

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: 5792 Main Street
Architectural Style and Form: Greek Revival



Description of Significance: The building at 5792 Main Street is a significant as an excellent example of a brick Greek Revival former residential building. Unlike other commercial converted buildings, this example retains a high level of integrity to its primary elevation, still strongly resembling the original massing, scale and details of the original house. The brick portion of the building was constructed around 1840 as the home of the Hershey family. The wood frame additions were added in the late 1800s, originally serving as a summer kitchen for cooking outside of the main body of the building. A carriage house is also located on the property, also likely dating to the late 19th century. A notable long-time resident in the house was known as “Grandma Measer,” who was mother to four Measers who became prominent citizens in Williamsville’s business community, including as owners of the Amherst Bee newspaper. The house was converted in 1870 for commercial use, and today houses various offices.

Description of Property: 5792 Main Street is located on the north side of Main Street/Rt. 5 in the Village of Williamsville, midblock between Evans and Academy Streets. The house at 5792 Main Street is a 2-story side-gabled 3-rank brick Greek Revival style building with a 1 ½- story side gable wood frame wing at the west side. The brick portion features a stone foundation and cut stone water table, flat headed windows and entry door with prominent stone lintels. The wing features a central entry door articulated with a pilastered surround, flanked by 6/6 double hung windows. It features a wall dormer and a balustrade detail above. Rear features a large gabled frame addition with recessed entry.

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark
5792 Main Street, Williamsville, NY**

**By Historic Preservation Commission Member: JJ Duval, seconded by Steven Dyson
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 5792 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