

Reconnaissance-Level Historic Resources Survey
Town and Village of Victor, Ontario County, New York



Conducted by The Landmark Society of Western New York
for the Town of Victor Planning Department/Comprehensive Plan Initiative
2014-15

Purpose and Methodology

This report was prepared for the Town of Victor's Planning Department as part of their Comprehensive Plan initiative and planning process for both the town and the village. The Landmark Society of Western New York conducted the survey in order to help the local government understand the extent to which the built heritage – including privately owned resources as well as those open to the public – survives in the town and village, to assess the general physical conditions of built resources, to compile information on building ages, styles, and surrounding landscapes, and to develop a knowledge base from which to plan educational and promotional activities. The field work and contacts formed in this survey provided an opportunity to raise local awareness of the built environment and of the community's and government's roles in planning for the future of Victor.

Cynthia Howk, architectural research coordinator of the Landmark Society, began working on the Victor survey by conducting documentary research to assemble an outline history of the town and village. She they drove along every pre-1960s street in both the town and the village of Victor to collect information on the surviving historic resources. She identified properties that appeared to be at least 50 years old and to retain some degree of historic integrity. The survey chose to be quite inclusive, in order to collect a fuller picture of Victor's history and surviving resources that would be obtained by closely following criteria for historic significance or landmark designation potential (see below). For every property deemed worthy of inclusion, survey staff took a photograph and filled out a survey form with basic information in categories such as building age, type, style, and use.

This document is a compilation of the documentary research and on-site survey work. The context report is a narrative of the history of the town and village of Victor, emphasizing the evolution of the built environment. The Summary of Contexts lists extant historic resources by theme, using the "Data Categories for Functions and Uses" defined by the U.S. Department of the Interior and described in National Register Bulletin 16A. The Annotated Properties List is a compilation of information collected during on-site survey work in 2014 and 2015, and includes an entry for every property surveyed. The photographs of the best examples of various themes, styles, or building types are collected in the Selected Property Images in the final section of the report.

About Landmark Designation

There are two basic landmark designation programs: the National Register of Historic Places and local designation. Local landmark designation is only possible in municipalities that have passed a preservation ordinance, and thus local landmark designation is not currently possible in either the town or village of Victor. Those communities that do designate local landmarks are empowered to determine their own criteria for qualification.

The National Register of Historic Places is a program run by the National Park Service and administered by each state's Historic Preservation Office, which in New York is the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In order to qualify for the National Register, a property must normally be at least 50 years old; it must retain substantial historic integrity (meaning that its historic appearance is still largely intact), and it must possess local, state or national significance due to its association with a significant event, trend, or person, or because it is a notable example for an architectural style or the work of a master architect or other designer.

Historic resources surveys often use National Register criteria to determine which properties should be included in the survey. In this case, the survey team documented many properties that do not meet National Register criteria because the goal was to obtain a broader picture of the built environment in the town and village. Thus, inclusion in this survey does not imply eligibility for the National Register. For more details on each property included in the survey, see Section V, the Annotated Property List.

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THEME	PERIOD	PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS	BUILDING/SITE NAME
Transportation Networks			
*Roads	1800-1950	All village streets (Adams, Andrews, Railroad, Church, Kent, Moore, Maple, E.Main, W. Main	
*Railroad	1850-present	NYC Railroad (Amtrak), Lehigh Valley	
*Electric Trolley	1900-1930	131 Maple Avenue	Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Interurban Railroad depot
*Interstate Highway	1948-present	Route 90	New York State Thruway
Commerce/Trade			
*General Commerce	1840-present	343 E. Main St.	commercial row
	1860-present	345 E. Main St.	Commercial row
	1920-present	34 W. Main	commercial row
*Financial Institution	1872-present	3 W. Main St.	Moore Building
*Specialty Store	1910- present	24 E. Main St.	bakery
Industry			
*Manufacturing facility	1902-present	280 Maple Ave.	Victor Insulators Inc. former Plaster Mill
	1920s-1940s	Plastermill Road	chimney
*Waterworks	1920-2015	School St.	Village Water System Pump House
Social			
*Meeting Hall	1872-1900	1 W. Main St.	Moore Building (3rd-floor auditorium)

THEME	PERIOD	PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS	BUILDING/SITE NAME
Religion			
* Religious Facility	1857-present	61 Maple St.	Whitestone Community Church (former Universalist Church)
	1870-present	70 E. Main St.	First Presbyterian Church
	1875-present	106 E. Main St	Victor United Methodist Church
	1924-present	121 Maple St.	St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Recreation and Culture			
*Outdoor Recreation	1790s-present	Victor-Holcomb Rd., southwest corner of Boughton Hill Road	Village Green
	1913-present	310 Railroad Mills Rd.	Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club preserve 1913 Victor Centennial Boulder & plaque
*Monument/marker	1913	W. Main St., at High St. 1 Maple Ave., southeast corner of E. Main St.	Athasata monument
	mid-20th century	632 Wangum Rd., Fishers	PABOS monument
	1940-present	Valentown Square	Valentown Hall
* Museum	1960s-present	7000 Boughton Hill Rd.	Ganondagon State Historic Site
	1953-1980s	160 School St.	Victor Bowling Lanes
Funerary			
* Cemetery	1790s-present	1500 Victor-Holcomb Rd.	Boughton Hill Cemetery
	c.1800-present	102-106 E. Main St.	Victor Village Cemetery
	1880s-present	299 S. High St.	St. Patrick's Cemetery

THEME	PERIOD	PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS	BUILDING/SITE NAME
Industry/Processing/ Extraction			
* Quarry	1904-present	1370 Malone Rd.	Hanson Aggregates stone quarry
*Gypsum Mine	1926-1940	south side of Plastermill Rd., west of Brownsville Rd.	Victor Plaster Co. mine complex (furnace chimney, building ruins)
Landscape			
*Park	1790s-present	Victor-Holcomb Rd., southwest corner of Boughton Hill Rd.	Village Green

The Annotated Resource List summarizes the findings of the research team from the Landmark Society of Western New York. As described in Section I, Methodology, the survey team inventoried buildings and sites in both the village and town of Victor, including the hamlets of East Victor and Fishers. This was done with the intention of identifying potential landmark properties and, more broadly, assessing the general condition of the built environment. The database includes the team's notations on building style, apparent age, historic and current use.

The final column in the Annotated Property List indicates the designation potential of each property as determined by the research team. Because this evaluation is made based on a visual inspection, and not on documentary research, it emphasizes each property's historic integrity; in other words, the extent to which it retains its historic appearance. The great majority of properties in Victor have been altered in ways that reduce their historic integrity and thus make them appear to be ineligible for listing. In some rare cases, properties that are in poor condition or have lost some integrity can still be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of their historic significance, for example, as the location of notable events. This survey does not take such factors into account, and thus it is possible that properties ranked as having low potential for listing would actually be eligible based on their historic significance.

The categories for potential eligibility used in the database are:

Listed: Already listed in the National Register as an individual property or as part of a Multiple P Property Nomination.

High: Appears eligible for individual National Register and/or local designation; a high priority for landmark status.

Medium: Has sufficient architectural quality and integrity to be a potential individual local landmark or a contributing element in a local or National Register district, if a district is created in the future in its area.

Low: Would be a noncontributing or lesser contributing element in a National Register or local historic district, if a district is created in the future in its area. Many properties are listed in this category due to extensive alterations that have reduced their historic integrity.

None: This category generally applies to properties that are not yet 50 years old and thus do not qualify for National Register listing.

Photographs of selected buildings from this inventory are included in Section IV, Selected Property Images.