



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

September 2010

To the Village of Sherman,

Clinton Brown Company Architecture is pleased to convey this Cultural Resources Survey to the residents, property owners, elected officials and all who have an active interest in the preservation and revitalization of the Village of Sherman. This report reflects a Reconnaissance Level Cultural Resources Survey that we completed in association with you, Village staff and the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC). Initial fieldwork of observing more than 300 structures in the Village was completed in Fall 2009 and formed the basis for selecting the most significant buildings and sites that are noted in this report.

The Village of Sherman is a unique rural community in beautiful Chautauqua County with a rich historical and architectural heritage. Settled in the early 1800s, Sherman rose to prominence during the mid- to late-nineteenth-century due to its proximity to major rail lines and as a source of hydropower for mills. The Village of Sherman contains a wealth of excellent examples of a wide variety of architectural styles; from the brick commercial buildings which line Main Street to the Queen Anne and Greek Revival houses to buildings such as the Minerva Library. Today's Sherman deserves a higher level of recognition for its fine collection of buildings and structures, many of which are unique to the history and setting of the community.

Today, the Village of Sherman 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 communities across New York State and elsewhere, Sherman is facing issues such as population loss, unemployment, and increasing disinvestment - all factors that can mean the deterioration, decay and destruction of the historic architectural fabric of the area and its unique sense of place as an individual community within Chautauqua County.

The Village's support, in conjunction with CHRIC, of this Cultural Resources Survey as a means to identify, record and develop a greater understanding of the previously undocumented architecture in the Village of Sherman is an excellent first step down a new road for a brighter future. This report should serve as a foundation for furthering preservation efforts and as a means to increase public awareness of the value of the charming Village of Sherman.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Walkowski", written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Walkowski, CBCA Architectural Historian

We collaboratively design the revitalization of heritage buildings and communities

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