

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.0 METHODOLOGY

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, as well as a list of 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 Cultural Resource Surveys.

The survey area encompasses those properties within the Village of Sherman, as defined by the municipality. After a visual review of approximately 290 structures located within the Village, this cultural resource survey is aimed at identifying potentially significant historic resources, which were documented. Based on the buildings identified in the cultural resources survey, recommendations for further historic designations will be made.

The CBCA project team worked in full cooperation with the contacts at the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation, including John D. Murphy, Executive Director. CBCA also worked with representatives from the Village of Sherman which included Sally Patterson, wife of Mayor John Patterson and local historian, and Ann Gilbert, Town of Sherman Clerk. CBCA has also consulted with Chautauqua County Historian Michelle Henry. CBCA has 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 preliminary search for documentary research materials for the Village of Sherman has been completed and will form 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 Sherman, including architectural, agrarian and transportation related information. Research also focused on understanding the historic function, ownership and construction information for significant properties identified in the cultural resources survey. Primary information and materials on the history of Sherman were provided by Sally Patterson. Research was also conducted in the office of the County Historian, Michelle Henry, who maintains files on village 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 6.

2.2 Cultural Resource 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 Village of Sherman study area base map was generated by using the County's GIS mapping system (Section 6). The CBCA survey team used the map in the field to locate and record significant properties.

Selection criteria and guidelines were developed to guide the selection of those properties within the specific survey area determined by the Village of Sherman 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 cultural resource survey matrix form for use in preparing comments and recommendations. The type of information gathered for the survey includes a street address, property 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. Section 3 presents a Narrative Historic Overview of the Village of Sherman. Analysis and recommendations for future historic designations are included in Section 4. Maps of Sherman are included in Section 5.

2.3 Analysis and Recommendations and Bibliography

Jennifer Walkowski, with assistance from Dan McEneny, NYSHPO Field Office, conducted the cultural resource field survey in the Village of Sherman and authored the recommendations portion of this report for the Village of Sherman

(Section 4). Based on observations of the buildings and structures located in the Village as well as preliminary background research on the history of Sherman, the recommendations section provides 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. The bibliography (Section 6) 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 cultural resource survey.