

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

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This methodology statement is prepared as part of the reconnaissance survey 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 an annotated list of surveyed properties (Section 5). All project tasks and products are intended to meet the NYSOPRHP criteria, methodology, and current standards for a historic resources intensive level survey.

The survey area encompasses the entire area of the municipality of the Town of Clarence, NY (Appendix A), as defined by the Town, and addresses 2,000 readily observable buildings, structures, sites and objects constructed prior to 1950 according to Town assessment records. The findings of the reconnaissance level survey previously undertaken by Clinton Brown Company (CBCA) served as the basis for this further intensive level survey work.

In that survey, CBCA reviewed over 2,000 structures from the initial listing, then approximately 1,820 structures were examined in the course of the reconnaissance level survey, CBCA documented approximately 640 surviving structures which met the established criteria, based on the historic themes and property types established in the historic and existing conditions overviews, and on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria for Evaluation. Of these 640 structures, 54 were recognized as Significant(S), 413 as Contributing(C), and 173 as Non-Contributing (NC). Approximately 1,174 structures were deemed Not Eligible; these buildings were not included in reconnaissance level annotated list. The preliminary totals included in the count: instances of multiple structures documented on the same property and/or building complexes, outbuildings, notable site features, and cemeteries.

The Town applied for and received funding from the Preservation League of NYS to conduct an Intensive Level Survey. The budget allowed for 300 of the most significant properties identified to be included in the survey. The CBCA project team worked in cooperation with Town of Clarence officials and Historic Preservation Commission members to finalize the list of 301 properties, a difficult task as there are so many worthy properties. A list was finalized in January 2008 and the Intensive Level survey work began. Included in this survey are 300 Historic Resource Inventory Forms for the properties selected.

## **2.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH**

A preliminary search for documentary research materials for the Town of Clarence and its comprised hamlets has been completed and forms the basis for the historical overview (Section 3). NYSOPRHP files were consulted for existing inventory and National Register forms, and for previously conducted cultural resource surveys. Background information on the overall history and development of each of the hamlets in the project area (historic maps and atlases, local histories, and unpublished materials) were identified and examined. The historic overview highlights and summarizes existing planning and historic preservation information on the project study area.

The CBCA team visited the Clarence Historical Museum to review its collection and conduct research. Several books used as reference in the survey work were the "History of the Town of Clarence" by Oneta M. Baker, a copy of which was provided by the Town of Clarence Historic Preservation Commission Chair, Henry Brodowski. A series of books by C. Douglas Kohler, a

life-long resident of Clarence active with the Clarence Historical Society, with images of the Hollow, Harris, Hill, Center and Swormville and the North Country were consulted. A working bibliography appears at the end of the report (Section 6).



Figure 1. - Historical Society of the Town of Clarence

## 2.2 INTENSIVE LEVEL FIELD SURVEY

In general, buildings that are more than 50 years old are considered historic. The current intensive level survey was limited to above ground resources readily observable from public places. Prehistoric and archeological sites were outside the scope of this study. The CBCA survey team used previously created resource information and confirmed conditions in the field.



Figure 2. The West Shore Hotel (Historical Society of the Town of Clarence)

Selection criteria and guidelines were developed to guide the selection of those properties that were recorded in Historic Resource Inventory Forms. The criteria were based on the historic themes and property types established in the historic and existing conditions overviews and on the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for Evaluation. The National Register Criteria are stated as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Information collected from the reconnaissance level survey and in the field for each inventoried property was recorded on an intensive level survey form for use in the completion of a revised NYSOPRHP Building Structure Inventory form (sometimes called a "blue form" due to its original printed paper), which is now known as the Historic Resource Inventory Form. The type of information gathered for the intensive level survey included a street address, property name if any, architectural style, architectural and stylistic details, approximate date of construction, past and present use, condition, and integrity. All inventoried properties are portrayed in a photograph taken from the Town Assessor's database or photographed in the field with a digital camera. Each inventoried property was recorded on a project base map. All inventoried properties are presented in the report in an annotated list of properties (Section 5). Continuation sheets with updated photographs of previously inventoried properties, if any, and completed Historic Resource Inventory Forms are presented at the end of the report.

A team of architectural historians conducted on-line and fieldwork for the intensive level survey in 2007 and 2008. Additional field inspection revealed some buildings had been demolished, notably barns. Vinyl sided properties and highly altered properties were generally not surveyed unless they were of an age that merited inclusion.

The Historic Preservation Commission members added and clarified some potentially significant buildings previously overlooked due to condition but worthy of consideration due to age or association.



Figure 3. Historic Plaque, Clarence Hollow

The intensive level survey also called for the CBCA team to identify any additional potentially significant historic buildings. Exceptions were made for properties not identified on the reconnaissance list if background research revealed they possessed especially important historical associations.

### **2.3 HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL OVERVIEW & BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Architectural Historian Nancy Mingus authored the historical and architectural overview for the Town of Clarence (Section 3). This context statement provides general information about important events that had an impact on the Town development. It will be used to aid in establishing a greater understanding of the Town of Clarence through the identified properties. Information gathered from the background research and fieldwork formed the basis for statements of significance for each identified property. This overview includes a synopsis of the represented building types and architectural styles in the town. Historic maps, photographs and other images supplement the historical and architectural overview.

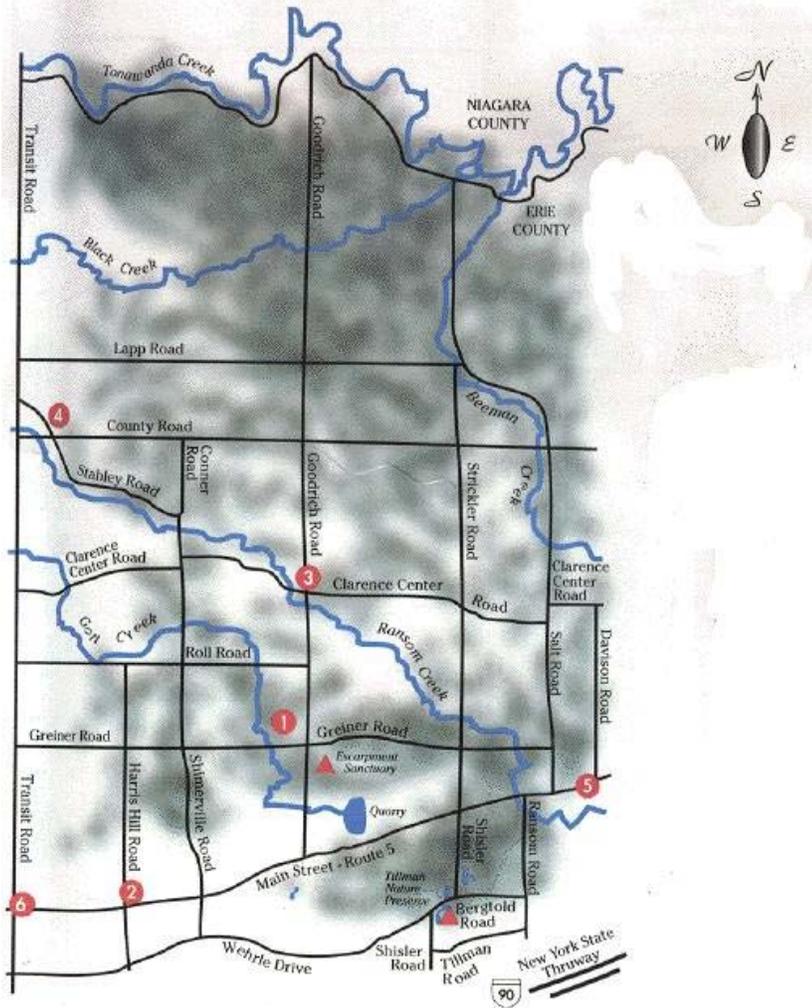


Figure 4. Historic Map from Historical Society of the Town of Clarence

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 intensive survey.