, New York showing location of Town of Lockport

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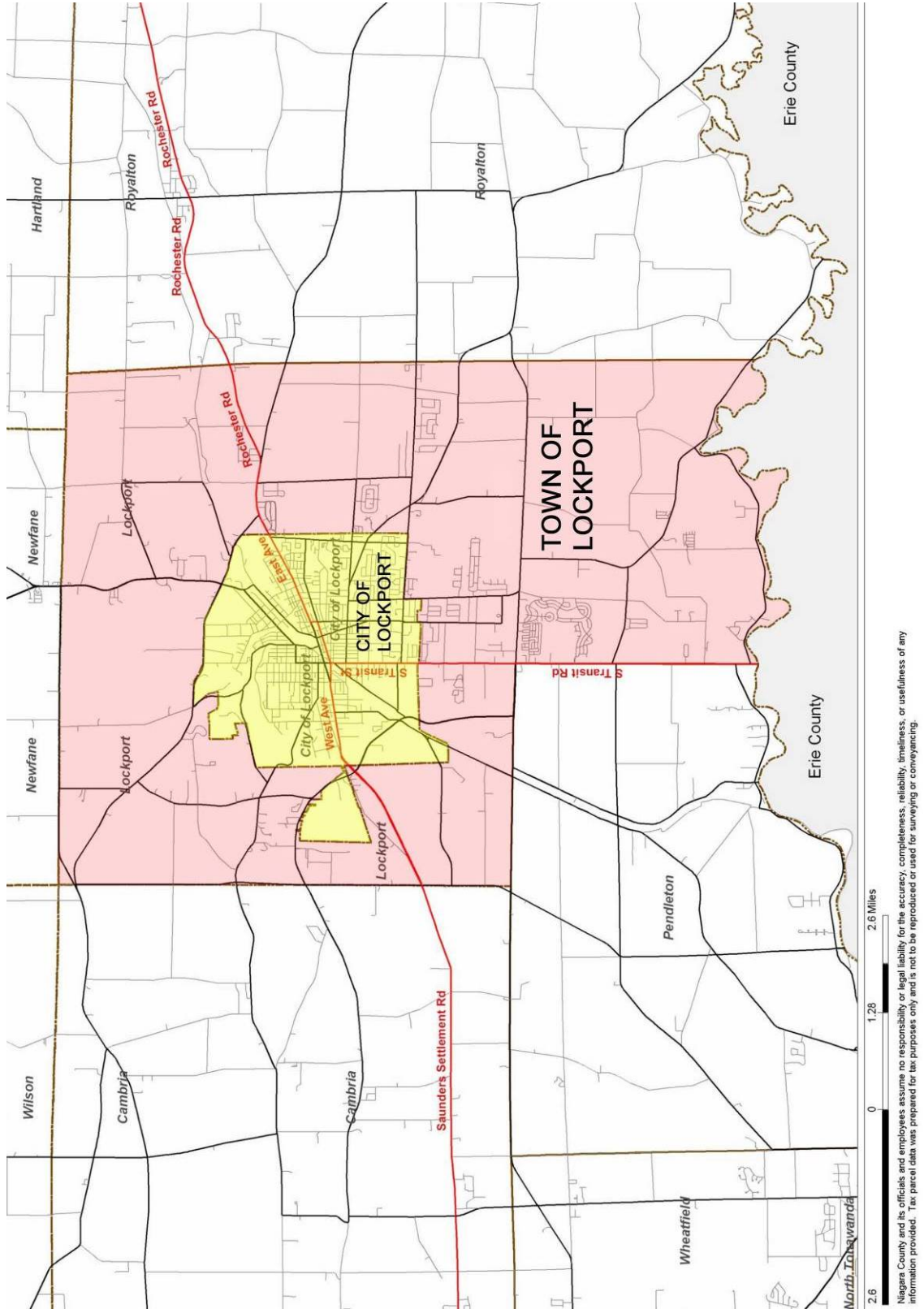


Figure 1.5
Town of Lockport, showing the location of the City of Lockport

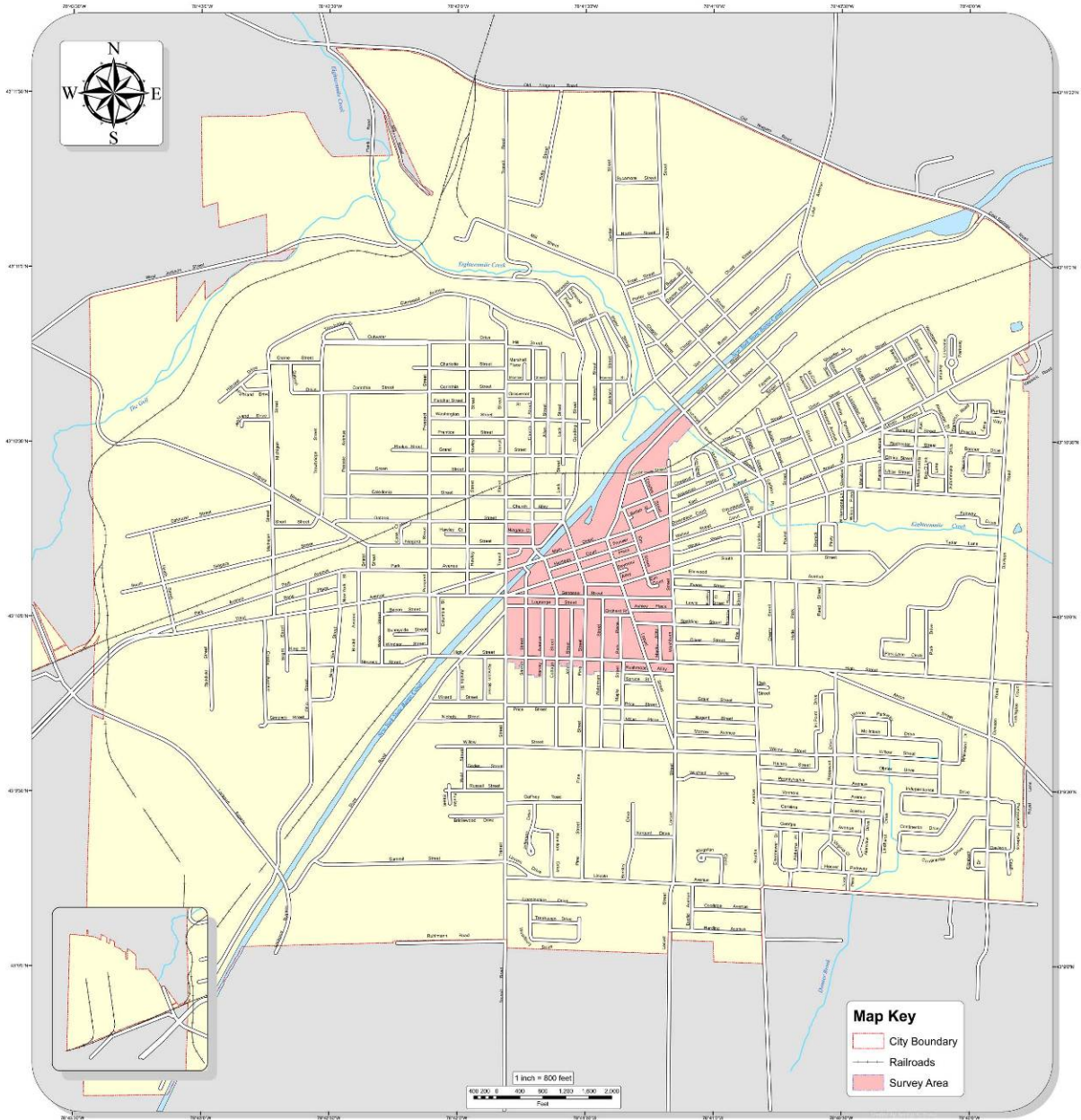


Figure 1.6
The City of Lockport, showing the location of the Historic Resources Survey area
For larger map, please see Section 8