

Architectural Style and Form: **Greek Revival (1825-1860)**

Drawing inspiration from the great Greek temples, builders sought to adopt and apply the highly identifiable and idealized elements of these structures to contemporary architecture. Borrowed features commonly included: a front or side gabled roof of low pitch; emphasized cornice line with large entablature-type molding and/or detail trim; significant porches, varying full or half width and height with either a flat or pediment roof and columned supports; highly visible inclusion of columns, engaged columns, and/or pilasters; and ornamented door and window surrounds.



56 West Spring Street

An excellent example of the Greek Revival style, the Ely Zent house demonstrates the front gable with symmetrical windows model that was common of the style.



5707 Main Street

A gable front and wing example, the house features the elaborated entry that is a hallmark of the style. Notice that frame additions surround the original 1-story brick wing.

In Williamsville, many of the surveyed resources along Main Street are of the Greek Revival style, and reflect the era of construction following the earliest pioneer era and later War of 1812 period. The gable front and wing variation appears to be the most prominent. The narrow front-gabled variant would have accommodated the narrow but long parcels along Williamsville's Main Street. Several of these examples were originally constructed as residential buildings, and later converted to commercial use, although there are a few examples being used for industrial or manufacturing buildings on Main Street. Early examples from the early 1800s were wood frame construction, while many examples from the 1840s and 50s were built of brick as it became more widely available in Williamsville. One of the key identifying traits of this style is usually a front-gabled massing with a two-bay or three-bay fenestration pattern. Of those buildings which are good examples of the Greek Revival, several reflect small changes as the buildings were generally converted from residential use to commercial functions in the late 20th century.

Local Landmark Designations-Greek Revival

- 5430 Main Street
- 5578 Main Street
- 55672 Main Street
- 5792 Main Street
- 5329 Main Street
- 5707 Main Street

Address: 5578 Main Street

Architectural Style and Form: Greek Revival



Description of Significance: The Eagle House is significant as a rare remaining example of an early inn and tavern that were once found along Main Street between Batavia and Buffalo in Western New York. The Eagle House was built by Oziel Smith beginning in 1827, however the initial building was devastated by a fire while it was nearing completion. The present building was not completed until 1832 by Smith, using the initial foundations. The Holland Land Company offered incentives for the construction of many types of buildings critical to establishing settlement in Western NY, including churches and schools. They also offered incentives for building inns and taverns along the “Buffalo Road” – the main route between the Company’s offices in Batavia and the settlement in New Amsterdam/Buffalo. The Eagle House is one such example of these historic inns and taverns that served as much-needed destinations for weary travelers, helping encourage westward expansion into Western NY. Used as a retail store in addition to its use as a tavern in the 1950s, it has been restored to more closely resemble its historic appearance, and currently is utilized as a restaurant. Beneath the House is said to be a series of cellar caverns and passageways that some people speculate may have served a role on the Underground Railroad. These claims are currently unsubstantiated, and may be natural limestone caverns or the result of quarrying.

Description of Property: The Eagle House is located on the north side of Main Street/Rt. 5 in the Village of Williamsville, located midblock between Rock and East Spring Streets. The Eagle House is a 2-story side gable frame modest 5-rank Greek Revival style inn and tavern building with a stone and brick foundation, wood clapboard sheathing and an asphalt shingle roof. The main portion of the building features a 2-story open porch at the central entrance, and is flanked by 1-story shed roof additions that project from the main box of the structure. Fenestration is regular, 6/6 double hung wood sash windows. Knee braces are visible at the east eaves; a historic chimney is located at each end of the building. The Eagle Inn features a front-gable addition at the east end with a large multi-lite wood window in a recessed bay that resembles the character of the historic portions; a large side-gabled addition at the rear of the building also mimics the scale, massing and details of the building.

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark
5578 Main Street, Williamsville, NY**

**By Historic Preservation Commission Member: Penny Armitage, 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 5578 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:

- X 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.
- X Represents a significant or distinguished entity whose components may lack individual or special distinction.
- X 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