

## Architectural Style and Form: **Landscape Elements**

Also included as a part of this Intensive Level Survey was the documentation of several landscape elements present in the Village. These include stone walls and gates, stone garden houses, hitching posts, carriage mounting blocks and other elements. These objects are typically associated with a residence or other property and are set in front yards or at the street. Increasingly rare, as more are damaged or removed, these objects provide an important connection to historic and outmoded methods of transportation during a time when neighbors and friends visited by horseback.



Some of the stone walls and structures are attributed to prominent mason and concrete manufacturer Ignatz Oechsner, and others may also be his work. Oechsner was a well-known mason in Williamsville, constructing his own remarkable stone rubble castle on Dream Island in Ellicott Creek in the Village of Williamsville beginning in the late 1910s. Constructed over more than 24 years, his castle may have inspired area residents to add rustic rock walls and “mini-castles” to their own properties.

Information on these objects is understandably difficult to obtain, as these mundane and functional items may have been constructed or added by property owners more than a century ago with no public record.

### Local Landmark Designations-Landscape Elements

- Main Street Bridge at Ellicott Creek

Address: Main Street Bridge at Ellicott Creek  
Architectural Style and Form: Landscape Elements



Description of Significance: The Main Street Bridge is significant as a rare remaining historic stone bridge still utilized on Main Street/ Rt. 5 in Western New York. In an era of modern road construction, many historic bridges have since been replaced to accommodate larger, heavier automobile traffic. The Main Street Bridge was built in 1882 by Martin Wendel of Wendelville for a cost of \$11,466. Stone was quarried by Edward B. Miller and John D. Long on Orchard Street. It provided the first permanent replacement to the plank bridges that were frequently washed away in spring floods. Stone for the bridge was quarried from the Miller Long Quarry on Orchard Street nearby. Mr. Wendel was given the honor of driving the first wagon across the bridge when it opened. It may have first been paved with asphalt in 1960.

Description of Property: The Main Street Bridge is a double arch bridge spanning the Ellicott Creek on Main Street/Rt. 5 in the Village of Williamsville. It measures approximately 65 feet in length. It is comprised of cut stone blocks laid in a random coursed manner, and each arch has a series of voisoirs and a prominent key stone. The bridge features a central stone marked "Erected 1882." The bridge is flanked by modern metal pedestrian walkways on either side.

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark  
Main St. Bridge @ Ellicott Creek, Williamsville, NY**

**By Historic Preservation Commission Member: Wes Stone, 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 Main Street Bridge at Ellicott Creek ("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 8, 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