

Architectural Style and Form: Vernacular Architecture (ca. 1800-1900)

As defined by the Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF), vernacular architecture refers to ordinary buildings and landscapes. Typically designed and constructed by local builders and contractors often with little or no formal training and experience with high-style architectural design, vernacular architecture was once rejected as crude and unrefined but has gained a more widespread consideration and appreciation in recent decades. Vernacular architecture comes in many stylistic variations, but is commonly found in gable-front, gable-front-and-wing, hall-and-parlor, I-house, massed-plan-side-gabled, and pyramidal massing types. Detailing was frequently minimal, or was derived from popular architectural trends, often simplified based on available skill and materials. In Western New York, vernacular architecture is extremely widespread and very common. Since the majority of early settlers to the area arrived from eastern areas.



5590 and 5596 Main Street

Two good examples of vernacular commercial buildings from the late 1800s, this type of building was common throughout the area and often used simple Italianate or Classical details.



78 East Spring Street

Once a barn, this building reflects the simplicity often associated with vernacular architecture. Here, function was obviously a clear concern above decoration and embellishment.

In Western New York, vernacular architecture is extremely widespread and very common. Since the majority of early settlers to the area arrived from eastern areas such as Massachusetts and Connecticut, the New England tradition was predominant in Western New York. These early buildings were built of wood or logs, a widely available building material and byproduct of clearing forests for farm land, and were often of the I-house, saltbox or gabled box form. It was

Address: 5590 Main Street

Architectural Style and Form: Vernacular Architecture



Description of Significance: 5590 Main Street is a good example of a vernacular early commercial building on Main Street in the Village of Williamsville. 5590 and neighboring 5596 Main Street were constructed by Alexander Gotwalt and Henry S. Metz, who purchased the property from Benjamin Miller's estate in January 1893. The first tenant in 5590 Main was H.S. Smith, who sold drugs and groceries. It later became Albert H. Herman's barber shop and a music store. It later became J. Binz's candy store. Lucille Corti Candies occupied the building between 1935 and into the 1970s. Recently, the building has been extensively updated and restored and houses a coffee shop.

Description of Property: 5590 Main Street is located at the north-east corner of Main Street/Rt. 5 and East Spring Street in the Village of Williamsville. The building is a 2-story frame vernacular commercial building with a shed roof. 1st floor features wood paneled storefront on primary south façade and west elevation along Spring Street, with recessed corner entry door. Prominent paneled signboard. 2nd story of south elevation features two tripartite windows, each with fixed glazing flanked by narrow 1/1 double hung windows. Vinyl replacement 1/1 windows throughout. Small brackets at building cornice, and on east elevation at north end of building, suggesting a modest Italianate style.

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark
5590 Main Street, Williamsville, NY**

**By Historic Preservation Commission Member: Wes Stone, seconded by Catherine Waterman-Kulpa
Dated May 22, 2014:**

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission (the "HPC") commissioned Clinton Brown Company Architecture, PC to perform an intensive level historic resources survey of properties along and near Main Street in the Village of Williamsville (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project identified several properties that would be considered eligible for designation as a historical landmark pursuant to Section 47-4(a) of the Village of Williamsville Code including the property located at 5590 Main Street ("Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, the HPC may nominate an individual property as a landmark if it meets any the following criteria:

1. Is associated with the lives of individuals or of people or of events significant in the national, state or local history.
2. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, a period or a method of construction.
3. Represents the work of a master architect or designer or possesses high artistic values.
4. Represents a significant or distinguished entity whose components may lack individual or special distinction.
5. Because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, based upon the intensive level survey and the HPC's review of other information related to the Subject Property, the HPC recommended the Subject Property for designation as a local historic landmark on February 24, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the HPC held a public hearing on April 3, 2014 in which the Subject Property owner and any interested parties had the opportunity to present testimony or documentary evidence at the hearing regarding the historic, architectural or cultural importance of the proposed landmark.

WHEREAS, upon a review of the aforesaid materials, and after due deliberation concerning each of the statutory criteria set forth above the HPC proposes to nominate the Subject Property for local landmark status;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the HPC hereby nominates the Subject Property for local landmark status based on its finding that it satisfies the following criteria set forth in Section 47-4(a) of the Village of Williamsville Code:

- Is associated with the lives of individuals or of people or of events significant in the national, state or local history.
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, a period or a method of construction.
- Represents the work of a master architect or designer or possesses high artistic values.
- Represents a significant or distinguished entity whose components may lack individual or special distinction.
- Because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution to approve the nomination of the Subject Property for local landmark status was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Chairman Stone	YES
Ms. Armitage	YES
Mr. Bannon	ABSENT
Mr. Duval	YES
Dr. Dyson	YES
Ms. Fulwiler	YES
Ms. Waterman-Kulpa	YES