

## Architectural Style and Form: **Craftsman/ Arts and Crafts (1905-1930)**

The Craftsman style became the dominant style for smaller houses constructed throughout the country in the first decades of the twentieth-century. Developing as a response to the chaotic ornamentation of the Victorian-era which dominated the late nineteenth-century, the Craftsman movement emphasized the beauty of natural materials such as wood, stone and metals. The American Craftsman movement drew heavily on the ideals of the British Craftsman movement, founded by William Morris in the 1860s, who promulgated a return to hand-made and traditional production in response to the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution and the diminished role of worker as craftsman.



**5511 Main Street**

This mixed-use building features some modest Craftsman influence, notably the shingled oriel that projects from the east elevation.



**5688 Main Street**

This commercial building utilizes some Arts and Crafts influence with its use of brick and its "rustic" tile pent roof.

In architecture, the Craftsman style was influenced by several sources. It was initially utilized in the design of rustic cottages and resorts, imitating or inspired by vernacular architecture and log cabins. Other influences to the style came from the interest in exotic cultures during the late 1800s, such as Oriental and Indian art and architecture. Some influence from the roughly contemporary Prairie Style (which originated in the Chicago area) may also be seen in the style. By the early twentieth-century, the Craftsman style had been translated into affordable, smaller houses which generally were called bungalows. This new bungalow house became extremely popular, and proliferated throughout the country in residential neighborhoods in the early twentieth-century. Of those properties surveyed in the Village of Williamsville, there were relatively few examples of the Craftsman Bungalow style identified. The relative scarcity of these designs in the neighborhood, in favor of earlier trends such as Greek Revival and Italianate, indicates that the survey area was largely developed prior to the early twentieth-century when the Craftsman style was widely popular.

### Local Landmark Designations-Craftsman/Arts and Crafts

- 5688 Main Street
- 5511 Main Street

Address: 5511 Main Street  
Architectural Style and Form: Craftsman/Arts and Crafts



Description of Significance: 5511 Main Street is significant as a good example of a mixed-use early 20th century building with a modest Craftsman style influence. Despite some changes, the building retains a high level of integrity. It also includes a ca. 1950s neon liquor store advertising sign.

Description of Property: 5511 Main Street is located on the south side of Main Street/ Rt. 5 near South Cayuga Road in the Village of Williamsville. The building is a 2 ½-story hipped roof brick mixed-use building in a modest Craftsman style with an asphalt shingle roof. Front elevation features large glass storefront windows with recessed central entry and recessed upper entry door at west end, 2<sup>nd</sup> story features paired projecting polygonal bay windows with 1/1 window units above paneled wood trim. Hipped dormer on roof. East elevation features large jerkinhead gabled oriel at 2<sup>nd</sup> story with shaped brackets, wood shingle and some intact wood frame windows.

**VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION**

**Designation of historical landmark  
5511 Main Street, Williamsville, NY**

**By Historic Preservation Commission Member: Catherine Waterman-Kulpa, 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 5511 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 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