

# SEE! SAVE! CELEBRATE!

~ Local Historic Landmarks ~

## Hamlet of Harris Hill



**4150 HARRIS HILL ROAD**  
The property is in a historically significant location dating back to Harris Hill's association with the War of 1812. Originally constructed in 1920, this residence is a significant example of a Colonial Revival building. This 2-1/2 story home has been deemed a significant contributor of historical value by Clinton Brown Architecture. Its external features include a side gabled roof, old windowing with wood shutters, brick exterior and a stone wall that accents the entrance way.

## Throughout the Town



**4830 THOMPSON ROAD**  
2-story Colonial structure featuring a brick exterior. The Orchid Ledge farm features distinct building components including side gabling and an originally centered facade entrance with pedimented enframing and sidelights. The home features regular, even fenestration with shuttering. The side enclosed porch and brick chimneys at the ridge on either side reinforce the Colonial appeal of this home. The property was originally owned by the Thompson Family and stayed within the family for over 100 years. The home is in excellent condition and also features a large intact barn in the Pennsylvania Dutch style.



**6879 SALT ROAD**  
This Victorian Vernacular Folk style home embodies the housing type of the industrial revolution era. Built in 1824, the home represents the rural, agricultural character of the Clarence community at the turn of the 19th Century. The original owners of the property were the Hunt Family. The Hunt's involvement in farming led to the naming of Hunt's Corners Road. The 2-1/2 story home consists of wood clapboard exterior, a large open porch, stone foundation, an oculus window underneath the gabled peak, and two barns in the rear. The home's architectural styling maintains much of the original character and construction.



**8520 TONAWANDA CREEK ROAD**  
The St. Stephens United Church was originally founded on April 25, 1862 along with the adjoining cemetery. The church had a prominent German following and original records kept by the church were recorded in German. In 1989, the church suffered damage by a fire that destroyed the social hall, but no damage incurred to the sanctuary itself. The building is a simple frame, vinyl sided chapel accompanied by a parish house of underlying character. Located in the northern portion of Clarence, the church consists of Italianate architecture and is a long standing religious institution in the community.

\*\*TOWN PARK CLUB HOUSE listed on the National Register of Historic Places, June 20, 2012.

## Other Historic Sights

### J. ESHELMAN and COMPANY STORE

6000 Goodrich Road, Clarence Center  
Also known as "The Square Deal Store", is a historic general store. It is a three story, brick and cast iron commercial building constructed in the Italianate style in 1872. It exemplifies the type of brick and cast iron commercial building common to the region from the 1850's to the 1880's. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

CLARENCE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION COMMISSION



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# CLARENCE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



# SEE! SAVE! CELEBRATE!

## National Historic Preservation Month...May

Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation nationwide to celebrate the month of May, "National Historic Preservation Month" by beginning or continuing to celebrate our community's history and historic places.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION champions and protects places that tell the stories of our past. It enhances our sense of community that brings us closer together, saving the places; preserving the stories of our cultures found in landmarks and landscapes; protecting the memories of people, places and events.

Understanding that by reuse, giving old buildings rebirth, it serves as an economic magnet engaging residents and drawing in new visitors adding charm and character to our community.

Supporting our community, shopping nearby mom-and-pop stores or farmers' markets, walk down Main Street to get to know the folks behind our local businesses. Check around for "Buy Local" campaigns, find people who are passionate and proud of their locally grown products and stores.

Knowing that, what we do today by supporting local, sustainable, vibrant communities, are places where we can go to explore our heritage, learn about our past, and grow a bright future for the next generation.

*Come Explore Today and every Day  
the Hidden Treasures in our sleepy Hamlets  
and surrounding areas.*

CLARENCE NY

*"The Oldest Town in Erie County"*



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### Hamlet of Clarence Hollow



**10897 MAIN STREET**  
The Brace House (named after the owner at the time of the nomination) serves as a significant example of the Colonial building type. The home features side gabling, a salt box plan, symmetric facade with central framed entrance, regular fenestration with shuttering, and a side exterior brick chimney. The interior of the home provides occupants with an excellent record of historic beam construction.



**10847 MAIN STREET**  
This 2-story Greek Revival home is located within the Clarence Hollow Hamlet. This property features distinct Greek Revival building components including a wood clapboard exterior featuring a symmetric facade and central entrance enframing, even fenestration with modest trim and framing, and corner pilasters, end returns and gable trim.



**10465 MAIN STREET**  
Constructed prior to 1825, the Landow Log Cabin has been accurately restored and serves the community as the best surviving Yankee Log Cabin in Erie County. The cabin was originally located on the east side of Goodrich Road, just north of Lapp Road. The Landow-Goodrich Log Cabin currently exists on the grounds of the Clarence Historical Museum and provides visitors with an educational and unique piece of Clarence history.



**10405 MAIN STREET \*\***  
Located on the grounds of the Main Town Park within the historically significant and culturally valuable Clarence Hollow Hamlet, the Town Park Club House was originally constructed in 1911 and stands as an excellent example of Craftsman style architecture. The Club House is culturally significant given its association with the Buffalo Automobile Club and its designers, Esenwein and Johnson, noted late nineteenth to early twentieth century architects based in Buffalo NY.



**10748 MAIN STREET**  
The Magoffin House, as named because of its association with James Magoffin, who settled in the Town of Clarence and was named Supervisor in 1874, serves as an excellent example of an Italianate variation structure. Located within the Clarence Hollow Hamlet, the Magoffin House compliments the historic and cultural value of the Hamlet.



**10871 MAIN STREET**  
The Gerber Library serves the community as an excellent example of a cross gable frame building within the Clarence Hollow Hamlet. Originally constructed in 1936, the Gerber Library offers significant architectural components and cultural value due to its association with Esther Gerber, who ran a circulating library from her home at 10882 Main Street.



**10529 MAIN STREET**  
Originally constructed in 1853, the Asa Ransom House serves the community as an excellent example of the Colonial building type. Located within the historic Clarence Hollow Hamlet, the Asa Ransom House features distinct architectural components and is culturally significant for its association with Asa Ransom and Reuben Ebersole. In 1803, Asa Ransom, the "Founding Father" of Clarence, built a mill on the site of the home and more than a century later the mill and home became the property of the Ebersole family, successful proprietors in the community.



**10465 MAIN STREET ~ Clarence Historical Museum**  
The Museum is significant as a rare mid-nineteenth century stone Greek Revival building example. Situated in the rear of the property, is a three by stone addition, and relocated barns and outbuildings. The location is significant in that it is part of a 144 acre lot originally purchased by Asa Ransom in 1803.

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### Hamlet of Clarence Hollow, continued



**17068 MAIN STREET ~ Spoons Hotel**  
Constructed circa 1810-1812, the Spoons Hotel remains one of the oldest surviving buildings in Erie County and the Town of Clarence. William Spoor opened the building for business as a hotel in the midst of the War of 1812. The names of operation have changed over the years, including its function as a stop on the stage coach mail route until circa 1870; however, its historical significance has stood firm. Local lore includes a claim that three former United States Presidents have stayed there: Monroe, Fillmore and Cleveland.



**10622 MAIN STREET**  
This 2-story home is located on the north side of Main Street in the historic Clarence Hollow Hamlet. Constructed in the latter half of the 19th century, this home represents characteristic styles from that time era. The residential structure is architecturally a National Folk Style home, with a barn that was converted into a carriage house in the rear. The house was home to the Humbert Family, who were well known prominent business and political figures in the Town. The first floor has the original heavy safe used in the Humbert Pharmacy and the second floor has original period arched windows.



**4765 RANSOM ROAD**  
Located in the Clarence Hollow Hamlet, on the east side of Ransom Road. This home was constructed prior to the Civil War, circa 1860, with the original intact barn. The house represents a unique example of American Folk style architecture and increases the aesthetic value of the Clarence Hollow. The primary entrance of the home is protected by an open porch. The residential structure consists of a two-story cross gabled frame, with the original stone foundation, and the original leaded glass windows.



**10700 BOYD DRIVE**  
Located within the Clarence Hollow Hamlet, a primary residence that offers distinct components of a local Colonial Revival Home. Originally built in 1947, the 2-1/2 story home features a side gabled and is 3 bays wide by 2 bays deep. The residence has wood clapboard; vertical board siding on the second story. Colonial Revival became a popular American house style after it appeared at the 1876 the US Centennial Exposition. Reflecting American patriotism and a desire for simplicity, the Colonial Revival house style remained popular until the mid-1950's.

### Hamlet of Clarence Center



**6020 GOODRICH ROAD**  
This 2-1/2 story Victorian Stick home increases the character of the Clarence Center Hamlet with distinct Stick building components. These elements include cross gabling, decorative door and window enframements, corner boards, brackets, gable trim, and molding. A stone foundation and converted carriage house/garage increases the historic appeal of this home. It is important to note that Andrew G. Eshelman, a merchant and land owner who developed much of Clarence Center, hired Jacob Fisher to construct the "Birch Lawn Home" in 1885.



**10525 CLARENCE CENTER ROAD**  
The Light House (named after the current owners) is a 2-1/2 story Greek Revival home with brick exterior. The distinct building components include side gabling, regular patterned fenestration with stone sills and lintels, and modest detail trim. As is common of the Greek Revival style, the home also features entrance enframing. Finally, rough cut stone foundation and visible brick chimney reinforce the historic appeal of this home.



**9455 CLARENCE CENTER ROAD**  
The Hoffman Home is a 2-story Victorian Folk with Gothic Revival influences that contribute to the rural character that is Clarence Center. The residence includes a stone foundation, extensive "Gingerbread" trim detail and a cross-gabled design. The home features a large converted carriage house/garage in the rear of the property. Constructed in 1850, it was the home of Jacob Eshelman, patriarch of Clarence Center.



CLARENCE TOWN PARK CLUB HOUSE  
*formally known as*  
THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF BUFFALO  
*History*

1910, the Automobile Club of Buffalo (ACB), now AAA Western and Central New York acquired the 69-acre site on the west hill in Clarence Hollow. Built in 1911, the landmark was designed in the old Mission Style, by the Automobile Club of Buffalo as its "New Country Home" for adventurers who would motor from the city of Buffalo to the distant hamlet of Clarence. The building was designed by the Esewein & Johnson Architectural Firm of Buffalo (1897-1942).

**June 20, 2012**, over one hundred years later, the Automobile Club of Buffalo, now referred to as the Clarence Town Park Club House is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

The Automobile Club of Buffalo opened in the spring of 1911 to the members of the Automobile clubs affiliated with the American Automobile Association, the national body of organized car owners, the Country Club immediately become a mecca for club members and their families. Popularity increased and its reputation for all of the comforts and conveniences embodied in a modern automobile country club was brought to the attentions of thousands of motorist throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

The new building provided spacious main club rooms, dining rooms and ample space for dancing, a popular feature of entertainment during the summer months. Large verandas encircled the building and were equipped with seating accommodations for a maximum of comfort. Dining service was available at the Club House daily, and many special entertainment and events staged there during the season brought out an attendance that frequently taxed the capacity of the spacious quarters.

Some of the building's outstanding features include two large fireplaces with stone exterior chimneys and multiple roof planes, including a circular roof above an entrance porch fashioned by white columns with battered sides. Exposed exterior rafter rails and expose interior timber beams frame the large main hall along with the massive fireplaces and a wide open wood staircase leading to the impressive surrounding balcony.

Since the purchase of the building and grounds in 1957 from the Automobile Club of Buffalo, the Club House has served as an important town landmark that functions as a symbol of our great heritage and acts as a central meeting place for many community functions. Local clubs hold weekly meetings, various organizations conduct fund-raising activities and a variety of group dinner parties to celebrate special occasions.

Recently, many major aesthetic improvement projects have been completed by the Clubhouse Restoration Committee through numerous donations made by individuals and community organizations. Some of these projects include the fabrication and installation of original design light fixtures, reupholstered and refinished original furniture, carpeting, painting and adding new curtains. The creation and installation of the Bicentennial Quilt has been added to the main room by the Clarence Log Cabin Quilters. The large Fery paintings were restored and returned to the Club House for the Centennial Celebration.

Reconstruction updating was completed to the wall from the west front door entrance to the kitchen door. This project included installing three display cases and a permanent buffet. Two side display cases house various historic Club House memorabilia. The central case houses the 1901 clock that was created by the Buffalo's famous art nouveau craftsman, Charles Rohlfs for the Pan-American Exposition. Rohlfs later donated the clock to the Automobile Club of Buffalo in 1911.

In 2011, the Town of Clarence celebrated this special landmark by hosting a Centennial Celebration in conjunction with Day in the Park. The celebration included tours, historic speakers, architectural exhibits and antique car show.

May 4, 2013 the Town of Clarence and the Clarence Historic Preservation Commission celebrated the Club House Designation to the National Register of Historic Places.

