NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 9 to 52 Main Street, 1 to 17 Washington Street, 14 Waverly Street — N/A not for publication

city or town Cattaraugus — N/A vicinity

state New York code NY county Cattaraugus code 009 zip code 14719

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Russell Pierpont DSHPO 11/22/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for 1-22-14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [x] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
19	1	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/hotel
Commerce & Trade/bank
Commerce &Trade/store
Commerce & Trade/restaurant
Government /fire station
Recreation & Culture/theater
Recreation & Culture/meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/ multiple residence
Commerce & Trade/bank
Commerce & Trade/store
Commerce & Trade/restaurant
Recreation & Culture/ museum
Government/ village hall
Religion/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical, Queen Anne, 2nd Empire, Late 19th and early 20th century Commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: masonry
walls: wood, brick, stucco, vinyl
roof: asphalt
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the Southern Tier of western New York State, the Village of Cattaraugus is in the north-central part of the town of New Albion, which is situated roughly in the north-central section of Cattaraugus County. The entire village contains approximately 700 acres of land with most of the development following State Route 353, the main north-south route through the village before it heads northwest towards Persia or southwest toward Leon. The commercial district occupies approximately a three-block area along Main Street (SR 353) and slightly extends west on Waverly and Washington Streets, all of them defined by brick paving (a historic feature). The district is also sited along a rise, which affects the profile of the buildings, creating a stepped appearance in the rooflines. The district contains nineteen contributing buildings, mostly of brick and masonry construction, built between 1882 and 1915. The buildings are two and three-story commercial buildings (ground level storefronts with offices/rooms above) with details reflecting such styles as Italianate and Romanesque, with one exceptional stone Neoclassical Revival style bank building. Most of the late nineteenth century brick commercial buildings replaced earlier wooden buildings that were destroyed in an 1888 fire. A few earlier commercial buildings survived the fire and remain a vital part of the commercial district in the village. The nineteen buildings reflect the village's historic commercial development, continue to function as a commercial center and retain historic and architectural integrity, especially in terms of feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District is located in the village of Cattaraugus, which is found within the town of New Albion, Cattaraugus County, New York. The historic district is comprised of nineteen contributing buildings and one noncontributing building, with the contributing commercial-style buildings being between 1882 and 1915. One noncontributing building was built after the period of significance, but was designed to be compatible with the rest of the district. The contributing commercial buildings have a fair to high level of architectural integrity and each is significant within the district and the village's growth. Located along a hillside, the proposed historic district is primarily composed of Main Street, south of its intersection with Jefferson Street and north of its intersection with Waverly Street, and the westernmost portions of Washington and Waverly Streets, west of South Street. The western boundary of the historic district is the railroad tracks behind the west side of Main Street. The proposed district includes only commercial buildings and is surrounded by residential streets containing churches and residences that date from the mid nineteenth century to mid twentieth century. These buildings are not contiguous to the commercial district and should be evaluated in terms of a separate, potential historic district.

The historic district is composed of mainly two-story brick commercial buildings, with a few one-story and three-story buildings, dating from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. Brick became the material of choice when constructing commercial buildings due to its fire resistance compared to the previous wood buildings that often burned down, taking entire commercial streets at once. The close proximity of each building, usually with no separation between, called for better fire protection from one building to the next. A fire in the village in 1888 destroyed twenty-three wooden commercial buildings along Main Street and the new buildings were built with brick to avoid the same fate, with construction starting that same year. Typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture, buildings' features illustrate an array of popular styles, including Italianate, Queen Anne, Neoclassical Revival, and

Romanesque Revival. A mix of these architectural styles is commonly found among commercial centers established in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

While the characteristics of each style tend to be more obvious in residential architecture because of roof, porch, and other detailing, many of the commercial buildings in the historic district have a high level of ornamentation and detailing in the cornices and storefronts. The masonry commercial buildings in the district showcase ornate cornices, decorative brickwork, stepped corbelling, decorative brackets, and an array of trim details, most of which remain fully or partially intact. Many original storefronts remain intact. A few along the western side of Main Street were rebuilt after another fire destroyed them in 1979. The streetscape of the commercial core resembles that of a typical late nineteenth-early twentieth century commercial center, with the buildings set back form the street enough for sidewalks between the storefronts and the street. The commercial buildings along Main Street follow the slope of the hill, causing each building to sit slightly lower than the building to its north. This is most evident on the west side of the street. The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District also retains the majority of its early brick paver streets along Main Street and Washington Street. This original red brick paving, believed to date to 1915, stretches down the main portion of Main Street and Washington Street. Few patches have been made and the village has made a conscious effort to retain the historic road surface, adding to the distinctive character, integrity, and significance of the commercial district.

The presence and integrity of the commercial buildings in the historic district demonstrates the significance and importance that commerce has played in the success and survival of this small village. Along with the commercial core of the village, surrounding churches, factories, schools, an old hospital, train depot, and historic residences help tell the story of growth and success with the Village of Cattaraugus and the role it took on with the surrounding communities. This small village thrived off the railroad. While many communities in Cattaraugus County have suffered both economic and population losses during the twentieth century, the small Village of Cattaraugus has remained a viable agricultural and manufacturing community, as well as sustaining many commercial ventures.

BUILDING LIST

West Side of Main Street – Between Jefferson Street & Waverly Street

9 Main Street N.

Contributing – Constructed 1888

Two-story, three-bay brick commercial building. Decorative painted wood cornice with pediment detail and two large end brackets, decorative stepped brick and corbelling below the cornice. One-over-one double-hung windows with a fixed window above. Simple stone sills and low-arched vertical brick lintels. Brick cornice between floor levels. Wood storefront with single-pane glass, transom windows above with stained glass. Museum sign sits just above the storefront. Six-panel wood door with transom above to the left of the storefront with wood steps separate from the storefront entrance. Concrete steps lead to the storefront entrance.

This building was the first to be rebuilt after the fire of 1888. Originally a jewelry store on the first floor, dentist on the second floor. During the 1930s--a fruit store then a barber shop occupied the first floor. By 1979 a Chimney and Roofline

Company occupied the building. Currently, The American Museum of Cutlery is on the first floor and meeting space on the second floor.

11-13 Main Street N. (L.N. Northrup Building)

Contributing – Constructed 1890

Two-story, Italianate style, brick double commercial building. Ornate brick cornice with decorative stepped brickwork. One-over-one double-hung windows with a fixed window above. A decorative wood cornice sits between the first and second level with rosette ornamentation. Two brick storefronts, each with a tripartite window and brick columns. The center of the first level has three wooden doors, one half-light, two-panels on each side for the commercial spaces and one six-panel wood door in the center for second floor access. Concrete steps lead to the storefront entrances. Storefront altered from original appearance.

15-17 Main Street N. (Clayton Rich Building)

Contributing – Constructed 1890

Two-story, Italianate style, brick, double commercial building. A simple stone cornice with stepped brick corbelling. One-over-one double-hung replacement windows flank the second level, with wood plank infill. Simple stone sills and lintels remain. Simple wood trim with rosettes separate the first and second levels. The original front façade was severely damaged in a fire and the storefronts were rehabilitated. The shed-like roofs imitate the awnings that original existed, while the storefronts themselves are wood paneled, emulating the western character of the commercial buildings before the fire of 1888, which destroyed the commercial district. Both storefronts have single-pane windows, with wood sills and lintels and fabric awnings, to either side of the central wood entry doors. The center of the first level façade features a wood door and original brick fluting, which is also found on either end of the building.

19-21 Main Street N. (Charles J. Rich Building (19), J.H. Jewell & Sons Building (21), former Library)

Contributing – Constructed 1890

Two-story, Italianate style, brick double commercial building. A metal cornice with dentils, decorative brickwork below including cross cut-outs and stepped brickwork. 21 Main Street has original one-over-one double-hung windows, while 19 Main Street has replacement one-over-one double-hung windows in the bottom half of the original window opening and a fixed glass pane in the upper portion of the opening. Both storefronts have been altered. 19 Main Street has a brick and metal frame storefront with original cornice and rosette details above. 21 Main Street has an asymmetrical storefront with a metal frame and a glass block transom. The center of the building features brick fluted columns, a replacement metal door and tall transom window.

23 Main Street N. (former Bank of Cattaraugus)

Contributing – Constructed 1882

Two-story, Italianate style, three-bay brick commercial building. Decorative cast iron storefront, railing and stone steps. An original four-panel, two-light doors remain on each side of the storefront. Stairs lead to two entries on either side of the center window. Simple, arched transom windows sit above each door. The original tripartite-like windows remain in the storefront with simple bulkhead below. This is one of the few pre-1888 buildings that survived the fire in the commercial center. Originally had ornate corbelled cornice that was rebuilt some time in the mid twentieth century with a simple brick frieze. Retains the one-over-one double-hung windows in the second story.

25-31 Main Street N. (Crawford House)

Contributing – Constructed ca. 1891

Four-story, Second Empire style brick hotel building. Simple cast stone crown cornice. One-over-one double-hung windows have arched frames, stone sills and simple, but decorative brick and stone lintels. Existing door openings also have an arch at the top of the frame, stone threshold and brick and stone lintel detail. Banding from the original porches can be seen at the first, second and third stories. Original doorways on the first-story exist. Double, half-light wooden doors with fanlight transom above is on the southern end of the building. At the center is a large picture window, which

has been boarded, with large transom above. To the right of this window are two half-light wooden doors with a half fanlight transom above. The original stone steps remain at the front of the building, leading to where the front porch used to exist. A large storefront-style picture window with heavy stone still below and decorative transom above is featured at the northernmost end of the front façade. The iconic Mansard roof still exists but is now encased by brick and a plain cornice, done sometime in the early to mid twentieth century. The historic interior of the hotel is still intact and configured as a hotel, with some deterioration. This hotel was built on the site of the first hotel in the village.

East Side of Main Street – Between Jefferson Street & First Street

10 Main Street N.

Non contributing due to age --Constructed 1970

One-story, vernacular-style building. The front façade has a “false front” top with a simple, flat cornice with decorative brackets. Original vertical wood panel siding remains. The building features a more recent door, picture window with wood shutters and a front-gable roof. The building may have been constructed with original materials from similar buildings seen in historic photographs ca. 1920.

12 Main Street N. (John and Sarah Jewell Building)

Contributing – Constructed 1895

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. Large decorative metal cornice with brackets and corbels and a simple brick frieze below. The second-story features one-over-one replacement windows with simple stone sills and lintels. A center door leading to the balcony is a replacement. Remaining space above is either infill from a taller door or transom window. The balcony has a decorative wrought iron railing. The original central entrance storefront remains with transoms above the picture windows. Stone steps and foundation. Small windows to the basement space are partially exposed. Originally constructed as the Jewell Hotel after an earlier wood hotel was destroyed in the fire of 1888.

14 Main Street N. (Hook and Ladder Building)

Contributing – Constructed 1892

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. Originally constructed as the fire hall. The building retains a decorative metal cornice with arch detail in the center. Original detailing “Fireman’s”, “1892”, and “Hall” remain on at the cornice and frieze of the building. One-over-one double-hung windows with simple stone sill and decorative brick and stone lintels. A simple cornice between the two-stories remains with decorative end corbels. The first-story features two storefronts. The northern wood storefront has a large sliding window and modern door. The transom above has been in filled and painted. A simple bulkhead is below. The southern wood storefront features two picture windows and a modern door. Transoms have been in filled and painted. The storefronts were originally large doors for the fire engines.

18 Main Street N.

Contributing – Constructed 1895

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. The original decorative metal cornice with large end corbels and brackets remains with a simple brick frieze below. Original wood one-over-one double-hung windows have simple stone sills and lintels. A simple metal cornice separates the second story from the storefront with a retractable awning below. The storefront has been partially renovated with a vinyl replacement window in the transom above the northernmost wood two-panel, one light door. The storefront is wood framed with a recessed entryway. The storefront transom windows have been in filled with painted wood paneling, while the entrance transom has decorative glass. Concrete steps lead to the recessed entrance. The *Cattaraugus Times* was printed in this building from the 1890s to the 1970s. Originally, the post office occupied part of the storefront and then again from 1927-1994. The second story was a large apartment occupied by the *Times* publisher’s family.

24 Main Street N. (Bank of Cattaraugus)

Contributing – Constructed 1910 / Addition 1971

One-story, Neoclassical Revival style, stone block commercial building. A simple stone cornice wraps the building's top with a stone sign with *Bank of Cattaraugus* inscribed on it. The front (Main Street) façade has one tripartite window with a large fanlight above. The decorative lintel and window surround is of the same stone as the building blocks. The south (Washington Street) elevation has three tripartite windows with large fanlight above. These windows have the same stone lintel and surround detail as the front façade. The south façade also has three pairs of basement windows visible above grade. One pair is both a single pane of glass, while the other two pairs are one-over-one, double hung. Decorative wrought iron bars are installed on the exterior of the windows for security. The tripartite windows on the front and south elevations have fabric awnings. A one-story addition was attached to the original building during a 1971 renovation. This section has a wood shingle roof lined with copper flashing and gutters. An inset wood panel front façade encompasses the main entrance to the bank and a large single pane window. A sign inscribed with *Bank of Cattaraugus* spans across this addition. A brick wall surpasses the main façade to the sidewalk.

North Side of Washington Street – Between Main Street & South Street

10-12 Washington Street

Contributing – Constructed 1910

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. The western half of the building is one-story with a simple metal cornice, painted brick, and a central entrance storefront that has been slightly altered. The eastern half of the building is two-story with a more decorative metal and stone cornice and frieze. Three one-over-one double-hung replacement windows on the second-story have simple stone sills and lintels. The central entrance storefront has been slightly altered. Both storefronts resemble the original configuration, however, the windows have been replaced and vinyl siding added. Above the storefronts, spanning the width of the building is an original wood shake roof.

14 Washington Street

Contributing – Constructed ca. 1910

Two-story, Romanesque style, brick commercial building. A simple brick pattern spans the top of the façade and stepped brick at the upper second-story and between the first and second-stories. Decorative brickwork ornaments the front façade. Three one-over-one double-hung replacement windows have been inset into three original arched window openings. Double French doors and a wooden surround have been set into the original entrance opening, with an exposed steal I-beam above. The front façade has been altered, but has retained the original door and window configurations from the historic theater. On the interior, portions of the original auditorium and stage remain.

16 Washington Street

Contributing – Constructed 1915

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. A large decorative metal cornice crowns the building. Four original one-over-one, double-hung wood windows remain on the second-story with simple stone sills and more decorative crown stone lintels. A crown-style cornice sits above the storefront. The original storefront is mostly intact with an original door at the far east to the upper level and the original double storefront windows with transom and bulkhead. The main storefront entrance matches the original materials at the windows, but was an early alteration, as the opening was originally used as a garage door for a Ford dealership.

South Side of Washington Street – Between Main Street & South Street

1-3 Washington Street (Wake Brothers Building)

Contributing – Constructed 1897

Two-story, Italianate style, brick commercial building. The original metal and wood cornice wraps the main façade and western elevation. Five original arched window openings on the second-story remain, with one being bricked in. Windows are one-over-one double-hung with simple stone sills. The lintels are more decorative with vertical brickwork and stone end caps. Vertical plank signboard spans the width of the building below the second-story windows. The storefront has been altered with large plate glass set into aluminum frames, but overall, original materials have been maintained on the building. Fraternal lodge quarters are still intact on the second floor.

5-9 Washington Street

Contributing – Constructed 1889

Two-story, Queen Anne style, brick commercial building. An original metal cornice and decorative brick corbelling remain intact. Six original one-over-one, arched, double-hung windows and one-over-one, double-hung, paired windows with arched transom above, remain on the second-story. The original storefronts remain, including original doors and transom windows, with the exception of brick bulkheads and replacement transom windows above 9 Washington Street. Historically, the village opera house occupied the second floor of the building with commercial spaces on the first floor.

11-13 Washington Street (Albert Sherman Building)

Contributing – Constructed pre-1891

The western portion is a two-story, Italianate style, wood commercial building. Portions of the original cornice remain atop the “false front”. The façade has been altered with vertical wood siding, rather than the horizontal wood siding original to the building. Second-story windows are six-over-six, double-hung vinyl replacement windows. The storefront, which has been altered, still emulates the original configuration and was likely an early alteration. The storefront is wood frame with transom windows and two half-light doors. The eastern portion of the building is a one-story, vernacular-style, wood commercial building. An original cornice with end brackets remains atop the “false front”. The storefront has been altered with four eight-over-eight vinyl replacement windows and a modern side entrance door. An asphalt shingle awning roof has been added with simple wood supports. These buildings are an example of early wood commercial buildings that originally lined the village downtown area.

15-19 Washington Street

Contributing – Constructed pre-1891

Two-story, Italianate style, early wood commercial building. Original eave overhanging cornice and decorative brackets remain. The façade has been heavily altered. Second-story replacement windows include a side-by-side sliding vinyl window, a pair of two-over-two, double-hung metal clad windows, and a one-over-one double-hung vinyl window. A portion of the metal storefront cornice remains, spanning across the main (front) façade. A small addition on the western side has a one-over-one double-hung window and angled modern entrance door with a metal cornice. The storefront has been altered from the original with various replacement windows and doors. The building has been covered with vinyl siding. This is one of the early wood commercial buildings and still retains the Italianate decorative features at the cornice.

North Side of Waverly Street – Between Main Street & South Street

14 Waverly Street

Contributing – Constructed pre-1889

Three-story, vernacular gable-front wood commercial building. Vertical wood plank siding wraps the ground floor of the building. Third and second-story windows are one-over-one and four-over-four, double-hung with simple pediment lintels. Painted wood planks have been inserted between the lintels and windows. The first floor storefront has been altered with vertical wood plank siding. Two vinyl replacement windows, one is one-over-one double-hung, the other four-over-four double hung. A simple gable roof entry awning is supported by wood posts. This building's exact construction date is unknown, but it is pre-1889 and is one of the early wood commercial buildings with much of the original historic material intact. The building was a printing plant for the *Cattaraugus Times* prior to 1889 and had a lodge room on the third floor.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1882-1915

Significant Dates

1882,1888,1915

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance reflects the collection of extant nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings constructed after fires devastated the commercial core in the late nineteenth century, with construction beginning in 1882. Businesses and stores established in these buildings marked the beginnings and the continued success of commerce in the village of Cattaraugus. The area was further delineated in 1915 by brick paving which marks the end of the period of significance.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of commerce as the historic commercial corridor of the village after it was redeveloped following a devastating fire in 1888. Due to its location along a main roadway between different settlements, the railroad location, and connecting roads from the village, the commercial center of the village of Cattaraugus was established where the road met the railroad. A variety of services, including grocers, jewelers, pharmacies, hardware stores, and clothing stores began opening along this section of the main road, which paralleled the railroad tracks. Most importantly, hotels were established for travelers coming through the village by train and stores in the village prospered due to the business of both local villagers and those travelers passing through. A Post Office was opened in the village's commercial core, which became the central mail station for the village and the surrounding smaller communities. After a fire gutted the village core in 1888, the village worked to rapidly rebuild the district with less flammable, brick buildings to maintain its importance as a as a commercial and social hub for the village and the surrounding communities.

The village commercial historic district is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings that feature a range of architectural details typical of the time from Italianate period to Neoclassical Revival. The majority of the buildings are two or three-story brick commercial blocks and share common characteristics such as ornate cornices and decorative corbelling, stone or metal lintels and sills, and cornice brackets. A few of the buildings retain the original wood or cast iron storefronts. The redevelopment of the commercial district followed the popular tastes of the period, and although the village was largely isolated from other larger urban centers in the region, the building owners, store keepers and residents were attuned to the latest, most fashionable building styles. Local stores and businesses were built up along what is currently Main Street, Washington Street, and parts of Waverly Street, capitalizing on both local resources and goods brought to the village by the railroad and roads. The redevelopment of the village's commercial district took place between 1882 through 1915, which can be seen in the various architectural styles included in the district. In 1915, the commercial core was further unified by brick paving of the upper part of Main Street and Washington Street, a feature maintained by the village to the present.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Settlement and Village Formation

Both the Cattaraugus County and the village of Cattaraugus take the name derived from the Native Seneca term of *Gah-ta-ra-ke-rus,* roughly translated as a place where oily and gaseous mud oozes from the ground. Although parts of the county had noxious swamps and mud flats, the majority of the land was well suited to farming, especially the lands north of the Allegany River. At first, settlement in the area was slow due to the lack of passable lands. Matthew Dimmick was the first to settle and build a log cabin in the area that became the town of New Albion and the village of Cattaraugus,

arriving in 1818. Later that same year, James Goddard arrived and built another log cabin in which he lived and ran a tavern until his death in 1830. Because he remained, Goddard was recognized as being the first true settler of New Albion. Other early settlers arrived, including Jonathan Kinnicutt (1819) and Jeremiah Maybee (1821), to set up farms in the southeast portion of the town.

The area that became New Albion and the village of Cattaraugus was at one point known as Rich Valley and Snyder Hill, named after two families who moved to the area from Onondaga County after purchasing land from the Holland Land Company (1821).[1] From this land, a town named Little Valley was established in 1818 and from it the town of New Albion was formed in 1830. The town was named after Albion in Livingston County (New York), where many of the settlers originated. Around 1830, Henry Snyder, for whom Snyder Hill was named, established an ashery producing potash (black salts) at the site that later became the intersection of Main and Waverly Streets in Cattaraugus, the first established industry in the village.[2] In 1833, the first store in New Albion was opened by Erastus Horth, followed by other stores, taverns and industries a few years later.

Due to the densely wooded countryside, transportation was difficult and passable roads were nonexistent in New Albion during the settlement period. With the exception of the Allegany River, waterways (mostly streams and creeks) were too small for navigation. The Holland Land Company began planning and building roads through Cattaraugus County, the first connecting Olean to Canandaigua (1810) and another between Franklinville and Buffalo. In 1812, the company opened another road known as the Old Chautauqua Road, which became a major emigrant road through the region. Another early road was laid from Gowanda through Rich Valley that later was developed into State Route 353, running into the northern part of the village of Cattaraugus to Jefferson Street and then north to the town of Otto. The road was a former footpath that was widened to accommodate carts and wagons needed for movement from one place to another.

Around 1820, Joseph Plumb moved to Gowanda and later bought a large tract of land that encompassed most of what became the village of Cattaraugus. As a part of his vision for growth of the area, he offered a right-of-way through his land to the New York and Erie Railroad with the condition that the railroad build a depot on the land as well, which was done in 1851. With the laying of the railroad, the population steadily increased as people could more easily move to the area. Railroad work provided steady jobs and Joseph Plumb began subdividing the rest of his land to sell off portions to new arrivals. As people improved and built homes, barns and other buildings on their lots, they also began to clear trees and made new roads along the property lines. New roads and road improvements meant for better transportation around the village and surrounding area. These new roads were placed to connect with the main road through the village and are still evident with Jefferson, Washington, Waverly, and First Streets, which all travel west and meet up with Main Street.

[1] Karen E. Livsey, *Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991), 257. The Holland Land Company acquired the rights to sell 3.3 million acres of land in Western New York, which were surveyed by Joseph Ellicott. Land sales commenced around 1800.
[2] Early settlers were usually farmers searching for more prosperous opportunities than they had back east. Clearing the land for farming also presented another opportunity for industry. The burning of the large trees produced potash, which was easily transported and therefore an easy way to earn cash.

In 1851, the village of Cattaraugus was incorporated, acknowledging the establishment and success of Cattaraugus as an independent village, supporting itself and the surrounding villages with its farming and commercial opportunities. That same year marked the completion of the New York and Erie Railroad, which became the longest railroad in the United States and one of the most influential catalysts for agricultural, industrial, and commercial development in the Southern Tier. The first train passed through the village on May 15, 1851, marking the beginning of the business boom. Saw and grist mills were built along the bank of the Cattaraugus Creek. Mills, furniture making, and other various industries were supported by the ample timber resources and the access to more markets through the railroad. The railroad also boosted farming, which had previously been limited in their product markets. Using the railroad, farmers were able to ship their goods, greatly increasing the number of buyers and markets they could reach. Milk, vegetables and fruits were shipped to larger cities, ultimately resulting in larger and quicker sums of cash earned.

As a result of the railroad, the depot building became an important anchor building at the end of the main street. The location of the railroad in the village led to a post office being established in the village in 1851. The post office became the main distribution center for mail for the villages of Cattaraugus, Otto, Springville, and other surrounding communities to the east and the north. The establishment of the post office in the village showed how other communities and hamlets in less settled areas depended on a centralized place like the village of Cattaraugus. The combination of access to the depot and railroad, along with the improved main road and new connecting roads, led the village to its role as flourishing commercial, economic, industrial, and social center for the area by the early 1880s. The railroad operated six passenger trains a day, besides the “way-freight” trains. Passenger trains brought in salesmen and businessmen from all over, increasing the need for commercial businesses, services and hotels to house travelers.

The Development of the Commercial District and Architecture

As commerce centered around Main Street and the railroad depot, a number of two story wood commercial buildings lined both sides of the street south of the railroad tracks. These buildings reflected the popular architectural styles of the mid to late nineteenth century, especially the Italianate style. A circa 1880 photograph of the street shows a number of businesses with overhanging roofs, bracketed cornices, arched second story windows and long, narrow ground level and/or storefront windows, all features of the Italianate. These wooden buildings were the result of the ready diffusion of information to builders through print media and an abundance of wood in the surrounding area. Decorative cornices made an ornate and stylistically unified roofline, which often hid standard shingle roofs from view. During the 1850s – 1880s, a variety of businesses, stores, and shops opened along Main Street, including cobbler, harness, and barber shops, a jewelry and watch repair store, a bakery, drug stores, hardware stores, a furniture store, and a meat market. William F. Elliot and S.L. Johnson opened the first general store in May of 1851 and, by 1880, the village also had several more general stores, which were divided into groceries on one side and dry goods on the other. Also in 1851, William Buffington opened the first public house, which later became well-known as the Cattaraugus House. This was a hotel was purposely built within walking distance of the railroad to cater to the businessmen, salesmen and other travelers arriving by train.

In September 1888, disaster struck the village commercial district when a fire destroyed a majority of the buildings along both sides of Main Street. Access to water was limited to a few wells and this lack of abundant available water meant that the fire department could only use the “bucket brigade” method to battle the fire rather than use the pumpers, resulting in the inability to control the fire. As a result, the village implemented a public water supply system. Along with the new water system came upgrades to other village amenities, including the installation of sidewalks. Few original buildings remained standing after the fire but two that did were the Cattaraugus House and the Cattaraugus Bank. Another early building was the Babb Building that was far south of the concentration of the affected commercial buildings and able to avoid destruction.

Acknowledging the importance of the village’s commercial core, new buildings began to be constructed that same year (1888) of brick masonry, which was thought to be fire-proof and thus able to avoid the same fate as their predecessors. It was crucial that the village rebuild its commercial center quickly or risk losing its status as a central business and social meeting place for the village and the surrounding farming communities. In December 1888, the first building to open after the fire was at 9 Main Street with a jewelry store and dentist office as tenants. It was a two-story brick building with a storefront on the ground level and rooms for offices and meetings above. In 1890, three more buildings were constructed on Main Street along the same side as the jewelry store to house an insurance company (which ironically sold fire insurance), the post office, a clothing store and a hardware store. These buildings were constructed in the Italianate style, and shared similar window details, corbelling and a decorative cornice with a wood and metal balustrade and decorative finials. The use of similar high-style of ornamentation on these new buildings along Main Street emphasized the wealth of the village despite the fire and suggested a common builder. Rebuilding in popular commercial architectural styles of the time also proved that builders in the village were able to keep up with the design trends found in the larger cities and towns in the Southern Tier.

In 1891, Cattaraugus House Hotel was demolished to make way for another large brick building that became known as the Crawford House. Hotelier Frank Crawford commissioned the hotel with traveling businessmen in mind as the targeted audience.[3] He provided salesmen with space in the lower level of the hotel as a place to display product samples, as well as make sales and deals with local residents and merchants. Sections of the lower level also housed a barbershop, shoemaker, and later, an auto parts store. The hotel had a mansard roof, which differentiated it from the other neighboring Italianate and Queen Anne commercial buildings that were higher up on the rise. Located near the base of the sloping street, it was able to contain three stories and remain roughly the same height as the neighboring buildings. The Crawford House had two full front porches, with the lower one allowing direct access into the main floor dining and reception area. Rooms had large double-hung windows for light and ventilation. Often described as elegant, entrances were marked with fanlight transoms and interiors contained stained door, window and wall moldings. The use of detailing and ornate features showcased Crawford’s wealth and the hotel became a symbol of village prosperity and emphasis on hospitality.

[3] Crawford also owned and operated hotels in Gowanda, Otto and Ellicottville.

In an effort to offer modern amenities, Crawford had gas lighting and heating installed in 1908. The hotel also made use of the north section of the first-story as retail space, which was used for a variety of retail and commercial ventures over the years. These included a men's clothing store, millinery store, dress shop, restaurant, variety store, barbershop, and even an apartment. Crawford also ran a livery stable from the rear yard of the hotel. From its opening, the Crawford House was a grand fixture of the Main Street, setting the standard for use of latest technologies (installation of natural gas) and emphasis on elegance.

As the village continued to expand, demands for commercial space led to new construction along adjacent streets. Two small hotels were built close to Main Street on Jefferson Street, but were much simpler in design and detail than the Crawford House. Over the years, Jefferson Street developed as a residential area, losing its association with the commercial center. The east end of Washington Street also became a preferred residential area, but stores and shops built in the block adjacent to Main Street continued to flourish. By the turn of the twentieth century, the west end of the street had a drug store, an opera house, bicycle shop and meat market. In 1910, the Bank of Cattaraugus moved into a new building at the corner of Main and Washington. Following the general trend for bank buildings, the new bank used the Neoclassical Revival style to convey to the public that it was a well established, financially secure institution and its building was a sign of its strength. After the Panic of 1893, banks and financial institutions used buildings constructed of stone to signify sound financial strength and to reassure customers that investments were safe within its walls. The new Bank of Cattaraugus Building was a rectangular building of cut stone with a cast stone parapet, stone quoins and large arched windows. To further enhance the commercial district, the village paved the Main, Washington and Waverly Street commercial sections with brick in 1915. The brick paving also provided the core with a distinctive unifying feature and helped to define its boundaries.

Conclusion

Regarded as the grandest building at the time, the Second Empire style Crawford House was surrounded by other buildings of various architectural styles in what developed into the Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District. The buildings spanned the range of prevalent late-nineteenth and early twentieth styles used for commercial buildings. In general, these styles were widely popularized in architectural pattern books, written by prominent architects of the time, who promoted certain styles, designs, and ornamentation. While the pattern books were typically utilized in the design and detail of residences, the basic principles of each architectural style were carried through to the design of commercial buildings. A great majority of the buildings in the district were Italianate in style, which was prevalent in commercial buildings in the late nineteenth century, well after it ceased being popular for residences. After the Italianate, the Queen Anne and Romanesque styles reached their height in popularity from the late 1880s to the early 1900s, while the Neoclassical Revival style flourished during the early part of the twentieth century.

The buildings in the Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District were constructed roughly over a thirty year period, most being constructed after the devastating fire of 1888. The architectural styles found throughout the commercial district point to the village's ability to follow trends of the time period throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, allowing the village to remain a contender for development and prosperity during the establishment and settlement of cities, towns and villages along main transportation routes. The collection of existing commercial buildings in the historic district showcases the typical architectural styles from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district retains a high level of historic integrity and character connected to each architectural style represented, which depicts the story of the village's past, supports the village's present, and ensures the village's future as a commercial center.

Two major events in the village of Cattaraugus had a profound effect on the development of the commercial district: the railroad and road improvements. The railroad brought travelers and business to the village after its arrival in 1851. Cattaraugus became an important stop for trade and sales and after the post office was established (1851), the village became a social center as people from the surrounding communities traveled to Cattaraugus for mail, shopping, and public events. Stores and services available in the commercial center provided residents with the goods and services required for a successful, independent village. After the destructive fire of 1888, the rebuilding of the commercial core solidified and secured the small village as the social, commercial, and industrial hub for other nearby communities. Although changes in technology and the prevalence of the automobile have diminished the role of the village as a gathering spot, the Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District continues to function as the business center for the village. The buildings retain their historic character and the village still maintains the brick roadways that define the historic district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture.* New York: Penguin Books USA Inc., 1980.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
__x__Other
Name of repository: **Cattaraugus Village Historical Society**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.23 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18N	181265	4693633	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary encompasses the strongest collection of contiguous extant historic commercial buildings in the village within the period of significance. The boundary includes the historic 1915 brick paving that continues to mark and unify the historic commercial core.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Megan Klem, Preservation Specialist
organization Johnson-Schmidt & Associates, Architects date 13 September 2013
street & number 15 E. Market Street, Suite 202 telephone (607) 937-1946
city or town Corning state NY zip code 14830
e-mail megan@preservationarchitects.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 2000x3000 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Cattaraugus

County: Cattaraugus State: New York

Photographer: Megan Klem

Date Photographed: 8 June 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photograph 0001 of 0019: Main Street looking southwest at the western side of the street.
Photograph 0002 of 0019: Looking west at 9-13 Main Street.
Photograph 0003 of 0019: Looking west at 15-17 Main Street.
Photograph 0004 of 0019: Looking west at 19-21 Main Street.
Photograph 0005 of 0019: Looking west at 23-31 Main Street.
Photograph 0006 of 0019: Looking southeast at the east side of Main Street. Five buildings are included.
Photograph 0007 of 0019: Looking northeast at the east side of Main Street. Five building are included.
Photograph 0008 of 0019: Looking east at 12-18 Main Street.
Photograph 0009 of 0019: Looking northeast at the northern side of Washington Street. Three buildings are included, with the south side of the bank on the left.
Photograph 0010 of 0019: Looking north at 10-12 Washington Street.
Photograph 0011 of 0019: Looking north at 14 Washington Street.
Photograph 0012 of 0019: Looking north at 16 Washington Street.
Photograph 0013 of 0019: Looking southeast at 1-19 Washington Street. Four building are included.
Photograph 0014 of 0019: Looking south at 1-3 Washington Street.
Photograph 0015 of 0019: Looking south at 5-9 Washington Street.
Photograph 0016 of 0019: Looking south at 11-13 Washington Street.
Photograph 0017 of 0019: Looking southeast at 15-19 Washington Street.
Photograph 0018 of 0019: Looking northeast at the rear of 1-9 Washington Street from the intersection of Main Street and Waverly Street.
Photograph 0019 of 0019: Looking northeast at 14 Waverly Street.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name N/A

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

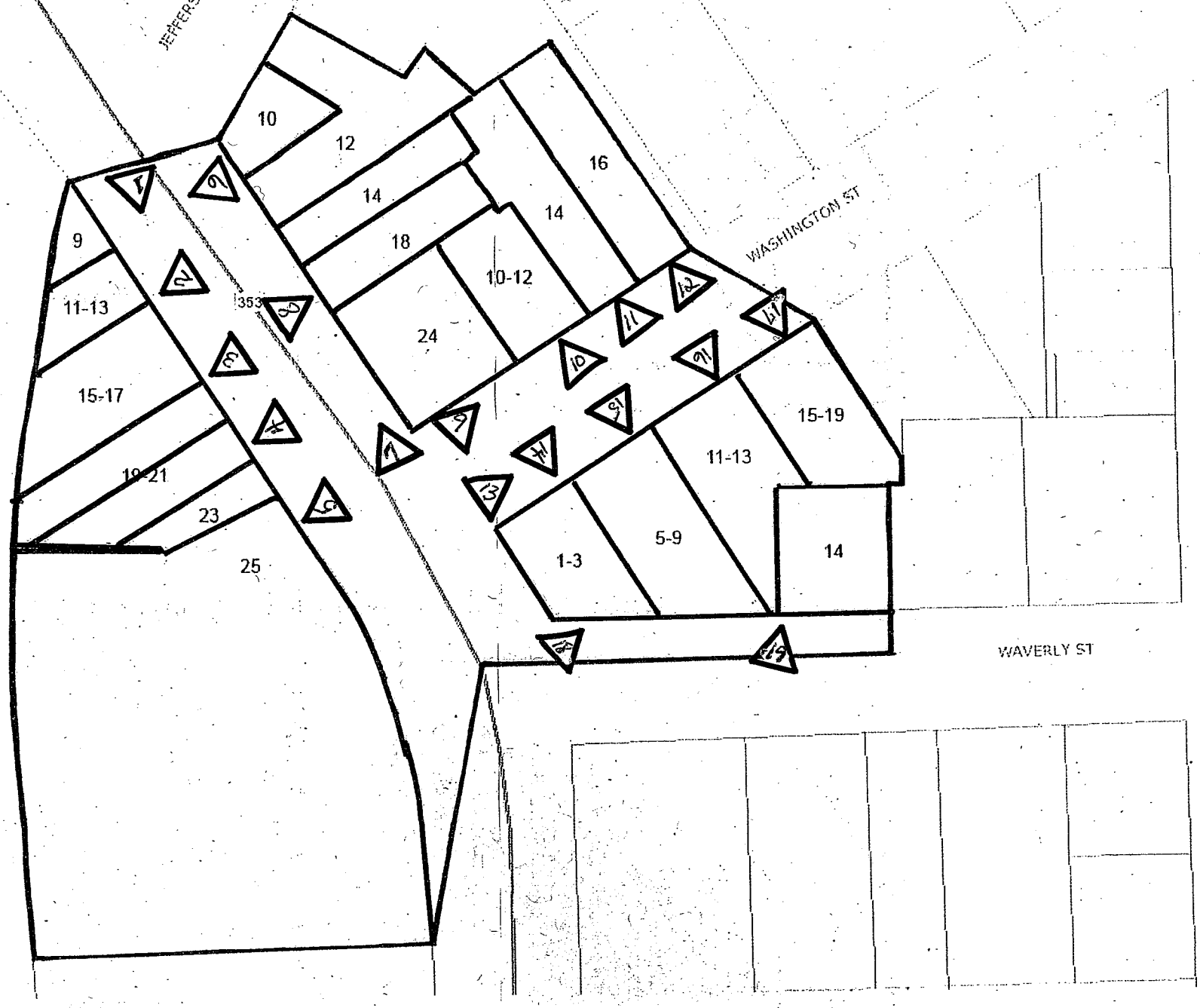
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

Boundary Map

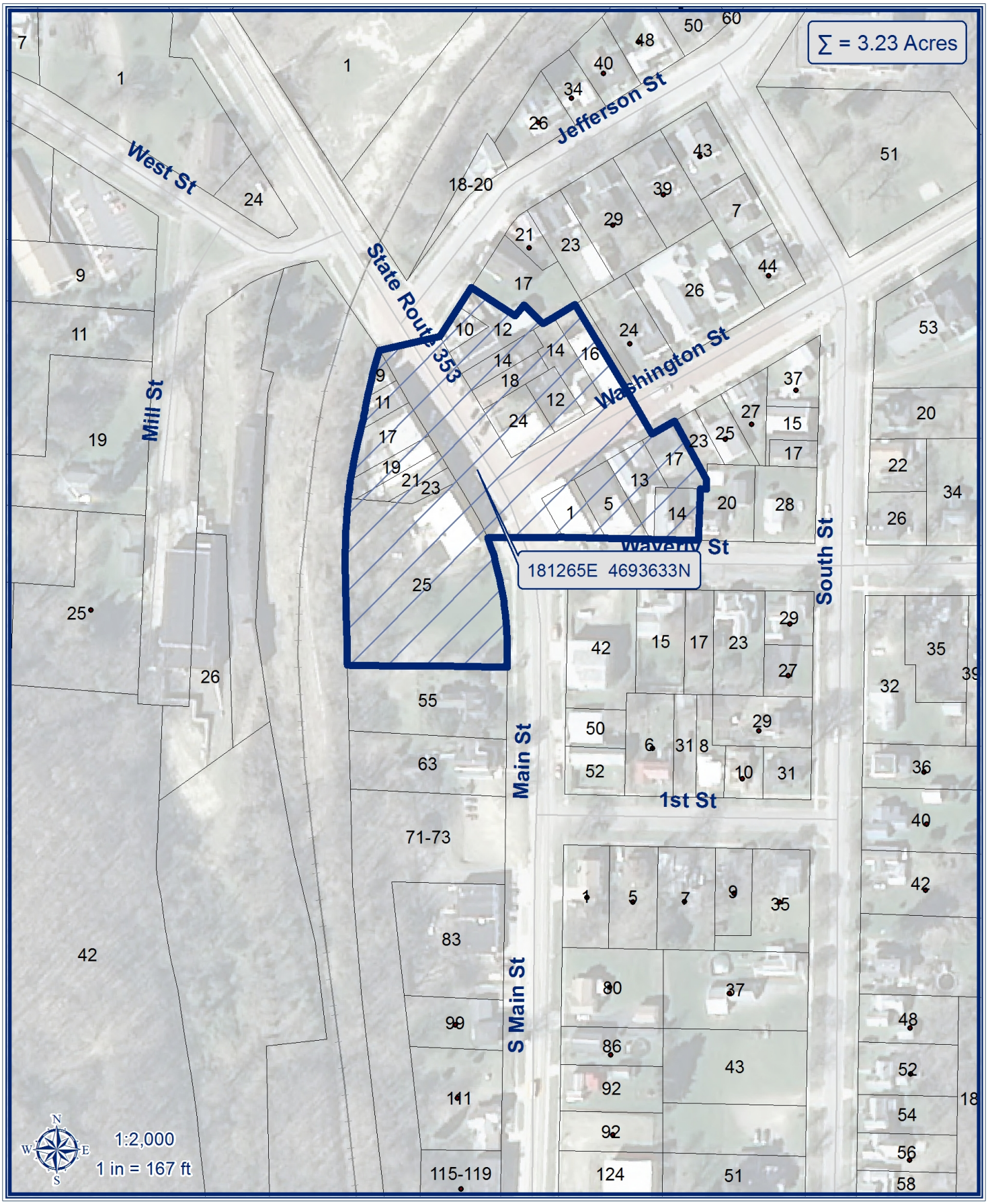
Cattaraugus County, NY

PHOTO KEY



Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

Cattaraugus, Cattaraugus Co., NY



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

Feet
0 55 110 220

Historic District

Tax Parcel Data:
Cattaraugus Co, RPS
http://maps.cattco.org

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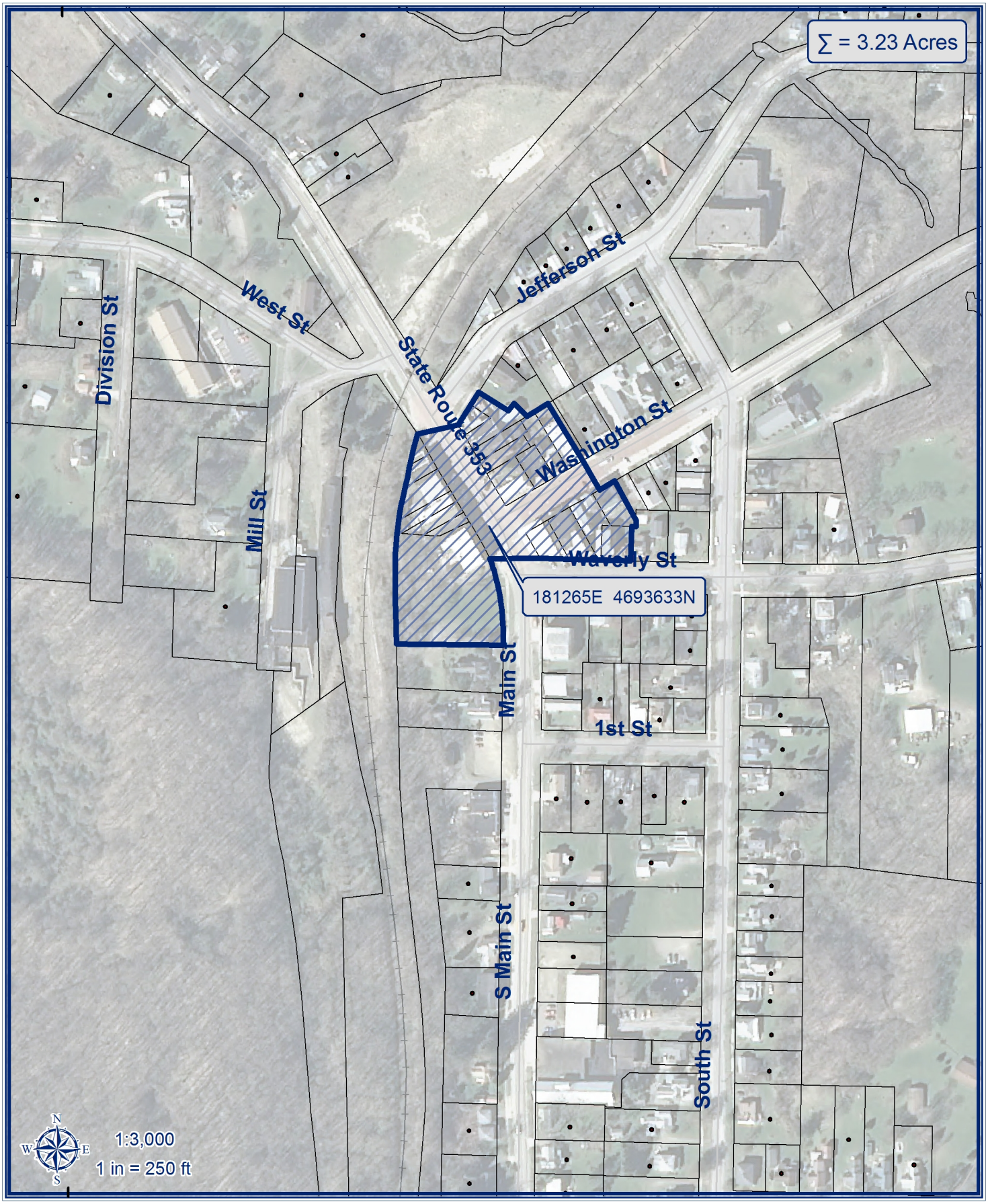
NEW YORK STATE

Cattaraugus Village Commercial Historic District

Cattaraugus, Cattaraugus Co., NY



181000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

0 85 170 340 Feet

Historic District

Tax Parcel Data:
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Quick Draw
PLAY HERE

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RAUGU
SAPEA
HISTORICAL
CENTER
SALE

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VILLAGE OF CATTARAUGUS
TORE

FIREMAN'S
1892
HALL
VILLAGE OF CATTARAUGUS
Incorp. Oct. 25, 1882
TOWN OF NEW ALBION
Incorp. Feb. 23, 1830
POLICE
MURPHY'S GOURMET

BANK
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CATTARAUGUS

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