

Architectural Style and Form: **Second Empire (1855-1885)**

Deriving its name from the French Second Empire, this Romantic architectural style is named in honor of the reign of Napoleon III (1852-70), who undertook a significant building crusade that transformed Paris into a city of grand scenic boulevards and grand monumental buildings that were copied throughout Europe and the New World. Common features of the Second Empire style include Classical and Italianate-derived moldings and details such as quoins, cornices, and belt courses which are articulated with great depth and emphasized with the use of a variety of textures and colorful materials. Windows were typically tall and narrow, with arched and sometimes pedimented forms, sometimes grouped in pairs with shared molded surrounds. The massing of the style was typically square or rectilinear, sometimes featured a tower element or a cupola or lantern, and was occasionally joined to form continuous groups of town houses. The signature feature of the Second Empire style is the use of a Mansard roof; a dual pitched hipped roof with a steep lower slope. This Mansard roof allowed for additional living space beneath the roof, and was typically punctured with elaborate dormer windows to allow for interior illumination.



5522 Main Street

While the Second Empire style is rare in the survey area of Williamsville, this building is an excellent example retaining its mansard upper story with dormers and a decorative oriel on the west elevation.

The survey area contains relatively few examples of Second Empire architecture, both in residential and commercial applications. One extant example of the style's residential application is located at 5522 Main Street, although it has vinyl replacement windows and a 20th century storefront.

Local Landmark Designation-Second Empire

- 5522 Main Street

Address: 5522 Main Street
Architectural Style and Form: Second Empire



Description of Significance: The building at 5522 Main Street is significant as containing a rare example of the Second Empire style on Main Street in the Village of Williamsville. The brick building is thought to have been constructed around 1860, when the Second Empire Style was at the height of its popularity. Businesses that have located in the building include John and Emmanuel Herr's store, John Hoffman's general store, Measer's Shoe store, a barber shop, several variety and discount stores including Black's 5-and-10 store and a Ben Franklin store. When renovations to the building were made in the 1970s, a historic cooking fireplace was revealed.

Description of Property: 5522 Main Street is located on the north side of Main Street/Rt. 5, just west of the intersection of North Cayuga Road in the Village of Williamsville. The building at 5522 Main Street is a 3-story 4-rank brick Second Empire commercial building, with an upper floor Mansard roof containing 3 round arched dormers. Adjacent to the brick building is a 2-story 2-bay frame building with vinyl siding and a flat roof. These two neighboring buildings appear to have been opened up to each other in the early to mid- 1900s as both share a curved glass storefront that appears to date to that era. The ground floor of both buildings features a curved bulkhead and glass storefront windows. Windows of the brick building feature prominent stone lintels and sills. Windows throughout both buildings are 1/1 vinyl double hung windows

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark
5522 Main Street, Williamsville, NY**

By Historic Preservation Commission Member: Catherine Waterman-Kulpa, seconded by JJ Duval

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 5522 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